

بنیاد مطالعات ایران برنامه تاریخ شفاهی

AQA KHAN BAKHTIYAR

INTERVIEW WITH AQA KHAN BAKHTIYAR

INTERVIEWED BY SHUSHA ASSAR

LONDON, DECEMBER 1985

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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 Shusha Assar with Aqa Khan Bakhtiyar in London in December, 1985.

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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" تاریخ شفاهی ایران " را به بنیاد مطالعات ایران هدیه میکنم
تا در اجرای برنامه های آموزشی و تحقیقاتی بنیاد مورد استفاده قرار
گیرد.

ملاحظات :

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Aqa Khan Bakhtiyar was born to a prominent Bakhtiyari Khan in Poshtkuh, in the Bakhtiyari region in southern Iran, in 1911. At the age of five he was sent to the American school in Esfahan, and when fourteen he was enrolled in the American school of Tehran. In 1929 he was sent to England in order to continue his education. Bakhtiyar returned to Iran as a mechanical engineer, and joined in the Officer Corps of the Iranian Armed Forces. After two years of service in the Military, Bakhtiyar began to work with oil-related or development oriented projects in the private sector. Eventually he became a member of Ebtehaj's team, who were concerned with development in Iran. Bakhtiyar's career was complimented with his interest in politics on behalf of his tribe. Consequently, he was elected to the Majles. During the Mossadeq era, Bakhtiyar was active in government politics, but turned down offers of government position. After the Events of 1953, Bakhtiyar became the Chairman of the Agriculture Bank and the Mortgage Bank. He was later appointed Minister of Labor. As Minister he was responsible for the formulation and passage of important labor and legislation bills in the Majles. After a brief interlude in the private sector, Mr. Bakhtiyar joined the NIOC as a member of the Board of Governors. He remained at the NIOC until his retirement from government service.

Mr. Bakhtiyar's recollections not only shed light on important government policy making procedures pertaining to labor relations and oil, but tell much about the politics of the Bakhtiyari region, and provide invaluable insights into the political career of prominent contemporary Iranian statesmen.

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