

Azadegan Foundation

Struggle for Democratic change in Iran



Monday May 7, 2012

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Dear all,

I would like to bring the following letter to your attention, written sometimes ago to the Washington Post, as well as to Dr. Henry Kissinger about The Persian Gulf.

I am confident that you will not join those who contribute to psychological and political warfare against Iranian people.

I hope you will continue doing justice to the historical and geographical facts using historical name of the Persian Gulf that has been practiced at least for the last three thousand years.

Regards

Dr. Assad Homayoun

President of Azadegan Foundation

CC: to our website: www.azadeganiran.com

CC: to many thousands Iranians, around the world



Persian Gulf gaffe

واشننگتن پست نامه به

Grounds for U.S. military intervention on falsified name by Henry A. Kissinger and James A. Baker

By , Friday, April 15, 7:01 PM

اشتباه غیر بخشودنی در نام خلیج پارس

آدینه ۱۵ اپریل ۲۰۱۱

The April 10 op-ed "The grounds for U.S. intervention," by former U.S. secretaries of state Henry A. Kissinger and James A. Baker, was excellent and thought-provoking but egregiously referred to the "Arabian/Persian Gulf." The correct name is Persian Gulf, and any other term smacks of an attempt to rewrite geography based on short-term political preferences.

نظریه ای که در تاریخ ده اپریل زیر عنوان "زمینه دخالت آمریکا" به قلم دو وزیر خارجه پیشین آمریکا هنری کسینجر و جیمز بیکر منتشر شد ضمن اینکه دامنه فکر را گسترش می داد بسیار عالی بود ولی آشکارا به نام جعلی "خلیج پارس/عربی" اشاره کرده بود. نام واقعی خلیج پارس است، و هر عنوان دیگری نشان از آن دارد که مصرف کننده می خواهد جغرافیای جهان را براساس آگاهی های کوتاه بینانه سیاسی تغییر دهد.

Ancient Greek geographers and historians called this geographic body of water "Sinus Persicus." The world's greatest historians and cartographers, from Strabon and Ptolemy to the famed Flemish geographer Mercator, referred to the gulf to the south of Iran as "Sinus Persicus." Even Arab historians and geographers use the term.

همه جغرافی دان باستانی یونان و تاریخنگاران این بدنه آب را "سینوس پرسیکوس" نامیده اند. یکی از تاریخ نگاران و جغرافی دانان بزرگ جهان همانند استرابن، بطلمیوس و مرکاتور جغرافیدان فلاندی (محلّی در خاور بلژیک) به خلیج واقع در جنوب ایران بنام "سینوس پرسیکوس" اشاره کرده اند و حتا تاریخ نگاران دیگر عرب و جغرافیدانانشان از این نام بهره می گیرند.

It is unfortunate that elder statesmen have unintentionally become party to the psychological warfare of some Arab quarters against the Iranian nation. Although the current despotic regime in Iran regularly antagonizes the United States and much of the free world, referring to the Persian Gulf as the "Arabian Gulf" offends the national feelings of Iranians who have been friendly to the United States. It would be akin to calling the English Channel the "French Channel" because of a temporary spat with London.

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Assad Homayoun, Washington

The writer is president of the Azadegan Center for Democratic Change in Iran.

بسیار ناگوار و ناراحت کننده است که سیاستمداران کهنه کاری ندانسته در جنگ روانی که برخی از عرب ها بر علیه مردم ایران راه انداخته اند اسیر شوند. گرچه رژیم مستبد و مطلقه در ایران مرتبا با آمریکا ضدیت و با دیگر کشورها دشمنی می کند ولی نام بردن از خلیج پارس با عنوان جعلی "خلیج عربی" احساسات ملی گرایانه مردم ایران را هدف قرار داده و آنان که همواره بعنوان یک دوست کنار مردم آمریکا ایستاده اند را می رنجاند. این به آن می ماند که کانال انگلیسی را "کانال فرانسه" بخوانیم زیرا برخی تنش های موقت بین لندن و پاریس بوجود آمده است.

اسد همایون - واشنگتن

نویسنده پرزیدنت بنیاد آزادگان است که برای تغییر دموکراتیک در ایران تلاش می کند.

The original Article appeared in the Washington Post site on April 08, 2011 here below, and the hard copy published it on April 10, 2011. The Above letter by Dr. Assad Homayoun referenced to the Hard Copy.

نوشته نخستین در روز ۸ اپریل ۲۰۱۱ در روی تارنمای واشنگتن پست و روز ۱۰ اپریل در روزنامه چاپی منتشر شده بود در زیر شمانسخه اینترنتی را خواهید دید. نامه دکتر اسد همایون در پاسخ روزنامه چاپی واشنگتن پست نوشته شده است.

