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## CONSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTION IN IRAN

**Submission Date:** January 06, 2023, **Accepted Date:** January 11, 2023,

**Published Date:** January 16, 2023

**Crossref doi:** <https://doi.org/10.37547/ijhps/Volume03Issue01-01>

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### ABSTRACT

The article reveals the essence of the constitutional revolution, which left a huge mark in the history of the Iranian state and lasted for a long time. The mistakes of the Qajar dynasty in domestic and foreign policy; the irreparable blow of foreign countries and capitals to Iran's economy; not only in the economic sphere, but also in management issues, there is talk of increasing dependence on foreign countries. Despite the fact that it was the first revolution in the history of Iran, it was a revolution that spread to a wide area and caused great changes in the life of the state administration. The reasons, results, achievements and shortcomings of this revolution, which achieved great positive growth and changes in the history of Iran during the years 1905-1911, are discussed below.

### KEYWORDS

Qajars, Iranian Azerbaijan, Majlis, Sadr - e - Azam, Reiter, best, Muzaffar - Shah, Russia, Great Britain, convention, Sergey Markovich Shapshal, trade union, Gilan, Muhammad Ali, Sattar - Khan, Risht, Isfahan, Mashhad, baghtiyar tribe, Sultan Ahmad Shah, director, Morgan Schuster.

### INTRODUCTION

Constitutional revolution - this revolution that took place in Iran was a bourgeois-democratic revolution that happened at the same time as the national liberation movements. Most of the participants in the revolution were representatives of the national

bourgeoisie, small craftsmen, large landowners and christians. The center of the constitutional revolution was in the northern provinces, mainly Azerbaijan [1]. One of the main reasons for this revolution was the foreign and domestic policy of the Qajar dynasty. In

foreign policy, those at the top of the government were increasingly focused on foreign countries, mainly Great Britain and Russia, rapprochement with these countries, providing wide opportunities to their companies, gradually led to these two countries becoming a toy in their hands. As a clear proof of this, we can show that the English baron Reuter was allowed to open a bank, freely use underground resources and build railways. As a result, Great Britain flooded Iran with its own capital, which eventually led to the Iranian state going into debt. At this time, another country trying to make Iran dependent was Russia. He focused his attention on the royal court and began to participate in the administration of the country. Great Britain began to interfere not only in Iran's internal affairs, but also in its foreign ones. Against Iran, the "baghtiyyar" tribes of Persia and the khans of Khuzestan began to incite against the king. This caused Iran to be surrounded by external pressures. [2]

### **THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS**

The situation in domestic politics was not good either. In Iran, which was lagging far behind developed countries, industrialization was very slow, the landowners were increasingly exploiting the peasants, and not only the merchants and artisans in the city but also the peasants were in debt to usurers. Iran's indebtedness to Great Britain and Russia also dealt an irreparable blow to internal trade. This led to increasing internal conflicts and increased external pressures. The successive political mistakes of the Qajars and semi-colonial tyranny aggravated the situation of the people and led to the escalation of protests in the country.

There was not a single excuse for the start of the revolution, and this excuse was soon found. On December 12, 1905, the general-governor of Tehran, Ala ud-Dawla, beat a group of merchants of the city

with a stick on the heel because they raised the price of imported sugar and refused to lower the price despite the king's order. [3] This was the most severe and shameful type of punishment, according to the traditions of the Iranian state. This causes the population of the capital to rise. On December 13, as a sign of protest, all shops, markets and production workshops will be closed. The revolutionaries come to the king with sharp demands. The population demands the expulsion of the Russian-English investors, who are masters of the entire country's industry, from the territory of the country. Representatives of the revolution, led by Said Abdullah Bekhbekhan and Said Muhammad Tabataba'i, demand the resignation of Sadri Azam Ain ad-Dawla from the king and the release of Nausa, the head of the treasury. In addition, they ask for the establishment of a "Court of Justice" and the consideration of people's complaints in it. In January 1906, Shah Muzaffar ad-Din issued a decree on the establishment of "Justice", but it was not implemented in practice. There is a general strike in the country, but the government brutally punishes the strikers. In response, a popular movement begins. The revolutionaries used the "best" method of resistance. According to the laws of Iran, punishment could not be applied to a person sitting on the bed. [4] The revolution spread widely in different regions of the country. Residents of the capital begin to move to the holy city of Kum. According to information, in July 1906, 14,000 people joined the revolutionaries and 200 Mujahideen left the capital and went to Qumgyo. In such a difficult situation, on September 9, Shah Muzaffar decided to fulfill certain demands of the representatives of the revolution and issued a decree on the establishment of the Majlis. It was decided that representatives of different classes could become members of the future Majlis. In addition, men over the age of 25 were given the right to participate in the election. But this decree could not

