A historical overview and analysis on the Albanian right to vote 1912-1991

Andon Kume

Faculty of Political Sciences University Aleksandër Moisiu, Durrës

Received: 7 July 2021 / Accepted: 10 July 2021 / Published: 15 July 2021

© 2021 Andon Kume

Abstract

The analysis of the right to vote in Albania for the period, from the declaration of independence, 1912 until the fall of the communist dictatorship system, 1991, is the object of this paper. During this period of the history of the Albanian state, the legislation that deals with issues of voting rights has been developed as an accompanying process and conditioned by the processes of political, social, economic and cultural development of our society. The Provisional Government of Vlora, 1912 is the initiator of the treatment of the right to vote, as a political and human right in Albania. Its legislative provisions are the embryos of this right, which were used and developed by successive governments. In the period after the First World War and during the system of the Parliamentary Monarchy, the legislation dealing with the right to vote and the electoral process was characterized by developments aimed at its approximation to the standards and requirements of international legislation, but in no case managed to solve the challenges obstacles that generated economic, social and cultural factors that characterized the Albanian society in that historical period. After the Second World War, essential changes were made in the Albanian legislation on the right to vote and elections, bringing it in line with international requirements and standards. Despite this, in the conditions of the political system of the dictatorship of the proletariat, this right was exercised only formally by Albanians. During this period it completely lost her mission.

Keywords: The right to vote, historical analysis, Albania

1. Introduction

The right to vote, as one of the basic political human rights, is the right through which citizens realize the delegation of their will and decision-making power to other citizens, who, in turn, gain the status of representative and decision-maker in the institutions they serve for the governance of the country and society.

Albania is one of the countries in which the process of developing the right to vote, for long historical periods, has not been favored by the economic, social, political and traditional factors. In the Albanian society, elements of the right to vote as an instrument to realize joint decision-making in the community or to delegate the right to decision-making, are identified in the early periods of history. The self-governing rules of the Albanian Kanuns and, in particular, the rules contained in the Kanun of Lek Dukagjini, are the beginnings of this right. I. Elezit (2002) states that “The Kanun is presented as a set of legal norms, rules of conduct, unwritten, set at different times and transmitted in the oral tradition from one generation to another. They have served to regulate legal relations between people, in various areas of life". Kume, A. (2021) states that "For centuries Albanians, in the absence of their state, to survive the conditions of occupation and slavery have drafted and implemented rules of self-government, which referring to their essence, mission and purpose why they are used, can be considered as the precursors of the right to vote.

In different periods of Albanian history, the right to vote has always been treated and used in accordance with the economic, social and cultural characteristics of the time. Their change has been accompanied by a change in the attitude of society towards this right.

The purpose of this article is the analysis of the historical process of development, in the legislative aspect, of the
right to vote in the Albanian society. The study is focused on the period 1912-1991, which coincides with the period of functioning of the Albanian state from the declaration of independence until the fall of the political system of the dictatorship of the proletariat. This is a period when the legislative process for the right to vote and elections has been conducted aiming at solutions that, in accordance with the concrete economic, social, cultural and political conditions of the Albanian society, should at best approximate to the requirements and standards that this fundamental human right must fulfil.

2. The Right to Vote in the Legislation Compiled by the Provisional Government of Vlora

The Provisional Government of Vlora exercised its activity under the conditions of a limited territorial jurisdiction and for a short period of time. Despite this, it managed to create the first important experiences for the organization and management of the state, as a state with a parliamentary system of government. Among the important documents approved by the Government of Vlora, stands out the "Current Kanun of the Civil Administration of Albania", which was published in the newspaper "Përinjda e Shqypniës" on November 22, 1913. The current canon of the civil administration of Albania is, the first important document, in the field of Albanian legislation, which provides that various institutions of central and local government of the state, were to be formed through electoral processes. The Kanun stipulates that the members of the provincial council are directly elected by the people, the members of the administrative council of the sub-prefecture and the members of the general council of the prefecture (mayors elected by the people) are elected by the members of the provincial councils. The elected members of these councils must be residents of the respective unit, province / prefecture. The term of the elected is limited in two years time.

The Current Kanun of the civil administration defines the rules and procedures according to which the list of voters should be drafted. It also provides voting procedures and results tabulation. As such, it can be considered as the first Albanian election law. In the history of the right to vote, this canon is the first important Albanian document, in which the main elements of the right to vote as a political human right are given.

