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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

The Position of the Iranian Press During World War II

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Introduction:

Throughout history, the press has been the medium that described the roots of people's pains and problems and the responsibility to inform them. Although the press played a vital role in the victory of the constitutional revolution in Iran and the enlightenment of the Qajar era, it is also considered one of the causes of the decline of constitutionalism. After the victory of the constitutionalists, members of the press began to demand a share, leading to an increase in negative statements in newspapers. The immediate effect of constitutionalism on the press was an increase in the number of newspapers, which, according to some witnesses, resulted in their "arbitrariness and licentiousness." Following constitutionalizing, the press contributed to disorder in the country, ultimately facilitating the emergence of the Reza Shah

autocracy. After gaining power, Reza Shah suppressed the press, knowing that a free press would impede his authoritarian goals; however, he also relied on it to reflect his actions. Thus, during his rule, only a few state-owned newspapers sufficed to publish news related to government actions, resulting in the flourishing of specialized journalism, a trend that continued until the fall of Reza Shah's government. While it was expected that the situation of the press would improve with the fall of Reza Shah, the matter took a different direction. The purpose of this research is to answer this question: In which direction were the headlines and the nature of the press driven by the open and contradictory political atmosphere of the time and the numerous centers of power?

Methods:

The research method is descriptive-analytical. Research was conducted in libraries and scientific sources and the data extraction has been done from articles, books and websites. been retrieved from various databases such as Noormagz, Magiran and Civilica, Iranian software and articles in the press field who have been effective in advancing the research have been used. Therefore, in the current research, after searching for and collecting the data and categorizing it, the data were analyzed, and the results are presented in the research.

Results:

This study shows that whenever the National Assembly gained power as a symbol of freedom, the press was also strengthened as the fourth pillar of democracy. This particularly occurred during World War II and the opening of the political space in the Fourteenth Assembly, leading to the growth and expansion of the press. However, the weakening of the Assembly's role, along with the interference of domestic powers and foreign forces in the elections of this important institution, also affected the fate of the press. The ups and downs of press activists during this period were a direct result of these conditions. So, The results of the investigation indicate that the situation of the press was not stable under the conditions of the time and that, even in the event of closure, the editors of the publications took advantage of the free space and the new political conditions and continued their activities, scoring points with other titles but with the same aims and approaches as before. And they circumvented and discredited the ban. This factor led to the press becoming more aggressive and courageous during this period.

Conclusion:

The Allied attack on Iran at the beginning of the Second World War, which led to the overthrow of Reza Shah's government, was a turning point in the headlines of the press and the journalistic profession. This important event marked the second wave of democratic practice after the constitutional revolution under the complex and contradictory conditions of Iran on that day. The opening of the political space, despite many economic and social problems, provided the ground for political and press activities and led to the return of the press and newspapers as the fourth pillar of democracy to the country's political and cultural scene with more freedom. The abundance of the press and the content of the discussions and the content of the newspapers of the time, as well as their suspension and closure and their

return under different names and titles, were all affected by the unstable political conditions and the new arrangement of political forces. The existence of several centers of foreign and domestic powers and the nature of the relations of the individual press organs with these political centers had an impact on the writing and quality of the individual newspapers. This study shows that whenever the National Assembly gained power as a symbol of freedom, the press was also strengthened as the fourth pillar of democracy, so that this was the case during the Second World War and the opening up of political space, particularly in the 14th century. And it led to the growth and expansion of the press. But the weakening of the role of parliament and the interference of internal powers and foreign forces in the elections of this important institution also affected the writings of the press. In general, the press of this period was either influenced by the power and influence of England and was supported by this country, which was called the right-wing press, or the press was associated with the Tudeh Party and was influenced by the Soviet Union, which was supported by the interests and policies of this country. The third group was the independent press, which used the open political space and ruthlessly published and reproduced its content. The governments of the time also dealt with the various newspapers in different and even contradictory ways, depending on the circumstances. They supported their daily newspapers and promoted and encouraged opposing and critical newspapers. The Majlis, as one of the most important centers of political power, had influenced the atmosphere of journalism and literary activities during the Second World War.

Data Availability Statement

Data available on request from the authors.

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Ethical considerations

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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