

INTRODUCTION

The Iranian Women's Organization (IWO), founded in 1966, represents a critical phase in the history of women's rights in Iran, situated within the broader context of the Pahlavi dynasty's modernization efforts. This monograph provides a thorough analysis of the IWO's formation, activities, and eventual dissolution, offering insights into its role within the socio-political landscape of pre-revolutionary Iran. The study examines how the IWO navigated the complex dynamics between state-driven modernization, traditional societal structures, and emerging feminist movements.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this monograph is to explore the IWO's contributions to advancing women's rights in Iran from 1966 until its dissolution in 1979. The research seeks to address several key questions:

1. **Establishment and Objectives:** What were the initial goals of the IWO, and how did its establishment reflect the broader socio-political objectives of the Pahlavi regime?
2. **Policies and Programs:** What strategies did the IWO employ to enhance women's social, legal, and political status, and how effective were these programs?
3. **State and Society Dynamics:** How did the IWO's relationship with the Pahlavi government influence its operations and public perception? What were the reactions of various societal groups, including conservative and religious factions, to the IWO's initiatives?
4. **Challenges and Dissolution:** What were the main challenges faced by the IWO, and what factors led to its dissolution following the Islamic Revolution? How did the organization's alignment with state policies impact its legacy?

METHODOLOGY

The monograph employs a historical-analytical approach, drawing upon both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include archival documents, government records, contemporary newspapers, and personal interviews with former members of the IWO. These sources provide firsthand insights into the organization's activities and the socio-political context in which it operated. Secondary sources, such as scholarly articles and books, offer critical analyses and contextual background, helping to situate the IWO's efforts within broader historical and theoretical frameworks.

FINDINGS

The research reveals that the IWO was instrumental in promoting women's rights in several key areas, including education, legal reform, employment, and family law. The organization's initiatives, such as literacy campaigns, vocational training programs, and advocacy for legal reforms, contributed to significant improvements in women's social and economic status. However, the IWO's close association with the Pahlavi regime also

made it a target of criticism from both conservative elements and emerging revolutionary forces, who viewed it as an extension of state control rather than a genuine grassroots movement.

The study also highlights the complex interplay between the IWO's modernizing agenda and traditional cultural norms. While the organization made substantial strides in advancing women's rights, its efforts were often met with resistance from segments of society that viewed these changes as a threat to traditional values. This tension ultimately contributed to the IWO's downfall, as it struggled to maintain support in the face of growing opposition from both conservative and revolutionary groups.

CONCLUSION

This monograph contributes to the understanding of the IWO's role in the broader context of Iranian history and the global women's rights movement. It argues that the IWO was a significant, yet ultimately flawed, attempt to reconcile modernizing ambitions with deeply entrenched social norms. The dissolution of the IWO following the Islamic Revolution reflects the challenges faced by state-affiliated organizations in maintaining legitimacy in times of political upheaval.

The research offers valuable insights into the complexities of promoting gender equality in a rapidly changing society and provides a foundation for further studies on the role of women's organizations in other contexts.

**Research
Interests**

Building on my research on the Iranian Women's Organization, my academic interests encompass a broader exploration of the intersections between gender, politics, and social change in Middle Eastern societies. I am particularly interested in the following areas:

1. **History and Impact of Social Reforms:** I am interested in examining the impact of social and legal reforms on women's rights and status in the Middle East, particularly during periods of rapid modernization. My research will focus on how reforms initiated by state actors, such as the Pahlavi regime, have affected women's lives and how these reforms have been received by different segments of society.
2. **Gender and Education:** I am also keen to investigate the relationship between gender and education in the Middle East, focusing on how educational policies and institutions have influenced women's empowerment and social mobility. This research will include a historical analysis of educational reforms and their long-term effects on women's participation in public life.
3. **Post-Revolutionary Women's Movements in Iran:** Finally, I plan to study the evolution of women's movements in Iran after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, exploring how these movements have adapted to the new political and social landscape. This research will analyze the strategies employed by women's organizations to advocate for their rights within a more restrictive environment and the outcomes of these efforts.