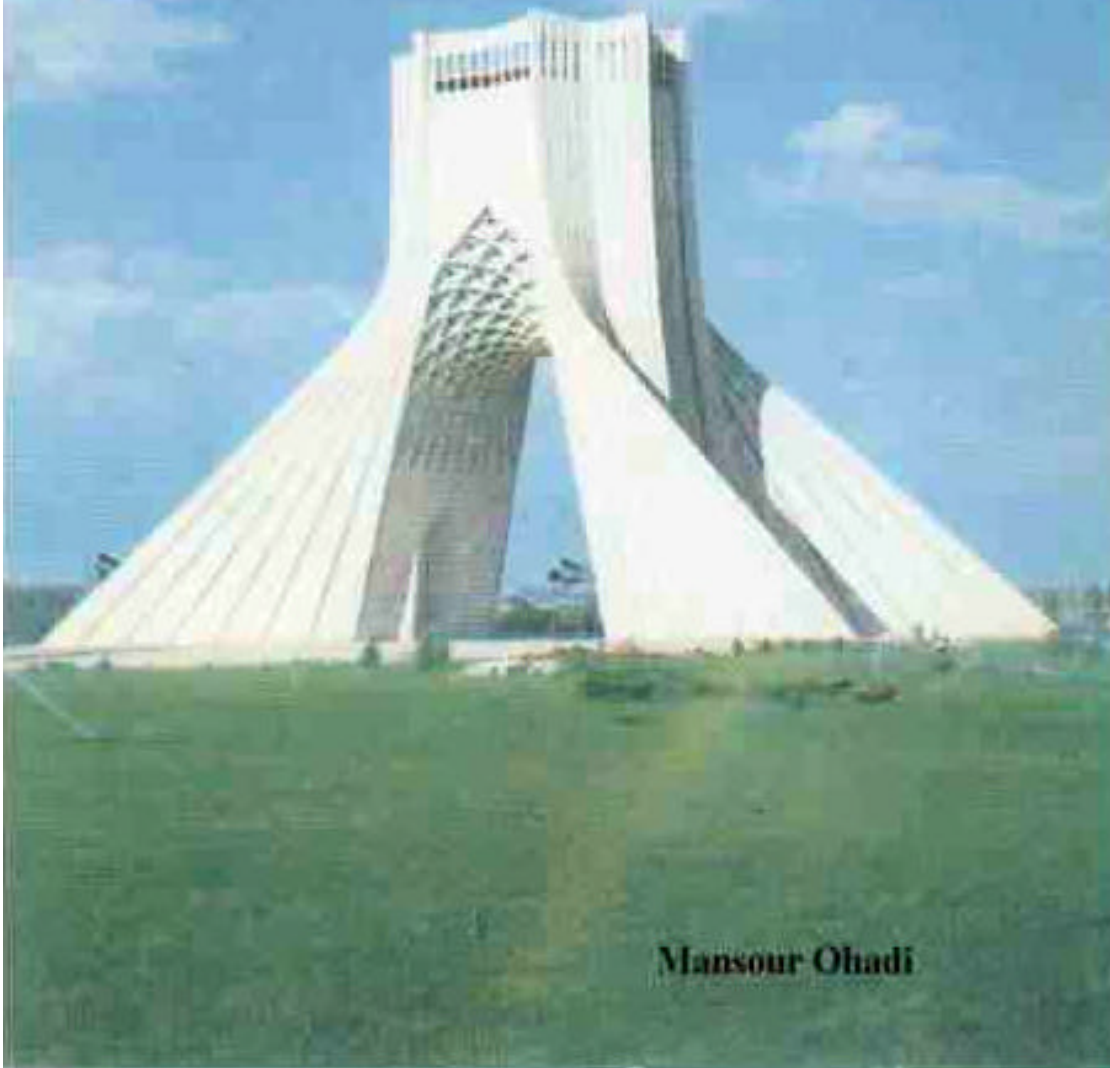


# **Tehran : From the Aspect of Sociology**

**History, Demography, the Present, and  
Perspectives Of the Iranian Metropolis**



**Mansour Ohadi**

**Azadi Square ( Shahyad Circle ); Tehran**

# IN THE NAME OF GOD

## Acknowledgements

The idea of a socioeconomic survey about the city of Tehran was first formulated in 1994.

