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Yazīd b. 'Umar b. Hubayra

Yazīd b. 'Umar b. Hubayra (d. 132/750) was an Umayyad general often associated with the Qays tribal bloc. Like his father, 'Umar b. Hubayra (d. between 105/724 and 107/726), he served as governor of Iraq. Both he and his father are often referred to as Ibn Hubayra in the sources. Yazīd had a complicated relationship with the Umayyad caliphs. He rejected overtures from Hishām b. 'Abd al-Malik (r. 105–25/724–43), who wanted Yazīd to marry the daughter of his son Mu'āwiya b. Hishām (d. c.120/728), who was Hishām's preferred heir and the progenitor of the Andalusian Umayyads (al-Ṭabarī, 3:71; Ibn 'Asākir, 65:335). The offer of marriage to the caliph's granddaughter is evidence of Yazīd's prestige, and the fact that he rejected it can be seen as a sign of his independence. Upon Hishām's death in 125/743, he congratulated the controversial new caliph al-Walīd (II) b. Yazīd (r. 125–6/743–4) and was promptly appointed as governor of Qinnasrīn (al-Balādhurī, 7:492). Yazīd b. 'Umar opposed Yazīd (III) b. al-Walīd's coup in 126/744 and urged Marwān (II)

b. Muḥammad (r. 127–32/744–50), who would become the last Umayyad caliph, to reject the usurper.

Yazīd b. 'Umar was a crucial supporter of Marwān b. Muḥammad and arguably his most competent general. When Marwān II marched on Damascus to seize power in 128/745, he appointed Yazīd as governor of Iraq. There Yazīd b. 'Umar faced the threat of the Khawārij, led by al-Ḍaḥḥāk b. Qays al-Shaybānī (d. 128/746). Even after a portion of his army left to assist Marwān in his struggle at Homs (Ḥims) against Sulaymān b. Hishām (d. 132/750), who had joined at least three different factions in the interne-cine war that followed his father's death, Yazīd b. 'Umar succeeded in consolidating control of Iraq by 129/746 (al-Ṭabarī, 2:1915, 1941–7; al-Balādhurī, 7:610–5).

Despite his success in Iraq, Yazīd b. 'Umar was unable to pacify territories further east, where 'Abbāsīd forces were rising in Khurāsān. He was unwilling or unable to respond to requests for reinforcements from Naṣr b. Sayyār (d. 131/748), the Umayyad governor in Khurāsān. Ultimately, after the 'Abbāsīds overran Umayyad forces farther east, he was left to