

Analytical View toward Bases and Factor of Constitutionalism Revolution in Iran

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Abstract: During the history, the tyranny governments ruled over Iran, which never had comprehensive codified laws. Rulers and their relative usually do not obey any certain rule, in fact their orders considered to be rule. Qajarieh tyranny period coincide with ruling of democracy era in Europe. Developments because of relation with Europe, build motivation for being opposed with Qajars. Most development of opposing the Qajars and beginning of constitutionalism formed by presence of clergy men. The ideology of constitutionalism provided by the intellectuals and people found their goals within the constitutionalism. All these events made tyranny retreatment, and king signed the constitutionalism announcement. Nation achieved their demands, Islamic parliament.

Keywords: Constitutionalism, Government, Scholars, Clergymen, Intellectual, Ideology, Parliament Introduction

1. Introduction

Monarchist tyranny, government inefficiency, constitutionalism ideology, leadership of clergyman and the highest Shiite clerk, caused a change in Iran's political system. Qajaris tyranny, consecutive defeats of Russians, assignment of big parts of north of Iran and defeat of England and giving Heart in east. Reuters and Reji colonial treaties, leisure of Qajar kings, empty treasury, insecurity and injustice of local rulers made people tired. Religious scholars to surviving and develop justice started movements. Najaf clerks entered political arena, and intellectuals provided the ideology of constitutionalism, religious scholars gave the color of religion to it. Finally people found their aspiration in eclectic ideology, which originally was from west, but in Iran it was mixed with Islam. All these factors together lead to revelation constitutionalism [1].

Through constitutionalism, Iranians were looked for fundamental changes in political and cultural structures of the country. In this way some changes in economic structure were also expected, but it seems that the main factors constitute revolution were social bases, activists also their ideology and behaviors [2].

Events of constitutional revolution until its being signed can be divided in three stages: the first stage scattered events in Tehran and other cities, which carried out against tyranny and dependence, second stage called minor

immigration and the third step called major immigration [3]. At the same time many businessman and clerks began strike in front of Great Britain embassy in Tehran. The first stage can be considered as in base of the constitutional revolution and mainly discussed in social base.

2. Social Bases

Irons' government was corrupted, and was financially weak because of lack of management and squandering money by its leaders. People demanded justice, freedom, and continuous development, they also asked for political reforms. Confrontation between nation and government was general base of these confrontations, influence and power of the king as in director of the government was in opposition with power of scholars as in people leader. These were social bases of advent of constitutional revolution [4]. Naser Aldin shah killed by the Mirza Reza Kermani, and Mozafar al-din shah sit on the throne of kingdom. The king policy was get the loans from the other countries to overcome this problem. Income of North of Iran was given to the Russia as in guarantee of repaying this loan. After tobacco movement people and scholars understood their power in political scene, further more business and cultural relations between Iran and European countries, especially the educated ones, made them aware of new relation between government and nation named democracy. Among

ministers of Naser Al-din shah, the most important force agent who put forth reforms was Mirza Molkem khan. He's mostly affected intellectual and official class. He established freemasonry lodges in Iran.

After Tobacco Movement, government tried to involve the clerks as in their most important oppositions in political decisions, in this way kind of collaboration created between scholars and the government. Although unity between scholars, businessmen and some political officials didn't make any great changes [5].

People suppressed by the government forces. No lawful or political rights considered for them. Position of the scholars being threatened since the government new policies. Businessmen, who were the second respected class from the public, were under pressure of new taxes and tough behavior of rulers. Other social classes were also suppressed in different ways. To overthrow the tyrant, the main high ranking clerks of the capital united with businessmen against them, and tried to change the political structure of the country, modern intellectuals also supported the reforms.

3. Scholars and Clerks

Scholars and clerks were respected among people and had close relation with the other classes of the people. Lampoon described their position as following:

The relation between religious class and business class were close and both of them and guaranteed interests of both sides. Businessmen needed scholars and their effects on the market and population. A call by a religious leader could close the market or sanction a kind of item. Mosques were the place which guilds get together, and this made them in close relation with scholars [6].

