

PERSIAN GULF

A Response to National Geographic Society

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RASA PUBLICATIONS

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Preface

To National Geographic Society

First let me introduce myself. I am an Iranian citizen who spent his childhood in London, U.K. I received my B.A. degree and conduct certificate at the English level Osmania University of India. For the last ten years, I have been working with the General Office of Museums in Tehran, Iran. Until now, two books from me have entered the Iranian book market. The first one is the best selling management book of the Indian subcontinent by the name of "Management Thoughts", written by Mr. Batra, that I have translated from English to Persian. I wrote, "Defending the Name of the Persian Gulf" the second book, and it was my research about the name of the Persian Gulf.

What prompts me to write to you at this time is the National Geographic Atlas book of 2005 in which you typed, in parenthesis, the false name of "Arabian Gulf" under the correct and historical name of the "Persian Gulf". It was a great disappointment for me to see this misrepresentation of geography by the renowned National Geographic Society, which I have been raised with from childhood.

Apparently mine was not the only objection to this highly unprofessional mistake. Do you know why Iranians throughout the world objected to your

mentioning the false name of the Arabian Gulf under the correct and historical name of the Persian Gulf? Also, why this much objection was not raised when other geographical institutions of some Arab countries (especially Arab countries of the South Persian Gulf) used the false name of the Arabian Gulf? Or why no one sends objections to the Al-Jazeera network that openly supports Arab terrorism and uses the false name of Arabian Gulf? The answer is simple. It's called "credibility".

Unfortunately, in most Arab countries, the geographical institutes use the false name of the Arabian Gulf instead of the correct and historical name of the Persian Gulf. Fortunately, this does not apply to the rest of the world. When the National Geographic Atlas book prints the false name of Arabian Gulf, under the correct and historical name of the Persian Gulf, people from other parts of the world will then take this as gospel and will not realize that it's a misnomer.

The countries of the Arab world that can best resolve this confusion are Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Iraq. Saudi Arabia is the focal point of Muslims throughout the world because of the two holy cities of Mecca and Medina. There are also documents available stating that Prophet Mohammed used the name "Persian Sea" for this body of water fourteen centuries ago.

Of all countries, the ancient country of Egypt, with its' own deep-rooted historical civilization, should not involve itself with altering a well-established historical name. They of all nations should be aware of the significance of altering historical names.

Finally, of the Arab countries, Iraq is the closest country to Iran in history, culture and religion. This being the case, they should acknowledge to the rest of the Arab world that the Persian Gulf is the correct name for this body of water.

Several years back, I watched a TV interview of the terrorist Osama Bin Laden. In the background was a map of the Middle East and where the Persian Gulf should have been, there was the strange name of "The Gulf". It was then that I realized how close were the views of Bin Laden, Al-Jazeera network, Colonel Moamer Qazafi of Libya, former dictator Saddam of Iraq and some rulers of the Arab countries south of the Persian Gulf. Are you aware that, during his years in power, Saddam spent almost \$300,000,000 in European countries trying to change the name of the Persian Gulf?

One of the maps that I mentioned in my second book "Defending the Name of the Persian Gulf" was a map of the Persian Gulf belonging to your society. The heading under the map reads, "This map belongs to the famous and creditable society of National Geographic". Therefore, it was a great disappointment when the National Geographic Society, which goes back to 1888, surprised us with a new version.

According to your website, some amendments have already been taken by you. First is the elimination of the false name of the Arabian Gulf written under the name of the Persian Gulf. Second is giving the correct Persian names of Kish and Lavan to the two Persian Islands of Iran in the Persian Gulf instead of the two incorrect names. Third is the elimination of the strange sentence "occupied by Iran and claimed by UAE" referring to the three Persian Islands that have belonged to Iran (Persia) for 2000 years. But this is not enough. There is one additional step that is required to complete the process of amending the Persian Gulf issue and that is to eliminate the sentence "historically and most commonly known as the Persian Gulf, this body of water is referred to by some as the Arabian Gulf" from under the name of the Persian Gulf.

Changing the correct and historical name of the Persian Gulf to the false name of the Arabian Gulf, for some Arab countries that have since situated

in the gulf, is like having some countries that later situated in the Atlantic Ocean suddenly deciding to call this ocean, that for centuries was the Atlantic Ocean, the Violet Ocean. If such a strange thing happened, would your society accept mentioning, in parenthesis, this strange name under the name of the Atlantic Ocean or write this very small sentence, "Historically and most commonly known as the Atlantic Ocean, this ocean is referred to by some as the Violet Ocean ", under the name of Atlantic Ocean?

I feel that if I had no problems in finding proof of the "Persian Gulf", then the experts at National Geographic Society should also be able to do the same. Should you need assistance in your research please do not hesitate to contact me at samojtahedi@yahoo.com. I would be more than happy to be of assistance.

Yours truly,

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