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Introduction to Ghazi Amanullah Khan's Administrative and Economic Reforms

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ABSTRACT

Shah Ghazi Amanullah Khan is the founder of a new and modern Afghanistan. Throughout his reign, significant changes and innovations have taken place in Afghanistan's economic, legal, and social aspects. The purpose of the research study is to deeply analyze the administrative and economic structure of Ghazi Amanullah Khan's government. Besides, to identify those factors which positively affect the economic and administrative structure of Ghazi Amanullah Khan's government. As well as, to explain the overall leadership in the era of Ghazi Amanullah Khan. The doctrinal research methodology and a descriptive, explanatory, and analytical research approaches are used in this work. According to well-known historians and the study of history in terms of administrative and economic structure and achievements the government of Ghazi Amanullah Khan was considered one of the advanced governments of the era. Moreover, one of Ghazi Amanullah Khan's reforms was that he created national symbols such as state emblems, national days, national anthem, national flag, medals, and national currency. All of these were part of Ghazi Amanullah Khan's reforms. The researcher suggests and recommend to the central and local government to implement them in their central and local institutions.

INTRODUCTION

Ghazi Amanullah Khan is the son of Amir Habibullah Khan who was given the title of Ain al-Dawla (Eyes of the State). The people of Afghanistan started a movement and a struggle for independence and sovereignty after the assassination of Amir Habibullah Khan in 1919. In the same year, on March 1, Afghan Freedom Supporters with the coordination of the second son of Amir Habibullah Khan, Sardar Amanullah Khan, started the war of independence from the British. After ten years of reign, as a result of internal turmoil, Amanullah Khan handed over the reins of the kingdom to his brother, Sardar Inayatullah Khan. The Ghazi Amanullah Khan's greatest change and achievement is the attainment of independence, for which the entire Afghan people are grateful. Ghazi Amanullah Khan was not only the founder of independence but also the pioneer and mobilizing king of the old and traditional Afghanistan towards progress, prosperity, and modernization (Shir, J. 2012).

It would not be fair to say that all the energy of Shah Amanullah Khan was spent on liberation from British occupation, and Shah did not spend much time on the idea of the development of Afghanistan. Some politicians think that Shah immediately inclined to Russia to get rid of the British occupation and wanted to build and expand the relationship with it for that purpose. From the beginning, Shah had a strong commitment to administrative reform, which he saw as the path to prosperity and well-being for the Afghan people. After the proclamation of political independence, he for his government announced a roadmap of the basic services, which was presented on February 28, 1919. He wrote:

The government of Afghanistan, like all other independent states in the world, must be independent inside and

outside. The Afghan nation is independent inside the country and outside the country and must be protected from injustice, oppression, and coercion. All countrymen are obliged to obey the law. Tyranny and forced labor are forbidden in all matters and are announced to be abolished from today onwards. Our government will work to bring about reforms in Afghanistan so that our nation and government find a special place and greatness among the rest of the world. I will make it my duty to consult on all matters of the country, and it will be an inspiration for me. "As soon as the king came to power with his strong will and determination, he took rapid steps towards political independence. By winning internal and external independence, Hazrat Amanullah Khan made a place in the heart of every Afghan. In the very early years of independence, quick steps were taken for reforms. Shah Ghazi Amanullah Khan's strong determination gave the Afghan people a precious gift of political independence after so many years. He, in all his political meetings, trips, and gatherings for full political freedom, had discussions with a resolute intention and with a high morale. That is why he announced, while wearing his military uniform, saying, "I will not put off this uniform until I bring freedom to my motherland." (Mahboob, M. S., & Saeedi, S.S 2020). It was his strong will that compelled the British to accept Afghanistan's political independence.

From a historical point of view, Shah Ghazi Amanullah Khan is generally known as the winner of political independence in Afghanistan and has adopted the title of Ghazi. In terms of introduction and remembrance, most of the writers and academicians emphasize his political activities. Meanwhile, Shah Ghazi Amanullah has worked and focused on administrative and economic programs in addition to the great achievement of regaining political

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independence. The economic and administrative reforms implemented by him have given a new look to Afghanistan. In this sense, it is important that the information related to his achievements in the economic and administrative fields be described in this article.

Research questions

1. What kind of economic reforms have been made in the Afghan economy by Ghazi Amanullah Khan?
2. What kind of administrative reforms have been made in the administrative system by Ghazi Amanullah Khan?
3. How did the economic and administrative reforms affect the Afghan economy and administration?

