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Program of Oral History

REZA NIAZMAND

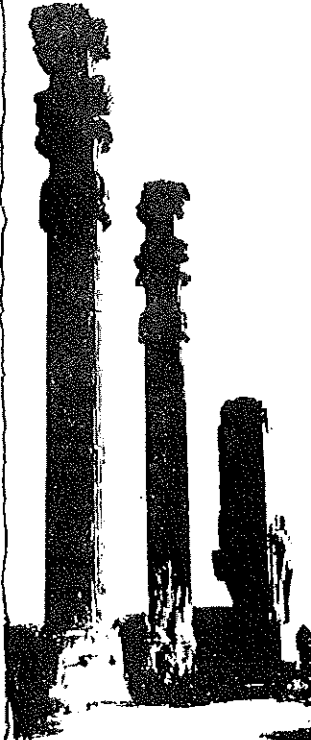
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FOUNDATION FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

INTERVIEW WITH REZA NIAZMAND

BOSTON, U.S.A., SEPTEMBER, 1988

INTERVIEWED BY VALI REZA NASR



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4343 Montgomery Avenue, N.W., Suite 200  
Bethesda, Md. 20814, Telephone: (301) 657-1990

## PREFACE

This manuscript is the product of a series of tape-recorded interviews conducted for the Oral History of Iran Program of Foudation for Iranian Studies by Vali Reza Nasr with Reza Niazmand in Boston, U.S.A., in September 1988.

Readers of this Oral History memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, narrator and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. Foundation for Iranian Studies is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein.

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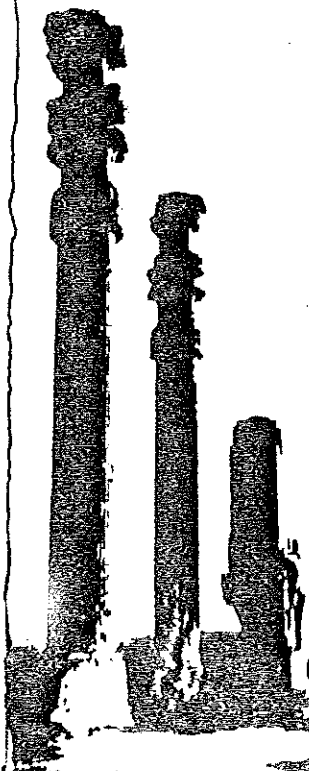
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رضایزاد

مصاحبه شونده: فدایان رضایزاد  
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## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Born in 1921 in Kermanshah, Reza Niazmand went through his elementary and high school education in Tehran and thereafter graduated from the Iran-German Technical School. Later, in two separate stays in U.S., he received a bachelor's degree in engineering and a Ph.D. in industrial management. Beginning his government career as the technical director of the Vanak Factories, he proceeded to hold a number of sensitive administrative and managerial positions in various government ministries and agencies dealing primarily with economic planning and management. He became, among other things, executive director of the industrial Management Institute, president of the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization, head of Sarchshme Copper Company and deputy to the minister of the economy.

In a span of almost three decades, Reza Niazmand was, therefore, intimately involved with a great many aspects of Iran's economic and industrial development, and gained first-hand knowledge about the problems and pitfalls that faced Iranian decision-makers. His recollections of the economic achievements and setbacks in the decades prior to the 1978 revolution, as well as his assessment of the characteristics and contributions of a number of major actors, could be of considerable interest to the students of Iran's economic development and decision-making process during Mohammad Reza Shah's reign.

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