The complaint letter published on Washington Website please click, [here](#)

نامه گله و شکایت در تارنمای واشنگتن پست در دو آدرس گوناگون در روز ۱۵ اپریل منتشر شده است است به لینک های بالا و پایین در متن انگلیسی کلیک کنید.

The Same being published in Post Opinions Section under Title [The Gratuitous Gulf Gaffe click to read here](#)

WorldTribune.com

It's the Persian Gulf, Mr. Kissinger, not the Arabian Gulf

آقای کیسینجر خلیج پارس است، نه خلیج عربی

Friday, April 15, 7:01 PM

By Dr. Assad Homayoun

The editorial page of the April 10 edition of the Washington Post published an excellent and thought-provoking article by former Secretaries of State Henry A. Kissinger and James A. Baker,

Azadegan Foundation

Struggle for Democratic change in Iran



entitled “The Grounds for U.S. Intervention”. That article, however, includes an inexcusable and egregious error, namely, a reference to the “Arabian/Persian Gulf”. Similarly, Mr. Baker used the same terminology in an interview with Fareed Zakaria of CNN on Sunday April 10. As discussed below, the correct title of the referenced geographic area is the “Persian

Gulf” and any other term is historically inaccurate and smacks of an attempt to re-write geography based on short-term political preferences.

Ancient Greek geographers and historians called this geographic body of water “Sinus Persicus.” Additionally, since before the time of Christ until as late as the 17th Century, the world’s greatest historians and cartographers, from Strabon and Ptolemy, to the famous Flemish geographer, Mercator, referred to the gulf to the south of Iran as either “Sinus Persicus” or ”Mare Persicus.”

Indeed, for the last two millennia, historians, geographers, scholars, strategists, and statesmen have used the term the “Persian Gulf.” Even Arab historians and geographers from Ibn Al-Mujaver to Yusuf Kamal, the author of “Monumenta Cartographica,” referred to the gulf as “Al Khlij al-Fars” or the “Persian Gulf.” In fact, the late President Sadat of Egypt , in his book ” The Revolt on the Nile,” correctly identified the Gulf by its historical and original name of the Persian Gulf.

Anyone who has taken the trouble to look at antique maps, contemporary writings, research documents, historical accounts of the region and encyclopedias written by western or eastern observers and scholars would conclude that there is but one single name that is applicable to the Persian Gulf. It has been the practice of the White House, the State Department, the U.S. government agencies and also the United Nations Secretariat and National Geographic Society, to use in documents and maps the term “The Persian Gulf” to indicate the body of water between Iran to the north and east and a number of other states to the south and west. It is established usage that is followed by publishers of atlases and geographical dictionaries.

As mentioned before, throughout history, educators, travelers and geographers always referred to this region as “the Persian Gulf,” not only because of vast Empire or the number of its Persian/Iranian inhabitants, but simply, and in their own words, to recognize the noble notion that, the Persians were the first to have developed and greatly improved this part of the earth. It is truly unfortunate that the two Secretaries of State and elder statesmen have unintentionally become party to the psychological warfare of some Arab quarters against the Iranian nation. Although the current despotic regime in Iran constantly antagonizes the United States and much of the Free World, referring to the “Persian Gulf” as the “Arabian Gulf” offends the national feelings of Iranians who have been friendly to the United States. It would be akin to calling the English Channel the “French Channel” because of a temporary spat with London. I believe that sooner or later, the rule of reason and rationalism will triumph in Iran and liberty and secular democracy will replace theocratic regime in Teheran.

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Struggle for Democratic change in Iran



I strongly believe that Iran must reset its relationship with the United States and others with mutual respect and equality. The United States needs to take geostrategic factors of Iran seriously. U.S. and Iranian relations and Strategies in the region are dictated by geopolitical realities and interests of the two countries parallel each other. Iran because of its population, history, cultural identity, natural resources and command on Strait of Hormuz will remain a dominant power of the Persian Gulf and U.S. also needs to pay attention to sensitivity and the rightful concern of the Iranian people.

Dr. Assad Homyoun is a former Iranian diplomat, a senior fellow of International Strategic Studies Association, President of Azadegan Foundation for Democratic Change in Iran, and a member of the WorldTribune.com Advisory Board.

**The original article published in the World Tribune's
LETTER TO THE EDITOR
page, please [click here to see the WT](#)**

<http://azadeganiran.com/PGulfWP2011.asp>