



Challenges of the Endowment System of Iran During the Reza Shah Era Before Passing the Endowment Law in 1313; The Case Study of the Central Areas of Mazandaran Province

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Abstract

The multiplicity, diversity and universality of the endowment in all parts of Iran, along with the significant revenues, costs, functions and the effects, turned the endowment institution into one of the most important and influential institutions in Iran. During the first Pahlavi era, this important institution had some problems in different regions of Iran, which forced the government to solve them. In responding to this challenges, Reza Shah tried to revise the endowment laws, which finally led to the approval of the endowment law of 1313. One of the important goals of this research was the case study and analysis of the endowment challenges in one of Iran's regions. So that we can get a general picture of the issues and problems of the endowment by Inductive method in Iran during the first Pahlavi era. Therefore, this research tried to answer this question by historical research, descriptive-analytical model: What challenges has the Iranian endowment of the first Pahlavi era been faced in the central areas of Mazandaran before the approval of the endowment law of 1313?

The results of this research indicate that the most important challenges was: the destruction of endowment buildings, non-compliance of endowment trustees with the Ministry of Education and Endowment, treachery and inefficiency of trustees in managing endowments, including the greed of endowment properties, abuse of endowments and sale or appropriation of endowment properties, , the number of endowments without use and unprofitable .

Introduction

The issue of endowment in the history of Iran has been considered since ancient times. The rise of Islam and its widespread emphasis on endowment and benevolence, the variety of endowment, its functions and uses increased. The importance and credibility of the endowment institution in Iran is such that

some people believe that the correct recognition of Iranian court isn't possible without accurate recognition of the endowment institution. In the Qajar era, with the increase of political and religious influence of the clergy, the power of the clergy in managing the spiritual and financial affairs of the endowments was restored and despite the efforts in the Naseri and constitutional era, the power and influence of the Ulama over endowment affairs remained until the end of this period. So, the first Pahlavi government inherited the structure of the Qajar government in endowment affairs. This structure of the endowment system was not favorable to the first Pahlavi government for various reasons. That's why the Pahlavi government, after consolidating the foundations of its power, sought to organize endowment affairs for its goals.

In response to challenges and in order to solve them, Reza Shah tried to revise the endowment laws, which finally led to the approval of the endowment law of 1313 AH. Our problem in this research is the analysis of the challenges of the endowment system of Iran during the first Pahlavi era in 1304 to 1313, in the central areas of Mazandaran.

Material and Methods

This research is going to ask and answer the question of What challenges did the endowment system of Iran under Reza Shah face in the central areas of Mazandaran before the approval of the endowment law in 1313 AH? by using the method of historical research and archival documents, publications and other historical sources.

Discussion of Results and Conclusions

Endowment in Iran has always been of special importance for governments due to its multitude, diversity, inclusiveness, functions and many works. This important and influential institution during the first Pahlavi era was faced with many problems and challenges in all parts of Iran, including the central areas of Mazandaran, most of which were the legacy of the previous era and some related to the Pahlavi era.

Before the approval of the endowment law in 1313 AH, the endowment situation in Mazandaran was chaotic and the administration of endowments faced many challenges. This disarray in the endowment on the Reza Shah's rule was caused by the disarray of the situation left over from the Qajar era and the country's endowment structure. According to archival documents, newspapers and stagnant archives of endowment departments of Mazandaran, the most important challenges in the central areas of Mazandaran during the reign of Reza Shah are: destruction of endowment buildings, disobedience of trustees to the Ministry of Education and Endowment, betrayal and ineffectiveness of trustees. In the administration of endowments, there are matters such as misappropriation of endowments, abuse of endowments, sale or usurp of endowment properties, and plenty endowments of unknown use, non-useable, and non-useful endowments. Therefore, the Pahlavi government tried to



organize the endowment system by drafting new endowment laws, after stabilizing its political position. The laws that were drawn up in ten articles during the ministry of Ali Asghar Hekmat and submitted to the National Assembly. After examining the bill, the National Assembly approved it on Day 3, 1313 AH. In order to fulfill the tenth article of the Endowment Law, which states that the Ministry of Education and Endowments needs to approve the executive regulations of the Endowment Law, this ministry, after compiling the regulations in six chapters and 75 articles, approved it in its meeting in 1314.

keywords: endowment challenges, Mazandaran, first Pahlavi, Reza Shah, endowment laws of 1313 AH.

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