calm the revolutionaries in the cities of Tehran and Kam. After that, Shah Muzaffar introduced a new decree, according to which he appointed Moshir ud-Dawla to the post of Sadr Azam, and the activities of the Majlis were transferred to the hands of the members. This caused the return of the majority of the population that had moved to the sand, but the revolution did not subside but intensified. [5] A new wave of revolution began to emerge, and the reason for this is connected with the event that happened in Azerbaijan in September 1906. In September, for the first time in the history of Iran, the conference was organized as a revolutionary organization, and soon it won control over the price of bread, the judiciary and the security service. The assembly consisted of merchants, artisans and workers, as well as scholars. By the end of October, a draft constitution limiting the powers of the king and the government had been drawn up. But the royal government was in no hurry to sign it, because of the serious illness of Shah Muzaffar and the possibility of his death soon. On December 30, Shah Muzaffar signed part of the draft constitution and died five days later. [6] The first part of the project was mainly aimed at regulating the activities of the Majlis, managing the country's economy and treasury, distributing state property, defining state borders, signing concessions and agreements, and controlling the construction of roads and railways. The signing of the draft constitution led to the establishment of a constitutional monarchy in Iran. As a clear proof of this, we can cite article 16 of the Constitution, according to which issues and laws related to the life of any state should first be discussed with the members of the Majlis. In article 25, all concessions, internal and external debt issues were in the hands of Majlis members. [7]

After the death of Shah Muzaffar (January 8, 1907), his son Muhammad Ali, the ruler of Azerbaijan, came to

the throne. Muhammad Ali was a supporter of the counter-revolution, and his mentor, the Russian Shapshal, was also a representative of the Russian Empire. Shah Muhammad Ali, who relied on the material and moral support of Russia, began to obstruct the further work of the constitution and Majlis. He even refused to sign part 2 of the constitution, which caused the beginning of mass demonstrations. At the beginning of 1907, during the visit of supporters of the revolution in Azerbaijan, Majlis came to the king with a number of ultimatums. It was, basically, about signing the second part of the law, the ministers was answerable not to the king, but to the council, prohibiting and releasing Chetelians from working in government positions and establishing branches of the council in different regions of the country. But the king refused to sign this ultimatum, and tried to suppress the representatives of the revolution by force. This led to an increase in the population of the city.[8] In the city of Tabriz, the post office, telegraph, armory and barracks were besieged, and officials and governors were taken prisoner. In the north of the country, the Mujahideen organization expanded at the expense of the petty bourgeoisie and workers. Various social gatherings began to appear in every city in the country. There are 40 of them in the capital alone. The first trade unions also started their activities. Among the revolutionary organizations, the most active and effective were Iran's Azerbaijan and Gilan. Supporters of the Ghilan revolution were being supported by the revolutionaries of Caucasian.[9]

In 1907 October 3 the Shah's government was forced to sign the ultimatum, it was caused by the killing of Sadr Amin al-Sultan in one of the demonstrations in Tehran. 107th articles of the second part was approved by voting in the Majlis, and the king signed it on October 7. The law mainly included: the rights of the Iranian people; state administration; the rights of the

members of the assembly and the senate; the rights of the king, the ministries, assemblies, the judiciary, finance and the army. Article 9 was stated that the live and property of Iranian citizens were under the protection of the state. Apart from that, all laws were accepted without deviating from Islam.

