

Tehran anxiously examining Assad's fall amid fears of 'Syrization'

Analysis: Iran intensely studying reasons behind Syrian leader's ouster amid fears of brewing revolution against Islamic regime; those looking for a sliver of hope for social and political reforms won't find it in Khamenei's rhetoric

Raz Zimmt / Dec. 15, 2024

Many Iranians were taken aback by instances of vandalism and violence during the wave of protests that swept through Iran in late 2017 over the country's worsening economic situation. A social media campaign under the slogan "Iran isn't Syria" warned protesters against escalating the situation into a civil war.

Iranian human rights activist and journalist Mehdi Mahmoudian addressed the fears among many Iranian regime critics about revolutionary change leading to political chaos this week.

In an opinion piece penned following the collapse of the Bashar Assad regime, Mahmoudian argues that recent events in Syria prove that fears of Iran "becoming Syria"—slipping into civil war and fragmentation in the event of regime change—are exaggerated.

He added that the protracted Syrian civil war and the country's descent into chaos resulted from foreign involvement and Assad's long-standing resistance to essential reforms and an orderly transition of power.

Therefore, Mahmoudian asserted, there was no need to fear regime change in Iran or its "Syrization," as fear of the potential toppling of the regime only exacerbated the situation.

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