

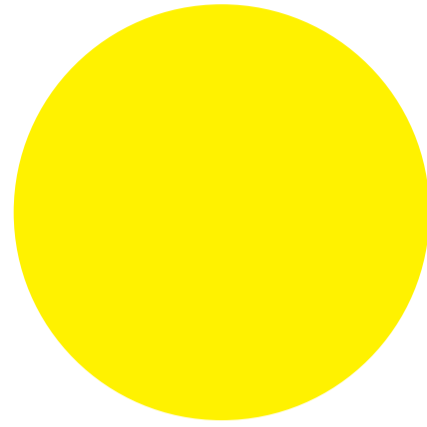
Iranian films, series depicting Palestinian oppression, resistance

In the course of history and within the realm of cinema, Iranian and international filmmakers have endeavored to portray the challenges faced by the Palestinian people, illustrating the efforts of the resistance movement. [8 >](#)



Iran: US greenlights resumption of Israel's brutal attacks on Gaza

Iran said on Saturday Israel's fresh attacks on the Gaza Strip, which killed more than 240 people in just 24 hours, had been greenlighted by the United States. [2 >](#)



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We Are Superior So We Kill

Israel worst case of right-wing extremism

SPECIAL ISSUE

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Ultra-Orthodox Jews, armed with automatic weapons, take part in a military training during a simulated "attack" on the outskirts of Safed, amid Israel's ongoing onslaught on the Gaza Strip. • AFP



A tradition of only envisioning clean air

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Iran: US greenlights resumption of Israel's brutal attacks on Gaza



This handout picture released by the Israeli army shows troops on the ground in the northern Gaza Strip on December 2, 2023.
● ISRAELI ARMY/AFP

Speaking just before his departure from Dubai at the end of a two-day Middle East visit, Blinken said it was "important to understand why the pause came to an end: It came to an end because of Hamas. Hamas reneged on commitments it made." Israel has also publicly blamed Hamas for the end of the temporary truce, but Hamas has said Israeli airstrikes were to blame.

US supports attacks

Blinken said Washington remains committed to supporting Israel's right to self-defense. Later on Thursday, US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby also said Washington supports the resumption of attacks in Gaza after the end of the truce, which Netanyahu had affirmed would happen to destroy Hamas. French President Emmanuel Macron warned Saturday that Israel's aim of eliminating the Palestinian resistance group risked unleashing a decade of war. Achieving the "total destruc-

tion of Hamas" would mean "the war will last 10 years", Macron said at a press conference on the sidelines of the UN's COP28 climate talks in Dubai.

The Hamas resistance group is popular in the occupied territories and enjoys good relations with many regional countries, including Turkey, Iran, Syria and Qatar. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan Saturday pushed back against mounting US pressure to cut Ankara's historic ties with Hamas.

The US Treasury's top terrorism financing official conveyed Washington's "profound" alarm about Ankara's past relations with Hamas during a visit to Turkey this week.

Erdogan said Saturday that Washington was well aware that Turkey does not view Hamas as a terrorist organization.

"First of all, Hamas is a reality of Palestine, it is a political party there and it entered the elections as a political party and won," he said in remarks released by his office.

"Our expectation is that these perpetrators of genocide, these butchers of Gaza, who were caught red-handed – especially Netanyahu – will receive just punishment," Erdogan said

on Saturday.

'No chance for peace'

Erdogan also said that the chance for peace in Gaza after the humanitarian pause was lost for now due to what he described as Israel's uncompromising approach, broadcaster NTV reported on Saturday.

Smoke again clouded the sky over the north of the Palestinian territory, whose Hamas government said 240 people had been killed since a pause in hostilities expired early Friday and combat resumed.

In Israel, the military's Home Front Command reported 40 missile alerts in the south and center of the occupied territories, and the Palestinian groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad announced "rocket barrages" against three Israeli municipalities near Gaza.

According to the United Nations, an estimated 1.7 million people in Gaza – around 80 percent of the population – have been displaced by eight weeks of war.

The population is short of food, water and other essentials, and many homes have been destroyed. UN agencies have declared a humanitarian catastrophe, although some aid trucks did arrive on Saturday.

International Desk

Iran said on Saturday Israel's fresh attacks on the Gaza Strip, which killed more than 240 people in just 24 hours, had been greenlighted by the United States. Foreign Ministry spokesman

Nasser Kanaani, in a post on X, called the new Israeli crimes a "great moral scandal" for the US, which "reveals the true colors of the American human rights" to the world. Kanaani said the resumption of Israeli attacks after a seven-day hiatus added to

a long list of US war crimes, child killing and ethnic cleansing to the harrowing crime of killing more than 16,000 Palestinians over the past 48 days in Gaza, where the week-long truce allowed the exchange of captives held by Hamas for Palestinians imprisoned in

Israel. US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken blamed Hamas for the broken truce on Friday and claimed that he was already seeing signs that Israel had taken new steps to protect civilians as it resumed its military campaign.

Iran, Russia, China to hold joint naval drill in Persian Gulf

Naval forces from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Russia and China are set to stage a joint naval exercise in the Persian Gulf, where the three powerhouses will carry out large-scale maritime maneuvers involving various divisions of their military forces.

Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani told the state-run Islamic Republic of Iran News Network (IRINN) television news channel on Friday that Iranian, Chinese and Russian forces will jointly

practice exercises during the 2024 Marine Security Belt naval war game, Press TV reported.

He added that delegates from Pakistan, Brazil, Oman, India, South Africa and a number of the Caspian Sea littoral states have also been invited to participate in the drills as observers.

Iranian naval forces and their Chinese and Russian counterparts have held several military drills in recent years to improve the security of international

maritime trade, counter piracy and maritime terrorism, exchange information in naval rescue and relief operations, and exchange operational and tactical experiences.