The compilation of the voter list in the Current Kanun of the civil administration is treated in article 68. According to this article, the right to vote to elect members of the Provincial Council is recognized to any resident of a village or hacienda that: (i) has reached the age of 21, (ii) has all civil and political rights, (iii) was not punished with punishment (mujazat) nor for any crime (xhind), (iv) has payed tithing and any other giving, or is the owner of a property or building, or the son of a father or mother who are owners of such property, or is in charge of the administration, of an industry or of a trade, (v) has the right to elect ulema, religious and clergymen, teachers, doctors, judges, clerks of the prefecture administration and those who have received diplomas and have license to become professors in the state or in a foreign country, even if they do not meet the conditions (sharia) shown above.

The Kanun excludes from the right to vote soldiers (nefer) gendarmes, policemen and soldiers who are in military service, as long as they are in this service.

The conditions that must be met to win the right to vote and to be elected are a reflection of the level of economic, social and political development of the country. These conditions, in many respects, do not meet the democratic principles for the right to vote. Only residents who have reached the age of 21 have the right to vote. This right is not recognized for women and girls. The right to vote is closely linked to the economic status and social status of the resident, thus excluding from this right a large number of residents who meet the age requirement but belong to the poor.

Registration in the voter list is a necessary condition to exercise the right to vote. A resident who does not have his name registered on the list cannot vote. Meanwhile, the procedure for compiling the voter list provides for the correction process.

The analysis of the way the right to vote has been treated by the Provisional Government of Vlora, shows that it contains the main elements of the principles and rules of the political right to vote, as one of the fundamental rights of the individual. The comparative analysis of this document with the solutions provided in the current Albanian legislation on the right to vote, shows that, despite the essential differences that exist between them, in the solutions adopted in the Current Kanun of civil administration, we can identify the beginnings, the embryos, of rules and procedures that are implemented actually for exercising the right to vote.

Due to the short life of the Albanian Provisional Government, 1912, the rules and procedures set out in the Current Kanun of Civil Administration was not be applied in any electoral process.
3. **The Right to Vote in the Albanian Principality of Wilhelm Wied**

The Provisional Government of Vlora asked the Great Powers to establish a Constitutional Monarchy regime in Albania, with a king from European countries. This decision was not a consequence of the result of any popular Referendum but only a consequence of the assessment of the situation after the declaration of independence. This request was considered as the most effective way to avoid the risk of invasion and fragmentation of Albania among neighboring countries. The Conference of Ambassadors in London, which took place in July 1913, declared Albania an Autonomous, Sovereign and Hereditary Principality. In October 1913, the International Control Commission (ICC) was formed and in November of the same year, this Commission, based on the decision of the Conference of Ambassadors, appointed Prince Wilhelm von Wied as head of the Albanian Principality. Ismail Qemali’s government resigned.

In April 1914, the International Control Commission approved the Organic Statute of the new Albanian Principality. In accordance with the decision of the London Conference, this Statute declared Albania “Constitutional, sovereign and hereditary Principality, under the guarantee of the six Great Powers”.

- The statute in its sixth chapter, entitled “Legislation” (Articles 40-71), defined the National Assembly as the legislative body of the Principality. The members of the Assembly (36 members) were divided into three different categories: members elected by the population by indirect vote, which provided for three representatives for each sanjak;
- The ten members appointed by the Prince;
- Ex officio members, who were the representatives of the four traditional Albanian religious communities and the High Commissioner at the National Bank of Albania

At the local level, the statute provided for the election of the Municipal Council and the Sandzak Council as the decision-making bodies for local government. For the election of members in these bodies, the same procedure was provided as in the case of the election of members of the National Assembly. The right to be elected belonged to the Albanian citizens who had reached the age of 30 and knew how to read and write.

The statute did not provide for the organization and conduct of elections with the participation of the people. The legislation did not provide for the compilation of the list for voters. Elections for the institutions, which in the Statute were foreseen to be formed with members elected by the people, were not foreseen to be held as direct elections. Thus, for example, for the election of members of the National Assembly who, in accordance with the definitions in the Principality Statute, should be elected by the people, in each district the municipal council had to elect a delegate. Elected delegate together with the members of the municipal council and the kaza council, under the chairmanship of the kajmekam had to elect two delegates. These elected people in the capital of the Sanjak, in agreement with the members of the Sanjak council and under the chairmanship of the mytesarif, must elect, with absolute majority, the members to the National Assembly. These indirect election procedures were envisaged to be applied for the election of all bodies and institutions that were formed with elected members.

