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Sommario/riassunto	The sudden increase of oil prices in 1973 meant that the foreign revenues of Iran quadrupled in just over two months. As the first OPEC member to begin disbursing this extra revenue on a significant scale, Iran offers the first complete example of the social, economic and political problems this caused. This book examines the cycle of the boom and the years that led up to it - from the rural and essentially backward nature of the country to the euphoria of 1973 when the Shah

seriously talked of Iran reaching the Great Civilisation, where by the 1990s Iran would be the world's fifth power.