Irani went on to say that the main phase of the country's largest maritime zone will come on stream at the port city of Jask, in southeastern Iran, during the Ten-Day Dawn celebrations marking the 45th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

The commander stated that

heavy-lift vessels will be deployed in the maritime zone by the end of the current Iranian calendar year, which concludes on March 19, 2024.

"Given the growth in the number of operating heavy lift vessels in the country, we are planning to establish a much larger maritime zone in Konarak" in the country's southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, the Iranian Navy commander said.

On Saturday, Irani attended an exhibition in which

Iran's Navy unveiled a domestically developed and manufactured vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) drone, alongside a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) that can undertake a variety of marine operations autonomously.

The VTOL drone, dubbed Chamrosh-4, named after a bird in Persian mythology believed to live on the summit of Mount Alborz, enjoys cost-efficient technologies and can easily take off from and land vertically on the decks of all types of naval



vessels, and carry out assigned missions.

Moreover, the remotely operated vehicle can detect, locate and destroy both anchored and sleeping naval mines. The ROV reportedly

has the ability to carry a wide range of equipment and clear mines.

It can go as deep as 200 meters (656 feet), and has operational endurance of some 24 hours.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Two IRGC officers killed in Israeli attack in Syria

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said two of its officers serving as military advisers in Syria were killed in Israel's attacks on the Arab country.

The IRGC in a statement on Saturday identified the two forces as Mohammad Ali Ataee Shoorche and Panah Taqizadeh, who were killed during an advisory mission in Syria, according to IRNA. The IRGC said in the statement that the two servicemen have been martyred against a backdrop of the relentless and barbaric crimes the fake Zionist regime has been committing against Gaza, with the bla-

tant support of the US and a number of European governments, which have killed thousands of Palestinians in an unequal and unfair war. Israel has carried out hundreds of air attacks against targets inside government-controlled parts of



Syria in recent years, which have killed a number of IRGC advisers there.

Iran maintains an advisory mission in Syria at the request of Damascus, with the aim of helping the war-torn Arab country get rid of the foreign-backed terror-



ists, who have been fighting against the Syrian government since 2011.

In 2017, Iran's advisory assistance helped Syria defeat the Daesh terrorist group. Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a US airstrike near Baghdad International Airport in January 2020, played a key role in the defeat of Daesh. Israel has been a key supporter of the terrorist groups operating on the soil of Syria and has targeted the positions of Iran's military advisers as well as those of the Syrian Army and resistance groups that have been fighting the terrorists.

Revival of Beyramabad Garden, crucial for preserving Kerman's cultural heritage



● chn.ir

Iranica Desk

Kerman Province, known for its desert landscapes, holds a treasure trove of stunning gardens that owe their existence to the ingenious qanat system devised by our ancestors. These gardens stand as a testament to the unwavering efforts and enthusiasm of the people in this region. One particular gem, the Shahzadeh Mahan Garden, has even earned the prestigious title of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Unfortunately, some of Kerman's precious gardens, which are esteemed as cultural heritage sites, face the threat

of destruction and loss for various reasons. However, by preserving and restoring these gardens, we can enhance the province's tourism sector with enriching historical attractions. Among the renowned gardens in Kerman is the Beyramabad Garden, constructed during the Safavid era by the then governor of Kerman, Beyram Beig Afshar, under the rule of Shah Ismail Safavid. This magnificent garden covers an area of 4.5 hectares in the eastern part of the city and has a history of four hundred years. It was officially recognized as a National Heritage Site on Febru-

ary 27, 1999. The architectural marvels of Beyramabad Garden, reminiscent of other Safavid era structures, blend stunning designs with an abundance of flora, trees, and water features, making it one of the most captivating gardens in Kerman. According to an endowment document, the garden was entrusted to the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza during the Qajar period. This allowed various activities to take place within its premises, with the proceeds directed back to the shrine. However, negligence and natural calamities have pushed the gar-

den to the edge of destruction. The last restoration efforts for Beyramabad Garden date back to 2001, when the Cultural Heritage Organization meticulously renovated its fences, towers, and surrounding walls. Recognizing the importance of revitalizing the neglected recreational and tourism potentials of the city of Kerman, Alireza Razm Hosseini, the former governor of Kerman, announced a restoration program for Beyramabad Garden in October 2015, following the successful restoration of Fathabad Garden near the city of Akhtarabad. However, despite

the anticipation of cultural heritage and tourism enthusiasts, the garden remains closed to visitors even after eight years of restoration efforts. Mojtaba Shafiei, the deputy head of Kerman Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization, acknowledges that the restoration work carried out by Astan Qods Razavi, under the supervision of the Cultural Heritage Organization, has made the monument largely ready for public visits, while there is ongoing restoration in certain areas of the structure that could provide added attractions for visitors.

He noted that the decision to reopen the garden lies with the Astan Qods Razavi, as they manage it. The authorities of Astan Qods Razavi still consider the restoration of Beyramabad Garden incomplete, despite the Cultural Heritage Organization's belief that conditions for visitation and utilization by tourists have been prepared. It is our hope that the necessary steps will be taken to fulfill the aspirations of cultural heritage and tourism enthusiasts eagerly waiting to experience the beauty of the historical Beyramabad Garden once again.

Voluntary migrations and cultural exchange between Roman and Sassanid empires

Apart from forced movements, individuals and groups voluntarily migrated between Roman and Sassanid empires, seeking economic opportunities or intellectual freedom. These voluntary migrations — both temporary and permanent — ranged from groups of skilled craftsmen seeking economic opportunity to talented individuals who hoped to improve their prospects or find refuge from the ill will of the rival sovereign. For example, many skilled Roman silk workers immigrated to the Sassanid Empire to find work and price fixing practically killed the industry in the Roman empire, and took with them, no doubt, motifs and imagery as well as technical expertise.