The right to vote, in the Organic Statute of the Albanian Principality, compared to the right to vote according to the **Current Kanun of civil administration**, approved by the Provisional Government of Vlora, suffered a significant regression. By applying indirect choice, the people were not called to choose. Practically the right to vote for the population did not exist.

During the reign of Prince Wied no electoral process took place to elect members of the National Assembly. The regression in the right to vote remained only on paper, just as on paper remained the distinct development in this right, achieved as a result of the decision-making of the Provisional Government of Vlora.

4. **From the Wied Principality ... To the Proclamation of the Constitutional Monarchy**

During the First World War, Albania was an occupied territory and an arena of duels between the warring forces. After the end of this war, the most important event is the Congress of Lushnja, which was held in January 1920. This Congress was attended by representatives from different regions of Albania. The participants in the Congress were not elected by the people through an electoral process but, were accepted and declared as elected either because they were personalities or because they were supported by various groups or lobbies of the large feudal families of the time. Congress elected the Government, the High Council and the National Council. Elections for these bodies were held on the basis of agreements and compromise between the provinces and participants in Congress. The National Council was a legislative body.

As a result of the resignation from membership in the National Council of a group of 18 members, out of 37 in total,
the Council was dissolved. In the absence of a legislative body, on December 5, 1920, the government adopted the law on elections which was named: "Law on Elections of Deputies." This is the first election law in the history of Albania.

According to this law, the elections were foreseen to take place in two stages. A "grand voter" would be elected for every 500 inhabitants and one deputy for every 11,000 people. The candidate for deputy must be at least 30 years old. The selection of candidates was done taking into account the religious criteria. The candidate was required to be literate, not to be someone's servant, to be able to pay for travel expenses during the election campaign and to declare the disposition of a certain amount of money per year (Omari. L. 2003). Parliament would have 78 deputies. The administration of the election was defined as duty and responsibility of the Ministry of Interior. Complaints during the elections were not reviewed by the courts, but by the administrative bodies: the prefect, the deputy prefect and government envoys. The election law did not create conditions for equal competition. It clearly favored the ruling party.

The law stipulated that elections to the Constituent Assembly should be conducted by "universal indirect suffrage". According to this law, elections would be held in two stages. For every 8000 inhabitants, one deputy would be elected, from the second voters, who were elected by the first voters, one for every 250 inhabitants. Voting for the first voters was expected to last 25 days. Voting for the second constituents should be in secret way. The first voter had to write on the ballot paper the names of those he wanted. In case the first voter was illiterate, he could be helped by another person to write the names of the second voter he wanted.
After the announcement of the results for the election of the second voters, these voters had to vote to elect the deputies. The election of deputies had to be done only within one day, in the entire territory of the country.

The law had provisions which explained the meaning of the concepts used in the law such as electoral concepts, members of the Assembly, constituencies, electoral lists, etc. According to the law, 5 days after the announcement of the decree of the High Council for elections, in the administrative centers, at the initiative of the prefect or deputy prefect, commissions consisting of a local judge, a municipal delegate and a civil servant were to be formed. They had the task of compiling, within 15 days, the list of voters (first voters), using data from the state civil registers. Voter lists could be reviewed within 10 days for persons who for various technical reasons did not have their name on them.

Regarding the right to vote, the law made a significant change in the age of the first-time voter. The age was reduced from 20 years for the first voters and 25 for the second voters which was defined in the law "Law on Election of Deputies" adopted on December 5, 1920, to 18 years for the first voters.

The law did not bring anything new about the right to vote for women and girls. The women/ girls did not have the right to vote.

The law also excluded from the right to vote beggars, the disabled, convicts from 6 months and up, those who had gone bankrupt and who had not regained their rights. The military conscripts were excluded from the right to vote.

The Assembly elected in 1923, which was dissolved after the meeting of June 2, 1924, at the insistence of Ahmet Zogu, returned from Serbia on December 2, 1924, convened in plenary session on January 21, 1925. This Assembly declared Albania a Republic. Ahmet Zogu was elected President of the Republic.

On March 2, 1925, the Assembly approved the Basic Statute of the Republic of Albania and, after that, decided to dissolve. Along with the Statute the Assembly adopted the Law "On election of the Chamber of Deputies".

The new law generally repeated the provisions of the previous law on elections to the Constitutional Assembly. It almost doubled the representation rate in the Chamber of Deputies, setting the number of deputies from one deputy for 8,000 per capita to one per 15,000 per capita.

