

such righteous abhorrence that for a time it strengthened what it was intended to end or at least weaken, namely, the influence and power of the Kajar dynasty.

The people patiently waited for what the reign of the new Shah, Muzaffar ed din, might bring forth. He was already sick in body when he came to the throne in 1896. His characteristics, previous life, and education had not been such as to fit him to rule the country during a transition period of very critical and trying circumstances. The unfulfilled promises of this Shah, the hopes encouraged by each succeeding Grand Vezir, and the extravagance of the court while the people were in poverty and the country without industrial prosperity, led to the unrest in Teheran, and in fact all over Persia, which culminated in the constitutional reforms granted by Muzaffar ed din just before his death.

In 1906 a great crowd assembled in the principal mosque of Teheran and denounced the Grand Vezir, the government, and the administration, and demanded reforms. Riots followed and several persons were killed. Thousands went to the British Legation and took sanctuary. Among the things they demanded were a constitutional government and a representative system.

Muzaffar ed din Shah conceded their demands and on August 14, 1906, made a royal decree for the formation of a National Assembly ; the election ordinance was issued by his decree on September 9, 1906 ; and the Persian National Assembly was opened by the Shah on October 4, 1906, within three months after the demonstration in the mosque above referred to. The new Constitution was signed by Muzaffar ed din Shah on December 30, 1906, and also sealed by the Crown Prince, who had hastened from Tabriz to Teheran owing to the critical illness of the Shah, and by the Grand Vezir. The Crown Prince was required to seal it as a condition of his succeeding