

Excerpts of Reviews for *States, Ideologies, and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of Iran, Nicaragua, and the Philippines*

Misagh Parsa, *States, Ideologies, and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of Iran, Nicaragua, and the Philippines*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000, 336 pp., USD 22.00, ISBN 0-521-77430-6 (pbk) / USD 60.00, ISBN 0-52177-337-7 (hbk).

'An ambitious book – using an innovative theoretical framework, Professor Parsa aims to rid social movement theory of hindsight's reductive simplicity, and to reintroduce the reader to the complexities and contradictions of revolutions as they unfolded in Iran, Nicaragua, and the Philippines. In doing so, he offers subtle accounts of the role of ideology, coalition building, state repression, and economic intervention in fashioning various revolutionary opportunities and outcomes. Parsa's work should prove a significant contribution to continuing debates in political theory.' (Dr. Oscar Arias, 1987 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, President of Costa Rica 1986-1990)

"Make room on your bookshelf next to Skocpol, Tilly, and Goldstone. Misagh Parsa's new book is a major contribution to the comparative and historical study of revolutions. Along with works of Paige and Wickham-Crowley, this book ranks among the very best analyses of revolutions in developing or Third World societies." (Jeff Goodwin, *American Journal of Sociology*, Nov. 2001)

"This intriguing volume is a direct challenge to Theda Skocpol's *States and Social Revolutions* (1979); by inserting "ideology" into the title, Parsa claims that Skocpol left out something important. He makes good on his effort to demonstrate the importance of ideology in recent Third World revolutions, but the book offers far more than that.

...Parsa offers a fine combination of careful, nuanced empirical case studies and theoretical propositions regarding key factors omitted from structural theories of revolution. Along with other recent work influenced by the 'new institutionalism', this volume points the way toward a new and richer synthesis of structure and agency in our understanding of revolutions and revolutionary processes." (Jack A. Goldstone, *American Political Science Review*, June 2001, Vol. 95 #2)

"Parsa's analysis is representative of the 'third generation' of studies of revolutions, which moves beyond the pure structuralism of Moore and Skocpol, and involves the complex interaction between structures and dynamic processes. He examines an interesting group of cases occupying similar positions in the international system by way of significant US support, with enough variation in economic and social structure to allow him to get a great deal of mileage out of his variables. The scholarship here is strong. His command of the expansive literature on revolutions is superb, while the empirical evidence draws upon years of primary and secondary source research. This is complex, thick historical sociology at its best....

(Jonathan Acuff, University of Washington, *Electronic Newsletter of the European Consortium for Political Research-Extremism & Democracy*, Volume 3, No. 3, Autumn 2002)

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/esml/ecpr/index.htm>

"[I]t must be emphasized that Parsa has put forward an important new theory of revolution - one that is important enough to be extended, tested, debated, criticized, and, most of all, taken into account by others." (Mark N. Katz, Department of Public and International Affairs, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA. *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 33, Aug. 2001)

...Misagh Parsa's comparative analysis of three episodes of revolutionary, or quasi-revolutionary, politics is a welcome arrival.

...The Treatment of roles played by students, clergy, workers and capitalists is very strong and will be useful models for senior undergraduate and graduate students to examine. Parsa's analysis is truly comparative and successfully marries thick description and theoretical sophistication.

...Misagh Parsa's study of revolutions and revolutionary theory should find a place in a variety of

advanced comparative politics courses. It is a well-conceived and executed analysis that will engage students with its detailed descriptions of political change and its attention to theory building. (David Close, Memorial University of Newfoundland, *The Canadian Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 25, #2, 2002)

"In this ambitious book, sociologist [Misagh] Parsa of Dartmouth College compares and contrasts the revolutions in Iran, Nicaragua, and the Philippines in a framework that draws on structural, resource mobilization, and political process theories. Highly recommended for scholars and upperdivision undergraduate and graduate students in the fields of comparative social movements." (N.Entessar,*Choice*, May 2001, Vol. 38, #9)

...Using three case studies of Iran, Nicaragua, and the Philippines, he demonstrates persuasively that, in contrast to all varieties of Marxian theories, a high level of working-class militancy and a strong ideological anticapitalist commitment impedes revolutionary transformation of state and class structure.

...Parsa has produced a thought-provoking book that will generate many future discussions about the most fascinating and mysterious social phenomena: revolution. (Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi, Georgia State University, *Social Forces*, December 2002, Vol. 81, #2)

"The one group for whom ideology matters, in Parsa's analysis, is students. Students were cleaved along myriad ideological lines—activist versus non-activist, religious versus secular, and the many factional divisions within each group—yet played an important role in the Iranian Revolution, as did students in Nicaragua and the Philippines. Parsa notes that analysts of revolution have generally neglected the role of students as a distinct social group, one often at the forefront of revolutionary movements, and his focus on this group is one of the book's significant contributions." (Charles Kurzman, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, *Iranian Studies*, Vol. 35, Numbers 1-3, 2003)