



Iran: Beyond Propaganda (travel journal by Andre Vltchek)



"Hello - They lied to you about Iran!" Andre Vltchek investigative journalist and filmmaker begins his travelogue on Iran with this statement. He describes its modern infrastructure, the free-of-charge social system and the high-quality world-class culture. Iran, a government that cares for its people despite of all the sanctions! Iran, a country with a solidarity for nations fighting to survive and a gentle attitude towards religion. His final advice to the Western readership for a new look at Iran: "Read its poets, watch its films, and learn from its internationalist attitude! And then, only then, decide, whether Iran is really your enemy, or a dear comrade and friend." [continue reading]

"Frankly speaking", today with Andre Vltchek, philosopher, filmmaker and investigative journalist.

"Have you ever considered the possibility that almost everything you have been told about the world by Western mass media is a lie and fabrication?" Andre Vltchek asked this question in a report dated October 9th, 2018 about his journey to Tehran, the capital of Iran. Vltchek was born in St. Petersburg and later naturalized in the United States. He currently lives in East Asia and the Middle East, writing reports on wars and conflicts in dozens of countries. Here some important excerpts from Vltchek's travelogue. With it he wants to give Western readers a new perspective on Iran:

Hello – They lied to you about Iran!

by Andre Vltchek

[...]

Tehran – a modern city with great culture

I have just left Tehran, a city with a tremendous history and culture, overflowing with museums, theaters, wonderfully kept parks dotted with modern art sculptures. It is a city with modern and fully subsidized public transportation, consisting of high-tech metro, ecological bus routes, as well as suburban trains. A city of tall trees, and quiet squares, of elegant cafes, and extremely educated and kind people.

A city that could easily be part of the 'top ten' cities on Earth, if it wasn't the capital of a country that the West is trying to ruin, first with unjust and draconian sanctions, and then, who knows, maybe even by a military invasion.

A socialist country

[...] Iran is in its essence a socialist country. It is internationalist, in full solidarity with many oppressed and struggling nations on our planet. No, I am not only talking about Syria, Yemen or Palestine; I am talking about Cuba and Venezuela and many others. You did not know this? That is not surprising: you are not supposed to know!

You are also expected to remain ignorant about Iran's social system, that is clearly socialist

oriented: Education and medical care free-of-charge, greatly subsidized public transportation and culture, huge public squares and to some extent, a strong government as well as at least partially, central planning.

Despite those absolutely unjust, terrible sanctions imposed, by Washington and its allies with some interruptions, Iran is standing tall, trying as much as possible to take care of its people. [...] The exchange rate collapsed after Washington had imposed another round of bizarre sanctions, triggering frustration, even protests. But the majority of Iranians understands who the real culprit is. And it is no secret that the so-called opposition is often financed by the West. [...]

Religion as a private matter

Iranians do not display an 'arrogant kind of pride'; they only show the determined, decent and patriotic pride of a nation with a thousand years of great culture which knows perfectly well that it is on the right side of history.

You were told 'how religious Iran is'; I am sure you were. But unlike Saudi Arabia or Indonesia, religion is not 'being thrown into your face' here; it is not waved as a flag. In Iran, religion is something internal, deep, which is expressed humbly and without noise. [...] Most of the local female Tehran city-dwellers only cover their hair symbolically – one third or even just a quarter, keeping most of their hair exposed. [...]

Religions in Indonesia are used to uphold the pro-Western regime. Iran is totally the opposite: its interpretation of religion is 'traditional', as it used to be in so many parts of the world before the West managed to derail its essence. It is socialist, compassionate, spiritual and yes – internationalist.

Tehran ... a cultural city

[...] Tehran offers high quality art cinemas (Iranian films are some of the greatest and most intellectual in the world), world-class museums and galleries, vast public spaces, as well as a great number of sport and amusement public facilities, including beautifully maintained parks. [...]

What else were you told; that you cannot look into a woman's eyes or you will be stoned to death? Couples are holding hands everywhere in Tehran, and annoyed girls are slapping the faces of their men, teasingly and sometimes even seriously. [...]

Learning, not instructing

One day, a driver who was taking me from my hotel to the Press TV television studio, exclaimed in desperation:

"Europeans who come here, even for the first time: they don't want to learn. Even if they come to Iran for the first time, they land at the airport, get into my car, and begin preaching; teaching me about my own country! They all come with the same story, with the same criticism of Iran. There are no differences! How can they call themselves democratic countries, if they are all thinking the same way?"

In Tehran, the diversity of thought is absolutely striking. With my colleagues and comrades, we discuss everything from the war in Yugoslavia, to Latin America and of course, Iran itself. They want to know about Russia and China. I love what I see and what I hear – when people

are curious and respectful of other cultures, it is always a great start!

Iran is bleeding, suffering, but it is strong. Not everyone agrees with government policies here (although most of them do support their government), but everybody is determined to fight and defend his or her country, if it is attacked militarily or by other means.

Whenever I come here, I have this impolite urge – I want to shout at my readers: Come here and learn something! Iran is not perfect, but this is real – here, life is real and so are the people. Thanks to their culture and history, they somehow know how to separate precious stones from junk, pure thoughts from propaganda, cheap and deadly capitalism from the great strive for a much better world. If you don't believe me, just watch their films; one masterpiece after another.

Perhaps that is why the West wants to first ruin, and then to totally destroy this country. For the West, Iran is 'dangerous'. Iran is dangerous, even deadly, for the imperialist order of the world, as China is dangerous, as Russia is, as Cuba, Venezuela, Syria and Bolivia are.

To ruin Iran will not be easy, I would even say: it might prove impossible. Its people are too smart and determined and strong. Iran is not alone; it has many friends and comrades. And even Iran's neighbors – Turkey and Pakistan – are now quickly changing direction, away from the West.

Don't take my word for all this. Just come and see. But do not preach: ask questions, and then, please sit, listen and learn! This country has more than 7,000 years of tremendous history. Instead of bombing it, read its poets, watch its films, and learn from its internationalist attitude! And then, only then, decide, whether Iran is really your enemy, or a dear comrade and friend.

[Final Credits:]

Complementary broadcasts on media incitement and reality in Iran:

www.kla.tv/11934 (Achtung diese Link-Nr. ist anders als im dt., da es die Sendung auf Englisch gibt!)

www.kla.tv/8075

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Sources:

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andre_Vltchek

<https://www.rubikon.news/artikel/jenseits-der-propaganda-2>

<https://journal-neo.org/2018/08/17/hello-they-lied-to-you-about-iran/>

This may interest you as well:

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