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Women Protesting in the Streets of Tehran: 1953, 1979, 2009

The paper is a comparative analysis of images of women protesting in the streets of Tehran in three historical moments: 1953, on the heels of the nationalization of the Iranian oil industry by Prime Minister Mossadeq, which resulted in the CIA-engineered coup that ousted him; the massive street protests from 1977 to 1979, which resulted in the Islamic revolution; and the June 2009 presidential election. The images stand for three iconic periods in Iranian history, but what is it exactly that they are telling us? In this paper I address these moments in terms of the production and maintenance of a national body in their historical contexts. Moreover, I discuss these images in terms of the fabrication, circulation and consumption of modernity within and without Iranian society.