As journalist for a brief period, Michel Foucault was fascinated with the Iranian revolution, traveled to Iran twice, and visited the revolutionary leader Ayatollah Khomeini. For Foucault, this revolution represented the emergence of "spirituality" as a political factor, capable of generating an alternative to liberal and socialist revolutions. All previous revolutions had aimed for modernity and away from tradition. The fact that this revolution took an opposite course was seductive to a philosopher whose work represented a critique of modernity and its rationality. Foucault was one of the few who recognized the power of political Islam in the modern world. Yet he missed its repressive and authoritarian tendencies, especially in the face of protests by the revolution's feminist and liberal critics. This book is about this last and short episode in Foucault's intellectual adventure. Historian Afary and political scientist Anderson (both, Purdue Univ.) explore the context of Foucault's fascination with an Islamic revolution and critically relate this neglected set of Foucault's writings to his philosophical and historical works. Half pages translate Foucault's scattered writings and interviews on the Iranian revolution. Although the authors' interpretation may not sit well with some Foucault enthusiasts, they will find this volume a unique contribution and valuable resource for further exploration. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.

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