Similarly, after Justinian (Roman emperor from 527 to 565) effectively closed the Athenian Academy in 529 CE, prohibiting the teaching of law and philosophy there and pagans from teaching anywhere, six prominent philosophers led by Damascius traveled to Ctesiphon to seek refuge at the court of Kosrow I. This sort of intellectual movement also occurred as a matter of diplomacy. Procopius, a prominent late antique Greek scholar and historian, records that Justinian I lent the sickly Kosrow I the services of a physician over the course of a year. Persian Christians traveled to the Roman empire because it was a center of Christian learning or to escape persecution. However, the flow of informa-

tion was not just unidirectional. A learned Syrian cleric, Paul the Persian, traveled to Constantinople from the Sassanid Empire and instructed Justin I and various high court officials on doctrinal issues before returning to Nisibis. Several high-level officials, and even members of the royal family, sought refuge at the court of their sovereign's opponent, a phenomenon that increased the courts' knowledge of their rival and his court culture. In the fourth century the Sassanid prince Hormozd sought refuge at the court of Constantius II and even accompanied him on his famous trip to Rome, serving as a mouthpiece for witty commentary in Ammianus's (the last major Roman historian) account.

Hormozd served as a cavalry commander and took part in Julian's ill-fated campaign against his brother. Conversely, Ammianus devotes a chapter to the defection of Antoninus, bodyguard of the dux of Mesopotamia, to Shapur II and the service rendered to the king in his campaign against the Romans. As a consequence of their diplomatic service, envoys became acquainted with the customs of their hosts and could pick up tastes for Roman and Persian luxury goods and visual culture from long stays in the other empire's capital. Military service and the occasional capture of rich booty brought aristocrats into continued contact with the other empire's culture as well.



The above is a lightly edited version of part of a chapter entitled, 'The Art and Ritual of Kingship Within and Between Rome and Sassanid Iran', from a book titled, 'The Two Eyes of the Earth', written by Matthew P. Vanepa, published by University of California Press.

Economic, security issues open door to extremists

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

Abolqasem Delfi, an expert on European affairs, says that economic and internal security problems have paved the way for the rise of far-right movements in some European countries.

According to him, even though extremists have enjoyed some success in Europe, the majority of European society is concerned about the empowerment of extremists. They associate it with the legacy of the disastrous World War II and the racist, supremacist views that sparked that war and do not want to return to that era. Delfi has previously served as Iran's ambassador to France, Belgium, and Serbia.



IRAN DAILY: Far-right movements in the Netherlands have achieved significant victories. Is right-wing extremism becoming a dominant force in Europe?

DELFI: Right-wing extremist ideologies in European politics are not new. Right-wing extremist movements in Europe have been discussed for decades. Their emergence has caused concern for some people, while others have welcomed them.

Perhaps the first significant case of right-wing extremism occurred in Austria in the late 1990s when far-right forces formed a coalition government with socialists. Europeans rallied, putting immense pressure on the Austrian government, to the point where Austria was on the brink of leaving the European Union. Ultimately, the coalition government collapsed under the pressure. The main reason for Europeans' concern about far-right movements stems from the fact that a number of wars in Europe were launched due to particularistic fervor. World War II was particularly fueled by racial supremacist ideologies adopted by right-wing and extremist nationalists.

Nazism in Germany and fascism in Italy emerged from elections. Now, far-right movements are winning more and more parliamentary seats in elections. Why do some Europeans vote for them despite the concerns you mentioned?

In European countries where the right wing has succeeded, the main reason why the public is inclined toward them is their unsatisfactory economic situation. The ruling governments, whether liberal or socialist, are incapable of solving economic problems, and this has allowed the right to exploit and link them to the issue of immigrants. Far-right nationalists say that immigrants have taken job opportunities and exacerbated economic problems. So, they urge the government to expel immigrants or severely curb immigration policies. They focus more on nationalist aspects, as evidenced by the 'America First' foreign policy approach that Donald Trump promoted in the US. Far-right movements have posed the greatest challenge, perhaps in France, where many African immigrants with collective memories of being the victims of colonialism live. According to French nationalists, these immigrants have taken up many job opportunities and brought with them racial hatred influenced by the colonial era, creating a crisis in France.

In Britain, far-right extremists believed that the European Union had limited the greatness and power of their country, and that by leaving the European Union, Britain would gain more power and better secure its interests. But in the end, Brexit deprived Britain of the benefits of the European Union.

Internal security is another issue that has given rise to right-wing movements in various European countries. Right-wing factions believe that immigration policies have endangered their internal security as well. This issue gained more prominence, especially after the emergence of Daesh. According to extremists, some migrants living in Europe were recruited by Daesh and undertook terrorist activities or participated in them. The debates surrounding this issue has been particularly heated in France. Therefore, focusing on unstable economic conditions and internal security and linking them to immigrants have prompted some segments of society to vote for far-right extremists.

Can we consider right-wing extremism a serious threat to Europe?

Right-wing extremism is a serious threat everywhere, including Europe. However, relative victories in some European countries do not necessarily mean the empowerment of extremists in Europe. They have succeeded in some countries, such as the Netherlands, Italy, and Hungary, and even formed a government in Italy. Still, their path to success has not been straightforward in other countries. Far-right extremists failed to win presidential elections in France, and German neo-Nazis didn't achieve success. Also, due to public concerns, extremists are forced to moderate their slogans and policies. Extremists have gained some popularity by exploiting economic problems and certain identity slogans. However, the European public is aware of the potential dangers of right-wing extremism. They haven't forgotten Europe's history before the union, which was marked by numerous wars and nationalistic ambitions in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Far-right nationalists emphasize shifting the focus inward and leaving the union, but Europeans are concerned that if the European Union collapses, it might lead to wars or severe conflicts over borders and national interests. The events that the more destructive far-right movements brought up in World War II have not been forgotten. Europeans are aware of the potential threat of far-right nationalism.

