



## ANŞARĪ, 'ALĪ-QOLĪ KHAN

**ANŞARĪ, 'ALĪ-QOLĪ KHAN** MOŠĀWER-AL-MAMĀLEK (1247-1319 Š./1868-1940), a career diplomat under the late Qajars. He was the son of Mīrzā Ḥasan Khan Nāyeb-al-wezāra and the grandson of Mīrzā Mas'ūd Khan Garmrūdī Anşārī, the Minister of Foreign Affairs under Moḥammad Shah Qājār (r. 1250-64/1834-48).

Having learnt Russian and French in Trebizond and Astrakhan during his father's tenure of foreign service in these cities, he entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a translator and, in that capacity, accompanied the Persian delegation to the coronation of Tsar Nicholas II ('A. Molkārā, *Šarḥ-e ḥāll*, pp. 198, 206). In 1320/1902-03 he was the chief secretary of the Persian Delegation in Moscow and in 1329/1911 became the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. His first assignment to the post of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, a position he held several times, was in the cabinet formed by 'Abd-al-Ḥosayn Mīrzā Farmānfarmā in 1334/1916. He led the Persian Delegation sent to the peace conference at Versailles (1297/1919), but the Delegation was excluded from the Conference due to the lack of proper support from the government in Tehran, which under the premiership of Mīrzā Ḥasan Khan Woṭūq-al-dawla was then negotiating the [Anglo-Persian Agreement of 1919](#) with the British. The British did not like him, nor were they pleased at all with the nationalistic sentiments expressed by the other member of the Delegation, Ḥosayn 'Alā' Mo'in-al-wezāra (Wm. J. Olson, *Anglo-Iranian Relations*, pp. 216-17, 220, 228-29, 232-33, 234; according to 'A. Mostawfī (*Zendagānī* III, p. 73), Woṭūq-al-dawla had sent him away to Europe in the hope that his absence from Tehran would facilitate



the sanctioning of the agreement, but Olson's study has shown that Anşārī was chosen by Aḥmad Shah against the expressed wishes of the British, who preferred Woṭūq-al-dawla himself to represent Iran at the Conference (see also M. T. Bahār, *Tārīk-e moḵtaṣar-e aḥzāb-e sīāsī, enqerāz-e qāḵārīya*, 2nd ed., Tehran, 1357 Š./1978, p. 37, and Y. Alexander and A. Nanes, eds., *The United States and Iran: A Documentary History*, Frederick, Maryland, 1980, pp. 23-24). He was recalled from Paris and sent as an ambassador to Istanbul. After the fall of Woṭūq-al-dawla's cabinet, the new premier, Mīrzā Ḥasan Khan Mošīr-al-dawla, sent him to Moscow where he successfully negotiated the agreement of 1921 with the Russians, which abrogated all concessions that the Russians had gained in Iran. At about the same time he persuaded the Russian government to stop supplying arms to the revolutionaries in Gīlān (Mostawfī, op. cit., III, p. 193). He was sent to Russia once more in 1306 Š./1927 to negotiate a trade agreement (Ramazani, *Foreign Policy*, p. 209).

According to Mostawfī who knew him both as a friend and as a colleague, Mošāwer-al-mamālek was a handsome man of polished manners, but weak and with occasional stubbornness (op. cit., II, p. 102). Mostawfī's opinion that Mošāwer-al-mamālek was not knowledgeable in the art of diplomacy (ibid.) is contradicted by the latter's successful negotiations with the Russians (see also Mostawfī, ibid.).

#### Bibliography:

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'A. Mostawfī, *ŠarḥĀj-e zendāgānī-e man yātārīkĀ<sup>2</sup>-e edārī o eĵtemā'ī-e dawra-ye qāḵārīya*, 2nd ed., II, Tehran, n.d., passim; III, Tehran, 1343 Š./1964, pp. 133, 183-86, 189-91, 193-94, 551 and passim.

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