Praise for Kenneth M. Pollack and *The Threatening Storm*

"It is fair to say that whatever your feelings about the question of Iraq, you owe it to yourself to read Mr. Pollack's book, which is both hawkish and judicious. . . . Mr. Pollack has written a timely book that should be read as the public debate on Iraq continues."

--Richard Bernstein, *The New York Times*

"Pollack manages to eschew the cant, stupidity, and obfuscation which are the common currently of much of the current public debate over Iraq policy and has produced one of the key books—probably *the* key book—for anyone trying to grapple with the Iraq question."

--Joshua Micah Marshall, *The Washington Monthly*

THE PERSIAN PUZZLE
The Conflict Between Iran and America

Kenneth M. Pollack
Bestselling Author of *The Threatening Storm*

In his highly influential book, *The Threatening Storm*, bestselling author Kenneth Pollack both informed and defined the national debate about Iraq. Now, in **THE PERSIAN PUZZLE: The Conflict Between Iran and America (**On Sale: November 2, 2004), published to coincide with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Iran hostage crisis, Pollack, director of research at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution, examines the behind-the scenes story of the tumultuous relationship between Iran and the United States and weighs options for the future.

Pollack, a former CIA analyst and National Security Council official, brings his keen analysis and insider perspective to the long and ongoing clash between the United States and Iran, beginning with the fall of the shah and the seizure of the American embassy in Tehran in 19179. Pollack examines all the major events in U.S.-Iran relations—including the hostage crisis, the U.S. tilt toward Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war, the Iran-Contra scandal, the American-Iranian military tensions of 1987 and 1988, the covert Iranian war against U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf that culminated in the 1996 Khobar Towers terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia, and recent U.S.-Iran skirmishes over Afghanistan and Iraq. He explains the strategies and motives from American and Iranian perspectives and tells how each crisis colored the thinking of both countries' leadership as they shaped and reshaped their policies over time. Pollack also describes efforts by moderates of various stripes to try and find some way past animosities to create a new dynamic in the Iran-U.S. relations, only to find that when one side was ready for such a step, the other side fell short.

In **THE PERSIAN PUZZLE**, Pollack

- Argues that Iran is the "hidden crisis": America is so focused on Iraq that we are not paying adequate attention to developments with Iran. If we do not begin to pay more attention to Iran today, to adopt a new policy to deal with the threat from Iran, we are going to wish that we had in 4-5 years. Today, we have peaceful methods that might succeed in derailing Iran's nuclear program but the time available is running short.

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- Explains the history behind Iranian hatred of the United States that led to the Iranian revolution and the taking of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and the course of Iranian-American relations since then. And why it is that the U.S. and Iran have never been able to escape their confrontation.

- Lays out all of the history that the average American may know happened, but doesn't know how, what or why: the CIA-backed coup against prime minister Mossadeq in 1953, American support

for the Shah, the 1979 revolution, the taking of the hostages and U.S. efforts to free them, Iranian-American combat in the Persian Gulf in the 1980s, Iran's effort to undermine America's position in the Middle East during the 1990s and the terrorist attack on Khobar Towers, the election of President Mohammad Khatami and the U.S. effort to reach out to Iran; Pollack weaves together all of this history from both the American and Iranian perspectives, and explains how this history has left us where we are today.

- Provides an insider's account of the making of U.S. policy toward Iran over the past 25 years.

- Describes the broad spectrum of American efforts to deal with Iran since 1979 ranging from undeclared warfare to unilateral concessions, none of which has worked in changing Iranian behavior.

- Explains how secret Iranian assistance helped the United States to bring down the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in 2001.

- Describes the Iranian threat to American interests—its progress toward acquiring nuclear weapons, its support for international terrorism, and its efforts to derail a Middle East peace agreement through violence—and why it is that Iran pursues these policies.

- Describes the importance of clandestine Iranian cooperation to the U.S.-led reconstruction of Iraq.

- Analyzes how the history of U.S.-Iranian relations has created the menu of options we have available to us today.

- Assesses the different policy options available to the United States to deal with the various problems presented by Iran (and particularly their pursuit of nuclear weapons) and lays out a new approach, called "Triple-Track," more likely to succeed in turning off Iran's nuclear program and addressing its other dangerous activities than any other policy so far envisioned.

- Explains why an invasion of Iran would be a disastrous course of action, and why neither Israel nor the United States is likely to try to eliminate the Iranian nuclear program with a campaign of airstrikes.

- Triple-track pursues three related efforts simultaneously to convince Iran, one way or another, that it would be better for its own interests to halt its dangerous behavior and instead a pursue a policy of accommodation toward the United States and the West. Argues in particular that the United States must work with its European and Asian allies to fashion a set of positive and negative incentives (a true "carrot-and-stick" approach) that could work to persuade Iran to give up its nefarious activities at an acceptable price—and describes exactly how to do so.

- Explains why it may be necessary to live with a nuclear-armed Iran and how to do so.

- Provides the first book on the history of U.S.-Iranian relations since 1988 (James Bill, *The Eagle and the Lion*) and is the only book to describe U.S.-Iranian relations under Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. **THE PERSIAN PUZZLE** analyzes all of the policy options and lays out their pros and cons.

About the Author: Kenneth M. Pollack is director of research at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. From 1995 to 1996 and from 1999 to 2001, he served as director for Gulf affairs at the National Security Council, where he was the principal working-level official responsible for the implementation of U.S. policy toward Iran. Prior to his time in the Clinton administration, he spent seven years in the CIA as a Persian Gulf military analyst. He is the author of *The Threatening Storm* and *Arabs at War*. He lives in Washington, DC.

THE PERSIAN PUZZLE: The Conflict Between Iran and America
Kenneth M. Pollack
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