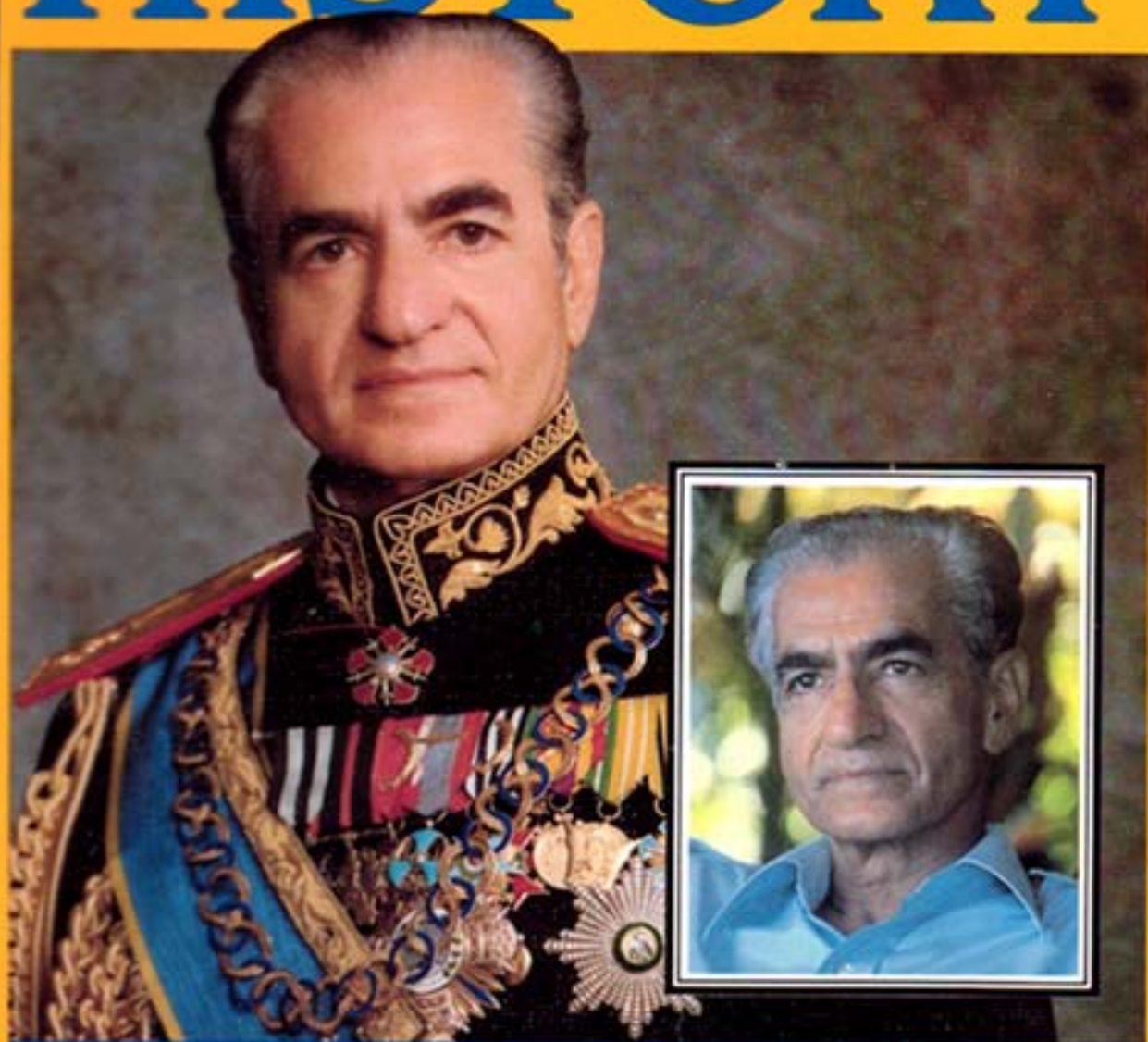


MOHAMMAD
REZA
PAHLAVI
THE SHAH
OF IRAN

ANSWER TO HISTORY

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BY MOHAMMAD REZA PAHLAVI,
THE SHAH OF IRAN


STEIN
AND
DAY

ANSWER TO HISTORY

MOHAMMAD REZA PAHLAVI

THE SHAH OF IRAN

Some books of history become part of history; some books of current events are themselves current events. This book is both.

The final draft of *Answer to History* was completed by the Shah just days before he died on July 27, 1980. Completing it was, in the Shah's words, "a race against time." In it, he shows how the United States, once the most powerful country on earth, found itself hostage to the whims of Iran, a land few Americans knew much about. In telling his own story, the Shah shows clearly that Iran has become a battleground between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, which for over half a century has pursued its goals with increasing success. In the "slide into chaos" precipitated by the Khomeini regime, the Shah saw the ultimate beneficiary being the U.S.S.R., which will reach the apogee of its strength no later than 1983, with the West facing "a decade of harrowing danger."

Answer to History begins with what really happened during the Shah's period of exile in the Bahamas, Mexico, the U.S., Panama, and finally Egypt. It goes on to cover all of the momentous experiences of the Shah's reign, a book full of heroes and villains, with many surprises for the American reader as to who the villains really were and are.

(continued on back flap)

"The Western inability to see and understand clearly the grand design of Soviet expansionism had never astonished me more than in the first months of my exile. I had lived as neighbor to the masters of the Kremlin my whole adult life. In forty years I had never seen any wavering of Russia's political objectives: a relentless striving toward world domination. Moscow had time. It could wait fifty years, accept a step or two backward, deal, accommodate, but never lose sight of its final aims. I favored détente and accommodation, but not from the position of weakness and indecision that marked the policies of the American and European governments. If these policies are not reversed, Europe could be "Finlandized" in three years. Détente only makes sense if the West negotiates from a position of strength, or at least of parity. The 1980s promise to be a decade of harrowing danger. Russia will reach the apogee of her strength in 1983 and if current trends continue, the U.S. will reach its nadir, weaker than it has ever been as a world power."

— *from Chapter One*



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(continued from front flap)

The Shah discloses backstage developments in today's politics of oil. He reveals his relations with American presidents from Roosevelt to Carter; leaders such as Churchill, DeGaulle, and Tito; and strategists such as Henry Kissinger. He deals with SAVAK and the CIA's role in helping to train its agents, and with the double standard of the West, whose human rights advocates were critical of some of the practices of his regime, but are silent about the reign of terror that succeeded him. The Shah shows how the interplay between the Black and the Red—the 14th-century clergy and the Tudeh Party loyal to the Soviets—blocked for their own purposes his proudest achievements: the White Revolution in which the Shah introduced land reform, worked toward the liberation of women, and raised the standard of living of his people, providing disparate ethnic groups with pride in the 2,500-year-old culture of Persia. When the enemies of his reign took to the streets, the Shah felt that he reacted not too strongly, but not strongly enough. His chapters on "The Unholy Alliance of Red and Black" and "The Terror" are informative and alarming.

Mohammad Reza Pahlavi considered himself the staunchest ally of the United States in the Persian Gulf area. In his *Answer to History* he reveals the forces that betrayed him, and left the U.S. without an economically and militarily strong ally in a critical part of the world.

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