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Subject: Re: Any thoughts on the Iranian election protests?

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Wed, 24 Jun 2009 14:13:06 GMT

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Wiener wrote on Wed, 24 June 2009 02:15: Foreigners should stay out of inner political matters of another country.

I didn't realise we were involving ourselves. Khomeini and Ahneedajihad tell us (Britain) that we're the great Satan (pushing Israel and the US to silver and bronze, presumably) for trying to interfere, but I fail to see how we actually are. I don't think critical speech really counts.

Wiener wrote on Wed, 24 June 2009 02:15: PPL seem to forget that Mousavi is from the same political wing as Ahmadinejad. If he had won the election, probably nothing would have changed anyway.

This is true; democracy in Iran has always been an illusion. The candidates have to be approved beforehand, for example.

Put simply, the Iranian rulers maintain a feeble pretense of democracy; the Iranian public are starting to realise the illusion and are understandably angry. What baffles me is that this is apparently Britain's fault. I will admit that we have a very fucked-up history in dealing with Iran - nationalising their resources, Operation Ajax etc - but sooner or later that excuse just stops working.

Wiener wrote on Wed, 24 June 2009 02:15: But CHANGE came into vogue lately and it's always good to focus on other countries' problems when your own problems are outgrowing

This seems to be very much what the Iranian leadership is doing. I think I can reasonably draw a comparison between the Iranian leadership and Robert Mugabe during the ridiculous, brutal charade that was the last Zimbabwe election. In both cases, the leadership conducted absurd assaults on what little democracy the country had; in both cases, the leadership went to great lengths to label Britain (?) as 'evil' for the fact that Brown, in an uncharacteristic display of honesty, says it's bullshit.

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