Therefore, in your opinion, have far-right extremists not reached a point where they would be a threat to the European Union?

Britain was one of the important countries in the European Union, and perhaps no one thought that London would one day leave the union. Nevertheless, the Brexit happened. So, another country may leave the EU in the future as well.

Despite the successes that the European Union has had, it is facing the reality that its 27 member states are feeling less and less motivated to stay in it. If the economic, military, and security conditions of European countries deteriorate, motivation to stay in the union naturally decrease. For example, Eastern European countries, which joined the union later and have geographical proximity to Russia, have security concerns. Although the European Union is an independent, influential economic superpower in the world, it is militarily and security-wise dependent on NATO and especially the United States. Ultimately, at present, there is no serious threat to the unity of Europe, but nevertheless, the European Union deals with internal challenges.

We are superior, so we kill

Israel worst case of right-wing extremism



By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

The successes of far-right extremists in elections in various European countries have sparked concerns

among governments and the public across the continent. In a report, BBC Persian described the victory of the far-right Party for Freedom in the Netherlands, led by Geert Wilders, as a seismic event in Europe.

Previously, the far-right successfully formed a government in Italy. In France, the far-right strengthened its social base, with their candidate reaching the second round in the presidential elections, although facing defeat against Emmanuel Macron. Far-right or extremist nationalists in several other European countries have also achieved success. However, a significant portion of Europe, especially its public opinion, is worried about the rise of the far-right.

According to Abolqasem Delfi, former Iranian ambassador to France, Belgium, and Serbia, and Mehdi Zakerian, an international relations expert, Europeans are concerned about the supremacist and racist views of the far-right, which historically

contributed to World War II, the deadliest war in history. Statistics indicate that nearly 80 million people lost their lives during that war or later due to its consequences.

Far-right extremists advocate for harsh policies, particularly the expulsion of immigrants or the imposition of stricter restrictions against them. Far-right thinking is founded on emphasizing or considering one's race, language, culture, and national identity as superior. These thoughts are so narrow-minded that some far-right individuals in Europe went as far as demanding an exit from the European Union, rejecting the collective nature of the entity called Europe.

The Holocaust was the most heinous record of supremacist actions. Incidentally, the regime that claims it is securing the interests of Jews worldwide has turned into a clear manifestation of supremacist ideology. In fact, European concerns about the dangers of far-right extremists have reached greater heights in the case of Palestine. Presently, the Israeli regime's cabinet serves as a gathering place for far-right extremists led by Benjamin Netanyahu, and, according to some of its officials, is racism incarnate.



Polish far-right nationalists carry a banner with the White Power symbol at a march to mark Polish independence in Warsaw, Poland, on November 11, 2023. The banner reads: "Guardians of Independence".
REUTERS





PVV leader Geert Wilders (2nd Left) arrives at a post-election meeting in The Hague, the Netherlands, on November 23, 2023.
● CARL COURT/GETTY IMAGES

Israel isn't state for Jews

On March 11, 2019, the then-Israeli president, Reuven Rivlin, made a statement indirectly addressing Benjamin Netanyahu, asserting, "In Israel, we do not have second-class citizens." The media quickly suspected that Rivlin's remarks were a response to Netanyahu's explicitly racist statement: "Israel is not a country for all its citizens. According to the Jewish Nation-State Law approved by the Knesset, Israel is only the state of the Jewish people."

Meanwhile, Arabs constitute approximately one-fifth of Israel's population. Euro News Persian reports that the Arab minority in Israel has confronted significant social and economic disparities, enduring high poverty rates, residing in crowded cities lacking essential infrastructure, and attending educational institutions with minimal budgets for decades.

In August 2023, the Israeli Minister of Finance suspended the allocated budget for Arab areas and educa-

tional programs for Palestinians in East Jerusalem. In reaction, Yair Lapid, a former prime minister, accused the cabinet's finance minister of racism, stating, "Arab citizens are harassed and abused simply because they are Arabs."

This pattern of racial discrimination in Israel extends beyond Muslims and Arabs. In July 2019, thousands of Ethiopian Jews protested the killing of a black youth by a police officer in the occupied territories. During the 1980s and 1990s, tens of thousands of Ethiopian Jews were brought to Israel. As reported by BBC Persian, they claim to have encountered "organized discrimination, racism, and a lack of solidarity with their problems" since settling in Israel. A protester told a French news agency, "We will do whatever we can to ensure the Israeli police do not kill others because of their skin color."

In 2015, when Jews of African descent protested against the racist conduct of a police officer toward

an Ethiopian Jewish soldier in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, Reuven Rivlin, then-president of Israel, remarked, "Society screams of its pain from racism, discrimination, and ignored cries. We must attend directly to this wound."

In August 2022, some 900 professors from various universities around the world, including Yale, Harvard, Chicago, Michigan, Washington, and Berkeley in the United States as well as Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Ben Gurion in Israel, denounced the discriminatory policies of the Israeli regime against Palestinians as racist. These university figures highlighted that, in the first eight months of 2022, Israeli forces killed over 190 Palestinians on the border of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and demolished more than 590 of their buildings. Meanwhile, Israeli settlers, despite committing theft, arson of Palestinian properties, and violence, remain immune from punishment. Palestinians continue to live under a racist regime to this day.

Crimes in Gaza war cry supremacy

The heightened manifestation of extreme right-wing supremacy in Israel has become more pronounced since October 7, 2023, particularly in the Gaza Strip. Israeli authorities openly express their intent to relocate the indigenous inhabitants of Gaza from this area. This racist supremacy has escalated to the extent that a member of Netanyahu's cabinet contemplates the use of atomic

bombs in Gaza as an option for racial and religious purification in this region. The extremist movement, which apparently considers itself the representative of Holocaust victims, appears unperturbed about instigating another Holocaust against Muslims.

