

Foreword; Privatization For Progress: Reshaping Iran's Economic Future

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March 20, 2025

FOREWORD

Privatizing the economy is the continuation of Iran's liberation through other means; not merely as an economic policy, but fundamentally as a profound shift in the relationship between the future free state of Iran, its citizens, and their shared future.

Under the banner of the Iran Prosperity Project, championed by Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi and the National Union for Democracy in Iran (NUFDI), privatization emerges as an essential element in dismantling the entrenched structure of crony socialism that currently dominates the Iranian economy. Privatization is the surest way to eliminate the bloodlife power networks built by the Islamic Republic since 1979, and deliver the prosperity Iranians so deserve.

At present, the Iranian economy is burdened by a complex network of state-owned enterprises, religious foundations (bonyads), and entities like the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), creating an environment that systematically favors the interests of the very few over the rights and merits of the many. In the Islamic Republic, corruption is not a bug but a feature of the system. This "crony socialism" limits opportunities, stifles innovation and breeds inefficiency and kleptocracy. The economic system built by the Islamic Republic effectively marginalizes ordinary Iranians and kills, slowly but surely, any hope for a better future for the common folk.

For the average Iranian, whether a farmer, factory worker, entrepreneur, or civil servant, the economic structure imposed by the Ayatollah translates into restricted opportunity, diminished economic freedom, and stalled social mobility. Farmers face the consequences of environmental mismanagement and rigged supply chains. Factory workers face stagnant wages in uncompetitive industries. Entrepreneurs are stifled by bureaucratic walls and limited access to credit. Civil servants endure inefficiencies in an oversized public sector where meritocracy always fails to thrive.

Genuine privatization seeks not merely to transfer assets from public to private hands, but rather to fundamentally redefine the role of the state, transforming it from an oppressive, controlling entity into the ultimate guarantor of rule of law and a regulatory facilitator that promotes fair competition, transparency, and inclusive economic participation. Through transparent privatization methods such as public offerings, employee ownership schemes, private-public partnerships, and dedicated support to small and medium-sized enterprises, in this essay, Ahmad Eshgyar very credibly argues that economic liberalization can cultivate an environment of empowerment and innovation.

Privatization is more than just economic reform. It is a critical step towards liberating Iran from state-sanctioned cronyism, unlocking the potential of its citizens, and establishing a foundation for lasting prosperity; and prosperity is the irreplaceable bedrock of a free and democratic society. Free markets and unimpeachable property rights are unavoidable conditions for meaningful liberty in Iran and around the world.

Iranians thrive everywhere but in their homeland. We are among the most disciplined and creative nations. We deserve a system that allows our talent to flourish.