

Subdued Reactions to the Iranian Protests

Why are the current **protests in Iran**, which might seem to represent everything that the Left stands for, receiving little or no support from the Left? Why, given that they may be the beginning of an enormously important change in the geopolitical scene, are they receiving remarkably little coverage in the media? Many bloggers, including, for instance, **Andrew Sullivan** and **Meryl Yourish** (and references therein), have been commenting, but no one seems to have an explanation.

Also, is it really the Left, or is it idiotarians? Is their silence telling us something about the nature of idiotarianism? (Check out the excellent discussion about idiotarianism in the Comments on our item [here](#).) But in any case, it's not just idiotarians. Why is *nearly everyone*, even the **US administration**, strangely subdued about this?

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Is it Islam or the Axis Of Evil?

Probably, the Administration is playing Iran quietly because the president doesn't want to fuel the belief, still simmering in the Middle East, that our War On Terror is really a campaign against Islam. Iran is an explicit theocracy, so the connection would be too easily established.

Mind you, I think that 1) Washington ought to come out explicitly in support of the overthrow of the theocracy and 2) announce that its anti-terror campaign really *is* aimed at defanging and civilizing Islam. But the Administration doesn't hire a lot of hairy-eyed vendors of flamethrower rhetoric who advocate **nuking the Moon**, so my views are, ah, under-represented there.

Curmudgeon Emeritus, Palace Of Reason

by [fporretto](#) on Sat, 06/21/2003 - 01:14 | [reply](#)

Fiery protests in London

"Two more people have set themselves on fire outside the French Embassy in central London on Friday"

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/3006746.stm>

And the same has happened in other European cities.

Can you imagine the coverage this would have got if Iraqis in Europe had done this to protest the Iraq war? But if Iranians protest the Iranian regime, or France's complicity, that's not news.

by a reader on Sat, 06/21/2003 - 02:39 | [reply](#)

Some views from an Iranian Student

Someone has finally noticed it, Halleluyah!

Here are my views, as a participant in these demonstrations, concerning the reasons for this lack of coverage:

US administration: Well, since Carter's administration showed its superhuman lack of judgement in Iranian politics, we in Iran have been convinced through the years, that a major part of the US admin. simply doesn't know what to do with Iran. In these days, the actions of the US state department show clearly that it is the centre of the ignorants as far as Iran is concerned. We here are hoping the neo-conservatives finally win over the Iran policy to see , at last, some rational US policy in Iran.

The argument that US backing of the protests will jeopardize the 'purity' of Iranian protests and might back fire is utter RUBBISH! We in Iran have passed this stupidity , almost purified by suffering these past 25 years, of 'America is GUILTY for everything'. We, my generation ie. the youth, have FINALLY understood, that the west consists of different ideas and groups . that not all of it is pure goodness, but a major part of it represents actually the best of what humanity has been able to achieve, and that it should be ideas and actions of each group that determines whether or not they should be supported or trusted, not some worn prejudice! So we NEED U.S. active support for our struggle for freedom, believe us!

EU: well, I think you all know that EU policy is that of pure hypocrisy and near-sighted economical gains in the middle east. They are literally plundering Iran in return for their clandestine support for the regime. We have no expectations from THEM!

The Left and the Media: well, you know the answer already, as is clear from other posts in this webpage.

by a reader on Fri, 07/18/2003 - 23:06 | [reply](#)