

positions in the community leadership and the ARF. He also regularly contributed articles of political analysis to *Alik* in Tehran and *Housaper* in Cairo, both organs of the ARF.

With the outbreak of World War II, the situation became very tense. During the interwar period, Reza Shah had developed economic and political ties with Turkey and Germany. The British regarded those alliances as a threat to their interests in Iran, especially their exclusive rights to Iranian oil. Although Reza Shah declared Iran's neutrality, the Allies accused him of rapprochement with Nazi Germany and pressured him to deport all German citizens residing in Iran. The tension ratcheted up when Germany invaded the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941. Iran's importance to the Allies, in terms of its oil and its geostrategic position, proved detrimental to its independence. The joint Soviet-British invasion of Iran began on August 25, 1941, by land and air from all directions. The invaders caught Reza Shah's recently established modern army by surprise, encountering little resistance as they occupied almost the entire country. Tehran was under continuous air raids. There were severe shortages of water and food. Reza Shah attempted to negotiate with Soviet and British representatives but to no avail. The Allies occupied the capital in mid-September and the British arrested Reza Shah and sent him out of the country, eventually exiling him to South Africa. He was replaced by his son, Crown Prince Mohammad Reza, who soon signed a treaty with the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, guaranteeing