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The Place of Army and Its Role in Civil Improvements during the First Pahlavi Epoch

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ABSTRACT

During Reza Shah Reign, the military had the highest power and the best responsibilities. Reza-Khan himself was a military, and he wore the martial clothes throughout his own kingdom, and he fell into power by relying on the military, keeping his absolute government under their protection. The highest salaries and the best lands were that of military, and they obtained some responsibilities, which were not in the domain of their specialty. According to Reza-Shah all the authorities were as soldiers who should sacrifice their lives for the home country, by relying on this fact, Iran had special conditions, explaining away the presence of military in the community including the intervention in various urban districts such as urban cleaning, repairing the historical monuments, pricing the commodities against forestalling, and Baladieh (Municipality).

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INTRODUCTION

Reza-Khan Cossack growing up in a military family, by relying on the military, he executed coup d'état and ascended to the throne. The importance and role of military causing to call the eruption of this period as the military autocracy and its holiday the military dictatorship. (Holiday, Fred., 1979) it was announced in the communiqué upon the coup d'état: "Everything and higher than anything else Ghoshoun (Army), first of all, everything for Ghoshoun, and again Ghoshoun." (Maki, Hossein, 1979) There was not any national army in Iran, for the same reason, the Central Brigade and Cossack were amalgamated with each other, the Gendarmerie was managed under the supervision of Ministry of War, and the rifle-men in the south were gathered up. (Cronin, Estefani, 1998) and the Iranian Army was created in five Armies (Ghadimi, Zabihollah, 1957).

The military service was initially compulsory duty, and a uniform was taken into consideration for military (History of Iran Modern Army). A fixed salary was determined for the military, and the highest state budget was specified to the Army. Even, the Milespo (General Director of Financial Organization) was not allowed to intervene in the accounts of Ministry of War (Cronin, Estefani, 1998) In accordance with Dolatabadi's explanation "Any desirable property, and any excellent house, its proprietor or constructor is a military man; and big cash transaction which is performed in the country, one or both parties are military (Dolatabadi Yahya, 1952).

By relying on a modern army, Reza-Shah created a modern government, and they were authorized in responsibilities which had no relation to specialty of the military. One of the aforesaid responsibilities was urban reforms which are described hereunder:

1-Military Mayor: Reza-Shah selected the mayors of big cities among the most faithful friends such as Colonel Bouzarjomehri who was the mayor of Tehran for 9 years (Cronin, Estefani, 1998) and Colonel Salar, the mayor of Shiraz.

2-Military Governor: Some of the Governors of cities were also military, e.g. Captain Hassan Khan, as Maku Governor who was selected instead of Eghbalolsaltaneh (Atabaki, Touraj, 2006).

3-Price control & goods offer: The militaries announced the price of goods as per the press printed notices obtaining parole document from the guilds owners (Nourbakhsh, Masoud, 2001) that they might not sell the goods expensive; even the militaries were effective in pricing.

4-Using the foreign words: Following to the government insistence in using the Persian words, not the foreign ones, the military government ordered to the shops to correct their tableaux.

5-Opening the amphitheater: In the year 1927 in the city of Rasht, an amphitheater was inaugurated by Brigadier General Zahedi.

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6-Construction of hospital: It was announced in the press that the uncompleted hospital in the city of Rasht was completed by attempts of Brigadier General Mohammad Irem.

7-Construction of Caravansaray, and Historical Monuments repair:

Because of negligence and intention of Qajar kings, many of Historical Monuments were destroyed. Chehelsootoun and Ali-Qapou palaces were repaired by militaries.

8-Establishment of Bank Pahlavi belonging to militaries was established in different cities.

9-Militaries intervention in the women's modernity:

During the event of removal of women's veils, the military power was used to compel the women, even the women's clubs were inaugurated by them, e.g. the club of women's freedom movement which was inaugurated in the city of Rasht by Irem Brigadier General (Cronin, Estefani, 1998)

10-Preservation of telegraph lines: Preservation from these lines against theft was vested to Nazmieh (The police) in the cities, and Amnieh (Gendarmerie) in the suburbs (Yazdani, Marzieh, 1999).

11-Tax collection: Mr. Hart, the Ambassador of the U.S.A. reporting that: It is due to the donation of the Army that can collect the taxes in the country (Mohammadnaghi, M., 2010).

12-Providing the cities security: The force of Civic Police "Police", and that of rural police "Gendarmerie" worked under supervision of the Land Force (Katouzian, Mohammadali Homayoun, 1994).

13-Issuance of Radio License: Due to importation of new goods (Radio) to Iran, issuance of the relevant Radio License was vested to the Police (Mokhtari Esfahani, Reza, 2010).

14-Transportation & plying: Importing the vehicles to the country causing the compilation of laws, and articles of association for them. Nazmieh Dept. drew up the articles of association for cycling (Ettelaat, P. 1, line 1, No. 23, 1926) as well as traffic regulations and changed the cars old plaques to new ones.

15-Intervention of militaries in management of Baladieh:

The militaries inaugurated or closed Baladieh. In the city of Tabriz, the commander of the West North Army, closed the Baladieh, and then opened again.

16-Urban cleaning & beauty making:

The Army utilized its forces such as prisoners or soldiers for urban construction and renovation and for cleaning and watering.

17-Road & street construction:

Work power was from the Army (Cronin, Estefani, 1998) and their presence in the field impeded on the protest of the people who had lost their houses because of the streets widening.

18-Personal Status Registration Office & Statistics: General Director of State Statistics Dept. was transferred to Brigadier General Farajollah Khan, and he used his man powers for registration of statistics, and in this way the renovation and modernism project of Iran changed the feature of modern cities.

Conclusion:

On the basis of the state nature in Iran, during any epoch, a class of people are selected and become great. The epoch of literary persons, or that of sword; during Reza-Shah epoch, on the basis of military power nature, the army performed important actions such as the suppression of the insurgent people, settling lords and tribes, and their presence in the urban reforms were wonderful affairs; But recognition of Reza-Shah personality as a distinguished individual with axis and concentrated disposition, and the available realities in the backward and traditional society of Iran, explaining the presence of militaries in this section and other affairs. Because, if it was not due to their force, this importance would not be ascertained. As it was mentioned above, the presence of militaries was strong in Baladieh organization (Municipality), street construction, establishment of hospital and amphitheater, pricing, and distributing goods, and removal of women's veil.

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