



## Woman in Culture and Arts

### Nazism and Women: Reflection of Nazi Attitudes toward Women in the Weekly Newspaper “Nameh Iran Bastan”

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
<b>Article type:</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
Research Article	<p>The evolution of modern Europe, particularly influenced by the First World War, led to a significant rise in women's participation in the workforce and social spheres. This expansion of women's roles in social activities spurred new discussions in sociology, law, and political science. After that, throughout the 20th century, the status of women in various societies became a focal point for debates on modernism, religious traditionalism, citizenship rights, and other related issues. At the same time, in the Middle East, including Iran, women's social engagement was seen as a means of modernization. In some countries, such as Italy and Germany, which were focused on territorial expansion and empire-building, increasing the population with a specific racial emphasis was deemed crucial, positioning women as instrumental in addressing this demographic challenge.</p>
<b>Article history:</b>	<p>The German regime's racist propaganda and promotion of racial solidarity with Iranians caused their views and programs to be seriously welcomed by pro-German nationalists in Iran. At the same time, the weekly publication “Nameh Iran Bastan,” managed by Abdul Rahman Saif Azad, a nationalist who supported the Nazi Party in Germany and resided in Berlin post-World War I, shared similar perspectives on women and the proliferation of the Iranian race. “Nameh Iran Bastan,” was an illustrated weekly that published in Tehran from 1932 to 1935 at the same time as the Nazi Party of Germany came to power. This modernist newspaper, which was published in high circulation, had a strongly pro-German stance, and its pages were dedicated to sports and women's issues. The articles of “Nameh Iran Bastan” on political and social matters, particularly concerning women, were aligned closely with Nazi ideology.</p>
Received: 20 July 2023	<p>In the 1920s and 1930s, as the Fascist Party emerged in Italy and the National Socialist Party in Germany, women were viewed as essential for bearing children to bolster the country's political and military strength. Because, population growth was considered pivotal factor by these regime's leaders for military dominance and a means of creating “vital space” for expansion and influence into neighboring territories. Consequently, women, as the main factor to the concept of “nation-building” and the advancement of the nation's development, must be played an important role in the future of the German civilization of the Third Reich. This perspective was epitomized in Germany by the establishment of “Mother's Day” to honor women who contributed to the proliferation of the superior German race through childbearing. In this day, mothers who had helped create a “vital space” by bearing children were praised as “Nation's Mother” and women who had 6 to 10 children were given a gold medal. Simultaneously, in some Iranian publication such as “Nameh Iran Basta” mirrored these European trends by highlighting women as factors of modernization and nation-building through childbearing to strengthen centralized governance.</p>
Received in revised form: 26	<b>Research Methods</b>
Sept 2023	<p>The current study aims to investigate the role and social responsibilities of women as portrayed in “Nameh Iran Bastan”. The main question of this research is what was the position of women and their social duties and what extent reflected Nazi Germany's views on women's familial roles and social functions in this publication? The present article assumes that the procedure of nationalism in Nazi Germany played a significant role in influencing attitudes towards nationalism and archaism in Iran during the Pahlavi period. Employing a descriptive-analytical approach, the research delves into the content of “Nameh Iran Bastan” over its four-year publication period and tries to explain how the Nazis' view about of women was reflected in this publication.</p>
Accepted: 13 Nov 2023	<p>Many books and theses have been dedicated to exploring Iran's cultural, political, and</p>
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2024	
<b>Keywords:</b>	
<i>First Pahlavi,</i>	
<i>Modernity,</i>	
<i>Nazism,</i>	
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<i>Women.</i>	

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economic ties with Germany during the reign of Reza Shah, as well as the significance of the press during this era, particularly women's publications. However, there has been no independent research on how the ideologies of Italian Fascism and German Nazism influenced contemporary Iranian beliefs regarding women's functions in society and family. The only existing secondary research in this area is Ismail Rasulkhani's Master's thesis titled "Cultural Relations between Iran and Germany with an Emphasis on the Role of Abdurrahman Saif Azad." While Rasulkhani's thesis provides valuable insights into the life of Abdurrahman Saif Azad, its analysis of the articles in "Nameh Iran Bastan" is somewhat superficial, lacking a comprehensive examination of the portrayal of women within the publication.

#### **Results**

The findings of this research indicate that the authors of the articles in the weekly "Nameh Iran Bastan," influenced by the racial theories of German historians, viewed population growth and education in a Spartan manner (aligned with Nazism) as fundamental to the advancement and glory of Iranians during the Achaemenid period. Similar to German historians, they sought to align these ideas with the ideological objectives of Nazism by interpreting ancient religious texts and inscriptions in a new light. According to fascist German historians and the authors of "Nameh Iran Bastan," Iran's historical greatness was attributed to women and population expansion. Hence, by highlighting the news related to the growth population in world countries, it sees all developed European countries in a race to increase their populations and suggest to its readers that Iranians should not avoid from this race, which is crucial for progress and means to the restoration of its ancient glory. With an archaic approach and overtly praising German Nazism, the publication proposed new roles for women that echoed Nazism's social objectives concerning women and family.

#### **Conclusion**

"Nameh Iran Bastan" presented a modern outlook on women's societal status, contrasting sharply with traditional religious views. In both power-centric fascist ideology and religious traditionalism, the extended family structure was lauded as a means to further ideological aims. However, while traditional beliefs often marginalized women as "weak sex" and limited their involvement in public work and social-political spheres, the modern perspective depicted women as crucial in "nation-building". Portrayed as semi-divine figures, modern women were encouraged to shed the veil, engage in social activities and sports, while prioritizing their role in childbearing and population growth to revive Iran's ancient glory.

The Publication's editors advocated for women's participation in various social domains and sports with unveiled faces. However, emphasizing their primary responsibility to bear children and contribute to population growth, ultimately aiming to restore Iran's past grandeur. Because according to the "Nameh Iran Bastan's" articles, resurgence of Iran's former glory hinged on population growth facilitated by healthy sportswomen who would trained their offspring through sports and Spartan-Nazi methods.

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