

History of MEK, the degree of their popularity among Iranians, their potential during and after the transition from IRI to a Secular Democracy

The objective beyond IRI should be the establishment of a true and transparent secular democracy, and not a quasi-republic for a short-term gain. There should be a protractive perspective instead of a shortsighted view of the future of Iran and the entire Middle East by extension. If the foundation is set correctly the need for costly future renovations will be minimized. This true and transparent secular democracy will usher in the Iranian Renaissance, and like its counterpart in Europe, it shall bring about enlightenment and an end to religious demagoguery, hypocrisy, corruption, persecution and hegemony. Interestingly, it seems that religions reach that stage of their evolution in approximately 1.5 thousand years after their inception. Iran, and Iranians in particular, have through forty years of daily trials and tribulations realized how they've been hoodwinked for centuries. Arriving at this degree of understanding and clarification is something that no person, group or government has been able to offer the citizens for centuries. One should not be fooled by how things may appear on the surface in cases where religion seems to still have some ardent followers, as Iranians are masters of portraying that which is necessary despite their true feelings and beliefs. That is yet another clue to their long standing survival in the face of adversity.

Except for Egypt and Turkey who have a relatively different history than their surrounding States, Iran stands in a unique position in its neighborhood. Iran has a long-established National identity and a sociopolitical establishment that precedes that of any of its neighbors and it has adopted intricacies and nuances that have ensured its survival through many calamities for thousands of years. These factors are not well understood when

linear units of measurement are applied by Western thinkers. Iran is also different from its neighbors not because of religious sectarianism but rather due to its culture and values which are in contrast with many others when measured under ideal circumstances. Iranians adopted a parliamentary system over a hundred years ago. Iranians had always maintained a paradoxical relationship between their identity and that which Islam had imposed on them.

Iran and Iranians, especially the rebellious young, are truly passed beyond most obsolete conversations and are ready to make a giant leap into the future in such a way that would compensate for the time lost. Such an opportunity will pave the way for all the surrounding nations who have always, albeit reluctantly, followed in the footsteps of the Iranians. This would create an amazing opportunity for all countries involved and beyond, to enjoy a long and prosperous period of peace in the Middle East.

MEK, which I'd attempt to provide a brief history of later, has been a revolutionary group since the 1960s. They are yet to produce a clear, coherent and meaningful view regarding how they see Iran's evolution in the future. This is because for decades they've been stuck in their primary (and primitive) objective, which is to seize power at any cost. Their general model for governance was conceived in the sixties when Marxist revolutionaries best hopes were to topple the old regimes and establish their versions of a Banana Republic to the detriment of their people, while being supported by big businesses until their expiration dates emerged. MEK unashamedly has reinvented itself on a few occasions and at each turn encountered further degradation, disgrace and infamy. Their fundamentals changed from being primarily a Marxist/Religious organization with a twist of Nationalism to encompass all fractions, to just Marxist for a while, and when that backfired, they reverted back to a Marxist/Religious organization. Later, they switched to Nationalism, their ridiculous version,

placed portraits of Mossadegh in the background and changed their Socialist flag (white, with red rifle, sickle and anvil) to the Iranian National flag, three colors with Lion and Sun Crest. Then they realized that they need more legitimacy and they created several small groups consisting of a handful of people each and formed a coalition with them under the banner of National Resistance Council to reduce the optical presence of the MEK. Their type of tactics may have been more successful a few decades ago when most of earth's population lived in information darkness but not today when all Iranians are well informed, particularly about the history of this very group.

I think with the above prelude, the brief history that I'll share now should answer many questions for the objective and unconditioned mind.

1965

Formation of the group, Melding Marxism, Religion and Nationalism to maximize the number of recruits
Anti-Zionism, Anti Imperialism, Anti Colonialism, Anti Capitalism

1971

Attempted armed attack on the ceremonies for 2500th anniversary of Iranian Empire. The planning was rushed prematurely in order to compete with another Marxist group's attack on a station in Northern Iran which was later referred to as the Siahkal event. For extra credits in a makeup exam, the MEK later resorted to killing American advisors.

1975

Change of identity. Shifting more towards Marxism and away from Islam. This was followed by a wide range purge of the newly disenfranchised members. Many were killed by MEK and the identities of some others were leaked to Savak to be arrested.

Some managed to just leave the organization at that time. Rajavi, recognizing the setback from his jail cell at the time, announced that those who had made the decision to tilt the organization towards Marxism were opportunists, and business shall go on as before with emphasis on Islam.

1980

Three top members leave the organization. The same M.O. as always was used, denial of their membership at first, defamation next and physical attacks at last.

