

*Albuquerque International Association Book Discussion
August 26th, 7 PM, place TBA. It will be moderated by Emile Nakhleh*

Book: Ray Takeyh, “Guardians of the Revolution: Iran and the World in the Age of the Ayatollahs”, 2009

Ever since 1979, the US has been singing the Ayatollah Blues, our impression of Iran and its revolution defined by a 444-day hostage crisis and, more recently, by pictures of bloodied students protesting a corrupt election. Increasingly, our picture of Iran is complex and unclear. The country's rulers see the US as The Great Satan, but the majority of Iranians have a positive view of America.

The prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran should concentrate our mind, and Ray Takeyh's book will help us with this task. His study gives us valuable insights about the current tensions in Iranian society and the contradictions and conflicts within its ruling elite. He discusses Iran's grievances against the US, its atomic ambitions, and the prospects of normalized relations. Iran considers us to be its enemy; we respond in kind. But enemies have also learned to live in peace. Can we do it this time?

Mr. Takeyh, a State Department advisor to the Obama administration, will help us understand why the restoration of American-Iranian ties is so illusive, but also so critical. This important book is an insightful study of revolutionary Iran and its place in the world.