

INTERVIEW HASSAN NEMAZEE

1998 Clinton White House nominee as U.S. Ambassador to Argentina, National Finance Chair for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign, and the National Finance Chair for Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign

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— David Ignatius, columnist, *The Washington Post*

About Hassan



Hassan Nemazee was born on January 27, 1950 in Washington D.C., the son of international businessman and philanthropist, Mohammed Nemazee, and Iranian entrepreneur, Fakhri Dehesh Nemazee. He attended Harvard College, graduating with honors in 1972.

When his father passed away that same year, Hassan took charge of the family businesses and philanthropic endeavors, including the renowned Nemazee Hospital, clinics, schools, and waterworks in Shiraz, which were established by his late father. He moved to Iran, forging joint ventures with many prestigious American and British companies, including American International Group (AIG), Morgan Guaranty Trust, Linbeck Construction and Knight, Frank & Rutley. In December 1978, the political landscape in Iran took an unexpected turn with the Islamist Revolution.

Nemazee was forced to leave the country. The new regime confiscated the Nemazee family's assets, homes, businesses, and charities. After losing over 90% of his net worth, Nemazee rebuilt his life in the United States.

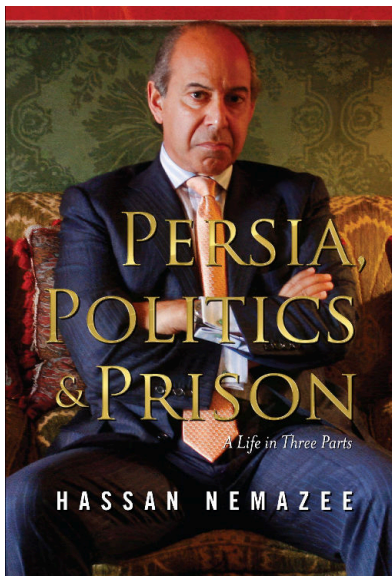
Over the next three decades, his businesses flourished, and he welcomed three children. As an integral member of the New York community, he actively participated in organizations, including the Council on Foreign Relations, the boards of Asia Society, Spence School, RAND Center for Middle East Public Policy, and various Harvard Visiting Committees. He also founded the first political action committee for Iranian Americans (IAPAC), solidifying his commitment to political involvement.

Juggling increasing responsibilities in his family, business, political, and philanthropic endeavors, he made choices which ultimately led to his arrest in August, 2009 on charges of bank fraud.

Today, Hassan and his wife Nazie Nemazee reside in Miami, Florida. He cherishes the time spent with his three children, their spouses, and his six grandchildren, as well as the loyal friends who stood by his side throughout his journey.

Hassan and Nazie are committed to supporting efforts to preserve and protect democracy around the world, to criminal justice reform in America, to promoting political involvement by young members of the Iranian-American community, and to providing medical assistance to mortally ill children.

About the Book



The Clinton White House announced its nomination of Nemazee as U.S. Ambassador to Argentina in 1999. He became a top supporter and fundraiser for Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Al Gore, John Kerry, Barack Obama, and Joe Biden. He served as the National Finance Chair for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign, and as the National Finance Chair for Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign.

In 2009, he was arrested on charges of bank fraud. The U.S. Attorney's Southern District of New York's office identified Citibank, Bank of America, and HSBC as the victims of his crimes—the dollar amount of the fraud totaling 300 million dollars. In July 2010, at the age of 60, he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 12 years in prison, and after serving [8 and a half years](#) of his sentence, he was released in 2019—a benefactor of [Trump's justice overhaul](#).

For the past 15 years, Nemazee has watched as campaigns on both the Democratic and Republican sides have raised and funded their elections. And now, as someone who has “cooked the books,” he is uncovering this world of white collar crime with the 2024 election on the horizon.

[Persia, Politics & Prison: A Life in Three Parts](#) [August 15, 2024; Marmont Lane] is his story in his own words. This is a story of the world of Iranian Americans, the

inner-workings of the political system of the United States, and a frank inside look into the penal system and the need for prison reform in the United States.

Interview, Q&A, article/guest post topics:

- Looking back at our broken U.S. criminal justice system, as a former prisoner, and how he's advocating for change to create better lives for those still inside and who have been released
 - Growing up in a powerful Persian family to building his own personal success, and reuniting with his own family after a high-profile prison sentence
 - "Dirty money" is "Dark money" — legal ways under Supreme Court decision (Citizens United) that allows anonymous donations to PAC
 - Expert commentary on the world of white collar crime with the 2024 election on the horizon
 - Trump succeeding where Democrats did not in passing criminal justice reform (Obama and before) — it was personal because of Kushner's father in prison
 - Parallels between Donald Trump's falsifying bank statements and his own conviction. But Donald Trump can run for President, while Hassan can't even vote in the state of Florida.
 - A fourth part, and happy ending, to his story: Meeting his second wife Nazie while in prison and together rebuilding a life once free.
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Advance Praise for *Persia, Politics and Prison: A Life in Three Parts*

"Hassan Nemazee's memoir is a compelling tale of his rise and fall as a Persian American prince of finance. The book has a Dickensian arc, and it's filled with colorful characters who accompanied him up and down the ladder. The young Nemazee grows up in a home of power and privilege. His wealthy shipowner father's chum is CIA Director Richard Helms, known as "Uncle Dick." He attends Harvard, builds a business

fortune in Iran and America, and raises money for Democratic pals like Hillary Clinton and other Democrats. And then the axe falls: As the 2008 financial crunch hits, the FBI discovers the false and fraudulent statements he's used to keep his money machine running—and he's convicted and sentenced to 12 years in prison. Nemazee describes a sometimes odious prison world where crossing gangs like the Aryan Brotherhood can be a death sentence, but many of his fellow inmates seem like remarkably decent people. Like every good Dickens novel, this one has a happy ending—a new life beyond prison earned through suffering and redemption. Readers will surely come away with one visceral lesson: Don't cook the books."

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Connect with Hassan

To learn more about Hassan Nemazee please visit <https://marmontlane.com>

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