The Positioning Of Iran And Iranians In The Origins Of Western Civilization

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**Abstract**
The purpose of this qualitative case study was to explore how a select sample of college-level history textbooks position Iran and Iranians in the origins of Western Civilization. Western Civilization history marginalizes, misrepresents, misappropriates, and/or omits Iran’s positioning (Kincheloe, 2004; Daryaee, 2005; Anvarinejad, 2007; Daragahi, 2010; Ahkami, 2014; Vahdati, 2014). Further, the mainstream approach to teaching Western Civilization history includes the Judeo-Christian-Greco-Roman narrative. The researcher used a multi-faceted theoretical approach—decolonization, critical pedagogy, and Western Civilization History dilemma—since this study transcended historical revisionism. This collective case study involved eleven Western Civilization history textbooks that, according to the College Board’s College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), are most popular among American college faculty. The researcher reviewed and collected expert opinion on the following five themes: (1) terminology and definition of Iran, Iranians, and Iranian languages; (2) roots and origins of Iranian peoples; (3) which Iranian peoples are noted in general; (4) which Iranian peoples in ancient Europe are specifically noted; and (5) Iranians in connection with six unique Western Civilization attributes. The researcher selected experts specializing in Iranian, Western Civilization, and Indo-European studies in formulating a consensus on each theme. The researcher then compared expert opinion to content in surveyed textbooks. This study found that the surveyed textbooks overwhelmingly omitted, ill-defined, misrepresented, or marginalized Iran and Iranians in the origins of Western Civilization.

**Comments**
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Perspectives on Iranian identity have been influenced by competing views on the origins of nations. The writings of both Western and Iranian scholars played an important part in the emergence of this perspective in the field of Iranian studies and served as an ideological springboard for Iranian nationalist groups (see iv, below). It was in the lands of Iran where Persian language was deeply rooted, where the New Persian developed, where Persian culture prevailed, where Persian literati, as a dominant ethnic core with historical consciousness, were present, and where they laid the foundation for recurrent construction of pre-modern Iranian identity until modern times. The Origins of Western Civilization. Africa is the site of the origin of hominids … and the earliest “human” recognition of abstract images in the environment. The Makapansgat pebble resembling a human face, c. 3 million BCE. Recent African Origin (RAO) Model of Modern Humans. The recent African origin of modern humans is one of two hypotheses of the origin of anatomically modern humans. The theory is also known as the Out-of-Africa model, the recent single-origin hypothesis (RSOH), and the Replacement Hypothesis. Technological Advances. Accumulation of Wealth. Agra, in Iran, and CatalHayuk, Turkey. The Agricultural Revolution: Technology (1). The Agricultural Revolution: Technology (2).