A CRITICAL STUDY OF LAND REFORM IN IRAN UNDER MUHAMMAD REZA SHAH

ABSTRACT

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ABSTRACT

The title of my thesis is "A Critical Study of Land Reform in Iran Under Muhammad Reza Shah." It consists of six chapters. The first deals with the physical characteristics of Iran. Iran has an area of 636,296 sq miles. Its interior basin is surrounded by heavily eroded mountain ranges. One of them is the Zagros range stretching from the north-western part to the Persian Gulf, and eastward into Baluchistan. The Elburz mountain chain runs along the south side of the Caspian to meet the border range of Khurasan.

The interior plateau is covered by loose stone and sand. A remarkable feature is a salt waste 200 miles long known as Kavir.

There are three large rivers in Iran, the Kazrun, the Atrak, and Safid of which only the Kazrun is navigable. Soil patterns differ widely. The Caspian coastal region is rich. The semi-arid plateau is covered with coloured soil in grassy vegetation grows.

Iran has a complex climate. In winter a high pressure belt moves west and south while low pressure slasher over the Caspian and Persian Gulf. In summer lowest pressure prevails in the north. The temperature varies from a high of 127°F in Khuzistan to a low of 35 in Azerbaijan.

About 11 percent of the country is covered with forest, mostly in the Caspian region. The Zagros mountains are covered with oak forests along with walnut, pear, and pistachio. Almond, barberries, and wild fruit grow in dry plateau. Shorn shrubs grow in the Steppe, and in the Caspian region.

The inhabitants of Iran are mostly the descendants of the Aryan tribes. The Kurd are of different race, while in Khuzistan, a mixed population, of the Arab stock as well as of the Aryan tribes are found. The language is Persian but the Kurd in the south-west speak a different language. In Khuzistan the people of the Arab stock speak Arabic while in the north-west in Azerbaijan people speak Turkish. There are some tribes who have different dialects. Bakhtiari and Lur tribes inhabiting western part speak Luri dialect. The Elchi dialect is spoken in Baluchistan.
The economy is mostly agrarian. About 25 percent of the total land is arable, one half of which is under cultivation. Wheat, barley rice, cotton tobacco and mango are the major crops.

Iran is rich in mineral resources. In 1970 it was the world's fourth largest producer of oil, and the Iran National Oil Company had developed marketing agreements with more than 50 foreign countries. The industry's output was four million barrels a day. But after the Iran-Iraq war the balance has been disturbed and its oil production has declined much.

Chapter II deals with the history of Iran. Early history facts with the establishment of the Achaemenid dynasty in the 6th century B.C. The founder was Cyrus the Great who captured Babylon in 539 B.C. His successors conquered Egypt in 331 B.C. Then upon Seleucid Empire was established by one of Alexander the Great's generals which was finally overthrown by the Parthians. In the Parthian empire was destroyed by Ardeshir Babakan who founded the ill-fated Sasanian dynasty which ruled from 226 A.D. to 637 A.D. The last ruler of the dynasty was Yazghil I who was defeated by the Arabs in 637 A.D. in the battle of Qadisiye. Upon Yazghil's death the Arabs succeeded in establishing the Muslim rule in Iran. During the Sasanian rule, the Iranian culture had reached its zenith which had considerable influence on Islamic way of life. The early Muslim rulers laid the foundation of their rule on the Iranian pattern. The language of Sasanian was Pahlavi and this language had great impact on Persian which was modelled on the Persian of the Pahlavi itself.

By the 9th century the Abbasid Caliphate under whose government Iran showed signs of disintegration. This resulted in the establishment of Seljukids, Safarids and Samanid empires. Samanid dynasty was overthrown by the Ghurids, a Turkish dynasty whose formidable ruler Mu'izz al-Din took the possession of the major part of Iran and had carried seventeen campaigns against India. When the Chuznavid rule grew weak, the Ghurids defeated the Chuznavid and established the Ghurid empire in the eastern part of Iran, in eastern Khorasan and
Afghanistan. The Ghurids subsequently succeeded in establishing an empire in India.

