

## **Covering Iran's 2009 Presidential Election: The New York Times, the Washington Post, and CNN**

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For many years the Middle East has been a center of attention for the United States government and the US media. Iran as one of the most influential and powerful countries in the region has drawn much of this attention to itself. One of the recent events that has come under the spotlight is the 2009 Iranian presidential election. Although it is not the first election inside Iran that has been covered by the American media and news outlets, the significance of this particular election is partially linked to the recent presidential election in the US that brought President Obama to power. Since the US president has declared his intent to have talks with Iran without preconditions and that the proposed talks will be postponed until after the Iranian election, the significance of this election to the United States is clear. This paper attempts to analyze the representation of Iran's 2009 presidential election in the websites of three major US news outlets, the New York Times, the Washington Post, and CNN. These three sources have been chosen because they belong to somewhat different political leanings as well as because of their influence among the US political elite and American society in general. Their coverage of the major election issues, the candidates, the campaigns, as well as the whole electoral process and Iranians' reactions to this process are all of significance in this paper. The responses of these three media outlets to the results of the election will also be studied.