Sheikh Mahmoud Barzanji and his Efforts for the Establishment of the Kurdistan | (Kemal Rashid)

Abstract

This study aims at shedding light on an important era after the First World War in the history of Kurdistan during which the region suffered from political and administrative vacuum and it was filled by the emergence of the leader known as Sheikh Mahmoud Barzanji. He shot to renown in the period that witnessed many serious political events as well as numerous attempts of many of Eastern and Western countries to dominate the Kurdistan after the end of the Ottoman Empire. Sheikh Mahmoud Barzanji grew up in a religious family known for its agility in Islamic Sharī'ah sciences and political and military struggle. The British supported his call for the establishment of the Kurdish Kingdom and their aim behind this support was to weaken the Ottoman power in the region. Later on Sheikh Mahmoud Barzanji collided with both the British and Russia, and in year 1918 he was ushered in as the king of Kurdistan. His government announced decrees three times and the Kingdom of Kurdistan fell in 1925 and became part of the Kingdom of Iraq. This study found numerous attempts of many of Eastern and Western countries to dominate the Kurdistan after the end of the Ottoman Empire, however, Sheikh Mahmoud Barzanji remained firm on his principles and refused to abandon them against the financial incentives offered to him by the Turks and the British. Sheikh Mahmoud Barzanji proved to be a democratic person as he struggled for the representation of all sects of the Kurdish community and all of its components in his government, including non-Muslims. He also worked hard to cooperate with the Muslims of the region as he supported the Turks in their war against the Russians and the Arab the southern Iraq against the British.

Keywords: Mahmoud Barzanji, Kurdistan, struggle of the Kurds, Alborzniyyon, British occupation.

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