



# **The Ayatollah Begs to Differ: The Paradox of Modern Iran**

*Hooman Majd*



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**A *Los Angeles Times* and *Economist* Best Book of the Year**

**With a New Preface**

The grandson of an eminent ayatollah and the son of an Iranian diplomat, journalist Hooman Majd is uniquely qualified to explain contemporary Iran's complex and misunderstood culture to Western readers.

**The Ayatollah Begs to Differ** provides an intimate look at a paradoxical country that is both deeply religious and highly cosmopolitan, authoritarian yet informed by a history of democratic and reformist traditions. Majd offers an insightful tour of Iranian culture, introducing fascinating characters from all walks of life, including zealous government officials, tough female cab drivers, and open-minded, reformist ayatollahs. It's an Iran that will surprise readers and challenge Western stereotypes.

In his new preface, Majd discusses the Iranian mood during and after the June 2009 presidential election which set off the largest street protests since the revolution that brought the ayatollahs to power.

**BONUS MATERIAL:** This ebook edition includes an excerpt from Hooman Majd's *The Ministry of Guidance Invites You to Not Stay*.



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