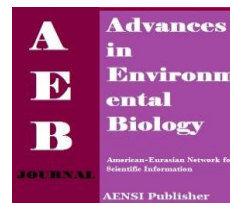




AENSI Journals

Advances in Environmental Biology

ISSN-1995-0756 EISSN-1998-1066

Journal home page: <http://www.aensiweb.com/aeb.html>

The Reasons for Misson failure of the Berlin Iranian Nationalist Expedition Commiitte in Kermanshah

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 15 April 2014

Received in revised form 22 May 2014

Accepted 25 May 2014

Available online 15 June 2014

Keywords:

World war the first, Iran, Allies, Berlin Iranian Nationalists Commiitte, the provisional government of Kermanshah

ABSTRACT

World war the first was one of the most important historical period of our country which caused important political changes for trasfering power and authority from Qajar to Pahlavi in addition to main damages for economy and society of Iran. In this four-year period, Iran was violated by Axis and Allies despit the official declaration of neutrality by Moustofi al Mamalek and most of the border lines and even central parts of Iran were attacked by the foreigners. At the same time, different groups were formed inside and outside the country and many of them considered Russia and England accused of weakening the country and looked for the historical chance of cooperation with Germany to deport them from the country. Berlin Iranian Nationalists commiitte was one of the groups which was formed by the German government in Berlin and for a while tried to form some uprisings in West parts of the country and among the tribes against the Allies. Although these actions failed but forming the Berlin Commiitte as the first example had great effects on next formations such as confederation. The present article tries to investigate the relations of the Berlin Commiitte with West states of the country and political condition of Kermanshah.

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To Cite This Article: Mohammadbagher Nouzari Garmekhani and Iraj Tanha Tan Naseri, The reasons for misson failure of the Berlin Iranian Nationalist Expedition Commiitte in Kermanshah, *Adv. Environ. Biol.*, 8(9), 809-812, 2014

INTRODUCTION

Instable condition of central government during world war the first (1914-1918) caused many parties and political movements to try to protect the totality of the country and fighting against the attackers specially Russia and England in West. Provisional government of Kermanshah with the presidency of Nezam al Saltane Mufi and Berlin Iranaian Nationalists commiitte by the presidency of Seyyed Hasan Taghizade was among the activists. These people considered using the tribes' martial powers as an efficient way to fight against the Russian and English forces.

At this time the Iranina Martial forces were composed on Qazaq, gedarmerie and martial formations. Each of these three formations had some strong and weak points which prevented them from reaching their goals and primary plans in order to make the condition calm. The Qazaq force was supervised by the Russian officers and had not patriarchic feeling and according to Kave, they just applied the plans of the Tsar government in Iran [9]. About gendarmerie which was governed by the Swedish officers, it should be said that they were the only reliable forces in this country. Genrarmerie had an important role in security of South and oppressing the uprising forces. This force was weakened at the beginning of the world war the first due to its position in supporting German forces [9].

lack of efficient and reliable military force improved the condition of the tribes. In this respect, the memebers of the provisional government of Kermanshah and Berlin Commiitte considered a special place for besiging and enhancing the tribes.

Sending the commission out by the Berlin Iranian Nationalist Commiitte to the West of the Country:

In 1915, the berlin commiitte by the precidency of Seyyed Hassan Taghizade was formed in Germany. Memebers of the commiitte included: Allame Mohammad Qazvini, Esmaieel Pourdavood, Abulhasankhan Navab, Mahmood Ashrafzade, Jamalzade, Sadollahkhan Darvish, Nasrollahkhan Jahangir, Ravandi, Kazemzade Iranshahr, Hajesmaieel Amirkhizi, Mirza Esmaieel Yekani, Agha Mirza Esmaieel Noubari, Mirza Agha Naleimellat, Ezatollah Hedayat and Mirza rezakhan Afshar and others who met in Berlin. Despite the doubtful background of some members and their dependence on England, this commiitte after formation tried to attract

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the cooperation of the tribes as the first action. So, Taghizade asked Asadollah Khan to write a list of all the west states and Seyyed Mohammad Ali Jamalzade wrote that:

“ At the beginning of the formation of the committee which had the advertisement against Russia and England as one of its most important plans among the tribes, it was planned to provide a full list of Iran states. Taghizade was not patient enough and wanted to do it as early as possible. So, all the members of the committee did their best in doing the plan and Taghizade made his best in this way, too”.

