

The beginnings of Parliamentarism in Albania - Enactment of the first important laws that changed Albanian society

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Abstract

The parliament in Albania was not established with the creation of Albanian state and the parliamentary activity did not begin its journey at the same time as executive body took its first steps. Its origin dates back to January 1920, when the Congress of Lushnja¹ established the National Council. Albania's first parliament met in April 1921, after free elections were held. Its activity culminated in late 1922 with the approval of the Extended Statute of Lushnja. This parliament was known for the political debates and the conflict between government opponents and supporters. It was a conflict that continued even in the Constituent Assembly of 1924, until the assembly was dispersed by the June Movement.² Upon the return to power of King Ahmet Zogu, in January 1924, the Constituent Assembly was re-elected. This assembly, although incomplete, declared the creation of the Republic of Albania, and in March 1925 adopted its Constitutional Statute. The bicameral republican parliament, consisting of the Senate and the House of Deputies, began its work following the new elections in June 1925. Its activity was very intense and both chambers joined together as the Legislative Assembly on several occasions, to make important decisions based on the statute's provisions. The House of Representatives and the Senate approved major economic concessions to partners from the United Kingdom, United States, Italy, France and other countries. This Parliament also approved the agreement for the constitution of the National Bank, the loan from the SVEA and the military pacts of 1926 and 1927 with Italy. The overwhelming majority of parliamentarians and senators supported and approved the Criminal Code and the Civil Code, which were positive developments for the Albanian state. However, the House of Representatives and the Senate did not always agree. Such was the case with the revision of the Basic Statute, of which the House of Representatives requested a complete revision, while the Senate voted for a partial revision.

The attitude of the deputies gave impetus to the work of the parliament, contributing to adopt the best laws for the Albanian state. However, even in that parliament there was always a large group of deputies who spoke very little or never. The vote cast by this group was decisive, since they were a large category of deputies.

Keywords: Parliamentarism, Albania, laws, society.

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