The state of affairs we described in the occupied territories embodies all the fears and anxieties that Europeans harbor concerning the rise of the far-right in their continent.

The supremacist actions of Tel Aviv have claimed the lives of over 14,000 people in the Gaza Strip. It is noteworthy that the exposure of Israel's crimes in the Gaza Strip has sparked widespread protests in numerous European countries. Preoccupied with right-wing parties in their own nations, European governments have either maintained silence or aligned with one of the most extremist far-right cabinets there is in the world.



Right-wing extremism no threat to the EU Extremists forced to moderate their positions

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

The far-right Party for Freedom, led by Geert Wilders, has secured 23.5% of the seats in the Dutch Parliament, claiming a significant victory in the 2023 elections. Other right-wing groups in Europe have gone even as far as forming governments in Italy and Hungary. In France, a right-wing candidate reached the second round of the presidential elections but ultimately lost to Macron. So, is far-right extremism threatening Europe? We discussed the political phenomenon with Mehdi Zakerian, a university professor and international relations expert.

IRAN DAILY: What common characteristics do far-right or extremist nationalist movements generally share?

ZAKERIAN: Right-wing movements are primarily considered conservative groups. In Europe, these movements emphasize the European identity, highlighting various aspects such as race, language, art, culture, literature, and Christianity. In addition to this, they also emphasize enlightenment and being at the forefront of contemporary scientific advancements, arguing that these European aspects should receive more attention or be a priority in policymaking. Emphasizing these aspects as distinctive features of Europe, as opposed to other countries or cultures, has sparked opposition and concern within Europe. However, it's important to note that not all right-wing movements are necessarily against liberalism.

Is it the identity concerns of far-right extremists that manifest in their anti-immigrant policies and calls to restrict non-Europeans? We have seen many such movements also voice concerns about the economic consequences of lenient immigration policies.

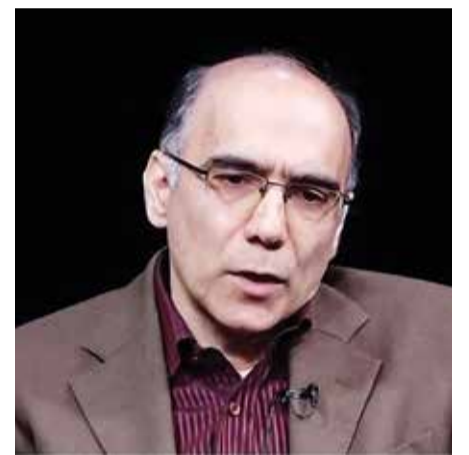
Yes, both aspects heighten their concerns. However, what stands out more is the issue of identity and the emphasis on being "a European". Europe is different from the United States in this regard. The US is an immigrant-friendly country, and identity doesn't have much impact on economic opportunities or adherence to American values. Although this is not an absolute rule, in the US, we don't see the kinds of restrictions on immigrants and narrow-mindedness that the European far-right stands for. Fundamentally, one of the differences between far-right extremists and liberals or socialists is that the far-right extremists claim that their respective governments tend to let those people in Europe who may not believe in European values and sometimes act against European beliefs but use European principles and values in their arguments. They also bring up the economic issue, asserting that migrants take job opportunities from European citizens.

Why are some concerned about the rise of far-right powers in European countries?

Their concern primarily stems from their bitter experience of extremist empowerment in Europe's history, which was based on racism and exclusivity and led to the onset of World War II and all of its devastating consequences for Europeans. Europeans are fearful of slogans that assert something along the lines of "others should not have a place among us because they are not like us." Such perspectives have given rise to Nazism and fascism in Europe and resulted in a world war. Liberals and human rights advocates see these supremacist views as contradictory to European democratic values and worry that extremists may undermine these values.

However, not all right-wing groups share the same beliefs. Some hold dangerous ideologies, such as neo-Nazis in Germany or the first generation of right-wing extremists in France — symbolized by Jean-Marie Le Pen, who openly espoused racist positions.

Geert Wilders, whose party recently won the most seats in the Dutch general elections, also holds strong views against religious minorities, as depicted in his controversial film on this subject. Therefore, some media out-



lets have labeled the victory of the far-right in the Netherlands as an earthquake in Europe. They are concerned that some events that were rooted in ideas of racial superiority may get repeated.

It is said that far-right movements are closely tied to populism and focus mainly on economic problems in elections, adopting populist slogans that may not be easily implemented into policies.

Populism does not have a significant presence in Europe. Far-right movements espousing populist platforms are more prevalent in other regions of the world that have weaker civil societies, such as the United States or Latin America. Europe, in contrast, has a robust civil society. Parties, unions, and the media actively participate in elections. Democratic values are stronger in Europe than anywhere else. Although economically lagging behind the US and Japan, Europe remains an attractive destination for migration owing to its democracy and stable civil institutions that can safeguard the interests of both native citizens and immigrants.

The victory of the far-right in some parts of Europe should not be generalized to the entire continent to suggest that Europeans are inclined towards extremism. Furthermore, even the winning far-right movements cannot necessarily implement their extremist plans. Strong political structures and civil society do not allow them to enforce their radical policies. For instance, Wilders, despite winning 26% of the votes in the Netherlands, knows that if he becomes the head of government, he must pursue policies that benefit the entire Dutch society, not just the 26% who voted for his party. Thus, right-wing extremists are forced to moderate their positions.

Since far-right ideologies are often nationalistic, they have sometimes opposed the European Union and advocated for the exit of their respective countries from the union. Can we argue that the inclination is gaining momentum in European countries?

