

Abstract

Iranian entrepreneurs: agents of democratization?

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In recent years, “private sector” and “privatization” have become buzz-words in academic and political debates on Iran. While some have advocated privatization as a panacea for the country’s economic misfortunes, others regard it to be the main road towards democratization. Central to the latter claim is the role plaid by entrepreneurs in the private sector and their organizations in civil society. This paper aims to demonstrate that entrepreneurs are, in the context of late development, are ‘contingent democrats’ and applies this notion to an empirical study of entrepreneurship in Iran.