Regarding the right to vote, the law did not change. The election law again excluded women and girls from the right to active and passive suffrage. From this right, the law excluded the military, both the army and the gendarmerie and the police, the beggars, etc... The voting method was again with a ballot paper, which could be filled in through a person charged by the voter even outside the polling station.

The elections for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, May 1925, as well as the elections for the Constituent Assembly in August 1928, which would approve the Basic Statute of the Kingdom of Albania, took place according to this law.

On May 23, 1928 Ahmet Zogu, in the capacity of the President of the Republic, decreed the "Law of Civil Administration of the Republic of Albania". This law contains provisions according to and in implementation of which it was foreseen to elect the collegial decision-making bodies, at local level. These bodies included: the Administrative Council of the Prefecture and the Sub-Prefecture, the Provincial Council and the Elders of the village. In these bodies only the members of the Elders of the villages were elected by the people. Elections were to be held under the supervision of a clerk sent by the Prefecture or sub-prefecture and the previous village elder. The right to choose was recognized only for the male residents of the village, aged 20 and over. Beggars, residents with physical disabilities, convicted of theft or honor matters were excluded from this right.

The Provincial Council, the Sub-Prefecture Council and the Prefecture Council were not directly elected by the people. The law stipulated that members of the Prefecture Council, 2 members of the Sub-Prefecture Council and four members of the Provincial Council were considered elected by the people because they were elected by village elders or village councils, who, as provided for in Chapter XI, Art. 75-78 of the Law on Civil Administration of the Republic of Albania, should be elected directly by the people.

Regarding the right to vote, the Law on Civil Administration of the Republic of Albania, approved on May 23, 1928, did not bring any changes. The right of citizens to elect their representatives to collegiate local government bodies continued to remain at the level of a right limited by the voter's age, economic, educational and cultural level and gender. In addition, the voting procedures, remaining the same, unchanged, with those provided for in the law on the election of Municipal Councils, approved on February 14, 1922, practically formalized the right to vote for citizens who could not read or write. The administration of the electoral process by an envoy, a clerk charged with this task by the administrative authority, was another factor influencing the will of the voter. Given the cultural and social level of voters belonging to the poorer sections of society, such a way of administering the voting process, as a rule, significantly reduced the opportunities to realize the real effect that the right to vote has.
5. From Constitutional Monarchy ... The Communist Dictatorship ... Until its Collapse.

To change the system of government from Republic to Monarchy, Zog had to overcome a significant legal hurdle. In the Basic Statute of the state, the last paragraph of Article 141 was sanctioned: "The republican form of the state can not be changed in any way". The path followed by Ahmet Zogu was to use the opportunities given to him by being the President of the Republic. In this capacity on June 1, 1928, he addressed a message to both chambers requesting that they convene together, as the Legislative Assembly, to decide on the revision of the Basic Statute. The Legislative Assembly convened on June 7, 1928. They decided for the need to fundamentally revise the Statute. At the same time the Assembly declared its legal incompetence to make this review. They approved only one annex to Article 141 of the Statute, which stated:

"The general review of the statute belongs to the Constituent Assembly. When the need arises for a general revision of the Statute according to the procedure set forth in this article, both Chambers shall be deemed to have dissolved themselves and elections to the Constituent Assembly shall be decreed in accordance with Article 47 of the Statute." Upon approval of this annex, the Assembly unanimously decided to dissolve. In these conditions, the President of the Republic issued the decree for the Constituent Assembly elections. Elections were held on August 17, 1928, according to the law "On the election of the Chamber of Deputies" approved on March 2, 1925 by the Assembly. The Constituent Assembly convened on August 25. On September 1, 1928, the Assembly approved Article 1 of the new Basic Statute, in which Albania was proclaimed "Democratic, Parliamentary and Hereditary Kingdom". By a special decision, the Assembly appointed Ahmet Zogu "King of the Albanians" with the name Zog I. On December 1, 1928, the Assembly approved the Basic Statute of the Kingdom of Albania, which entered into force immediately. The Assembly decided to turn into Parliament.

The statute explicitly sanctioned that legislative power was exercised collectively by the king and parliament. Legislative initiatives belonged to both. Parliamentary elections were to be held every four years. The statute stipulated that deputies would be elected by the people, in accordance with the election law. The MP represented the Nation in general and not just the province where they were elected.