Shah Muhammad Ali, with the help of the Russians and the British, planned to destroy the Majlis. On June 2, 1908, the Russians and the British began to interfere in the affairs of the Majlis and warned it that they would invade the territory of Iran if the king was overthrown. This was the same for Shah Muhammad Ali. Shah Muhammad Ali on June 22, 1908 martial law was declared in the capital. An army led by a Russian colonel besieged the Sipohsolor mosque and opened fire with artillery. Despite the fact that this conflict lasted for several hours, more than 100 of the Cossack troops and more than 300 of the representatives of the constitution died. Many of the supporters of the constitution were imprisoned; newspaper editors and journalists were hanged; Majlis and conferences were temporarily banned. [10] The supporters of Shah Muhammad Ali, who came from Russia, were sent to Iran's Azerbaijan. Nevertheless, the civil war continued in the cities for months. By October 1908, the army and supporters of the king were expelled from Azerbaijan by the warrior Sattar-Khan. In Tabriz, supporters of the Shah and Russia were expelled. At the beginning of 1909, 40,000 royal soldiers were hanged.[11]

In February and March of 1909, the movements against the king intensified. Risht, Isfahan, Bender-Abbas and Bushir were the centers of the movement. The city of Tabriz was under blockade at that time, and famine occurred in the city, which caused the entry of British and Russian soldiers. 1909 by May 2015, the tribes of Ghilan and Bakshtiyor from Isfahan will start moving towards Tehran. Each army consisted of about a

thousand men, but the self-confidence of this small army led to the conquest of Tehran and many other cities along the way. By June 30, the capital had been stormed and the Majlis building was occupied. On July 3, an emergency high council was convened, Muhammad Ali was dethroned and his 14-year-old son Sultan Ahmad-Shah was installed in his place. [12] A new body managing the affairs of the country - the Directory - will be established. It consisted of 20 people with great powers. Now the government was faced with huge financial problems. The new government introduced new taxes, signed financial agreements with foreign countries, and reduced salaries. For this purpose, by 1910, the government began inviting American financial advisers began to accept. In April 1911, Morgan Schuster and a group of experts visited Iran. Morgan Schuster was given enormous economic power. But Shuster soon stopped counting on the government and tried to form his own army of 12-15 thousand. These actions lead to increased opposition to the government.

At this time, in July 1911, Muhammad Ali arrived at Gomushtepa in the Caspian Islands and occupied Astrabad with the support of the Turkmen and reactionary forces. [13] On the other hand, Russia and Great Britain soon began preparing to suppress the revolution and divide the country into two. As early as 1907, the territory of Iran was divided between Russia and England. On November 16, 1911, the Russian government came to the Majlis with strict demands. He was asked to expel the American Morgan Shuster from the country and discuss any foreign matters with the Russian government. If this demand was not fulfilled, the Russian army announced an invasion, and the pressure on the revolutionaries had soon begun in Gilan, Tabriz, and Mashhad.[14] By the end of 1911, the government had to meet the demands of Russia. By March 1912, the assembly was convened for the second



time, and all issues were discussed and voted on, but it was inevitable that Russia's demands would be implemented. One of the reasons for this was that Russian soldiers suddenly started invading Iranian territory. The activities of the Majlis was limited, newspapers and magazines were closed, all foreign and domestic issues were handed over to the Russian and British governments. [15] Although the third assembly was promised to be convened soon, it would be delayed until 1914.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that the constitutional revolution that happened in the history of Iran was not in vain, but it led to many positive results achieved. Despite being banned by Russia and Great Britain, the constitutional revolution in Iran at the time led to the development of several stagnant sectors. For example: the introduction of the constitution, the constitutionality of the state administration, the establishment of the parliament, the reforms in the education system, the control of party activities, the creation of trade unions, and the publication of private newspapers simultaneously with the state newspapers.

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