
Negin Nabavi. Readership, the Press and the Public Sphere in the First Constitutional Era

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- 1 This article outlines changes in the journalistic culture of the constitutional press by comparing the then most influential and popular newspapers: *Ḥabl al-Matīn*, *Şūr-e Esrafīl*, *Musāvāt* and *Tarbiyat* (the last published by Ḍukā al-Mulk from 1896 till 1907, when he decided to cease publication since the times had changed). Besides the relatively moderate background of the editors of new newspapers, the most noteworthy transformation of the constitutional newspapers was their relation to the readership. Using letters to the editor, the author illustrates the press's intention to change readers from passive subjects into active citizens. He argues that the press played a significant role in laying the building blocks of a nascent public sphere in Iran.

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