

National Consultative Assembly, 9th Term

The 9th National Consultative Assembly was inaugurated with a speech from Reza Shah on March 19, 1933. The Assembly started holding its public sessions one month later. Traditionally, senior scholars were invited to the inauguration of Majlis. However, this time a group of scholars refused to attend and this absence of scholars was an outstanding feature of this term of Majlis.

This issue was partly related to the absence of clerics in Majlis because with the start of the Pahlavi rule and Reza Shah's meddling in the lineup of lawmakers, the number of clerics was on a daily decline. Under Reza Shah, land proprietors formed the majority of MPs. The rest were civil servants, merchants and self-employers. (Shajiei, 1965: 181)

Of 135 lawmakers who were supposed to attend Majlis, nobody was representing the city of Abadeh in Fars Province. Three died and the credentials of Mirza Hedyar Ali Khan Kamali, a deputy from Neishabour, were rejected.

Under the Pahlavi regime, the immunity of deputies was terminated. This policy started by removing the immunity of Qashqaei tribal chiefs when the 8th Assembly was in power. This policy was intensified this time. During the term of the 9th Assembly, Seyed Habibollah Amin, representative of Isfahan, Mohammad Taqi As'ad Bakhtiari, representative of Dezful, and Amir-Hossein Ilkhani, representative of Najaf, had their immunity removed. (Mollaei Tavani, 2011: 373-379)

Elimination of parties was another action by Reza Shah which he accomplished after taking power. During the Pahlavi rule, assemblies were devoid of representatives of political parties. Only Progress Party was able to remain active up to 1932, but it was outlawed afterwards. One of main causes of the shutdown of Progress Party was the dismissal of its leader Abdol-Hossein Teimourtash. It was a marking event of that time that Teimourtash was eliminated from politics when the 9th Assembly was in power. Teimourtash was in Majlis from the 2nd to the 6th assemblies.

He was an entourage of Reza Shah since 1923 and was instrumental in helping him ascend to the throne. Teimourtash was the court minister under Reza Shah. However, Reza Shah was afraid of Teimourtash's growing influence and he arranged his dismissal and his murder. Teimourtash was killed in October 1933. Speculation grew over the dismissal and elimination of Teimourtash, the most important of which was a plot by the British government.

In the oil talks, Teimourtash was seeking a bigger share for Iran. That was why the British finally decided to remove this obstacle and hence prepared the ground for his downfall. (Sheikh ol-Eslami, 2000: 293-294)

After the death of Teimourtash, Iran's oil contracts with foreign governments were modified in favor of Britain and Majlis approved of the 1933 treaty. Iran put an end to the D'Arcy Concession, but it agreed to a new concession which would be valid for 32 years. After threatening to seize Iran's assets, Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC) imposed the notorious 1933 treaty on April 29, 1933 on Iran. (Abrahamian, 2004: 179 And Modarresi et al, 2014: 139)

Like the previous two assemblies, this Assembly voted in favor of laws that would favor modern national government and secularism. The most important law approved by that

assembly was the establishment of University of Tehran. Other laws were as follows: Law on Annulment of Land Taxation, Law on Endowment, Law on Foreign Physicians, Law on Revenue Tax, Stamp Law, Law on Establishment, and Development of Passage ways, Streets, and Squares.

Furthermore, a large number of laws were approved for employing foreign engineers and specialists to operate agricultural, mining, development, and railway projects in Iran. (Shajiei, Ibid: And Modarresi et al, Ibid: 142)

When the 9th Assembly was in power, the fourth Cabinet of Mehdi Qoli Hedayat, who served as prime minister for nearly six years, was unseated before his term ended.

Mohammad-Ali Foroughi won the vote of confidence from parliament on September 16, 1933 to become prime minister.

The 9th Assembly ended its term on April 13, 1935 after two years and one month in office.

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