After making the list ready in newyear of 1915, the Berlin committee sent Seyyed Mohammad Ali Jamalzade to Iraq as the first member in a celebration hold in the official building of Kaveh Journal [5]. The commission which was called as Baghdad commission had to invite the tribes to do the activities and provide the condition for mental and theoretical help to Germany. The aim of publishing the newspapers of Rastakhiz in Baghdad and Kermanshah was due to the fact [11]. Before going to Baghdad, Mohammad Ali Jamalzade spent a while in Istanbul to do the tasks related to the committee branch in Berlin in Ottoman. He introduced himself as a student and mentioned that his goal was to meet his family in Iran. Jamalzade met other members in Hallab near Fourat including Amirkhizi, Ravandi, Pourdavood, Darvish and Yekani who came here due to lack of trust to Jamalzade. In addition, other people such as India committee members including Barallah and Pratap and Von Hetting who were encouraged for their brevities in fights against Russians were present. English advancement in Binalnahreyn caused the committee members to drawback toward Iran and focus in Kermanshah.

Condition of Kermanshah in Berlin's Entrance:

Advancement of the Townshend army toward Kutalemare and the risk of Baqdad Decline made the movement of Iranina Operational Center from this city to Kermanshah [8]. Condition of Kermanshah at the time of committee members entrance was very convulsive and sever conflicts happened among the embassies of Russia and England with German Shounmman ended for Shounmman.

Besides, many of the democate and moderat parties and the forces of Nezamalsaltane Mufi who recently joined the Allies, setteled down in Kermanshah and changed the city into the focus of their activities.

Members of Berlin Committee entered Kermanshah in this condition and at the beginning, started their attempts. From the beginning, their first action was going to Sanjabi and Kakavand states. At the same time of the First World War, due to serious decline of the central government power, the states and unions found a lot of power and had a type of political independence. This caused two groups to communicate with the heads of the tribes in order to get their goals. Attempts of Vasmous in South and among the Tangestani tribes, the actions of Kont Kutints and Shaunmman in West and the promises of English to Bakhtiari and Qashqaiee tribes were exmaples of these actions [2].

Formation of Tribe Unions and attracting the cooperation of Kakavand Tribe:

Members of Berlin committee went into the important states of west after entering Iran and negotioated with their heads. After two-day long negotiations, a contract was formed among Amirkheyri, Tehrani, Jamalzade, Kazemzade, Darvish and democratic members of Kermanshah and Moghtader Officers the son of Samsamolsaltane the head of snajabi tribe which lead to formation of tribe union. This union in its first action invited the heads of the Guran and Ahmadvand tribes. Moghtader official sent some letters for the heads of Kalhor and Kerand and informed thabout the negotiations and their results [14].

After some sessions of negotiation, finally the heads of the tribes agreed with the formation of tribes and in a telegraph by Amirkheyri informed the government of moustofialmamalek. In a part of telegraph, it is stated that:

“ in this happy night, the sacrificers of country Iran and the heads of the west tribes have gathered in Mahidasht and in the name of Allah and Holy prophet put all the conflicts away and under the name of Islamic and Iranian unified society unified to obtain the their rights”.

After formation of this union, many of the committee members tried to make it strong so that other states of the regions led to attract the cooperation of other tribes. One of the tribes at the head of the plans was Kakavand, the mission of which was assigned to Jamalzade. Kakavand tribe was one of the most important tribes of the west and as Jamalzade stated, about 4 thousands riders could be provided by them and as Sepehr has mentioned in his memories: the head of the Kakavand tribe entered to Kermanshah with 4 thousands horse riders [15]. The head of the tribe was Bagherkhan famous as Azamalsaltane which was also called Khan Lore that is thin head [16].

