

The Role of Social Mobility in the Development Policy Process in Iran

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence "Development occurs when growth is accompanied by improvements in the quality of life and a reduction in social issues" could benefit from clearer definitions of "growth" and "quality of life." While these terms are widely understood, a more detailed description of how they specifically relate to your discussion would help readers understand the theoretical framework you are operating within.

The phrase "Development occurs when growth is accompanied by improvements in the quality of life and a reduction in social issues" is somewhat vague. A more precise explanation or citation of empirical studies that define "quality of life" and "social issues" in the context of development would strengthen your argument and provide a clearer foundation for the reader.

The introduction of John Foran's analysis is a good start, but the sentence "John Foran's in-depth analysis of 'fragile resistance,' based on the theories of 'dependency' and the 'world system,'" could be more detailed. Specifically, it would be helpful to explain how these theories directly relate to Iran's developmental trajectory and provide a citation for Foran's work.

The phrase "Political-cultural theories, such as the conflict between 'tradition and modernity,'" would benefit from further explanation. It would help to elaborate on the key proponents of this theory, their views, and how this conflict has influenced Iran's development. Adding specific examples of how these dynamics played out in Iran would enhance the reader's understanding.

The mention of "oil autocracy" and the "absence of a strong bourgeoisie" as political-economic barriers to development would benefit from a more critical exploration. Are there counterarguments or alternative perspectives on these theories? Including different viewpoints or empirical evidence that critiques these theories would enrich the discussion.

The discussion of "historical despotism" under the Shahs is important but lacks specificity. Which aspects of the Shahs' rule are most relevant to Iran's development challenges? A more detailed exploration of these aspects, perhaps through a historical lens, would clarify the argument.

The claim that "social forces advocating for civil society and political development unintentionally played the most negative roles" is intriguing but requires further clarification. What specific roles did these social forces play, and how did their actions negatively impact development? Examples or case studies would strengthen this argument.

Qajar, Pahlavi, and Islamic Revolution, Paragraph 1: The statement "society was not entirely rigid and closed" could benefit from further elaboration. What evidence supports this claim, and in what ways was mobility limited or enabled during the Qajar period? Including historical examples or data on social mobility rates during this period would improve the depth of this discussion.

Qajar, Pahlavi, and Islamic Revolution, Paragraph 1: The discussion of "Islamic inheritance laws and the authoritarian nature of the central government" as factors influencing social mobility is interesting but underdeveloped. Can you provide more historical context or examples to illustrate how these factors operated in practice during the Qajar era?

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence "In underdeveloped societies, changes occur slowly, while in industrial societies, changes are shaped by change-driving forces based on need" lacks empirical support or citation. It would be helpful to include references to studies that contrast the pace of change between underdeveloped and industrial societies, particularly focusing on factors like technological adoption or institutional reforms.

The transition between the statement "Development encompasses a comprehensive environment with economic, social, political, and cultural dimensions" and the next clause about national power feels abrupt. It would improve the clarity and flow of this paragraph if you briefly explained how these dimensions of development specifically contribute to national power, linking the abstract concepts more concretely.

The claim that "competition within groups is essential for achieving class cohesion" could be developed further. It would be useful to provide more context for why competition is framed as essential to class cohesion—perhaps drawing on specific sociological or economic theories to support this argument.

The statement "Finally, as highlighted by prominent political science scholars, collective thought or civil society is integral to organizing national development programs" would be strengthened by citing specific scholars or theories that discuss the role of civil society in development. Providing references will lend academic rigor to your claim and show the depth of your research.

Pahlavi, Paragraph 1: The phrase "Rural-to-urban migration created new opportunities for individuals to surpass their parents' social positions" would benefit from empirical support. Are there any data or studies that can demonstrate this mobility, such as migration statistics or class mobility rates during the Pahlavi era?

Pahlavi, Paragraph 2: The discussion of "hardware" versus "software" dimensions of development is important, but the terms could be more explicitly defined. What specific aspects are included in the "hardware" (e.g., physical infrastructure, technology), and what falls under the "software" (e.g., cultural norms, social readiness)? A clearer distinction between the two would improve the clarity of this section.

The claim that "cultural clashes between traditional societal structures and imported modern capitalist culture created intellectual and ideological conflicts" is insightful. However, providing examples of these clashes, perhaps through specific events or societal reactions, would ground this discussion in concrete historical details.

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2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.