

Localization of Garrisons in Tabaristan during Early Islamic Era

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Abstract

After semi-independent Local governments come to power in South coast of Caspian Sea, Northern states of Iran became the scene of political dispute and conflict between local and governors of Abbasid and Umayyad. Providing political security of the region and establishing suitable condition for economic development was led to construct the multi-purpose garrisons in geographical spread of Tabaristan. The garrisons which are known as Maslaheh, Sakhloo and Zinestan in historical and geographical texts, were constructed in Tabaristan by Abul-Abbas Toussi- governor of Tabaristan- in Abbasid' Caliphate. Their controlled geographical territory started in three area of plain, forest and mountain in Tamisheh which was located in the Eastern borderline of Tabaristan and ended to Chaloos in the West of this state. A number of garrisons Tabaristan are varying of 31, 45, and 50 in local histories as well as geographical texts and 31 of them are identified. In this article attempted that by the means of historical and geographical sources has recognized the reasons of distribution as well as multidimensional functions of garrisons.

Keywords: Ispahbuds of Tabaristan, Garrisons, Abbasids Caliphate, Geographical distribution, Localization.

Introduction

The presence of semi-independent Local governments as Ispahbuds of Tabaristan, Dabuyids (Ale-Dabooyeh), Qarinvands, Bavandids (Āl-i Bavand) in second half of Sasanians' reign (from Khusraw Anoshirvan To Yazdgerd III) to early and middle Islamic centuries and their results as well as socio-political changes, made the position of Tabaristan state (Mazandaran) distinguished in historical studies of Iran (Hakimian, 1368:1-6). declining Sasanian dynasty and adverting new religion of Islam in Arabian Peninsula as well as Arabs conquered Sassanid's controlled regions, made Tabaristan a safe and secure place for Sassanid's kings and princes more than before. Since half-independent governments as Ispahbuds were in the region, Arabs continuous attacks and conquering most of the western and central parts of Iran was a serious alarm for Tabaristan governors. So, important fortifications were constructed in mountainous parts and strategic points to secure government and people of the region, their life and property as well as protect political territories especially Southern territories of Alborz Chain Mountains.

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