

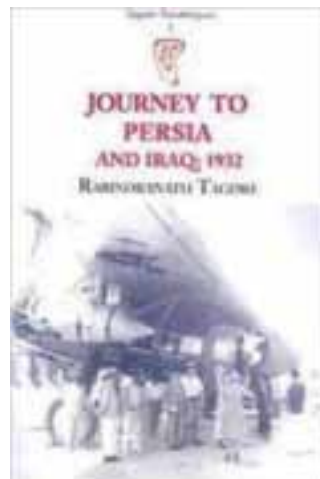


Nahid Mozaffari

Rabindranath Tagore in Iran and Iraq (1932): 'Dialogue among (Asian) Cultures' on Modernity, Nationalism, Religion, and Tolerance



Rabindranath Tagore, the great Indian poet and philosopher embarked on a trip to Iran and Iraq in April 1932 as a guest of the Iranian and Iraqi states. The Pahlavi regime in Iran attempted to use this trip to strengthen its new discourse of nationalism through situating Iran in the realm of an Indo-Iranian civilization rather than an Islamicate one. However, Tagore met with many members of the educated elite who were dissatisfied with the dominant political narratives. What were the exchanges between Tagore and his Iranian interlocutors regarding the meaning(s) of modernity, and nationalism and the role of religion and tolerance in the construction of new Asian (national) identities? What do these discussions tell us about the emerging discourses in early 20th century Asia regarding visions of modernities which sought to limit or remove colonial manipulations and hegemony?



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Tuesday November 7, 2017

Morrice Hall - Room 328

3485 McTavish Street

16h30