Research objectives

1. To explain and analyzed the economic reforms in the Afghan economy.
2. To explain and analyzed the administrative reforms in the Afghan administrative system.
3. To critically defined the economic and administrative reforms that affect the Afghan economy and administration.

METHODOLOGY

The doctrinal research methodology and a descriptive, explanatory, and analytical research approaches are used in this work. It is worth mentioning that this research study is entirely based on library sources. Most of the sources are reputable and trustworthy textbooks, scholarly published and unpublished journal articles, law reports, and online websites related to the research area.

DISCUSSION

New Series of Economic Reforms

The Amani period, overall, has been a golden era of economic, administrative, and social development for the country. However, with the development of all these aspects, the significant parts are the creation, evolution, and strengthening of administrative reforms and economic programs. Most of the visible portions of the economic, administrative, and social life that we observe now originate from the Amani Period.

Ghazi Amanullah Khan first started reforms in the financial section. In his reign, work on transparent tax collection was done. Then, for the government budget, different approaches were taken into consideration to bring positive changes for which various programs were launched. As mentioned earlier, the Amani Movement introduced a series of unique and significant reforms to better regulate the financial sector, such as the first modern financial records system in Kabul to organize the financial and administrative tasks. Under the supervision of Mirza Mujtaba, a special school was opened, where its graduates were hired in high posts to run the financial and administrative dealings of the country. For the first time, the tax collection system was established using modern and sophisticated methods, and the national budget was financed entirely from internal sources.

The policy of borrowing from the national budget was formulated in such a way that even the king was given a limit for spending. Because the clergy, aristocrats, and tribal leaders were denied numerous facilities and treasure, the state budget was equated with the separation of revenues and expenditures in the years 1923 and 1924, and the budget was fully met from national resources and revenues, and there was no deficit. After Ahmad Shah Baba's empire, it was the first state in the history of Afghanistan to be able to meet the national budget from its own revenues. However, as the facilities and privileges were reduced to be given to the clergy, aristocrats, and tribal leaders, they started resistance to Amanullah Khan's reforms. Another visible aspect of the resistance towards the reforms was that the intellectual genius of the people of that time, lack of understanding of the issues, lack of public awareness, backwardness and foreign conspiracies were the reasons which could be mentioned.

The imposition of higher taxes, the enactment of domestic law, and the obligation of strict government oversight on the internal affairs of the people, the prevention of privileges of clergy, aristocrats, and tribal leaders, were among the things that made people sensitive to the Shah's reforms. This sensitivity was intensified when Shah sent Afghan girls to Europe and Turkey for education for the first time in 1925, so this issue was misused for the Shah's infidelity, and the people revolted, but still Shah did not back down from his rulings. Later, in 1928, Gul Agha Mujaddidi received a fatwa of infidelity for Shah from 400 religious' scholars, and an armed insurgency started till Shinwaries and Khogyanies looted army bases and centers as well as blazed the British Consulate. In the same year, in December, the rebels sent the conditions of peace and reconciliation to the king to cancel the social reforms and return their daughters from abroad. The king did not agree to this, although he took his rulings back on social reforms. But now the situation was out of control and the insurgency had reached its climax.

Some observers cite the rapid reforms by Ghazi Amanullah Khan, which were not convenient to Afghan culture and society. The general conspiracy and the intervention of foreigners were the factors that made the Afghan people, especially the aristocracy and the clergy, prejudiced, which prevented the reforms of the Amani period, and the king reluctantly stopped implementing them. (Osman, 2005). The economic and managerial reforms of the Amani period are more significant than the social reforms and have yielded more results. The reason is that before the Amani period, the administrative and economic sectors of Afghanistan had problems, and in addition, the 19th century was the beginning of development all over the world and in particular in South Asia and Afghanistan.

However, it is worth mentioning that when Afghanistan gained its political freedom and became independent in foreign policy, the British Empire withheld aid that was provided to the Afghan government. The Afghan government had been receiving some aid from other countries such as Russia, Turkey, Germany, Italy, and

