

CONTENTS

Introduction: The Rebirth of a Nation	1
Chapter One: Persian Empire?	37
Chapter Two: A Civil Rights Movement	55
Chapter Three: A Metamorphic Movement	73
Chapter Four: An Aesthetic Reason	93
Chapter Five: Shi'ism at Large	123
Chapter Six: Invisible Signs	147
Chapter Seven: A Transnational Public Sphere	173
Chapter Eight: Cosmopolitan Worldliness	195
Chapter Nine: Fragmented Signs	217
Chapter Ten: The End of the West	237
Chapter Eleven: Damnatio Memoriae	253

Chapter Twelve: Mythmaker, Mythmaker, Make me a Myth	281
Conclusion: What Time Is It?	311
Index	335