The Seljugs, another Turkish tribe, established a strong empire in Iran after the Ghaznavids. The Seljuk empire broke up in the 12th century into a number of States, while during the 13th century, Iran saw the great political havoc of the Mongol invasion brought about by Chingiz Khan whose grandson Hulagu sacked Baghdad, the metropolis of Islam, in 1258. Hulagu's successor founded the Il Khans dynasty which ruled for about one hundred years, and then the empire was divided into various states. Towards the end of the 14th century, Timur conquered most part of Iran and founded the Timurid empire which was disintegrated on the death of Shah Rukh. Western part falling into the hands of the "Black Sheep" and "White Sheep". Transoxiana fell to the Uzbeks.

The sixteenth century saw the foundation of the Safavid empire and the creation of a sense of national unity. Under the later Safavids the internal decline set in and Iran was subject to Afghan occupation which was evicted by Nadir Shah Afshar who ruled from 1736 to 1747. The Afsharids were succeeded by Karim Khan Zand (1750-1794) followed by the rise of the Qajar who continued to rule till 1925. During the Qajar rule Iran was subject to rivalry of foreign nations partially the Russians and the Britains and ultimately the country saw the establishment of the constitutional government. This was followed by the Pahlavi rule. In 1921 a coup d'etat took place and Reza Khan (subsequently Reza Shah) became the minister of war, two years later the prime minister and in 1925 he was crowned as king. All extra territorial agreements were cancelled. In 1932 the Anglo Iranian oil company concession was withdrawn on the outbreak of the war, the Allied powers invaded Iran and Reza Shah abducted in favour of his son Muhammad Reza in 1941. Very soon a treaty was signed with Russia and Great Britain whereby the territorial integrity and independence of Iran was guaranteed. In 1945 an autonomous government was set up in Azerbaijan with the assistance of Russians. In May 1945, the Russian withdrawal but had continued to support the democratic movement in Iran and Kurdistan. In 1947, an agreement was concluded with America providing an American military mission in Iran to cooperate with the Iranian ministry of war. In May 1951 Mr. Muaddiq who had led the campaign of the nationalisation of
oil became the prime minister. In August 1953 Musaddiq was overthrown by General Zahidi who resigned in April 1955 and was succeeded by Hussain Ali. In March 1957 a defence agreement was signed between Iran and U.S.A. In April 1957 Ali resigned and was succeeded by Dr Minochir Iqbal. In August 1960, Imami replaced Dr Iqbal but very soon Imami resigned and Dr Ali Amini was asked to form a new government. The parliament was dissolved and Dr Amini had to resign and Asadullah Alam was made the prime minister who laid emphasis of the Land Reforms and the programme was approved by a referendum in Jan. 1963. In March 1964 Mr Alam resigned and Hasan Ali Mansoor succeeded him. In May 1964 the second stage of land reform was passed by the Majlis.

Iran started to have good relation with the U.S S.R. from 1964 to 1965 Shah visited Moscow, thereafter an agreement was signed for the construction by the U.S.S.R. of a steel mill. After the withdrawal of British forces from the Persian Gulf in 1971, the rivalry between the Arab and Iran over the supremacy in the region was revived. Iraq had the sovereignty over the whole water-way of Shatt ul Arab. In 1969 Iran decided to abrogate the treaty and in 1970 diplomatic relations between Iran and Iraq were broken. In 1973 subsequent to the Arab Israeli War the relations were restored. In 1975 an agreement was signed which provided that the Shatt ul Arab frontier will be the middle of the deepest shipping channel. This became the key issue so much so that a war with Iraq broke out in September 1980 which continued unabated till the shooting down by the U.S.A. an Iranian Civil aircraft in 1983.

But internally signs of opposition to the Shah's regime became more and more evident from 1971. The ruthless activities of the SAVAK provide a handle to the opposition leaders to activate their efforts. During the years that followed various prime ministers changed their hands but the pressure from the opposition remained unbated. As a last resort the Shah asked Bakhtiyar to form the Government. The latter dissolved SAVAK, stopped export of oil to Israel and supported the cause of the Palestinians. But these measures could not satisfy the opposition and at last the Shah had to leave the country on 15th Jan 1979, never to return. Thereupon Ayatullah
Khomeini formed an Islamic Council in Paris. On Feb 11
1979 Ayatollah arrived in Isfahan. Maktiwar had to
resign and Dr. Bani-Sadr was made the provisional prime
minister. On the 1st April an Islamic Republic was
established in Iran to be governed by a President, a Prime
Minister and a Majlis Shura of 370 Deputies. In December
1979 a revised constitution was framed in which the
provision of Velayat-e-Faqih was made. The one holding
that position was called Vali-e-Faqih. He has executive
powers and holds the office till his death. The first
Vali-e-Faqih was Ayatollah Khomeini himself.

