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The State, Entrepreneur, and Labour in the Establishment of the Iranian Copper Mining Industry: The Sarcheshmeh Copper Mine 1966-1979

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Citation

Alamdar Baghini, A. (2019, December 5). *The State, Entrepreneur, and Labour in the Establishment of the Iranian Copper Mining Industry: The Sarcheshmeh Copper Mine 1966-1979*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/81381>

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Issue Date: 2019-12-05

Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift van Abdolreza Alamdar Baghini

Propositions for the doctoral dissertation of Abdolreza Alamdar Baghini

1. In opposition to the claims that nationalisation of industries in the Pahlavi period originated from state authoritarianism, the case of the Sarcheshmeh Copper Mine demonstrated that the state supported private ownership, and transfer of the mine ownership to the state progressed lawfully according to the Iranian industrial strategy.
2. Contrary to some Marxist social scientists' approach to the contemporary history of Iran, the Iranian state was not constantly the representative of the bourgeoisie in the conflict of the state and capital in industrialisation in the Pahlavi era during the 1960s and 1970s. The formation of the copper industry revealed that Iran's strong developmental state attempted to pursue national interests through establishing a copper supply chain which relied less on the outside world.
3. The SCMCK attempted to use a range of paternalist social programmes such as urban planning, health care system, and educational plans to shape a permanent and reliable working class, the consequence of which was manifested later as the workers identified their class interests with maintaining the status quo and supporting the state during the revolutionary days in 1979.
4. The emergence of the Iranian copper industry demonstrates the shift in the balance between mining companies and states. Both Selection Trust and Anaconda were previously powerful and influential companies, but both were subordinate to the Iranian state in this project. The downfall of copper giants in the global context requires further study.
5. The complex international tensions during the Cold War inspired the Iranian industrialisation, since it led the state to conduct a balanced strategy over importing technology from the Eastern bloc as well as the Western bloc.
6. Despite the fact that the economic origins inspired the economic nationalism in Iran, that was also influenced by non-economic components including expanding independency movements in the global south, growth of the Iranian national identity discourse, and Iranian collective experiences over the regressive interference of world powers in Iran's internal affairs, which influenced non-elite people as well as statemen and technocrats.

7. Further research should be carried out on comparing the impact of the US and the Soviet Union on shaping the industrialisation and social development in developing countries.
8. Additional studies should explore the position of Iran in the global context of nationalisation (particularly where it adopted ideas of governance and ownership from other producers). It partly related to the complex relationship between large-scale enterprise and foreign ownership and management in Iran, especially in the Iranian oil industry, but it merits further investigation.
9. The historiography of a revolution cannot solely be determined by the conflict between the state and social classes. That dichotomy needs to be decentralised in order to open up a third space, for the responses to the conflict from both sides that did not accord with the approach repeatedly propounded by the social scientists.