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The Republic of Kurdistan, 1946

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Stellingen

Behorende bij het proefschrift
The Republic of Kurdistan, 1946
van Hawar Khalil Taher Nerwi

- I. Until before the First World War, cultural and religious aspects were more important components of the societal and political life for Kurds and ethnic boundaries did not compose a major issue with the neighbouring ethnic groups. By the end of the First World War, however, as the Middle East witnessed the establishment of new modern nation-states in the region, this drastically changed into a question of political differences between Kurds and their neighbours as well as between Kurds of Iran and the central government of Iran.
- II. The foundation of a modern state in Iran, during the twenty years of Reza Shah's reign, was accomplished at the cost of suppressing all other political developments and all manifestations of democratic aspirations.
- III. The arrival of the Great Powers in Iran in August 1941 was seen by many Iranian Kurds as a prospect to accomplish some measure of autonomy for Kurdistan. Especially after the exile of Reza Shah, it indeed presented with possibilities for the restoration of the Kurdish societal fabric, formation of own political parties, and eventually proclamation of the Republic of Kurdistan.
- IV. The formation of the Autonomous Government of Azerbaijan affected the northern Iranian Kurds both politically and psychologically to the degree that, rushing to catch up with the Azeris, they hastily proclaimed the Republic of Kurdistan, before having thoroughly assessed their political, economic, social, and military capabilities.
- V. The Republic did not only have shortcomings in terms of diplomatic and administrative experience and infrastructure, it also stood on a society that was still largely bound by tribal affiliations, kinships, family ties and religious brotherhood. The Kurdish society in 1946 was deeply influenced by tribalism and tribal relationships.
- VI. The Republic of Kurdistan was not a product of a nation-wide Iranian Kurdish nationalism. It could rather be considered as a form of localized Kurdish nationalism.
- VII. Despite its short period of existence, the entity established under the name of the Republic of Kurdistan did achieve considerable success in a number of areas, namely in media, culture, and education. The period saw a flourishing of publications, press, and radio broadcasts, contributing noticeably to the Kurdish language and greatly influencing the coming generations and other Kurdish nationalist movements in the region.
- VIII. The Anglo-American policies in Iran concentrated on maintaining the Iranian central government and Iranian territorial integrity. Accordingly, they supported and advised the Iranian central government.

- IX. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, for the purposes of its political and economic aims, supported the regional powers of certain ethnic groups against the Iranian central government.
- X. The conflicting policies of the Anglo-American and the Soviet forces in Iran caused a diplomatic crisis between the Soviets and the Anglo-Americans partnership that could be considered as the first phase of the Cold War in the Middle East.