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Management of Political Crises in the Islamic Republic of Iran: An Examination of Challenges and Solutions

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The section “Political Crisis Management from the Perspective of Imam Khomeini” is descriptive but lacks explanation of why this theoretical lens is necessary. Clarifying its analytical relevance will strengthen the logical flow of the argument.

The sentence “Our people, with their faith, will neutralize any conspiracy” is quoted without analytical commentary. The manuscript needs to explain how such statements fit into crisis-management theory, otherwise the section risks becoming narrative rather than analytical.

Before Table 1, there is no explanation of the method used to compare “Revolutionary Security Theory” with classical crisis-management theories. Readers need clarification about the criteria, reasoning, and analytical framework behind this comparison.

The shift from the general overview of “Revolutionary Security Theory” to subsection “1. People-Centered Nature of the System” is abrupt. Adding an introductory sentence explaining the structure of this theory would make the progression smoother.

The paragraph referencing the growing relevance of micropolitics argues that micropolitics has weakened macropolitics but does not clearly articulate why. Providing a step-by-step causal explanation would enhance clarity.

The paragraph beginning “Economic problems, inflation and high prices…” argues that economic hardship shifts attention away from politics. This point is debatable. Consider refining the argument to show that economic stress can also increase political mobilization.

The section discussing legal limitations states that political crises are managed without coherent legal frameworks, but it does not cite specific laws or legal gaps. Adding concrete examples—such as absent procedures for demonstrations or crisis coordination—would strengthen the analysis.

The sentence "internet shutdowns and restrictions… significantly reduced the intensity and spread of unrest" is asserted without evidence. It would be advisable to clarify that this is an interpretation rather than an empirically proven conclusion.

In "Weak Coordination and Interaction Among Institutions", the findings describe practical challenges but do not link them back to the earlier theoretical frameworks such as institutionalism or multilevel governance. Adding explicit theoretical connections would improve coherence.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The phrase "the presence of multiple and sometimes overlapping power structures" is too broad. Specify which institutions overlap, how the overlap manifests, and why this creates crisis-management difficulty.

The sentence "An examination of major political crises such as the 2009 post-election unrest…" lists crises but does not provide analytical evidence or explanation of how institutional misalignment influenced each case. This section would benefit from at least a brief elaboration.

In the section "The Concept of Political Crisis", only one definition is used. Adding additional conceptualizations would provide a more robust theoretical foundation and prevent reliance on a single viewpoint.

The paragraph "Institutionalism emphasizes the role of formal and informal institutions…" merely gives a textbook description. It would be valuable to relate institutionalism directly to Iranian political structures rather than presenting it in an abstract manner.

In the sentence "the conscious presence of the people functioned as a stabilizing force", the claim about public behavior is broad and unqualified. Consider specifying which data support this or reframing the point to avoid overgeneralization.

The paragraph stating "The collected data were transcribed and processed through qualitative content analysis…" lacks detail. Readers need to know how many codes were generated, how coding reliability was ensured, and what criteria guided the coding structure.

The sentence "Sampling was conducted purposefully and, in some cases, by convenience sampling…" needs more detail. Specify the number of documents, how they were selected, and what distinguished purposeful sampling from convenience sampling in this study.

In the paragraph beginning "Insufficient and non-transparent information about the performance of the government…", the claims about declining trust could be strengthened by referencing explicit indicators or explaining the mechanisms through which lack of transparency reduces participation.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.