

SUMMARY

The study deals with two basic phenomena which it further analyses and comments. The first is the 20th-century emancipation process of the Shia from a long-lasting passivity towards an active participation in the social life. The second is the presentation of the Shia as a movement most importantly concerned with social issues, which helped it evolve into a kind of Islamic proletariat, however pursuing its own lifestyle and cultural values.

The study further strives to research, analyze and highlight the main lines, events and activities along which the emancipation road of the Shia followed. Similarly, it focuses on the intervention of some of the most outstanding personalities who contributed to this process. Further focuses are on related and often implicit topics such as the level of distinguishing between own religious and political aspirations, local influences, ethnic aspects, level of political independence, leverage and participation, will to diplomatic approach or tendency to radical stances as well as other more subtle topics.

Due to its broader focus, the study in no way aspires to become an all-encompassing chronicle and aims mainly at reflecting the most important principles, mechanisms, personalities and communication channels used by the Iranian and Near East Shia in the process of its qualitative transformation. The key goal of the work in the current form is thus mainly its didactical contribution; however there is still the possibility of further augmenting its content or closer focusing its research in the future.

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