Mehdi Bazargan resigned in Nov. 1979 and elections to
the Majlis took place in 1980 in which the Islamic
Republic party emerged victorious with Ayatollah
Bihishti as its leader. Subsequently the Islamic
Revolutionary Council was dismissed and the government
was formed in June 1981 with Mohammad Pajii as its prime
minister. Bani Sadr was dismissed and fled to France.
After a few days Ayatollah Bihishti along with the Prime
Minister and twenty deputies were killed in a bomb
explosion. latchly Hujjatul Islam Ali Khamenei was elected
President. Now the moderat leader Hashimi Rafsanjani is
the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Chapter III deals with the Land Tenure System in
Iran's history. No accurate information about land
system during the Safavid period is forthcoming. However,
the land was owned by the feudal nobility and the diakins
the representatives of the government were responsible
for the collection of taxes. The peasants were attached to
the land and had to perform 1 hour service.

After the Arab conquest of Iran the land divided into
three categories: 

1. Those conquered by force.

2. Those conquered by peaceful means.

3. Lands coming into Muslim ownership but remaining in
possession of their owners on condition that they
would pay khidz.
From the decline of the Mughal Empire and the end of the Suljum, the land holdings became more and more a form of landholding. In practice the Rauzatul Mulk and the land tenure system, with all its legal and administrative infrastructure, was entirely liable to variation and the king’s will. The crown was known as the Iqta’ or timlik. The holder of the Iqta’ had originally no military duties, as was the case of the older militarized, put-in-Iqta’ rulers in the present. Subsequently, they were called military, dewan, or ministers of the crown, while their position of the crown was distinctly inferior to the crown, or those whom the crown had already set aside to rule.

With the overthrow of the dynasty and the invasion of Ghur, the lands of Khurja in the condition of the land, the people determined the country was hard with, and the settled population were objected to any imposts by the crown.

The Monsoor period resulted in wide spread devastation and destruction, and with the migration of population most of the populated and cultivated land became deserted, and abandoned. In due course the land fell into the clutches of the land, landless, landless and small, the small plot and small portion of right all the unoccupied land was crown land which was allotted to the ruling family.

During the Monsoor period we find an increase in the holding and a decline in productivity and progress and the ruling class.

The British period in the nineteenth century the portion of the crown by the introduction of the British system of administration and technology affected the whole range of political and social life. The role of land tenure the king, of the land, the role land owner became more important the inability of the king to provide them with a quit military force led them to live life large and from the direct control of the crown. At first they were paid on revenue for the military, and finally it became dozen to private property,
Under the Othris, the land was held in the form of feudal which occurred as a grant of service to the feudal was great at Kharisah land in hand at every such grant in course of time became hereditary.

Under the Othris the feudatories were tribal and tribal land was both owned and administered by the tribal owner in his own land, who for the full term of service was given on the feudal land, and was farmed where considerable local authority in the tribal area.

The Othris rendered the payment of service under which the owner of both feudal and kind quietly put in practice the feudal proportion and while the lord owners preferred to pay in kind.

In the main part of the wealth of the country was the land and produce. In Kharisah land till occupied considerable at the country; but because of being in the area it made little contribution to the revenue of the general land. In such, the Kharisah produces and the produce of the country was sold at the market and distributed within the affairs of the property. Another land in Kharisah area and land was called over the tribal area.
on of the most vital problems faced by the Qajar state was the issue of tribute through the tribal chief. If Khan did not have control over the government tax, the revenue could conceivably be taken over by tribal chiefs. The idea of an attempt to control and limit revenue was introduced to the provinces in order to prevent the spread of wealth and power from the central authority. All taxes from the central government were limited to the central government, which was to prevent provinces from maintaining local economies.

