

Review of: "The Hidden Aspects of A Century of Substance Use Policymaking in Iran"

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This article provides a comprehensive historical analysis of Iran's substance use policies over the years. However, several questions and points for discussion can be raised:

1. To what extent do gaps or inconsistencies in historical records impact the conclusions?
2. Were there any limitations in accessing historical documents or records that might have influenced the depth and accuracy of the analysis?
3. What role did domestic political upheavals, such as the 1979 revolution, play in shaping or reshaping substance use policies, and how did these changes impact the direction of policy?
4. How did economic considerations influence shifts in substance use policies during different periods? Are there examples of other countries that have faced similar economic challenges and adopted comparable policies?
5. The article emphasizes a shift towards medical approaches in the 1930s and 1940s. What were the key factors driving this medicalization, and why did it eventually face challenges and setbacks?
6. How did the medical community's stance on substance use evolve over time, and what factors influenced their advocacy or opposition to certain policies?
7. To what extent did global trends, particularly those in the United States, influence the trajectory of Iran's substance use policies? How did the global "war on drugs" impact local policy decisions?
8. The article touches on the effectiveness of certain policies, such as harm reduction measures. What are the key challenges in assessing the success or failure of substance use policies, and how might effectiveness be measured?
9. Are there specific policy interventions that the authors believe were particularly successful or unsuccessful, and why?
10. Are there efforts within Iranian society to challenge or change stigmatizing attitudes towards people who use substances?
11. What lessons can be drawn for future policymakers in Iran or other countries dealing with substance use issues?
12. The article briefly mentions multiple players in the "drug scene." Could the authors elaborate on the role of different stakeholders, including governmental bodies, international organizations, and civil society, in shaping substance use policies?