

Do Iranians Really Hate America?

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“Marg bar Amrika! Marg bar Amrika!” Death to America! has been the rallying cry of Iran’s Islamic Revolution since its earliest days. Images of Persian crowds chanting the regime’s favorite slogan have made a permanent impression on American minds.

Though this may be puzzling to some, it’s not hard to see why they might hate us. Our government orchestrated a successful coup in Iran to control the nation’s oil in 1953, the very act which led to the Islamic Revolution in 1979. A few years later we were aiding Saddam in the Iran-Iraq war. Even today there are still thousands suffering from chronic illness resulting from the use of chemical and biological weapons against Iran, adding to the hundreds of thousands who lost their lives. But ironically, today’s Iranian young people have either forgotten about this or chosen to disregard it. For most, hatred of their own government is all-consuming, and anyone who hates the current regime as much as they do must be an ally. And so yet another paradox presents itself in this land of bountiful contradictions: Iranian young people actually love the United States of America.

This strange phenomenon has not gone without international notice, and the Islamic regime is struggling to know what to do about it. *Time* magazine reports in an article entitled, “How the Great Satan Became Just Great,”

“While elsewhere in the Middle East consumers are boycotting American goods to protest U.S. foreign policy, Iranians can’t get enough of them. Coca-Cola’s exports to Iran have increased nearly threefold this year. Toy stores are struggling to keep up with the growing demand for Barbie dolls.”

The government’s response to this was typical: they issued a doll series of their own—Sara and Dara, clad in good Muslim garb. But the public would have nothing to do with the proselyte Barbies.

The government has warned that American dolls and toys, which are being illegally smuggled into the country in mass quantities, are doing “irreparable damage” to Iranian children. Such dire warnings seem to only fan the flame. If the government says its bad, it must be good. The Mullahs have become the best marketing campaign for American products and culture there has ever been. And what the public can’t smuggle in, they manufacture. Ever