

King Zog of Albania and his Vision for the Modernization of the Country

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Abstract: *The Zog I was probably the strangest monarch of the twentieth century. The Times called him 'the bizarre King Zog' and his biographer, Jason Tomes, quotes descriptions of him ranging from 'a despotic brigand' to 'the last ruler of romance'. He created his throne for himself and as Europe's only Muslim king ruled Europe's most obscure country. He had started life as Ahmed Bey Zogolli or Ahmed Zogu in 1895, the son of an Albanian chief, when the country was still part of the Ottoman empire. Order broke down during the First World War as other Balkan countries tried to seize areas of Albania. From 1920 there was a succession of short-lived governments, in which Zogu held various posts until he was driven into exile in 1924. He returned at the end of the year, crossing the northern border into Albania with Yugoslav backing and an army of mercenaries recruited with money supplied by international oil companies and rich Albanian families. Another mercenary army, led by Zogu's lieutenants, invaded from the south.*

Keywords: Satisfaction, King, Albania, Vision, Peace, Invasion, World War

1. Introduction

When Zogu swiftly established himself as Albania's dictator with the title of president. He had his principal opponents murdered and ruled by force – there was no other effective way of ruling Albania – but Zogu realized that he could only survive with support from abroad and decided to rely on the Italians. A military alliance was signed in 1927 and Italy soon dominated Albania.

In 1928, with Italian approval, Zogu, who genuinely wanted to modernize his Ruritanian country, decided to make his dictatorship permanent. A new Constituent Assembly, elected under strict government control, proclaimed Albania a monarchy under Zog I, King of the Albanians. There was not the slightest vestige of self-government left in Albania at the end of the war. There was no centralized power, no real leader who could present a case for the country and demand its inherent rights.

Accordingly, the Italian Foreign Minister, Baron Sonino, convoked a Congress in Durazzo, which assembled on Christmas Day, 1918. The Italians, who intended to keep their control over Albania, did not relish the idea of a national government, but planned instead a form of National Council and Executive Committee to be thrown as a sop to the Albanian people.

Although the Congress had been convoked with this in view, it did not obey its orders, setting up instead a provisional government. But it lacked authority, and the Supreme Italian Command continued to administer the government through its military representatives.

Moreover, the Peace Conference in Paris could think of nothing better than to partition Albania, and present choice districts to those countries that had had the good sense to throw in their lot with the victorious Allies. A small Moslem principality around Durazzo was to be created, under Italian mandate; and Italy and Greece were to divide up what had not already been sliced off. Accordingly, in August 1919,

two representatives of the Durazzo Government signed an agreement with Italy, recognizing the protectorate and accepting an Italian high commissioner.

It was precisely for these reasons that Zogu definitely opposed this new government, and fought it continually until its downfall. The country was in a state of anarchy, from which the Italian occupation was hardly capable of extracting it. The French had left the southern regions to Greece, and Albanians everywhere were in despair. From all parts of the country emigrants attempted to make their way out. There seemed to be little hope for the future.

At this critical moment, the Albanian delegates to the Peace Conference secretly notified their countrymen that they could expect no help from outside. Salvation lay in themselves alone. Once more the desperate patriots decided to meet. Zogu was notified, and with his followers he left Mat for Lushnia, passing right through the midst of the Italian army. Lushnia was the headquarters of the Italian troops, and forces were being concentrated on it in order to stop the proposed revolutionary meeting. But, recognising the fighting qualities of Zogu's Mati warriors, the Italians decided it would be wiser to permit the Congress to go on with its business.

Satisfied, then, that Zogu's troops, stationed strategically on the hillsides overlooking the town, would be sufficient to protect them, the delegates began to debate their next move.

A provisional government was formed, Zogu being elected Minister of the Interior by unanimous acclamation. He was authorized to return to Tirana and take the reins of government in his hands, in spite of the Italian opposition. He therefore left at once for the capital.

2. King Zog and his new vision for Albania

Realizing the parliament importance on approving the law, Zogu cared a lot that his communication with this institution should be done through a simple and understandable language, especially when it came to formulating the decree-laws, as the one that would regulate religious communities in

Albania, as far as he stated, "... to the base that our state free does not want in any way to interfere in the consciousness of its nationals, one of the matters that gives credit to our Orthodox Albanians, is the creation and stabilization of the Albanian Autocephalous Orthodox Church." (Albania, 1929)

Zogu was visionary on the idea of exploiting and adapting adjustment in function of Albanian geographical position for the development and civilization with its rapidity when saying that "our geographical State occurrence forces us that Albania as soon as possible transforms to the ranks of civilized states" (Dielli, 1929). But it is interesting the analysis that he did to this opening process and adaptation. Zogu noted that, due to invasions by various invaders in years, the country had inherited a large cultural backwardness. An opening to the civilized world would put culture and tradition in front of a large pressure and imminent which would have its positive consequences but even negative ones.

