

What Was the Biggest Sin of Shah?

Note: *The Dark Night of Imperial*, which has been published by the Islamic Revolution Press, is speeches of Ayatollah Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, about the former royal systems of Iran.

Dimensions of Dependency in the Dark Workbook of Pahlavis

By the victory of Islamic Revolution in 1979, Iran, as a country, was a dependent nation. This dependency, especially during 55 years of Pahlavi's corrupted reign, reached its peak. For Ayatollah Khamenei, one of the biggest crimes and sins of Muhammad Reza Pahlavi was that he had kept the country dependent on foreign states in various aspects such as technical, industrial, economic and cultural. Hence, in contrast to other corrupted states of the region, his state was more infamous in terms of insufficiency, corruption and dependency on foreigners.

Referring to the fact that "mother of all national plagues is dependency", Ayatollah Khamenei names some items and examples of this dependency in order to shed more lights on the internal and Iranian aspect of the Revolution which brought about a great dignity for Iranians.

1. In Politics Arena

There is no shame for a nation worse than the condition in which its rulers, commanders, politicians and authorities are chosen by the embassy of another state! Which shame is worse than this? Reza Khan, the bully, who behaved the people aggressively and oppressively was a humiliated thing against the British, because it was the British who helped him to take power in Iran. It is not said by the Reza Khan's opposition, it is admitted by the regime's relatives and all impartial historians. Again, it was the British who overthrow Reza Khan, because during his tenure they felt that the Pahlavi Regime is inclined to the German Power, who in the time had reached some initial achievements during the World War II. Another reason for this inclination was the similarity between Reza Khan and Hitler's behavior and thinking, hence Reza Khan has become interested in

this German Counterpart. The British figured out it and did not tolerate it, so they overthrew Reza Khan. They expelled it like a humiliated puppet from Iran and then helped his son, Muhammad Reza, to take power instead of his father. This is what has been verified by themselves and is among the most clear facts of the history.

Moreover, when they expelled Reza Khan in 1941, his son, Muhammad Reza, did not know whether he would be the King? It is what I have said from one of Muhammad Reza's close friends, so you now see that how he was humiliated and weak.

Let me speak about Muhammad Reza Pahlavi, in the early days of expulsion of Reza Khan, when nothing was clear in this country, the British Ambassador says to one who had come to him from Muhammad Reza that since according to our information, Muhammad Reza listens to Radio Berlin and follows the German achievements and victories, he is not trustable for us. The man who had been sent by Muhammad Reza brings the news of the British to Muhammad Reza. So, he stopped listening to Radio Berlin and abandoned it. After a while, the British ambassador says that, now there is no problem he can be the king.

Naturally if the regime, the government which leads it, is so dependent on the embassy of foreign country, who is able to determine what they should do and what they should not do and the former has no choice but accepting them in order to reign, so it is nothing to say that how he would be dependent on the foreign forces. These are the realities and truths of this country.

Another example of this dependence can be seen in the story of Dr. Mosadegh; when the Mosadegh movement, which was a national movement, started in this country, it felt danger, and the danger was not from the government or royal system, but it was from the British! And when they then realized that they cannot handle it, they dragged the Americans, as a result the latter robbed the scene from the former and became the dominant power in Iran.

Someone with a briefcase full of money came to Iran to overthrow the national government and dominated Muhammad Reza Pahlavi's regime again through stimulating a simulated crisis.

2. In Political Arena

It had induced our society with the thinking that the path of development is that we need to imitate the western states. They stressed that the imitation should not be limited to learning and studying, but it also must cover our appearance, it meant that our women needed to put aside their Hijab and our men should don western garments, otherwise they were culprits, then they came ahead one more step and said that Pahlavi hat or Chapeau hat, because the western people and Europeans used to put on these cloths. Various local cloths and garments our people use to wear were abolished and banned, because they force us to wear what had been imported from the west, but why? For development! They assumed that this country's development depended on imitating Europeans in terms of what they used to wear. See how it was shameful and irritating? However, they were not shameful that day and were honored and cried it with joy!

The problem is that sometimes you choose something with information and awareness, but sometimes they force you to do something and you have no choice, it was that the Pahlavi Regime did with Iranian people, in other words, they spared no efforts to dominate and indoctrinate the western culture over us.

3. *In the economics arena*

There was a time, our governmental authorities used to say that Iran is unable to fabricate even a simple pipe and they used to import everything from overseas. One day in a session I was criticizing this demeanor, there was one of authorities in the session, too, he addressed me and said that *for what you are criticizing, we are like masters and other countries are working for us like servants. Is it bad?* You see? It was the reasoning of our statesmen in the Taghut era. Now it was the appearance of their reason and there was others behind it; numerous economic and ethical corruptions.

4. Other Remarks

Political dependence came to an end thanks to the Revolution... We were thankfully liberated, but that we are still dependent in terms of the economy and culture. We should work on this because dependence will lead to disaster. I will tell you that when I look at the memoirs which have been written by Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's friends, I read that in certain cases, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi himself was extremely angry at the Americans.

He sometimes cursed them. Of course, he did so in his private room and in the company of his close friends. He was like a person who goes to his rooftop and swears at a policeman in a distant city. He used to swear at them in his private room, but whenever the British or the US ambassador delivered a message, made a phone call and issued a command, he was ready to bow to them and obey their command. He had no choice and he had to do so. This is dependence. This should be destroyed. Well, political dependence has completely been uprooted in our country.

From the beginning of the Revolution, the people of Iran have played their role 12 times in electing the highest-ranking officials of the country...Moreover, the people's choices and votes have brought about 10 Islamic Consultative Majlises, five city and village councils and five Assemblies of Experts. All these have been achieved thanks to the Revolution. Our new generation should not forget certain things. We experienced the pre-revolutionary era with all our being. Before the victory of the Revolution, the people did not have any role in the management of the country and in the appointment of managers. Heads of countries, monarchs, kings and their cohorts used to come and go, but the people were mere spectators. They did not have any role. The Islamic Revolution came and moved the people from the periphery into the center. This way, the people were given the power to choose everything.