France. But that aid was not as much as from the British Empire. Therefore, the government was facing a series of problems. To cope with these problems, the government started reforming and controlling the government budget, for which they imposed high taxes on farmers, traders, and the common people, which made them upset and angry. According to some historical sources, Germany provided significant assistance to Afghanistan in this regard and maintained its diplomatic presence in Kabul (Shah, 2012). For the strengthening of the national economy, the Amani Movement, for the first time, through regular investment in the private sector and the public sector, has created new companies and business entities. Private companies, such as Ruffaqai Afghan, Tanvirat, Motors, Darmal, Etihad Afghan, Zia, and Qamar are some of them. In state-owned companies, Amania and Samar, in

addition to foreign companies, such as the Soviet Union and various German companies, were set up, which paved the way for new and foreign investment. For the first time, Afghanistan, including Asia, was connected to the European economic market through a systematic mechanism. Well-known writer and economist, Professor Muhammad Bashir Dodyal, in his research paper, which was on “the 100th anniversary of Afghanistan’s independence”, declared that, “If we look at the history of Afghanistan’s economic reform and modernization, the best period would be the Amani period. Due to those reforms, the government revenue was increased and the national budget was financed from its own internal sources, and so the annual income increased from 80 million to 180 million Afs, which was achieved from the following resources (Hotak, Z. 2020).

Table 1: State Annual Income Tax

S/No	The Sources of Collecting Taxes	Annual Tax
1	Land Tax	80 Million
2	Animal Tax	25 Million
3	Customs Tax	40 Million
4	Income from Tazkira or Identity Cards Services	10 Million
5	Miscellaneous Income and Tax	25 Million
Total Annual Taxes		180 Million

The Amani Government Annual Expenses are below:

Table 2: The State Budget Annual Expenses

S/No	The State Budget Expenses Detail	Annual Tax
1	Ministry of Defense Expenses	40 million
2	Ministry of Education Expenses	15 million
3	Foreign Ministry Expenses	7 million
4	Ministry of Finance Expenses	3 million
5	Construction and Rehabilitation Expenses	10 million
6	Ministry of Darbar (Palace) Expenses	20 million
7	Ministry of Interior Expenses	12 million
8	Ministry of Justice Expenses	2 million
9	Miscellaneous Expenses, Purchase and Saving	67 million
Total Annual Expenses of the State		176 million

Change in Barter System

Barter is a system of transactions in which banknotes are not used but goods are exchanged for goods, such as wheat for wheat or wheat for barley. It is still in operation in some remote areas as goats and sheep are given in exchange for motors. Reformative steps were taken for the first time during the reign of Shah Ghazi Amanullah Khan and transactions took place in cash for purchasing goods. Cash taxes were also levied on land, cash and property. This was a transparent and innovative initiative as the state budget was attained in cash, while earlier the tax was paid to the state budget in goods, which had many problems in its quality, type and quantity. So, it was another innovation of the Amani period, when he abolished the barter system and introduced reforms to increase government revenue transparently. Through this organized system, the taxpayers were directly linked to the government and cash taxes were collected for the state budget.

Introduction of Banknotes

Ghazi Amanullah Khan introduced banknotes in the name of the Kabuli Rupee for the first time in 1298 Hijra as part of a series of initiatives for financial reform. On the right side of the coin were the insignia of the Government of Afghanistan (Mihrab and Minbar). In the center was the emblem of the Amani government, and on the left side in Dari, a Kabuli Rupee “Yak Rupee Kabuli” was inscribed. In the following part of the money in Dari, “In the treasury of the state, this note is meant to be the amount of the money” was written.

The currency was later renamed to Afghani and during the year 1299, for the first time, One Rupee, Five Rupee, Fifty Rupee and One Hundred Rupee were printed and issued. The banknotes were printed in four languages, Pashto, Dari, Urdu and Turkish. It seems that these notes were also acceptable outside Afghanistan (Hotak, Z. 2020).

Establishment of Supreme Audit Office

Shah Amanullah Khan was committed to taking measures at the government level to curb corruption. For this purpose, he set up an audit agency called Diwan-e-Sanjesh in 1300 Hijra. The purpose of the agency was to control and use accurately the state income and expenditures as mentioned in the Nizamnama. The agency was established in order to monitor the transparency of the revenue of the state budget as well as control its expenditure. This agency was active in different eras with various names. The agency was declared in the interim government as an independent inspection and control body, which was renamed to the Supreme Audit Office in 1392, following a decree protocol number (1101) from President Hamid Karzai (Hotak, Z. 2020).

Reforming Legal and Judicial System and Establishing Constitution for Good Governance

As aforementioned, Ghazi Amanullah Khan, with his broad vision, embarked on reforms with strong will and full determination for fundamental changes in all the affairs of the country. A comprehensive approach was taken into consideration to have good governance, where the fundamental rights of all the people are met with justice, for which a constitution was compiled, and it was a source of pride for Afghans to have a constitution for the first time in the region.