Such a conclusion cannot be drawn. On the contrary, the European Union can still be considered dominant and successful. Many Englishmen who voted for Brexit and pursued it regret it now. They thought leaving the EU would provide more opportunities to solve their problems, but the situation in Britain has not improved compared to when they were still in the European Union. The Euro, as the currency of the EU, is now stable globally. Therefore, it cannot be said that the success of the far-right in the Netherlands poses a threat to the continuation of the European Union.

World Para Taekwondo Grand Prix Final: Iranians bag four golds, secure Paralympic berths

Sports Desk

Iranians stole the show on Day 1 of the World Para Taekwondo Grand Prix Final in Manchester, Britain, walking away with four gold medals to seal their spots in next year's Paralympic Games in Paris.

Representing the country in the women's -49kg contests on Friday, Maryam Abdollahpour marched to a 24-3 victory over her familiar foe Ziyodakhon Isakova of Uzbekistan in the semifinals and then stunned Puerto Rican Leonor Espinoza - the reigning Paralympic champion - by a 15-5 scoreline for the ultimate prize.

Mahdi Pour-Rahnama needed to win the gold in Manchester to secure the Paralympic quota, and he achieved it thanks to a 17-10 win against Uzbekistan's Javokhir Alikulov in a thrilling men's -70kg final.

A three-time world champion, Pour-Rahnama will be looking to improve on his previous Paralympic campaign in Tokyo - where he settled for

the 75kg silver - when heading to the French capital next summer.

Alireza Bakht also booked his Paris ticket, courtesy of a 29-18 triumph over high-profile South Korean Jeong-hun Joo - No. 2 in the World Rankings - in the men's -80kg final showdown.

Hamed Haqshenas built on his gold-winning run in October's Asian Para Games to defeat world number one Croatian Ivan Mikulic - beaten by Iranian Asghar Aziziaqdam in the Tokyo final - 17-2 in the +80kg showdown.

Iranians denied visas

Meanwhile, three Iranians suffered major blows to their quest for a place in the Paris Olympics after being denied UK entry visas by the British Embassy in Ankara and missing out on the final series of the World Grand Prix.

Mahdi Hajmousaei and Abolfazl Zandi, the men's 58kg top two in the GP Series 2 event, as well as Mehran Barkhordari, an 80kg gold

medalist in September's competition in Paris, are in a tight race in the Olympic ranking of their respective weight classes and the absence in Manchester could cost them dearly on the road to the Games.

The trio will still have a final opportunity to win a quota when participating at the two-day Champions Series of the World Taekwondo Grand Slam - starting December 13 in Wuxi, China.

Controversial visa denials have kept the Iranian athletes from taking part at several international events over the past months - most recently in mid-November's World Wushu Championships in Fort Worth, Texas.

The country also had to send a depleted squad to Anaheim, California, for the final week of the preliminary round in the Volleyball Nations League in July, while the Iranian freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling teams were ruled out of October's U23 World Championships in Tirana, Albania.



Maryam Abdollahpour celebrates with the Iranian flag after winning the women's -49kg gold medal at the World Para Taekwondo Grand Prix Final in Manchester, Britain, on December 1, 2023.

WORLD TAEKWONDO

Al Ittihad's Benzema ruled out of Sepahan clash with injury

Sports Desk

Al Ittihad is set to be without skipper Karim Benzema for up to 10 days after the striker suffered an injury during a Saudi Pro League game on Thursday, Riyadh-based newspaper Arriyadiyah reported.

The French talisman found the net from the spot on the half-hour mark but was replaced by Marwan Al-Sahafi eight minutes later in a 4-2 victory over Al Khaleej at the King Abdul Aziz Stadium.

The injury means the Frenchman will miss Tuesday's AFC Champions League encounter with Iranian top-flight side Sepahan at home. Al Ittihad sits atop the table in Group C with 12 points - two clear of Sepahan - before this week's final round of group stage fixtures, and has already secured a place in the last-16 round.

Having joined from Real Madrid in the summer, Benzema - Ballon d'Or winner



GETTY IMAGES

in 2021 - has bagged 10 goals in 16 appearances for Al Ittihad across all competitions this season, though he is yet to get off the mark in the Asian elite clubs' competition.

Suns' Durant moves into NBA all-time scoring top 10

BBC - Kevin Durant moved to 10th on the NBA all-time scoring list but his Phoenix Suns were beaten by the Denver Nuggets. The 35-year-old went into the game needing 17 points to move past Moses Malone and scored 30 to give him a career total of 27,423 points.

However, it was not enough to stop his side falling to a 119-111 defeat.

Nikola Jokic starred for Denver, scoring 21 points and having 16 assists, while all five starters scored at least 15 points.

Elsewhere, the Orlando Magic beat the Washington Wizards 130-125 to equal a franchise record of nine straight wins.

German forward Franz Wagner scored 31 points, while Paolo Banchero added 28 points for Orlando.

The Dallas Mavericks were missing Luka Doncic following the birth of a daughter as they fell to a 108-94 loss at home to the Memphis Grizzlies, for whom Desmond Bane scored 30 points.

Reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Joel Embiid was also absent as the Philadelphia 76ers were beaten 125-119 by the Boston Celtics, who had Jayson Tatum ejected in the third quarter for a second technical foul.