Farmers also respected the religious class. Businessmen believed to make their income. And properties should follow the Islamic laws in business. In general religious organization was similar to the Tobacco Movement, with little changes in it.

4. Businessmen

The most powerful allied of the scholars were businessmen. In political and economic situation of that time, closing the market considered to be the most effective tool. Other than religious and national inclining, there

were other factors which made businessmen opposed to the government.

The Belgium custom agents didn't have positive view toward Iranian businessman. Get more taxes from Muslim businessmen [7]. At the time of increasing the price of sugar because of war between Russia and Japan, they were under pressure and government belittled them. By the order of the prime minister, the governor of Tehran bitted one sugar businessman and several other businessmen. This action caused minor immigration to the shrine of Abolazim, two days after that event

5. Ideology

Islamic ideology acted as in the main power to unite the people and equipment in this movement. Base on general policies announced in declarations, papers, and speeches. People were opposed to the tyranny and independence and demanding justice, they had necessary justifications for the movement based on their religious beliefs [8].

Other Shiites principals were also influential in the revolution. Martyrdom is high concept in Islam. They believed that Imam Hussein also was martyred because of being opposed with political system of his era. Therefore gathering of the high ranking clerks in public mosque, after martyrdom of a clerk called Abdol hamid, lead to major immigration [9]. Also the Mourning ceremony for that event played important role in make the people united.

Based on historical evidence, developers of constitutional revolution, were religious institutes, which being run by the scholars and clerks and other communities which most of them established by scholars with the collaboration by the businessman and intellectuals. Also Newspapers by publishing issued declarations by the scholars and their speeches played an important role. The market role was important since closing the markets, had great social and political effects, modern intellectuals were active mainly through these communities and newspapers [10].

In two stages of constitutional revolution; Behbahani and Tabatabaie were leaders of movement, at the third stage Sheykh Fazlloah Noori joined it. He was active in political issues since Tobacco Movement.

Scholars and businessmen were middle agents of the movement who were active through organizations, religious ceremonies, market and communities. Newspapers were also active as in dispensers of thoughts and news of movement activities. People by attending in Mourning, strikes, demonstrations and closing their stores were following them. These efforts gathered and leads to withdrawal of political system, and shah (The King) signed the constitution.

According to the Kervi king at the beginning tried not to accept all demands, but people insisted and Britain government also encouraged him. King in Jun the fourth 1906 signed constitution declaration, since people were not satisfied with from some of the cases, in 6th of July, a supplement added to it. The first elections law was written and late at Shahrivar 1285 (middle of September, 1906), elections held in Tehran.

Without efforts of Ayath allah Tabatabaie, Behahani and Nouri who were the leaders of the Movement, the opposed people couldn't find their ways to the goals of movement. Strike of the leaders and developers of the revolution in minor and major immigration followed by the widespread demonstrations, caused the retreat of the government. In constitution revolution the difference between government and nation, showed the difference between the two active political groups. Courtiers were against the people, this type of paradox, created the social bases of the revolution, and was one of the revolution reasons, without such paradox, occurring the movement was impossible [11].

Ideology was also played an important role in constitution revolution. In this revolution two mental and abstract views of the ideology can be observed. Principals of leadership and divine justice played their mental role in encouraging the people and justified the goals of the movements.

Mosques, holy shrines and religious schools were suitable places for scholars to disperse their beliefs, and express their opposition against government by giving speeches, publishing declarations and holding demonstrations. Ideology also acted as in solidarity factor, therefore asking for justice turned to the establishing a parliament, which in European countries considered as in major tool for people collaboration. They looked for, governing the sharia law govern in rest of country by adding the suffix of Islamic to the parliament. According to the Ayatollah Tabataaie council of Islamic justice house and in the decree of Mozafar Al-din shah, Islamic Parliament.

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