



‘AŞR-E ENQELĀB

‘AŞR-E ENQELĀB, later ‘AHD-E ENQELĀB, a journal of news and political comment published at Tehran in 1333-1915. Both titles mean “the age of revolution.” Publication under the first title began on 15 Rabī’ I 1333/31 January 1915. One issue per week was printed until no. 6, thereafter two and later three per week. The holder of the publication license was Mīrzā Āqā Khan Hamadānī (1881?-1945), a former Maĵles deputy and high official (who later adopted the family name Faryār). The editor until issue no. 15 was Dabīr-e Kālwat.

Although *‘Aşr-e enqelāb* lasted less than one year, it was an important constituent of the Iranian press in World War I because it voiced support for the Germans and the Ottoman Turks and opposition to the contemporary Iranian cabinets. For this reason it was banned, but it reappeared for a time under a slightly altered name.

‘Aşr-e enqelāb described itself as a “national, liberal, and independent newspaper which would speak up for the country’s interests and the principle of (national) sovereignty.” ‘Ayn-al-dawla (Solţān ‘Abd-al-Maĵīd Mīrzā), the former grand vizier at the start of the constitutionalist movement, was appointed prime minister in April, 1915. *‘Aşr-e enqelāb* vigorously objected, and in Raĵab, 1333/ June, 1915 it was banned after exception had been taken to an article in its issue no. 29 headed “Islam and the present world situation: The Ottoman empire and the war.” Three months later, however, it reappeared with the title *‘Ahd e enqelāb* under a separate license also held by Mīrzā Āqā Khan Hamadānī. Only thirteen issues of *‘Ahd-e enqelāb*, which came



out twice a week, were produced; the first issue is dated 10 Du‘l-qa‘da 1333/21 September 1915, the last 3 Moḥarram 1334/11 November 1915. Its demise coincided with the banning of numerous other journals, particularly mouthpieces of the opposition, in the wake of the events which prompted the departure of prominent nationalists to Qom and concomitant outbreak of widespread disorders and clashes.

Seven years later, in July and August, 1923, six or eight issues of *‘Ahd-e enqelāb* were printed, under the same publication license, as substitutes for the then banned journal *Omīd*, of which Sa‘īd Nafīsī was the editor; these consisted of four five-column pages measuring 54 x 37 cm. Earlier, in 1922, one issue entitled *‘Aşr-e enqelāb* and four issues entitled *‘Ahd-e enqelāb* had been brought out to fill the gap left by the suspension of the newspaper *Şafaq-e sorkĀ*²; the five issues were brought out by *Şafaq-e sork*’s licensee and editor, ‘Alī Daštī. Another journal with the title *‘Aşr-e enqelāb* appeared in July, 1925, the licensee being Āqā Khan Hamadānī’s son ‘Abdallāh Faryār, but its life was short.

The *‘Aşr-e enqelāb* of 1915 consisted initially of two four-column pages, later of four five column pages measuring 62 x 39.5, while *‘Ahd e enqelāb* had four five column pages measuring 59 x 42 cm. Both carried advertisements and small numbers of illustrations. The price of each was five *şāhīs* per copy. The annual subscription rate for *‘Aşr-e enqelāb* was 40 *qerāns* in Tehran, 45 in the provinces, and 60 abroad; for *‘Ahd-e enqelāb* fifty, fifty-five, and sixty *qerāns* respectively.

A complete set of these two journals is preserved in the National Library at Tehran. Incomplete sets are available in the other main libraries in Iran.

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اسر و انقلاب اسر و انقلاب