USA TODAY SPORTS



NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

First Announcement

TENDER NO.: 08-38-9540004

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	SLICKLINE, SPOOLED ON IRON REEL SIZE 0.082 IN. X 18,000 FEET	22 RL

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 30,510/04 EURO or 12,480,133,162 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment

Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab.
ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN.
PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
 Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
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 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

PUBLIC RELATIONS
www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://lets.mporg.ir> 1611477



NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0040001

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
1	TUBING, API GRADE L-80, SEAMLESS "VAM", "N.VAM", "SEC" OR APPROVED THREAD RANGE 3 (MAX LEN: 40.5 FT) AS PER API 5CT/ ISO 11960, PLS:2 MARKING: COLD DIE STAMPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH API 5CT SIZE(OD), WEIGHT(PFF), AS SPECIFIED NOTE: LEVEL OF INSPECTION: 1(L.O.I:1) "QCP/ MPS DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW & CONFIRM" "ITP DOCUMENTS IS ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION" 4-1/2 IN., 13.5 PPF DRIFT: 3.795 IN.	11000LE

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The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 115,759/76 EURO or 47,900,000,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment

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Tehran's air quality plunges into unhealthy levels



Social Desk

An increase is expected in the concentration of pollutants in urban and high-traffic areas of Tehran, particularly from December 2 until the morning of Wednesday, December 6, announced the Meteorological Department of Tehran Province. Furthermore, based on forecast maps and analysis of synoptic patterns, the

weather condition in Tehran Province is projected to be clear to partly cloudy over the next five days, occasionally accompanied by mild winds, and moderate winds in the highlands. These conditions, characterized by a stable atmosphere and minimal wind, create a conducive environment for the accumulation of air pollutant particles and the rise of dust. Consequently, there

is a predicted decline in air quality across the province. Sadeq Zia'ean, an official with the Meteorological Department, added that due to atmospheric stability, a decrease in air quality and an increase in atmospheric pollutants concentration are anticipated in industrial and densely populated cities over the next five days. Presently, Tehran,

Karaj, Isfahan, and Arak are experiencing air pollution. On December 3, Tehran, Karaj, Isfahan, Mashhad, Arak, Qom, and Tabriz are expected to face air pollution, while on Monday, December 4, Tehran, Karaj, Isfahan, Arak, Qom, and Mashhad will be affected. The accumulation of atmospheric pollutants is anticipated, resulting in unhealthy and very un-

healthy air conditions in high-traffic areas. In response to the situation, the head of the Medical Emergency Organization in Tehran Province has announced the deployment of ambulance buses at five key locations in the capital to address air pollution. Mohammad Esmaeil Tavakoli stated on Saturday that due to the level of air pollution in Tehran, the province's

medical emergency fleet has been deployed in the main squares of the city. Tavakoli emphasized that citizens should avoid unnecessary travel and urged them to seek emergency services if they experience symptoms such as shortness of breath, headache, dizziness, and nausea, in order to receive appropriate care and necessary measures. Additionally, athletes are advised to

refrain from engaging in strenuous physical activities outdoors. The PM2.5 concentration in Tehran is more than four times above the recommended limit given by the WHO. It is worth noting that air pollution is not a recent issue in Iran, particularly in the capital city of Tehran, as the country has been grappling with excessive air pollution for decades.

First Announcement


N.I.S.O.C
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0140011

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	CASING 13-3/8 IN. API GRADE P-110 HC (HIGH COLLAPSE), SEAMLESS "N.VAM", THREAD, RANGE 3 (MAX LEN: 40.5 FT), PSL 3, 72 PPF, DRIFT: 12.250 IN".	6,500 LE

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First Announcement


N.I.S.O.C
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0140017

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
1	CASING 9-5/8 IN. API 5CT, C-110 "VAM TOP", 58.4 PPF.	2000 LE
2	COUPLING, CASING 9-5/8 IN. VAM TOP C-110	50 NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 169,085/49 EURO or 68,893,712,511 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment

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A tradition of only envisioning clean air



By Mostafa Shirmohammadi
Editor-in-Chief

For the past two decades or so, Tehran has been suffocating during the second half of the year as a result of inversion. Despite changes in authorities, the problem of air pollution in the megacity persists and has even worsened. Various solutions have been proposed, but none have been followed through in order to permanently resolve the issue. The lingering issue of excessive air pollution in Tehran, as well as in other major cities in Iran, seems unsolvable to those familiar with the current state of affairs. Dariush Gol'alizadeh, an official with Iran's Department of the Environment, recently emphasized the importance of fully implementing the Clean Air Law as the key to address air pollution. He said numerous provisions within the law had remained unimplemented over the past two decades. Gol'alizadeh further underlined the significance of developing public transportation, managing fuel usage, and reforming fuel consumption. He also pointed out that due to sanctions, the necessary technological advancements to address air pollution had not been applied, hindering improvements in vehicles and power plants. Although Iran has passed laws on clean air, the reality is that the air we breathe, particularly during the second part of the year in major Iranian cities, is far from clean. What adds complexity to

the matter is the perplexing fact that authorities, without exception, are well aware of the necessary actions to resolve the problem. Yet, year after year, the situation worsens. Not only does public transportation fail to expand and improve, attracting a larger number of citizens, but also it deteriorates. Old vehicles are not being disposed of, and the quality of new cars produced by Iran's unchallenged automobile giants does not inspire hope for reduced emissions. The lack of motivation to enhance their offerings and maintain a competitive edge in the market seems to hamper any action from being taken. Moreover, green spaces in Tehran are not expanding significantly, and the few remaining trees and gardens in the city are being cut down or destroyed to make room for building facades or replaced by residential towers. Addressing air pollution requires prompt action, including the relocation of polluting industries and upgrading equipment in terms of emissions, as well as carrying on with the aforementioned solutions. However, authorities seem to only envision clean air without actively working toward achieving it for the population. The fact is that while we continue to inhale unhealthy air day in and day out, it appears that nobody truly cares. The statistics on air pollution-related deaths in Iran are already staggering and continue to rise. How many more lives should be lost before the authorities awaken from their clean-air dreaming?



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Part 1 >



Iranian films, series depicting Palestinian oppression, resistance



Arts & Culture Desk

In the course of history and within the realm of cinema, Iranian and international filmmakers have endeavored to portray the challenges faced by the Palestinian people, illustrating the efforts of the resistance movement.

Despite these efforts, there remains a limitless potential in the realm of TV series and films that truly resonate the voices of resistance and the oppression faced by Palestinians, while also demonstrating the Israeli atrocities committed against them. The following collection of Iranian films and TV series explores the narratives that shed light on the injustices Palestinians endure and the steadfastness of their resistance.