1981

Rajavi claims that Iran is the aggressor in the Iran Iraq war and refuses to let the organization participate in the war effort. This took the MEK from its political phase to its military phase. This position regardless of what government was in power at the time is clearly a treasonous position, something that Iranians were never able to digest

1981

Rajavi escapes to Paris along with the first president Mr. Bani Sadr while his wife and members of upper cadre of MEK are all killed in their safe house. His son is taken and raised by Lajevardi the head of Evin Prison at the time. But Rajavi doesn't miss a beat and marries Bani Sadr's daughter (for the sake of the newly formed coalition of course). He asks for asylum in Paris and in the meantime MEK death squads are formed in Iran to kill ordinary citizens who are sporting a beard or have the picture of Khomeini in their places of business. This basically covers most of the people who just wanted to get by without being persecuted by the security forces. By MEK's own account twelve thousand ordinary people were killed throughout the country during that period.

1983

Rajavi and Bani Sadr have a falling out over Rajavi's under the table dealings with Saddam. Bani Sadr leaves the National Council for Resistance (the cover for MEK) and his daughter Firouzeh, gets a divorce.

1984

Maryam Azadanloo, the wife of Abrishamchi, a lieutenant of Rajavi, is suddenly promoted to co-leadership of the organization. She suddenly divorces her husband and marries Rajavi. A 17-page booklet is published to justify this necessary revolutionary move and how all celestial beings were behind this ultra-holly and glorious matrimony. Mr. Abrishamchi, the ex-husband, was also made to cheer for this act in their general assembly. Those who did not digest this act were purged and what remained now was the blindly obedient members.

1986

Moving to Iraq while the Iran Iraq war continues.

1987

The formation of Iranian Liberation Army and the official entry into the war on behalf of Iraq, and against Iran, an unforgivable move for all Iranians! The MEK's army with the support of the Iraqi army participated in a few operations, most notably "Forough'e Javidan" and "Chehel-Cheragh". These two operations had many Iranians killed while MEK rolled into the outskirts of the city of Kermanshah in one. They were pushed back into Iraq leaving many casualties behind. What remained of their troops were severely reprimanded by Maryam and Masoud Rajavi. They were humiliated while being blamed for thinking about their spouses while in battle. This was followed by mass forced divorces, separation of the families members and the separation and men from women.

1991

MEK changes its tune and accuses Iraq of being the perpetrator of the Iran Iraq war.

1993

MEK announces Maryam as the president elect of the people of Iran (people of MEK basically).

1997-2002

MEK makes it to the terrorist list of US, UK and EU. MEK claims that this was a political and propaganda move to appease the IRI. If that were true, then removing them from that list would also be a political and propaganda move.

2001

German government has cases against them for fraud against the German government, money laundering and abuse of children.

2002

Iraq is attacked and Rajavi decides to attack Iran with what he has left at his disposal, but the Ashraf Base is surrounded and disarmed by the coalition forces. This caused a large-scale defection and now that the opportunity was provided many of the disgruntled members fled. Some 50 members were claimed to have died in the bombings where only 5 were accounted as such, and the rest were purged by the MEK as traitors. After Saddam's fall 120 hours of recordings were salvaged from his intelligence apparatus which showed numerous meetings between Saddam, his officials and MEK going back 20 years to a time before the Iran Iraq war.

2005

The Human Rights Watch produced a report on MEK's gross violations of human rights and women's rights.

2011

MEK was declared a cult of personality and a terrorist group but was later removed by an agreement made between the US and MEK to have them leave the Ashraf Camp.

In conclusion, this was a very brief account of some of the documented accounts. What the people of Iran know and understand about MEK goes beyond this brief content.

MEK is an archaic group with a limited vision. It is primarily after seizing power at any cost. At the highest levels it holds extreme grudges and complexes against anyone who is not under their control. They are truly an ideological/militant group whose time has long passed, if it at all ever came in the first place. Expecting such unprincipled, brutal and narrowminded relic of the sixties to rule over a nation that in every which way has left them far behind in the trail dust is mind boggling. It is more like a bad joke told by someone who has no sense of humor. It is worth mentioning that IRI, in its feeble attempt to scare people off, mentions three scenarios in the event IRI is toppled:

- 1- Iran would become another Syria (well Iran did make Syria into what it is now to begin with)
- 2- Iran would become Balkanized (well, no part of Iran has ever shown a monolithic desire for separation in its entire history, unless of course when it's been orchestrated by a foreign power. Those attempts were usually overturned by the patriotic Iranians of those very areas by themselves.
- 3- MEK (the boogie man) will come and eat you!!

How interesting, scaring people over MEK's take over is not happening in a vacuum! You don't hear them scaring the people over the return of the Monarchy because they know

that by now 80% or more of the population is in favor of that option and doesn't see it as a threat but rather THE MOST SENSIBLE OPTION. But MEK, is truly the boogiemane for Iranians. Offering it as the option would rally most of the population behind IRI and might begin a civil war. Of course, that would undoubtedly seem attractive to the shortsighted and ignorant Iran EXPERTS (read Iran Haters).

A.V.A.