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Cinema and Iranian Modernity before the Islamic Revolution

Movies in Iran can be an appropriate mediate to understand urban modernity. In the present essay movies produced three decades before The Revolution (1979) are studied. Our inquiry reveals how these films represent problems stemmed from urban renovation and modernity process. Moreover, they had a critical perspective toward the renovation trend so that they challenged their leaders' political claims and promises in the authoritarian society. Arousing contrast between city and village as well modern life's paradoxes are part of existing social and economic gaps which cinema has highlighted them. Besides, the films produced in the decade to 1979 predicted the possibility of occurrence the Revolution. This study suggests that these films frequently were to represent a kind of political representation from Iranian modernity.