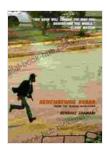
Remembering Akbar Inside The Iranian Revolution

Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was a prominent Iranian politician who played a pivotal role in the Iranian Revolution and the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He served as the fourth president of Iran from 1989 to 1997 and was a key figure in Iranian politics for over four decades.

Early Life and Education

Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was born in 1934 in the village of Bahreman, near the city of Rafsanjan in southeastern Iran. His father, Mirza Ali Akbar Hashemi, was a wealthy landowner and merchant. Rafsanjani's mother, Fatemeh Safar Alizadeh, was a devout Muslim who raised her children in a religious environment.



Remembering Akbar: Inside the Iranian Revolution

by Jean Sasson		
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Rafsanjani began his religious education at a young age, studying the Quran and Islamic law at a local mosque. He later attended the prestigious Qom Seminary, where he studied under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who would later become the leader of the Iranian Revolution.

Role in the Iranian Revolution

Rafsanjani became involved in the Iranian Revolution in the early 1970s, when he joined the clandestine opposition movement against the Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. He played a key role in organizing protests and demonstrations against the Shah's regime, and was arrested and imprisoned several times for his activities.

After the Shah was overthrown in 1979, Rafsanjani became one of the most powerful figures in the new Islamic Republic of Iran. He served as a member of the Revolutionary Council and the Assembly of Experts, and was instrumental in drafting the country's new constitution.

Presidency

Rafsanjani was elected president of Iran in 1989, defeating incumbent president Ali Khamenei. During his presidency, he oversaw the reconstruction of Iran after the Iran-Iraq War and implemented a series of economic reforms aimed at boosting the country's economy.

Rafsanjani's presidency was also marked by controversy, including the suppression of political dissent and the assassination of several dissidents. He was also criticized for his close ties to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), Iran's powerful military force.

Later Life and Legacy

Rafsanjani remained an influential figure in Iranian politics after his presidency. He served as chairman of the Expediency Council, a powerful advisory body to the Supreme Leader, and was a key supporter of President Hassan Rouhani's nuclear deal with the West.

Rafsanjani died in 2017 at the age of 82. He is remembered as a complex and controversial figure who played a major role in shaping the course of Iranian history.

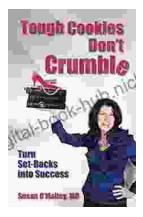
Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was one of the most influential figures in the Iranian Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He played a key role in overthrowing the Shah of Iran, drafting the country's new constitution, and overseeing the reconstruction of Iran after the Iran-Iraq War. Rafsanjani's legacy is complex and controversial, but he is undoubtedly one of the most important figures in Iranian history.



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