After a few sessions the committee could have a contract with the head of the Kakavand tribe and it was mentioned that:

“ in the name of God who is the owner of the world and with the witness of Holy Prophet and in the name of the country, we promise to scarify our lives for Islam and the holy soil and I try to do my best for victory of Islam and Iran to make the holy prophet happy and encourage my neighbours to do their best in this way by the help of God.

the swearing was similar to the contract of the tribes which was contracted a few months ago among the Sanjabi and Kalhor tribes. After the contracts, many of the states devoted their forces to the German and the provisional government and cooperated with the nationalists [12].

Unfortunately, mispromise of the German and lack of trust from the tribes to the Ottoman officials and superiority of the Russian forces led to the failure of the cooperations. In the fights in which the tribes did not expect to win, they lost their faith in victory and stopped cooperation. It seemed that nationalists and those who were in Kermanshah due to helping the Allies, were not favoured by people. Probably, this was one of the reasons for lack of cooperation by the tribes and Hasan Azam Qodsi who was one of the immigrants of Kermanshah, stated that:

“The habitanats of Kermanshah who were angry toward the immigrants, especially about the gendarms and different riders, behaved like a foreigner with them but the heads of the tribes did not revenge [1].

The actions of German and Ottoman Agents in Iran and their Relationship with Tribes:

Kont Kuntiz, Prince Royal and Marshal Van Dergoltz were one of the Germans who were related with the provisional government and Berlinis and tried to take the control of the complex condition of Kermanshah.

Palns of the Ottoman government in East were sent to the borders of Iran and created a lot of problems for the government and people which caused pessimism toward Ottomans goals. Even one of the reasons for resignation of Eynaldolleh was his actions in Kermanshah.

Despite repeated requests of Iranian from Raouf Beige for respecting the independence of the country and observing the people, he repeated his attacks in Kermanshah and used every chance of humiliating people. Lack of attention to the reasonable demands of Iran government, finally unified them against the attacks of Raouf Beig and after his attacks to the women of Karand, Snajabi tribe which was much lower than the Turk army, resisted against them and defeated them [14].

Fights and attempts of Sanjabi Tribe against the attacks of Turks created a wave of happiness in Iran and German forces. Sanjabi tribe could defeat the attackers and showed the importance of tribe forces. Raouf Beig accepted the intermediary of the German and accepted their intervention [10].

Nationalists defeat against the Russian forces and the end of the committee's activities:

Entrance of members of the Berlin committee to Kermanshah happened at the same time of immigrants' drawback and then formation of the provisional government in the city. At first, the goal of the Iranian created a lot of hope and caused that a close cooperation happens among the groups and states. But gradually, the reason of the differences about how to manage the government, the type of relationship with foreigners and repeated defeats from Russia, removed all the hopes and Kermanshah was occupied by Russian without any resistance. In a report by a member of the Berlin committee wrote for the foreign embassy of Germany that the reason for the defeat of the national forces was lack of enough forces for resistance [4]. However, all the attempts done in Kermanshah, fast movement of the Russian forces caused them to be unable to resist against them. Aezam Qodsi wrote about Russian forces:

“once all the fronts such as Gadok, Bidsorkh and Kangavar and Harsin were attacked and the national forces were defeated and drawback at once. It is said that Russian forces were 10 thousands with complete facilities and all attacked and there was no obstacle for coming to Kermanshah” [1].

As the Russian forces closed Kermanshah, most of the immigrants went back to Qarsshirin and after tolerating the defeats and loses to Baqdad, their activities ended without any attempts.

Most of the people, who were sent by the Berlin committee to Iran, were away from the political space and did not have a correct understanding of the social and political condition. These people had wrong imaginations about Iran and considered the issues in the country in a idealistic view.

Along with this social unconsciousness, another issued which affected the provisional government, states and committee members seriously, was the unfaithfulness of the German government. These groups had no doubt about the victory of German government at first and when encountered their opposition, they become misguided. They lhad the financial and martial support of the German government and closing the roads to the country caused the German not to be able to support them and distribute the martial facilities mong the tribes.

Finally, in spite of all the sacrificings and attempts, no significant accomplishment was obtained by the Kermanshah state and country was in a bad condition. In the documents which are recently published in America, the peak of the condition is observable.

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