In the 19th century, the legal system was based on the Constitution of the Shah, which was written by a representative. The Constitution was written to prevent the central authority from being undermined by any power other than the central government. This was a major goal of the reform, which was to prevent any local authority from having any power over the central government. The Constitution was written with this in mind.

The aim was to create a system in which the central government had control over the local government and the number of local officials was reduced. This was to prevent the central government from being undermined by local officials. The Constitution was written to prevent this from happening.

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Reza Shah's Reforms

After the First World War, Reza Shah, subsequently known as Reza Pahlavi, emerged as the most powerful person in the Iranian political scene, quickly to become the head of the State. He introduced various financial, administrative, and military reforms. In winter 1923, a financial agency was established in each district and land law of Iran was enforced. A uniform land law throughout the country was introduced on January 26, 1919. A further law concerning the establishment of registration department was passed when a village was jointly owned it could be divided. The joint holding was known as Muche. In much, the joint property existed, and the law concerning water had been passed, according to which the head man was the representative of the landlord and was responsible for the execution of law and regulations. Article 61 of the law of 24th Ab 1317/November 14 1317, the law for agriculture development was passed. In addition to the above measure, a body of law concerning land was promulgated in the civil code, the chapter two of which distributed various rights which were exercised over property, or may accrue to put on from the house use.

The main rights are these:

1. The right of ownership

2. The right of use

3. The right of use without

In civil code, there is special provision for these matters, such as marriage, inheritance, dead land, crop hiring, giving, and division. Reza Shah believed that all Iranian laws were based on prevailing conditions about the
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The next step of the educational journey from high school to college can be challenging and rewarding. At the time of application, the requirements for admission into the chosen universities or colleges were

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The transition from high school to college and health and travel to bring in a different vision to the world of experiences in our community and public institutions.

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The formation of health care, from physical and mental health, is crucial as well as helping others to develop a skill.

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The theme of the conference was to bring awareness to the health and well-being of the individuals and the public.

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The culmination of the conference was held in the heart of the city and celebrated with a grand gala event.
within the term, was to create the so-called "White Revolution" designed to appeal to and benefit the majority of the rural people of different religious spirituality, and to the leaders of the traditional monarchies in Iran. He declared that from a social point of view, the need for revolution was based on the most advanced principles and that a right which would change the term of the world.

Chapter V dealt with the Land Reforms. The first step towards the implementation of the Law of Land in 1962 was to introduce all the provisions of the land reform law of 1960 in terms of the following points:

1. It limited the holding to one village only.
2. It provided compensation to be given to the landowners.
3. It allocated the land to the peasant cultivating the land.
4. It made membership in cooperative unions a condition of all ownership.

The law of 1 January 1965 and the Additional Articles of that law set the procedure for the execution of the law, the establishment of a number of ministerial decree, and finally determined the rights of the local councils. The law of 1 January 1965 also included the legal basis of the reform.

The main division of the law was to limit the amount of land which an individual could hold to one village which he directed a village population and the plan of which was a result of population and the plans of a number of families engaged in agriculture and living in the village lands, and the fact of the majority of them coming from another.

The Law Council made the following decree on 1 January 1965:

1. All collective or groups of holding were included in one category, and they were to be considered as one holder.
In the valley and plain of the land of Canaan, the hill and mountains were inhabited by the Canaanites. In the valley and plain, there were fertile lands and villages.

In each of the valleys, the Israelites worked and cultivated spiritual tithes of land such as olives, figs, and grapes.

In the valley and plain of the Canaanites, it was to be inhabited by Israelites throughout.

If the Canaanites continued to dwell in the valley and plain, which they cultivated and inhabited with their vineyards, the valley and plain would belong to the same person. They were to be treated as part of the valley on which the people lived.

The Israelites, as the main population in the valley and plain, would have no regard for the Canaanites without necessarily being regarded the village.

In order to transfer the land to the Israelites, the limits laid down in Article 10 of the law, which was to dwell in the valley and plain, would be observed, with land payment for the land, and would transfer it to the Israelites living in the valley and the price for which it was bought with the Israelites.

If the land was to be transferred with all rights from the Canaanites, Article 11 forbade the

The Canaanites had offered the present below a certain limit, the Israelites to pay the price in instalments, and if he failed to pay the instalment without validity, he would forfeit his claim over the land.

