



## ‘ADL, MOŞTAFĀ

‘ADL, MOŞTAFĀ (b. 1261 Š./1882 – d. 1329 Š./1950), jurist, professor of law, diplomat, minister and senator, known by the title *Manşur-al-Salţana* (FIGURE 1). His father, *Rokn-al-‘Adāla*, was a notable in Azarbaijan and the chief justice of the province of *Ķorāsān* (Mojtahedi, p. 119). ‘Adl received his primary education in his native Tabriz, but went to Egypt to receive his secondary education. He then went to Paris to earn a bachelor’s degree in law (Falsafi, p. 97), before beginning his career by working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For a while, he was the third deputy of the Iranian embassy in Egypt, and then he became the second deputy of the Iranian consulate in Teflis. After a period serving as an assistant in the translation office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ehteşāmi, pp. 102-3), he worked for the Ministry of Justice, during which time he was appointed as a professor in the School of Political Sciences. He subsequently worked for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of the Interior, during which period he received the title of *Manşur-al-Salţana*, before, in 1918, he was given the post of interior minister in *Woţuq-al-Dawla*’s cabinet. After *Naşr-al-Molk* was appointed minister of justice, ‘Adl became his assistant, and then in the short-lived cabinet of *Sayyed Żiā’-al-Din Ṭabāţabā’i*, he was made acting minister of justice (Ṭabāţabā’i, p. 97).

In 1927, in the Ministry of Justice inaugurated by ‘Ali-Akbar Dāvar, ‘Adl was given the position of director general of the department for the preparation of laws and statistics (Şadr, I, p. 290). In this position, he was involved in the preparation and coordination of all the laws ratified at that time. In 1935, he was appointed ambassador to Geneva and permanent representative to the



United Nations. In that capacity, he also served as the head of the hundredth Council of the United Nations (Bāmdād, p. 47). In 1937, he was given the position of the assistant to the minister of foreign affairs, and, during the cabinet of Maḥmud Jam, he directed that Ministry himself (Mas‘udi, p. 41), before becoming Iran’s ambassador to Italy, a position that he held until 1941. Upon the occupation of Iran by the allied forces and the discontinuation of relations between Iran and Italy, he was recalled to Tehran and appointed as chancellor of the College of Law, Political Science, and Economics (Şadiq, p. 59). In the last reform of Foruġi’s cabinet, he was put in charge of the Ministry of Culture, but Foruġi and his cabinet resigned after they received a low approval vote from the Majles. In the cabinet of ‘Ali Sohayli, he also began as minister of culture (Ṭabāṭabā’i, p. 97), and became minister without portfolio in 1943. He continued in that post in the cabinet of Moḥammad-Sā‘ed Marāġā’i. In 1944, he was made minister of justice in Mortazā-Qoli Bayāt’s cabinet. In the cabinets of Ebrāhim Ḥakimi and Moḥsen Şadr, he kept his position as minister without portfolio (Ehteşāmi, p. 104).

In 1945, as the head of the Iranian delegation at a conference in San Francisco, ‘Adl gave a long, persuasive lecture arguing for the de-occupation of Iran and the payment of reparations for the damage caused by the war. He subsequently attended the assembly of the United Nations, and struggled for the recognition of the rights of Iran and her territorial integrity (Ṭabāṭabā’i, p. 97).

In 1947, he was appointed to the post of minister of justice by Aḥmad Qawām, and he then became minister without portfolio once again, a post he kept in the cabinets of ‘Abd-al-Ḥosayn Hażir and Moḥammad-Sā‘ed. He was elected to the first Senate from the province of Azarbaijan (Aḵgar, p. 178), in 1949, a year before he died of cancer.

‘Adl was not only a professor and the chancellor of the College of Law and Political Science, he was also a major legal scholar. For half a century he was a member of all the commissions that were responsible for preparing laws (see [CIVIL CODE](#)). His commentaries on constitutional law and criminal law, which were published in Persian (repeatedly) and French, were taught in the schools of political science and law in Iran. His most significant work is *Hoquq-e madani* (Tehran, 1929), a commentary on Iranian civil law which was published more than ten times and became the model for future commentaries on civil law (Sepahrām, p. 356). In 1928, when the Iranian National Bank was established, ‘Adl was its legal advisor and played an

important role in preparing the laws pertaining to financial and monetary affairs. At one point, he was also a member of the committee supervising the National Bank (Jahānšāhi, p. 28).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

- Moşţafā ‘Adl, *Hoquq-e madani*, Tehran, 1308 Š./1929.
- Aḥmad Aqgar, *Sāl-nāma-ye Aqgar*, Tehran, 1329 Š./1950.
- Mahdi Bāmdād, *Tāriḳ-e rejāl-e Irān*, Tehran, 1353 Š./1974, IV.
- Abu’l-Ḥasan Ehteşāmi, ed., *Bāzigarān-e siāsat*, 1328 Š./1949.
- Eṭṭelā’āt-e sālāna 1341*, Tehran, 1342 Š./1963.
- Naşr-Allāh Falsafī, ed., *Čand parda az zendegāni-e rejāl-e ma’ruf-e Irāni*, 1324 Š./1945.
- ‘Abd-al-‘Ali Jahānšāhi, *Tāriḳ-e si sālā-ye Bānk-e Melli*, Tehran, 1377 Š./1998.
- Moḥammad Mojtahedi, *Tāriḳ-e rejāl-e Āzarbāijān*, Tehran, 1326 Š./1947.
- ‘IsāŞadiq, ed., *Yādegār-e ‘omr*, Tehran, 1353 Š./1974, III.
- Moḥsen Şadr, *Ḳāṭerāt-e Şadr-al-Aşraf*, Tehran, 1364 Š./1985.
- Amir-Mas‘ud Sepahrām, ed., *Tāriḳ-e bargozidagān*, Tehran, 1341 Š./1962.
- ‘Abd-al-Karim Ṭabāṭabā’i, ed., *Noḳostin sāl-nāma-ye donyā*, Tehran, 1324 Š./1945.