The Iranian political elite, state and society relations, and foreign relations since the Islamic revolution
Rakel, E.P.

Citation for published version (APA):
Rakel, E. P. (2008). The Iranian political elite, state and society relations, and foreign relations since the Islamic revolution

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: http://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
Acknowledgements

This book is the result of several years of hard and intensive work on a country and people that have become very dear to me in the course of time.

First and foremost I would like to thank my two supervisors Prof. Dr. Gerd Junne and Dr. Mehdi Parvizi Amineh. Gerd’s great experience with dissertation supervision, his careful reading of the chapters, and his valuable comments and Mehdi’s knowledge of history, people, politics, and economy of Iran have guided me towards completion of this project.

I am thankful to the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences of the University of Amsterdam for providing me with office space and giving me the opportunity to exchange ideas and knowledge with colleagues and students. I thank the Amsterdam School for Social Science Research (ASSR) for financially supporting the printing of this thesis. My thanks go to Dr. Henk Houweling for his comments on parts of my chapters and our joint class experiences for several years. I also would like to thank Dr. Brian Burgoon for our joint teaching experiences and the political economy PhD club, where I presented a chapter of my work.

I thank Prof. Dr. Ingeborg Baldauf, Humboldt University Berlin and Dr. Johannes Reissner, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin for their comments on my ideas in the early stage of the project. I would also like to thank Dr. Volker Perthes, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, and his study group on Arab elites for letting me, as a researcher on non-Arab elites, participate in their panel at the 1st World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies in Mainz, Germany.

I am thankful to the Institute of Political and International Studies in Tehran, Iran for inviting me several times to their annual international conferences on Central Asia and the Caucasus. I am grateful to Dr. Abbas Maleki and Prof. Dr. Elaheh Koolaee for sharing their ideas with me on contemporary political developments in Iran and its relations with the European Union. I would also like to thank Dr. Davoud Charmi, my constant companion and guide during my stays in Tehran. Thank you to Farzaneh and Solmaz for their hospitality. Thank you also to Ehsan, Azadeh, and Afrooz for showing me the different sites of Tehran.

I would like to thank my friend Brian Wade. He made my English readable and was willing to take it up with my punctuation problems.

I thank my two paranymphs Tobias Dörrler and Daniel Scholten. My friend Tobias read chapters several times and gave valuable comments during the whole process of the
project. My thanks go to Sandra van Merode for making the layout of the book. Thank you to my colleague and friend Enza Lissandrello, with whom I could share the joys and fears of combining early motherhood with work. Thank you also to Hoang, Jenny, and Marloes for their friendship.

My thanks go to my aunt and uncle Christa and Gerd Rosenbusch, who were always there when I needed them. Most importantly, I would like to acknowledge the enduring support of my parents Irmgard and Konrad Rakel. Without them, this project could never have been finalized. Finally, I would like to thank my sweet little daughter Irène, who came into my life in the busiest time of the project, but whose smile and laughter, has made it ever so bearable.

Eva Patricia Rakel
Amsterdam, May 2008