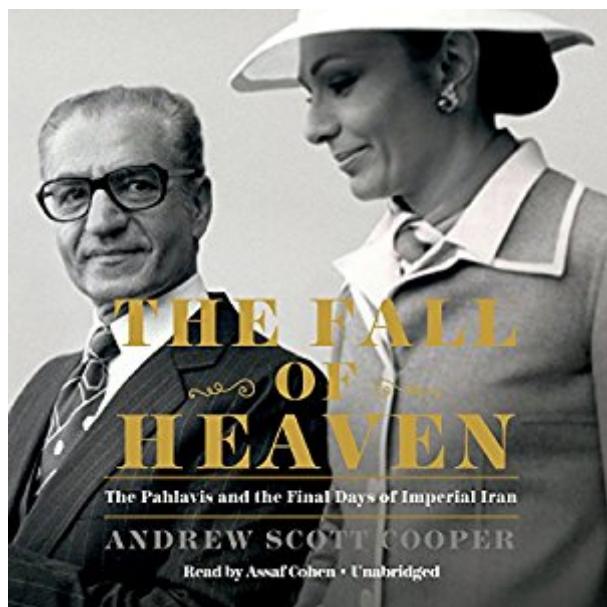


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The Fall Of Heaven: The Pahlavis And The Final Days Of Imperial Iran



Synopsis

An immersive, gripping account of the rise and fall of Iran's glamorous Pahlavi dynasty, written with the cooperation of the late shah's widow, Empress Farah. In this remarkably human portrait of one of the 20th century's most complicated personalities, author Andrew Scott Cooper traces Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's life from childhood through his ascension to the throne in 1941. He highlights the turbulence of the postwar era, during which the shah survived assassination attempts and coup plots to build a modern, pro-Western state and launch Iran onto the world stage as one of the world's top five powers. Listeners get the story of the shah's political career alongside the story of his courtship and marriage to Farah Diba, who became a power in her own right; the story of the beloved family they created; and an exclusive look at life inside the palace during the Iranian Revolution. Cooper's investigative account ultimately delivers the fall of the Pahlavi dynasty through the eyes of those who were there: leading Iranian revolutionaries; President Jimmy Carter and White House officials; US Ambassador William Sullivan and his staff in the American embassy in Tehran; American families caught up in the drama; and even Empress Farah herself, along with the rest of the Iranian imperial family. At once intimate and sweeping, *The Fall of Heaven* recreates in stunning detail the dramatic and final days of one of the world's most legendary ruling families, the unseating of which helped set the stage for the current state of the Middle East.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I could not put this down .I was struck at how similar The Iranian Revolution and The Russian

Revolution were. Both were a popular uprising, highjacked by fanatics that then proceeded to kill more "enemies" than the regime they overthrew and both turned on themselves. There is only a slight mention of the role the US press had in demonizing the Shah, and the usual State Department progressives. Carter's role is left out. How history would have been changed if the Shah listened to his military, resigned and put his son on the throne. Reading how the Islamists were goading the troops to fire on crowds to create "martyrs" for the media, I was disappointed in the way it was reported as it happened. I would have liked more on how the revolution took over. How much of SAVAK did they keep and rename? Where did all the mullahs come from that ran the executions of the Shah's men? The Iranian people are our friends, their leaders are not becoming wealthy while saying they are following the word of God. My opinion - a must read book for anyone interested in the Middle East.

The Fall of Heaven: The Pahlavis and the Final Days of Imperial Iran by Andrew Scott Cooper is an impressive work indeed. If it is not the definitive biography of the Pahlavis, it ought to be. Very readable and very informative especially for a reader like me who knows too little of Iran and of the Pahlavis. When he was the Shah though I knew little I didn't admire him. Perhaps it was bad press. But this biography is sympathetic to him and his Queen and justifiably so in my opinion. The Shah was too soft and was unwilling to kill his own people despite the violent protestations that occurred daily late in his reign. I understand their anger at the corruption and great wealth of the family, the court and their consorts but it was driven by Khomeini who was determined to create a Islamic theocracy. I think most were hoodwinked. They didn't know what they were getting into. The Shah's second wife whom he dearly loved was barren and therefore he had to divorce her and remarry to produce a male heir. His third and last wife, Queen Farah Diba was a great asset to him. Much younger she was devoted to her people and to Iran and did so many good things for them. I think the King inherited the position but didn't really know how to manage. It is a sad story as the Royal Family flees Iran which is taken over by the radical Islamics. This book is fantastic and for anyone looking for knowledge on Iran and its ruler I urge you to run to your bookstore. It is worth a detour.

This a wonderful book and an important one about a very important time and world event. We recently returned from a trip to Iran and the shadow of the Shah and Queen is every where. Virtually every park, every museum, every freeway and boulevard, every major hotel, and more were built during their time. We were much impressed with the Iranians and wish them well -- this book addresses the great mystery -- Why?

To those in the West who hated the Shah: Take a look around... your wish came true... the shah is no more... now, deal with the likes of ISIS...A well researched and well written book that not only vindicates the Pahlavi Dynasty, it reveals the extent of their vitality in keeping the peace in the Middle East post world war II when the Soviet Union had emerged as a wild beast. For those who don't know how miserable IRAN was at the dawn of the 20th Century, this book will probably be just another book about a third world country in turmoil. However, those who know the truth about IRAN, the astonishing achievements of the Pahlavi family will take the center stage. Farah Diba Pahlavi's enduring contributions to humanity and the well being of the Iranian children will far outlive the ugly memories of the Ayatollahs who dethroned the Shah. The stench of burning flesh that's hovering over the Middle East today can be traced back to Cinema Rex Abadan. This is the gift of IRAN's Islamic revolution to the outside world: Death, destruction, anguish and pain, cries of children, body parts scattered, severed heads, blood running down the streets, screams of mothers, millions of people losing their homes, people on the run looking for safety, refugees everywhere, little children traumatized for life.

The Fall of Heaven: The Pahlavis and the Final Days of Imperial Iran is a revisionist study discussing the rise and fall of the Pahlavi family, taking a detailed look into Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's life. It is a thick, detailed book of 587 pages, and also includes twenty-three relevant photographs. The Fall of Heaven is not an objective history book; The Dallas Morning News says the book "offers history with an overdose of empathy." For those unfamiliar with this time in history, Cooper's book is worth reading, but it would be best read among other books about the Pahlavi family and Imperial Iran.*Received this book for review*

I had expected to read a more personal and informative story regarding the family itself. Way to much military and political coverage for my taste. It definitely runs to the very historical, and rather dry version, of what could have been a insight into the individual family members. For me it was disappointing. I really couldn't recommend this to others.

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