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The role of the Tehran Bazaaris in protest events under the first government of Mosaddeq in Iran (29 April 1951 - 21 July 1952)

Mari Nukii

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THE ROLE OF THE TEHRAN BAZAARIS IN PROTEST EVENTS
UNDER THE FIRST GOVERNMENT OF MOSADDEQ IN IRAN

(29 APRIL 1951–21 JULY 1952)

by

Mari Nukii

Thesis

Submitted to the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology

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ABSTRACT

In the spring of 1951, the Iranian government nationalized the British-controlled oil industry, supported by a massive popular movement. The National Front, which led the movement, mainly consisted of three social groups: the clergy (*ulama*), secular intellectuals, and the *bazaaris* (merchants, guilds, and artisans). Despite its importance, the role of the *bazaaris* has not sufficiently been articulated in previous studies.

This study analyzes the role of the Tehran *bazaaris* in the oil nationalization movement, focusing on the period of the first government of Mosaddeq. Protest event analysis is used to test the religious explanation and the economic explanation of the *bazaaris*' political activities. The results reveal the rivalry among the Tehran *bazaaris* over the economic and political advantages. This paper shows how this rivalry was related to the oil nationalization movement.

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