An impulse for such a sociological study came from an article highlighting various demographic surveys on world population and their projections for the future by Professor Dr. Parviz Khalatbari.

I felt that a cross – disciplinary effort which limited its focus to Tehran and its surrounding areas would be a timely and relevant undertaking.

Naturally, being Iranian, I always wanted to establish the above mentioned survey on either Iran itself or one of the country's important cities. Following the above idea and in order to obtain the firsthand data, I was introduced to the Statistical Center of Iran during one of my visits to Tehran, where the center of all demographic information in the country is, and where I met Mr. Mohammad Hosayn Nejatian, then director of the Family Social Economical Statistics for the Statistics Center of Iran. He and I discussed the subject of my research. He welcomed the idea and seconded my research goals about the city of Tehran. His reasons for choosing to assist this project were as follows:

1. Tehran as one of the world's biggest cities would be a desirable sample for the above survey, due to its the rapid population growth and accumulating blighted growth within the city.
2. Tehran, which has went through numerous socioeconomic events during recent years, followed by its involvement in the eight year Iraq war are good reasons enough to observe the effects of these developments on the economic aspects of the city.
3. Due to the establishment of a census in 1986, followed by statistics on a large scale of 1991, a lot of useful information now exists, which may not be easily available for other cities.

The gracious assistance of Mr. Nejatian, his explanations and his acceptance to advise my work in Iran, made the previous decision of the author more concrete. After returning to Germany, I discussed the project with Professor Dr. Johannes Gordesch, Institute of Sociology of the Free University of Berlin.

To be associated with Professor Dr. Gordesch was certainly a privilege, due to his encouragement, assurances and his supervision.

Since there is neither enough time nor opportunity to show my gratitude to the professor, I let it not remain unsaid, that his acceptance on the supervision of the project was truly an honor, from which every little doubt was eliminated and with God's help and his support, I started the survey. During several years of primary research, collecting old and new sources, also gathering statistical

information, travelling between Tehran and Berlin became inevitable, whereby I acquired new information each time.

The useful consultations with Mr. Nejatian and in particular his support and encouragement made the trouble of these journeys endurable, and therefore my deepest regards go to him.

In these periods I benefited a great deal from the extremely useful and insightful assistance of my father, Mr. Abdolazim Ohadi, who himself is known in the learned and literary circles of Iran, providing valuable old books about the city of Tehran from which some were even handwritten. They are unique in their own time and place and were quite effective clarifying the image of the Old Tehran. Therefore my special thanks for all his help and support.

The valuable support of Mrs. Helen Shaheen (Nasser) and Paul Schreiner who provided the translation of this project into English, are much appreciated.

Old photographs found for this project were provided by Mr. Daryoush Tahami, manager of Tahami Photography in Tehran. Although my acquaintance with Mr. Tahami was quite a coincidence, it nevertheless had the most valuable of outcomes. He supplied almost all of the unique photographs of Old Tehran, allowing reproduction rights and reprinting the mentioned photos (which are being brought at the end). Once again I thank him for his sincere support. Also my most sincere thanks to Mr Saeed Bakhtiarie, the Managing Director of Gita Shenasi Cartography and Geographical Institute, for providing me with photos of Tehran as it is today.

It is said that behind every man stands a woman who protects and guides him in his work. Regarding me, the memory of a devoted and concerned mother was the main motive in this survey. She always encouraged me with her maternal kindness to continue my higher education, using every opportunity to further her obligation in this matter. God bless her soul. Even after she passed away, the memory of her warm and kind voice was a great stimulation to continue this survey. However she could not outwardly witness the obligation of my accomplishment, with which I can only hope to be able to satisfy her known desire.