

## An introduction to the experience of modern state building in the Qajar era

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Article Info	Abstract
<p>Original Article                      Main Object: Politics                      Scope: Iran</p> <p>Received: 24 April 2023                      Revised: 08 June 2023                      Accepted: 11 June 2023                      Published online: 12 June 2023</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b>                      crisis,                      modernity experience,                      Qajar era,                      state building.</p>	<p>"State building" is a concept that in the middle of the Qajar era, by Mirza Malkam Khan Nazim al-Dawlah, was applied to the efforts to leave the "old" rule to the "new" one. In this research, this concept is the main basis of knowing the experience that is based on observation and comparison of various political crises in Iran: Experience of modern state building. This research, considering Spriggans' theory as a theoretical framework and working method, raises the question: "What was behind the political crisis of Qajar era Iran, on the basis of which the modern state building experience can be understood based on it?" Based on this, we can hazard the assumption that, with the beginning of the new system in Tabriz, everything in governance gradually became old and the new was standing at the threshold. Departure from this old was done by observing the widespread political crisis, understanding it as a problem and transferring it to modern action as a treatment and formulating an ideal called constitutionalism. The era of Naseri formed an important part of the experience of modern state building in the form of regulations and its accessories and the theoretical experience of constitutionalism.</p>

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**Extended Abstract****Background**

The grounds for the establishment of the modern state in Iran were associated with the general perception that Iran has faced dangers: The old type of governance is not capable of creating power and its continuity. These risks were accompanied by the fall of Isfahan at the end of the Safavid era and the unstable period between the Safavids and the beginning of the Qajar period, accompanied by internal and external disturbances, and neither Nader Shah's conquests nor Karim Khan's relative stability was a cure for the decline of government and politics in Iran.

In the beginning of the Qajar period, although the Iranian government achieved internal stability, the aforementioned risks to foreign threats were more formidable than what could be avoided. The impotence against England's policies and the numerous defeats from Russia and the inability to maintain the borders were a strong sign of these dangers, which showed the weakness and impotence in the main pillars of the government in Iran. Based on this, some tendencies within the government to create a strong government were the first signs of understanding the crisis of the government in Iran and at the same time the first pathologies in this field. The reforms of Dar al-Sultaneh, the new foundation of Tabriz, were considered the first manifestation of the understanding of this crisis. Abbas Mirza's new system was independent and for that reason in a hurry. It accommodated the desire to create a modern state to a great extent, and this desire was in the form of various experiences, which were mainly closely related to political and intellectual crises. It was manifested.

**Aim**

This research, considering the four stages of understanding Spragens' political theories, seeks to evaluate and diagnose these efforts. With the aim of being able to understand the foundations and background of the modern government in Iran, this issue is very necessary to understand the general problems of the modern government in Iran.

**Discussion**

The government's crisis in Iran was the inability to do several things: preservation of old political borders, inability to create effective transformation in government mechanisms, inability to solve problems such as famine and epidemics, inability to create effective and national interest-based relationship with foreign countries.

The continuation of these crises was an expression of the irreparable damages that had been inflicted on the body of the government. These damages made the need to change the method and structure of the government inevitable, and this crisis continued so

much that it can be considered the end of the monarchy in Iran and its fall as a continuation of it.

### Results

The main results of this research can be the lack of coherent will in practical efforts (such as regulations, creating new institutions, the idea of an independent, regular monarchy and regulation political legislation, which are the main solutions to overcome the crisis of the government in the Nasrid era. The coherent thought in the theoretical efforts returned both to the closed and autocratic political system of the country and to the inability to create a theoretical foundation that could connect fundamental concepts such as constitution, order and law. The excessive weakness of the government in performing its basic functions was, in a way, the result of these issues and also involved in the continuation of these damages.

### Conclusions

In the continuation of the efforts, this ideal system considered at that time was constitutional, which was defined based on the creation of a based government and was manifested by the creation of institutions such as the National Assembly. Although in the end, as it is known, the creation of the modern government, with more acceptable characteristics was postponed until Reza Shah's period.

### Ethical considerations

The author has completely considered ethical issues, including informed consent, plagiarism, data fabrication, misconduct, and/or falsification, double publication and/or redundancy, submission, etc.

### Data availability

The dataset generated and analyzed during the current study is available from the author on reasonable request.

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