Thus, together with more positive elements of the civilized world will enter many addiction like laziness or ineptitude. Preparing the state to afford this invasion, Zogu hastened to initiate protective measures for the state administration, as it was the creation of a special commission which will control and will inspect all state administration "so to cut down, once for all the favoritism and incapability." Likewise, giving attention to education abroad to a largely Albanian students, he tried to make it accompanied with employment programs after their return to their homeland "in order not to wander in the streets of Albanian cities, but to have the possibility to work in Albanian administration based on knowledge obtained in school." This would create a Western mentality in Albanian state administration.

Also, the Art. 162 attributed the King to nominate the Council of State through double candidates selected by a special commission consisting of the Prime Minister, the President of Parliament and Minister of Justice.

At the same time, he had the right to nominate and dismiss the President of the institution. In datas and documents of the time we have found that this description was arranged "... according to the Law on the organization of the State Council approved by Parliament and promulgated by his Majesty- The King According to the note No. 21 / II dated March 28, 1929 to Ministry of the Royal Court. (AMPJ, 1929)

Under this law, Council members should enjoy civil and political rights and were not convicted of any crime or forgery, fraud, abuse of confidence or offenses against good customs, had reached the age of 30 years but not over 60 years old. Council consisted of three sections: the judiciary, administration, finance and national economy. According to Article 5 of the Law on the Organization and Council Function, he was entitled to the explanation of provisions that might be dark and he would review in order to " verdict district on decisions given by the Administrative Section of the Council of State and given appellately data over the decisions of the Administrative Councils of prefectures and all those given from these decisions appellately on Administrative Councils of Sub-prefecture.

To settle tance and obligatory each attribute conflict between different Ministries, owes to show the opinion within two weeks on any matter that shall be referred by Council of Ministers or by any Ministry, especially.

Mandatory, the Council of State referred to every Draft-Law or regulation, or draft- concession agreement. He, when preparing or reviewing, handed them accompanied by an explanatory report - opinion accompanying his appearance in Parliament.

In addition, under Article 7, the Council of State was obliged to inform the proposed executive powers and legislative for the cancellation or partial changes or general laws and regulations which did not adopt the habits of the country, or conflicted with other laws in force. So, he had to control the alignment and compliance of all sides of the various legislation and regulations in force. Obviously, the decisions of this institution have consultative power. The law determined: "General Meetings are headed and chaired by the Chairman of the State, or in his absence by the deputy elderly. In this meeting are participating all members of the Council, and assisted tu Secretary General without the right to vote." (File, 1929)

By analyzing the 22-nd articles that make up the Law on Organization of the Council of State, flaring a harmonious organization and a combination of them in the context of a hierarchical control through dependence on King. But once the law harmonizes internal reports of this institution, located in the function of governing and legislative institutions, through legal enforcement of attributes and timeliness. Institution Council controller was built under the Royal Charter, Chapter II therefore, consisting of seven items. Among these items the art. 157 draws attention that defines the right of the King to appoint the Chairman and members of this Council between the double candidatures chosen by the Special Committee, consisting of Prime Minister, the Head of Parliament and Minister of Finance. It is determined that, at the same time, the council depending on Parliament, that controlled the correctness of their duty and, when violations were observed parliamentary decision were sent in the Supreme Court. In art. 5 of the Law "On the organization and functioning of the Council controller" the attributes are defined as:

- a) Preventive control on the spendings consumption
- b) Observation on the states employees incomes that had in use money or material and on the loans of the contable agents.
- c) Reconciliation of the budget
- d) Judgement on the accounts that are obligated to use money or materials or valued objects of the state.
- e) Judgement on the administrative responsibility of the state officer

In this institution were allowed to work those who were equipped with a diploma of higher studies or case-law of the administrative law or commercial. The nomination was effective for seven years and during this time he was insuring a "the independence and estatebility".

The realization of defined functions for them require

continuous information from ministers specifically to verify whether there was a violation of legality and for all of these were forced to communicate in every three months the King through Prime Minister according to an informative report .

As for the monthly board of Council controller communicates Parliament on the budget list of actions together with an explanatory note which was made for basic controls in the administration. Decisions given by the Board of Council Controller pursuant to law, were communicated to the respective ministries, who were obliged to "put them into force".

This was a concentrated overview in the procedure of crossing Albania Monarchy even in the main institutions that regulate the functioning and regulation in hierarchical reports.

But, of course, each of them represents a separate object that would be interesting to dwell for a detailed analysis in the future.

3. Conclusions

King Zog entered in the political sphere when Noli was in power. Noli defended pro western ideas meanwhile Zog defended the big landowners interests. So a harsh fight started between Zog and Noli. Noli's government lasted only six months and Zog came in power in December 1924.

His role was fundamental for providing his country with a modern Constitution, pro western State Organization and a laic state. Through Monarchy he reformed Judiciary, adapting the Civil Code in Albania. With the reform in Judiciary he wanted to be a part of Western Europe, because Albania had been under the Turkish invasion for about 500 years.

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