



RASTKIZ

RASTKIZ (Resurrection): With the outbreak of the First World War, a group of Iranian expatriates in Europe, headed by Sayyed Ḥasan Taqizāda, formed the Iranian Nationalists Committee (Komita-ye melliun-e Irāni) in Berlin in opposition to the Anglo-Russian domination of Iran. The strongly pro-German Committee established regular contacts with Iranian activists both inside and outside Iran, and dispatched a group of intellectuals to the west of Iran and to what is now Iraq, early in the summer of 1915, to advance the Committee's agenda, including the publication of a newspaper. Named *Rastkiz*, it circulated weekly in Baghdad. Eight issues were published, from 26 Ramaẓān to 17 Du'l-qa'da, 1333/August 8, to September 28, 1915; until the approach of the English forces resulted in the suspension of its publication in Baghdad and its move to Kermānšāh. Subsequently, *Rastkiz* was circulated twice a week in Kermānšāh, and a total of sixteen issues were published from 19 Šafar to 10 Rabi' II, 1334/January 1 through February 14, 1916, until the approach of the Russian forces precluded further activity (Purdāvud, p. 11). Returning briefly to Baghdad, the last issue was printed there on 29 Jomādā I, 1334/April 3, 1916 (Moṣṭafavi, p. 94), after which *Rastkiz* was closed down permanently due to the objections and opposition of the Ottoman authorities (Purdāvud, "Nāma az Eslāmbol be Taqizāda, 10 August 1916," in *Nāmahā-ye Tehran*, ed. Ḥasan Taqizāda, Tehran, 1999, p. 8).

Ebrāhim Purdāvud was the primary force behind *Rastkiz*, and the author of the majority of the articles and poems that were published in the newspaper. However, his name did not appear on the masthead until the 11th issue. In



Baghdad a certain ‘Abd-al-Amir, and in Kermānšāh, Moḥammad Taqī Yazdī, were identified as the managing editors. Some sources (Āryanpur, II, p. 279; Balaḡ p.113) have identified Moḥammad ‘Alī Jamālzāda as a collaborator with, and at times founder of *Rastkiz*, but this is unfounded. Similarly unsubstantiated is the assertion that Mehdi Farahpur, publisher of *Bisotun*, worked on the issues of *Rastkiz* that were printed in Kermānšāh (Marduḡ Rowḡāni, p. 250). It should also be noted that *Rastkiz* newspaper, contrary to the assertion of Moḥammad Moḡiṭ Ṭabāṭabā’i (Moḡiṭ Ṭabāṭabā’i p. 203), was not the organ of the provisional government, which was formed in Kermānšāh in February 1916, and was headed by Reza-Qoli Nezām-al-Saltāna Māfi.

Rastkiz was, above all, a political newspaper with a nationalist bent and pro-German tendencies. The editorials played an important role in the newspaper, and were always accompanied by a patriotic verse from Purdāvud, published under the pen name Gol. The first issue of the newspaper in Kermānšāh featured a political *mosammaṭ* in Kurdish, which was also reprinted in *Kaweh* in Berlin (“Aš’ār-e kordi-e vaṭāni,” *Kaweh*, Jomādā I, 1334). *Rastkiz* of Kermānšāh, in contrast to *Rastkiz* of Baghdad, also featured non-political articles.

In Baghdad, *Rastkiz* was printed by Maṭba’a-ye Dankur, and consisted of 4 pages measuring 28 x 40 cm. It was printed in 4 columns without images, with high quality paper and lettering. The first issue consisted of 8 pages. The annual subscription in Iran was 1 tomān and in the Ottoman Empire, 30 Kuruş. In Kermānšāh, the newspaper was printed in Šerāfat Aḡmadi printing house. The first five issues measured 23.5×35 cm, arranged in two columns without images. Subsequently, the newspaper measured 31.5×42 cm, and was arranged in three columns. The annual subscription was established at 12 qerān in Kermānšāh.

An incomplete series of *Rastkiz* is kept in the Majles Library and a number of Baghdad issues in the Mo’assesa-ye moṭāle’āt-e tārik-e mo’āšer.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Iraj Afšār, *Savad o bayāz*, II, Tehran, 1970, pp. 564-67.

Yaḥyā Āryanpur, *Az Šabā tā Nimā*, II, Tehran, 1972, p. 279.

Idem, *Az Šabā tā Nimā*, III, Tehran, 2001 p. 150-54.

Christophe Balaÿ & Michel Cuypers, *Aux sources de la nouvelle Persane*, Paris 1983, p. 113.

Mohammad Ali Djamalzadeh “Introduction,” in *Djamalzadeh: choix des nouvelles*, tr. by S. Corbin & H. Lotfi Paris, 1959, pp. 16-17.

Mehdi Malakzāda, *Ġiam-e Ādarbāyjān dar enqelāb-e mašrūṭiyat*, Tehran, 1983, p.498.

Bābā Marduḵ Rowḥāni, *Tāriḳ-e mašāhir-e kord*, II, Tehran, 1987, p. 350.

Moḥammad Moḥiṭ Ṭabāṭabā’i, *Tāriḳ-e taḥlilī-e maṭbū’āt-e Iran*, Tehran, 1987, p. 203.

‘Ali Ašḡar Mošṭafavi, *Zamān o zendagi-e ostād Purdāvud*, Tehran, 1993, p. 94.

Ali Norouse, (Hasan Moghdam) “Registre analytique de la presse persane depuis la guerre,” *Revue du monde musulman*, LX 1925, no. 47.

Ebrāhim Purdāvud, “Dibāča,” *Purāndokt-nāma: Divān-e Purdāvud* (no place, no date), pp. 11-12.

Taqizāda, ed., *Nāmahā-ye Tehran*, Tehran, 1999, p. 8.

Bāqer Šākeri, *Tāriḳčā-ye maṭbū’āt-e Kermānšāh*, Kermānšāh, 1957, p. 168.