Alinaqian, Shiva, University, Tehran, Iran

Genealogy of Persian Intellectual Failure: With Case Study on the Iranian Constitutional Revolution (1904-1911)

This paper examines the question of how and why Iranian intellectual movement in the constitutional revolution (1904-1911) failed. It was the first Iranian organized intellectual movement, which aimed to promote and progress Iran that rooted in Iran's defeats in the 19th century wars with Russia. This failure led Iranian political and intellectual elites to rethink about Iranian society and culture, critically.

Meanwhile, the intellectuals were divided in two groups: modern and secular intellectuals, and traditional ones and clergies. In this way, such distinction between the intellectuals created significant social and political conflicts in Iranian society.

For understanding this situation, the documentary analysis and historical method was defined to penetrate in historical nature of the subject, through original texts, including books, newspapers, and magazines. In conclusion, two structural factors, which led to this failure, were found: first one is *internal factor*, including the conflicts between intellectuals and clergies and also internal weakness of intellectual dialectic. The second one is *External factor*, such as Iran's inflexible situation or despotism and also disorganization of modern order like parliament's dysfunctions. Therefore, there were basic obstacles in the Constitutional revolution's path which was supposed to create liberty. In this way, Persians could not pass from such negative factors to create enough spaces for rethinking about Iranian prospect. As a result of this situation, the intellectuals could not find and comprehend their problems through available responds, and instead they felt into western alternative Ideas.