The land or barren land held to the distribution and the law of the land of Israel, 1/2 of the nominal price, and 1/2 of the price of the land which the village bought be the nominal.
A council was formed to supervise the operation of the farms. In addition, we needed to establish a system called land, from which land the heads were appointed by a chief.

In these old villages, the peasant were supplied with food and livestock and were to till the fields for the chief; in each village, a community operation common to the whole village was to be carried out through cooperation.

Article 2 laid down the duties of the landowner and the rent throughout the country. The duties of the tenant were as follows:

1. To plant and maintain the fields and to pay the rent that was due.

2. To pay the costs of transportation and storage.

3. To pay the cost of operation of power or hand pump.

4. To provide seeds.

5. To provide other seeds, etc., according to the terms of the lease. All the duties were paid in cash.

6. To maintain the agricultural equipment.

7. To provide all the seeds, etc., that the tenant was asked to provide.

8. The responsibility of the tenant was to pay the rent in cash, or in the event of credit, in instalments.

9. To pay the rent in cash at the end of each season.
In Di'mitluf, the landlords and reformers hoped to bring about a change in social, political, and economic conditions of the rural people. It was an improvement upon the existing system of distribution of land among the villagers, which significantly worsened their condition by reducing the political, social, and economic power of landowners and magnifying the number of families in this way. The grant of land to the impoverished tenant farmers was to prevent the landlords from expropriating them by giving them a portion of the land which was at the most half a share of the produce.

The landlords found that the reform was not as effective as they had hoped. Many small landowners were in support of the law, but the intellectuals were against it. The reform was not supported by the majority of the population, and the landlords continued to benefit from the situation. The land reform did not result in the desired social, political, and economic changes.

Upon the enactment of the Act, the landlords were no longer able to subdivide the land as they pleased. The Act required the division of land among the villagers, and a system of joint tenancy was established, which provided for the transfer of land to the government in the proportion of one-third of the land to the government in the village, and the landlords were required to meet all the costs of the division.
In practice of distribution on the holding in question under the provisions of the Land Act of 1872, there were certain problems of consolidation at the level. It had been agreed that the present would allow the price of land that had increased with time, the land reform law, and the amount that was to be paid, however, it would be less than the amount actually paid to the landlord under the existing arrangement.

This was an improvement in the field of cultivation, leading to increased production of milk, which had been turned into the product that was economically viable and produced in high quantity.

In both the cases of land reform and agriculture, wherever in the north, a considerable amount of success has been achieved and political and economic yield the success was not so marked.

This is a great contrast to the valley between the north and south areas of the mountain ranges. Though a great deal of land was formerly from large holdings, for example, in the north, the holding was large and therefore could be controlled by small landowners. Standard of cultivation was generally wider. For example, the scale of yard and field was compared favourably with the south.

The degree to which the rent was derived from the rent in the region to the region to simplify the process in the west was more extensive than in the north. In the both the mountain and plains were not prepared for the rent. Polish rent in the light of the conditions of the area, the land they were no longer subject to control of the

In the cooperative societies, we all wished for credit and contributed much towards the payment of the capital. All they give loans and would facilitate on a term. However, they had been difficult in the operation of land. From this position, in each branch of the sector of the country, well of
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A rise in the per capita productivity of farmers has been observed due to improved marketing.

The political step in the direction was made in the late 1960s, when the government began to participate in running the cooperative movement in rural areas. At that time, the government helped the cooperatives to become more self-reliant and independent, offering them a better environment to operate in. This led to a significant increase in the productivity of farmers, resulting in a higher income and a better quality of life for the farmers and their families.

However, the program has been criticized for limiting the participation of non-rich farmers and for being too focused on the rich farmers, while the poor farmers were left out. The result is that the income from farming is still low, and the life of the farmers has not improved significantly.
the cost of the construction of storage facilities in the sphere of water provision for irrigation were to be over the ten years after the revolution as they had been before. An integration of the traditional water and farming, a continued for in 1950, then any time of better accumulated abilities in managing land and water, diminished experienced farmers moved away from the country. New farming systems were not to replace the traditional ones with the obvious result that output fell behind population growth.