The Basic Statute of the Kingdom of Albania states: "All citizens equally enjoy political and civil rights, and are accepted in all civil and military services, except for certain exceptions provided by law." The Statute stipulates that: "Voter qualities are determined by the election law". During the period of the constitutionalist monarchy, two parliamentary elections were held, on 17.09.1932 and on 31.01.1937. For the drafting of the law under which these two electoral processes took place, the legislator relied mainly on the law "On the election of the Chamber of Deputies" adopted on 2 March 1925 by the Assembly to emerge from the elections of March 1923. Although the Basic Statute of the Kingdom stipulates that all citizens enjoy equal political rights, the electoral law conditions the enjoyment of the right to vote with the gender of the citizen. According to the law on elections, the gender of the citizen is one of his qualities and as such it, pursuant to the corresponding provision in the Basic Statute, is subject to treatment in it. The election law stipulates that women and girls do not have the right to vote. This right is granted only to male citizens. The other conditions for the right to vote are the same as those set out in the law "On the Election of the Chamber of Deputies", March 2, 1925. During the period of the constitutional monarchy there were no further significant developments for the right to vote.

During the period of Nazi-Fascist occupation, 1939-1944, as an event related to the history of the right to vote and the delegation of the right to decision-making to representatives elected by vote, can be singled out only the Congress, held in Përmet, on May 24, 1944.

A few months after the Tehran Conference (November 28-December 1, 1943) in which the Three Great Allies of World War II expressed their support for the anti-fascist front in the Balkans, the Anti-Fascist National Liberation Council, on April 15, 1944, decided that, on May 24 1944, the First Antifascist National Liberation Congress was held in the liberated city of Përmet. The organizers of this congress aimed to lay the legal foundations for the revolutionary power of the NAÇL Councils created through the Peza Conference and further developed in the second Labinot Conference. Another important objective of theirs, was the annihilation in the legislative plan of any attempt that could be made to maintain the feudal-bourgeois regime and / or the restoration of Zog's monarchical power. For the organization of this Congress special care was taken so that it could be proclaimed as a national Congress, with the capacities to represent the will of all the people. The resolution of the General Anti-Fascist National Liberation Council stated: "The Congress will represent the libered areas, areas occupied by the enemy, partisan and volunteer brigades and battalions, the Anti-Fascist Youth Union with 10 delegates and the Women's Union with 5 delegates". Meanwhile, it is important to note that the Circular of the Presidency of the General Council stated that: "Municipal delegates and especially delegates to
Congress should be selected from the ranks of the most experienced militants and fighters who truly represent the people in the liberated areas and army formations. Delegates would be democratically elected by open ballot by 3 to 5 people for each municipality. In the unliberated areas, they would be appointed by the district or city councils.

In this way, although it was stated that the delegates should be freely elected and they should represent the whole people, in fact for their election the will of the voters was oriented (forced) to choose among the people who were affiliated with the Communist party, the party that was also the political leader of the Antifascist National Liberation Council.

In the municipal elections, by open voting, in which women participated for the first time in an electoral process in Albania, 3 to 5 second voters were elected. The delegates of the municipalities of each sub-prefecture or province, at their joint meeting, elected the delegates of the Congress. In addition to delegates elected by the civilian population, delegates also elected and sent to Congress representatives of military formations, brigades of the National Liberation Army, and the Antifascist Youth Union and the Antifascist Women Union. A total of 200 delegates were elected who were declared to represent the people from all over the country, from north to south, from the civilian population and the army, from the ranks of the clergy, youth and women.

Despite the efforts made by the organizers of the Congress, since a considerable part of the country's territory was not under the influence of the National Liberation Front, its representative character failed to be complete. This was also the reason why the Congress itself stated, for a part of its decisions, the need for their approval by the people, through the new institutions that will be elected after the complete liberation of the country.

Congress elected the Antifascist National Liberation Council as the main legislative and executive body. The Congress attributed to the Council the features of the institution that represented the sovereignty of the Albanian people and state. Despite the fact that the procedures for electing delegates to the Congress were not expressed in the form of the provisions of a law and the elections were conducted in accordance with the directives of the Presidency of the General National Liberation Council, the electoral process for delegates to the Congress of Përmet brought innovations in vote. Among them, one of the most important is the right of women and girls to vote and to be elected. This achievement, although not sanctioned in the form of a legal provision, part of a law adopted by a representative legislative body, made Albania, finally, part of the countries that recognized this political right for almost the other half of the population, which up to this time was a right denied.

The election of congressional delegates was by open ballot. This was propagated by the organizers of this assembly, as a very important development in the Albanian history, where election were truly democratic. In fact, this procedure is the beginning of the devaluation of electoral process. In this way the vote was deprived of one of its main qualities - secrecy.

