

Contents

Acknowledgements — IX

Notes on Translations, Transliterations and Footnotes — XI

Preface — XIII

Outline of the Book — XVII

1 Towards Justifying Violence — 1

- 1.1 Introduction — 1
- 1.2 Poetry as a Persuasive Force — 2
- 1.3 Poetry in Modern Politics — 8
- 1.4 Poetry in the Service of Politics — 9
- 1.5 Conclusion — 23

2 'The Scent of Martyrdom' — 26

- 2.1 Introduction — 26
- 2.2 Poems Celebrating Martyrdom — 34
- 2.3 Conclusion — 69

3 Qeyşar Amīnpūr on War — 71

- 3.1 Introduction — 71
- 3.2 A Poem about War (1) — 77
- 3.3 A Poem about War (2) — 85
- 3.4 Chemical Weapons in War Poetry — 90
- 3.5 Poems on Peace — 94
- 3.6 Conclusion — 98

4 Love in Persian War Poetry — 99

- 4.1 Introduction — 99
- 4.2 School of Love (*madrasa-yi 'ishq*) — 102
- 4.3 Love and Reason — 105
- 4.4 The Heart as an Intimate Companion — 108
- 4.5 Love Poems as a Homage to Martyrs — 113
- 4.6 Love as a Ubiquitous Being — 124
- 4.7 Conclusion — 129

5	"In the Trenches of my Small Room..." Ideologically Committed Children's Poetry — 131
5.1	Introduction — 131
5.2	Dream of Paradise — 134
5.3	Angels of the Town — 136
5.4	Painting of War — 137
5.5	Rain of Kisses (Martyr Daddy) — 138
5.6	"When do you come back?" — 140
5.7	Āmina — 142
5.8	My good father — 143
5.9	The Street of Angels — 144
5.10	Memories of Spring — 146
5.11	You Are with us Again ... — 149
5.12	A Sparrow's Chatter — 150
5.13	You Became a Butterfly! — 152
5.14	Jasmine Petals Like Snow — 154
5.15	Conclusion — 155
6	Sīmīn Bihbahānī on the 1979 Revolution and Iran-Iraq War — 157
6.1	Introduction — 157
6.2	Bihbahānī as a War Poet — 170
6.3	A Poem on the Oil City of Khurramshahr — 182
6.4	Conclusion — 185
7	Nādir Nādirpūr on the 1979 Revolution — 187
7.1	Introduction — 187
7.2	Nādir Nādirpūr's Life and Work — 188
7.3	Nādirpūr's Poetic Genius — 189
7.4	The Sermon of Perdition — 191
7.5	The Satanic Verse — 197
7.6	From Žahhāk to Fireydūn — 205
7.7	Conclusion — 217
8	Iran and Saudi Arabia — 220
8.1	Introduction — 220
8.2	Demonstrations in the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina — 222
8.3	Shiite versus Wahhabi — 235
8.4	Khomeini vs Arabism — 237
8.5	Mystical Dimensions of the Hajj — 238
8.6	The Persian and Arab Rivalries — 246

8.7 Conclusion — 255

9 Conclusion: Making Death Meaningful — 257

9.1 The War's Bearing on Current Politics — 259

9.2 The Reception of War Literature — 263

Bibliography — 265

Index — 280