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Many books have been written dealing directly with either a specific social movement in some period of Iranian history, or social movement theories in general with marginal reference to Iranian social movements. None of these studies, however, have been broad enough to cover all 19th- and 20th-century Iranian political movements, or been accessible enough to offer an overview of all movements in this period for a broader audience. Poulson's book fills this gap. His introductory chapter on social movement theories reviews the symbols, culture, language, contexts, conditions, and agents of political protest in 19th- and-20th century Iran. Highlighting the master frame of social movements in Iran and looking for their continuity, Poulson (James Madison Univ.) reviews the Tobacco Movement (1890-92), the Constitutional Revolution (1906-09), the rise of the Tudeh Party and the National Front in the post-WW II era that led to the nationalization of the oil industry and the election of Mohammad Mosaddeq, the 15th of Khordad religious uprising in 1963, the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and the reform movement that emerged with the presidency of Hojatoleslam Mohammad Khatami. This book is a good review of the history of political protest, social movements, and political Islam in Iran, as well as a good overview of the literature on these subjects. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.

-- A. Mahdi, Ohio Wesleyan University