Regarding the work done by Shah Ghazi Amanullah Khan for wide-ranging reforms in the judiciary, the official website of the Ministry of Justice writes as: "After getting independence, Amanullah Khan brought significant changes in politics, economics, administration, and the judiciary." In Hamal, 1298, the Ministry of Justice was established under the name of Nizarat Adalia (Observational Court). Mohammad Ibrahim Khan Barakzai was appointed as the Minister of Justice for the first time, and Meer Zaman-ud-Din "Badakhshi" was the advisor. In addition to the Ministry of Justice, there were four types of courts: the Correctional Court, the Primary Court, the Court of Appeal, and the Distinction Court. All cases were sent to the Islahi Court (Correctional Court) first, and if both parties could not agree, the case was sent to the Lomri Mahkama (Primary Court). All the decisions of the Tameez Court (Distinction Court) (excluding hanging or life imprisonment, which were signed by the Ministry of Justice and would reach the King) must be executed. The Intellectual Council, State Council, and law-forming councils were established. These bodies worked on various Nizamnamas (legislations), which would be printed at the High Council of Ministers' publication and would be later published at Rafeeq Printing Center.

In article 33 of Nizamnama, under the heading of the basic structures, besides the central administration, it identifies the Ministry of Justice and its functions as "the Ministry of Justice is assigned to control the justice and order bodies in Afghanistan".

The structure of the Ministry of Justice in the Nizamnama of 1355 was as under:

- > Legal Affairs Management.
- > Executive Management.
- > Business Management.
- > Management of employees
- > Correspondence Management.

In the 35th article of the same Nizamnama, it is mentioned:

"In the Ministry of Justice, there is a High Board of Appeal, Department of Kotwali, Staff Management, Accounting Circuit, Recording Circuit, and Documents Circuit."

When the Ministry of Justice was established, the Supreme Court also existed as below:

Military Judge, Appellate Law Judge, Criminal Appeal Judge, Primary Criminal Appeal Judge, Civil Servants, Primary and Appellate Court Judge, Judge of Bails, and Judge of Correctional Court.

The Legislative Council, which later on came to be known as the Council of State, was formed on the 24th of Hamal in 1299 under the chairmanship of Sardar Sher Ahmad Khan and with the assistance of Badri Beg Turaki for the improvement of laws.

The members of this council were Naik Mohammad Khan, Fateh Mohammad Khan, Juma Khan, Habibullah Khan, Abdul Ghani Khan, Najaf Ali Khan, and Mohammad Qasim Khan, who worked hard, compiled, and processed 76 Nizamnamas. The Nizamnama, which was approved by the Paghman Loya Jirga (High Council) in 1301 Hijra, is considered one of the most important political and legal documents in the country.

As far as the historical texts show, if there was a need to prepare a Nizamnama for any ministry or organization, the ministry or organization would prepare the draft, submit it to the Council of Ministers, after its research and analysis, it would be presented to the council of the ministers in the presence of the king, and after its approval, it would be handed over to the first authority for implementation. (Barech & Barech, 2018). The first constitution of Afghanistan, under the name of Nizamnama Asasi (Basic Legislation), was codified and approved by the Loya Jirga in Kabul in the year 1303 Hijra with the participation of 1504 delegates.

CONCLUSION

In spite of all the difficulties and challenges, Afghanistan has been subject to a wide variety of ideologies while Amanullah Khan has been the ruler. Independence, a spirited opposition to colonialism, the development of economic plan and policies, administrative reforms, the provisions of human rights, and the rights of children. As well as democratic values, all contributed to a shift in the meaning and concept of patriotism within the context of a nationwide intellectual platform in the country.

Despite the fact that all of these efforts were only temporary, they have been engraved in the minds of Afghans for more than a century. It is possible that Shah Amanullah's development policies and reforms, who is widely recognized as a champion and pioneer of

modernization and fundamental changes or developments in the country, can be demonstrated to be an effective model that can be followed for another hundred years.

The failure of Amanullah Khan's reforms, like any other major political phenomenon, had been the product of a complex set of internal and external factors, some of which were objective in nature, and others of which were associated with the secret service agencies that were located outside the border of the country. Despite all these internal and external complexes set of factors, Shah Ghazi Amanullah Khan spent all his energy on reconstruction, intellectual innovation, a new Afghanistan and profound reforms in all areas. The researcher suggests and recommend to the central and local government to study deeply on different policies and tactics of Amanullah Khan to implement them in their central and local institutions.

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