The third meeting of the Anti-Fascist National Liberation Council was held after the liberation of the country, September 1945. The meeting approved the law for the election of the people's representatives in the Constitutional Assembly and the law "On electoral lists"

The right to vote was recognized by the law to every Albanian citizen who, on election day, had reached the age of 18 years. For the first time in Albania, the right to vote for women was sanctioned by a legal provision.

The electoral law, drafted in accordance with the requirements of the principles of general, equal, direct and secret elections, realized a substantial development in the right to vote. In this way, for the first time in Albania, it was possible to draft an electoral legislation, which made possible the conduct of elections in accordance with the principles of democratic elections. Reducing the age to 18 and recognizing the active right to vote for women, significantly increased the level of representation of the population in the body to be elected.

On January 11, 1946, the Constitutional Assembly proclaimed the People's Republic of Albania and approved the Statute of the Republic. In art. 3 of this Statute stipulates: "All representative bodies of state power are elected by citizens by free elections and by general, equal, direct and secret ballot." In this way, for the first time, in the basic legislation of the Albanian state, the vote is not only given the qualities of an institution, a cornerstone, on which all other state bodies should be built but also, for the process according to which this right will be exercised, the fundamental law required the fulfillment of the principles and standards of democratic elections. In the Statute, the right to vote and the right to be elected are sanctioned as constitutional rights that are not limited by sex, nationality, race, religion, cultural degree or residence of the citizens. The status defined the age of 18 as the age when the enjoyment of this right began. For the first time in the basic law of the Albanian state, equality between men and women is sanctioned in every field of private, political and social life. Pursuant to these basic provisions, in the election law no. 783, dated 20.1.1950 "On the Elections of the People's Assembly", in Chapter "General Provisions" article 5, and further, for the first time it is added that "Women have the right to elect and be elected in the People's Assembly just like men".
After the elections, the People's Assembly approved, on July 4, 1950, the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, which includes all these rights. Pursuant to the Constitution, in law no. 2624, dated 17.03.1958: "On the People's Assembly Elections" the right to vote is reconfirmed "for all citizens who have reached the age of 18, regardless of sex, nationality, race, religion, degree of culture, residence, social origin and status property, with the exception of persons who, by a court decision, have been convicted of losing their electoral right or have been completely deprived of the capacity to perform legal actions". The law stipulates that every citizen has only one vote and all citizens participate equally in elections. Women and girls, as well as the active military, have the right to vote and to stand for election. The right to vote must be exercised directly, secretly and not through intermediaries.

6. Conclusions

In the period 1912-1991, the Albanian legislation that deals with issues of voting rights was developed as an accompanying process and conditioned by the processes of political, social, economic and cultural development of society.

The beginnings of the process of drafting legislation on the right to vote and elections, as basic human political rights, are the efforts of the Provisional Government of Vlora, 1912. Legislative solutions for this right, fixed in the Current Kanun of civil administration are the embryos of this right, which were developed by successive governments.

In the period after the First World War and during the system of the Parliamentary Monarchy, the legislative process for the right to vote and for the electoral processes, took place in accordance with the economic, social, political and cultural characteristics and features of the society of the time. This legislative process failed to meet and overcome the barrier challenges generated by factors associated with these characteristics.

After the Second World War, essential changes were made in the Albanian legislation on the right to vote and elections, bringing it in line with international requirements and standards. Despite this, in the conditions of the political
system of the dictatorship of the proletariat, this right was exercised only formally by Albanians. During this period it completely lost its mission.

References

Gjilani, F. "Shteti dhe e drejta gjatë regjimit të A. Zogut", Historia e shtetit dhe se drejtës ne Shqiperi, Pjesa II, p.112-113, SHB Libri Universitar, Tiranë, 1994


Ligji për “Zgjedhjen e deputëtëve”, 5 dhjetor 1920
“Ligjë e Administratës Civile e Republikes Shqiptare”, 23 maj 1928
Ligjid "Për zgjedhjen e Misvet të Kushtetús", të miratuar prej Parlamentit më 5.10.1923
Kanuni i përtashëm i administratës civile të Shqipërisë. Qeveria e Përkonëshme e Vlorës
Statuti i Republikës Popullore të Shqipërisë (1946)
Statuti Organik i Shqipërisë.: http://licodu.cois.it/?p=375
https://www.radioproyekt.dk/2020/10/07/luigj-shkodrani-kanuni-i-leke-dukagjinit/