'The Lead,' directed by Masoud Kimiai (1989), narrates the story of a young Jewish Iranian couple in the late 1940s who aspire to immigrate to Israel. However, after facing opposition from the Haganah, Zionist military organization, and the killing of their uncle by them, they are forced to flee and become involved in subsequent adventures.

The film, 'Fire Under Ashes' (1990), directed by Habib Kavosh, is one of the first Iranian films related to the people of Palestine and their resistance against the Zionist regime.

The story of this film is about Jacob, a Lebanese Jew, who, along with some of his relatives, is killed by a group disguised as Palestinian militants at a party. Jacob's sister and daughter survive the attack. Palestinian fighters, upon discovering that the goal of the Israelis in this incident is to stir public sentiment against their struggle, respond.

Seifollah Daad's film 'The Survivor' is one of the most historical and significant cinematic works, created in 1994. The film, depicting the oppression of the Palestinian people, features an all-foreign cast, and the entire production was filmed in Syria. The story of this film dates back to 1948 when the city of Haifa was under occupation. 'The Survivor' remains the most enduring effort by Iranian filmmakers to portray the resistance of the Palestinian people.

The film, 'Lebanon My Love' (1995), directed by Hassan Karbakhsh, tells the story of Marie, a young French woman and a member of the Red Cross. While assisting the wounded people during the bombing of southern Lebanon, she becomes captive to soldiers of the South Lebanon Army, also known as the Lahad Army. They intend to take her to Israel, but they engage with a resistance group and face defeat. The resistance group finds itself in a dangerous situation as they transport Marie's partially lifeless body to Lebanon through enemy-occupied territory, en-

countering unexpected events along the way.

The films, 'The Rule of the Game' (1997) and 'Seven Stones' (1997), both directed by Abdolreza Navab-Safavi, were extracted from a 22-episode television series and premiered at the 16th Fajr Film Festival.

'The Rule of the Game' revolves around a hijacked airplane by a Palestinian armed group. During the incident, the occupying regime chooses death over attempting to save the passengers, while a Palestinian group strives to rescue them.

'Seven Stones' tells the story of an anti-Zionist young Jewish man who seeks to meet the leader of the intifada movement. However, Mossad identifies him and pursues him.

The film, 'Hiam,' a family melodrama directed by Mohammad Dormanesh, was produced in 2003. 'Hiam' is an anti-Israeli film that narrates the story of a Palestinian couple intending to move to England to live peacefully. However, during their journey and departure from Jenin, they are separated at an Israeli military checkpoint and face the extensive attack of Israeli soldiers on the Jenin camp. All actors in the film are Arab and Lebanese.

'The Bruise on the Olive' (2004), created by Mohammadreza Ahanj, revolves around the story of a Palestinian woman who, despite her husband's opposition to returning to war against occupying forces, unintentionally becomes involved in the war and discovers new realities.

'Rebirth' (2008) and 'The Invaders' (2010), both directed by Abbas Rafei, addresses the theme of the resistance of the Palestinian and Lebanese people in Iranian cinema, commissioned by the Al-Kawthar TV channel.

In 'The Saturday Hunter' (2009), directed by Parviz Sheikh Hadi, narrates the childhood of a boy who has traveled among various tribes, learning valuable lessons from each. Eighty percent of the filming took place during the 25-day stay of the filmmaking group in Lebanon, with the remaining 20 percent shot in various regions of Iran, such as Chalous and Tehran.

'33 Days' (2012), directed by Jamal Shoorje, addresses regional developments and exposes Israeli crimes. The film is considered

the most serious effort of Iranian cinema to depict the 33-day resistance of Hezbollah in Lebanon against the Zionist regime in 2006.

The film is a real account of the resistance of a village neighboring Israel, preventing Israeli attacks on other resistance factions.

In 'Rope Like Vein' (2012), directed by Masoud Atyabi, the story unfolds in Lebanon, focusing on a rural family whose home, after the occupation of southern Lebanon, turned into a military center, even leading to the cutting down of their trees. The homeowner becomes a witness to bitter events, ultimately allowing the resistance forces to confront the occupiers with his consent.

'Canary' (2003), by Javad Ardakani, the synopsis of the film reads, "With his family in turmoil after the arrest of his father by Israeli soldiers, stammering seven-year-old Fares (Ebrahim Khether) finds one stabilizing "friend": The yellow canary that a local Christian priest entrusts him to "walk" (while in its cage) around the neighborhood every day. But a few jealous boys are chasing them all the time."

'Vafa' (2006), directed by Mohammad Hossein Latifi, is a television series that focuses on a young man named Joubin Panahi, who was imprisoned for spying for Israel in Iran. He is being transferred to the hospital for mental and psychological problems due to his parents' deaths in a bomb blast in Cyprus. At this time, a Mossad agent (the Israeli intelligence agency) entered Iran to kidnap him from the psychiatric hospital.

'Zahra's Blue Eyes' (2004), directed by Ali Derakhshi, is another television series depicting the life of a Palestinian girl. The series symbolically presents the formation of the fake country of Israel, where Theodor (the son of an Israeli official) is a deformed child, a representation of the Zionist regime that wants to survive by stealing the body organs.

'Corporal' (2021), directed by Ahmad Moezami, focuses on Uri Gal, the head of the Iran Desk at Mossad, serving as the central figure orchestrating all acts of sabotage and assassinations. Mossad has occasionally acknowledged these operations.

'Fox,' directed by Behrouz Afkhami in 2014, explores security and espionage issues in the nuclear energy sector. Netanyahu's brother comes to Iran to carry out a new terrorist operation against nuclear scientists. This professional agent in Iran abuses a car driver to achieve his goals.

