

Foundation for Iranian Studies

Program of Oral History

DR. ABDOL-AZIM VALIAN

بنیاد مطالعات ایران

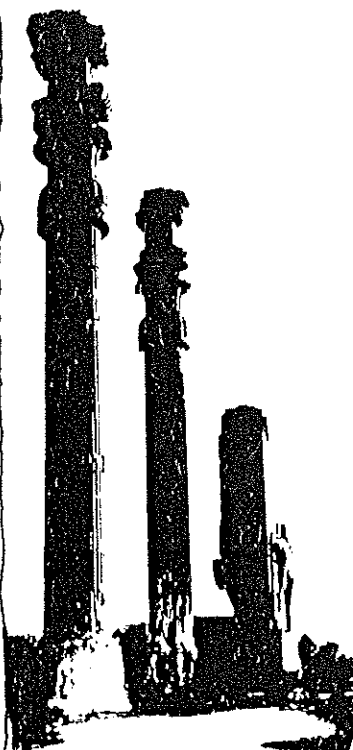
Foundation for Iranian Studies

INTERVIEW WITH ABDOL-AZIM VALIAN

WASHINGTON, D.C., APRIL 1983

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INTERVIEWED BY AHMED GHOREICHI



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PREFACE

This manuscript is the product of a series of tape-recorded interviews conducted for the Oral History of Iran Program of Foundation for Iranian Studies by Ahmad Qoreyshi with Abdolazim Valian in Washington. D.C. in April and May, 1983.

Readers of this Oral History memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, narrator and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. Foundation for Iranian Studies is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein.

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ABDOL-AZIM VALIAN

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Born in 1926 in Isphahan, Abdol-Azim Valian attended the Officer Training College in his youth. He then attended Tehran University and received a Ph.D. in Political Science. He reached the rank of colonel in the army, but then entered government service in the Ministry of Agriculture. His promotion to the post of Director General, Inspection and Supervision and Managing Director of the Land Reform Organization brought him national prominence. He was appointed Minister of Land Reform and Rural Cooperatives with the mission to organize the new ministry and implement the plans and programs for the development of the rural communities.

Dr. Valian later became the governor-general of the Khorasan Province and Guardian of the Endowment and Properties of the Shrine of Imam Reza. Dr. Valian is well acquainted with the problems and achievements of the land reform program. He has first hand knowledge of the personalities involved in the administration of the program. His memoirs are also valuable in that they reveal much concerning the relationship between the government and the religious personages in Khorasan during the period preceding the 1979 revolution. His participation in the High Council of Economics which had weekly meetings chaired by the Shah gave him access to information regarding economic planning and decision making.

Dr. Valian's memoirs offer interesting information accessible to him through his special positions at crucial historical periods. His comments on the clergy and the feudal land lords, groups which he was in close contact with at sensitive moments are of special value to scholars of contemporary Iranian history.

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