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### Week 9th Paper

Many people in Iran and other Islamic states claim that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is a Mahdaviat. The main reason Ahmadinejad is claimed by many people to be a Mahdaviat is because he believes in the Mahdi. If President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is indeed a Mahdaviat as claimed, it is important to consider his beliefs when dealing with matters concerning Iran in international affairs.

The term Mahdi originates from the earliest years of Islam. This term means the redeemer of Islam or the rightly guided one. According to the Islamic eschatological prophesy, , the second advent of Isa is preceded by the reappearance of a divinely anointed person known as the Mahdi. In Islam, the *Twelvers* identify themselves with the Mahdi. They are the largest branch of Islam. In addition, the Mahdi is now the most important part of religious belief in the Shiite Islamic subdivision.

According to the *Twelvers*' belief, the twelfth divinely ordained Imam is the Mahdi. The *Twelvers* also believe that the Mahdi was concealed by God many years ago soon after the death of his father. In addition, they believe that before the end of time, he will reappear to rule the world and restore religion. Furthermore, prophecies proclaim that after ruling the world for a particular period, the Mahdi will free the world from evil on the Day of Judgment. In turn, a Mahdaviat is a theological term in the *Twelvers* Islamic branch that means a belief in the Mahdi.

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It is also a belief in the preparation to the Mahdi's return. Mahdavi or Mahdavi followers are the names referred to the members who believe in any Mahdi claimant.

As a mayor of Tehran and a believer in the Mahdi, Mr. Ahmadinejad secretly constructed a magnificent avenue in preparation for the return of the Shiite Messiah. One year later as Iranian -President, he spent millions of government funds building a mosque in Qum, south of Tehran. Ahmadinejad built this mosque for the Mahdaviats in Jamkaran to serve as a venue for the return of the Mahdi. In addition, President Ahmadinejad established a direct railway line connecting Tehran to Jamkaran. There is a religious fervor and purported divine connection associated with this mosque. In addition, it is predicted that the Mahdi's arrival will occur on a Tuesday night. As a result, a vast number of Iranians travel to the mosque's shrine every Tuesday evening in anticipation of the Mahdi's return.

During a meeting with some senior religious scholars in 2005, Ahmadinejad conveyed his plans and motives to them in a speech. In his speech, he told them that the main goal of Iran was to prepare for the arrival of the Mahdi. In addition, he explained to them that in order for Iran to achieve its goal, it had to develop a politically influential society. He also told them that Iran had to form strong government policies in preparation for the Mahdi's return.

During the UN meeting in which he addressed world leaders, President Ahmadinejad asked God to quicken the coming of the Mahdi in a prayer. Mr. Ahmadinejad also repeatedly announces in different venues that his presidency signals the imminent return of the anointed one. Furthermore, President Ahmadinejad is convinced that Iran's army will play a central role in the liberation of Jerusalem. With regard to this, the Shiites believe that Ahmadinejad will lead an army to liberate Jerusalem. They also believe that Ahmadinejad's presidency is a sign that the Mahdi's return is imminent.

Ahmadinejad's disapproval of the holocaust duped the world into thinking that he is genuinely concerned with the problems of humanism, yet in truth, his only aim is to gain worldwide popularity and support. In addition, his obsession with the annihilation of Israel is another proof that Ahmadinejad is evil. His obsession with nuclear weapons proves that he intends to start controlling the Middle East and, probably, the whole world (Hitchcock 37). According to the Shiite belief, therefore, Ahmadinejad's actions make him fit the role of the anti-Christ. The Shiites also believe that his obsessive efforts to control the Middle East show that the Mahdi is returning at any time. When the Mahdi returns, it is predicted that he will first destroy the anti-Christ before ruling the world.

In the Middle East today, Ahmadinejad aims to make Iran the most powerful country by amassing military power and nuclear weapons. He also repeatedly pledges that he will destroy Israel. In addition, Ahmadinejad openly challenges the United States in an attempt to remove all Americans and Britons from Iraq. Iran's aim is to control the whole of the Gulf of Persia using the support of its military program.

If Ahmadinejad is a Mahdaviat as claimed, then any confrontations between Iran and the United States are ominous. For President Ahmadinejad, his topmost priority is to challenge America through manufacturing nuclear weapons. Ahmadinejad also believes that he was anointed with the divine right to enforce Islamic law in the Middle East and other countries in preparation for the Mahdi's return. President Ahmadinejad's role as a Mahdaviat is, therefore, important in international affairs because of its repercussions to the rest of the world.

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Works cited

Hitchcock, Mark. *The Apocalypse of Ahmadinejad: The Revelation of Iran's Nuclear Prophet*.

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