

The role of Ardalan governors during the Safavid and Ottoman wars "A systematic review study"

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Abstract

This study is a systematic review study in which we try to examine the role of the Ardalan family ruling the Kurdish region of Iran in the battles between the Safavids and the Ottomans. So far, a comprehensive and specialized study on the role of the Kurds in this period has not been done. In this article, we have tried to reach a conclusion by collecting data from old sources and new research in this regard. The Ardalan family attributes their lineage to the Sassanids. One of the reasons is that the Sassanid dynasty originated from the Shabankareh Kurds. The Iranian Kurdistan region was considered a strategic region between the Ottoman and Safavid wars and was always considered by the two governments.

Keywords: Safavids, Ottomans, Ardalan, Kurdistan

Introduction

Successive wars between the Safavid and Ottoman governments are considered to be the most important historical events. When the Ottoman army advanced to the heart of Europe and besieged Vienna, a series of battles between the Safavids and the Ottomans began in 1514, the Battle of Chaldoran, and continued for hundreds of years. These battles had a tremendous impact not only on the region but

also on Europe and the history of Islam. This series of battles prevented the Ottoman Empire from advancing in Europe. Meanwhile, the role of the independent rulers and governors of the Safavid government in the defeat and victory of these battles is very significant. Among these governors who played an influential role in the Safavid-Ottoman series of wars is the Ardalan family in Iranian Kurdistan. The Ardalan Emirate in the Safavid period due to its location at the crossroads of the Safavid and Ottoman empires, came out of stagnation and entered the heart of the events of this era and was an important area of strategy for defeat and victory in battles. In this article, an attempt has been made to examine in more detail the role of the Ardalan dynasty in the 100-year-old battles between the Safavids and the Ottomans.

Research Methods

This research is a systematic review study. First, the keywords were collected by searching on reputable sites, the Comprehensive Humanities Portal, Normags, Google Scholar, and Civilica, then the collected data was refined and the data unrelated to the research topic were separated, and then From it, information and findings were analyzed in the form of a research.

Findings

Political relations of Ardalan rulers with Safavid and Ottoman governments

The rulers of Ardalan always considered themselves the ancestors of the Sassanids, perhaps because the founder of the Sassanid government was a Kurdish Shabankareh. The

month of Sharaf Ms. Ardalan, the historian of the Ardalan period, attributes their genealogy to the rulers of Diyarbakir. In summary, the role and interaction of the Ardalan family in the political structure of Iran and in relation to the surrounding powers can be divided into three periods:

1. From the rise to power of Baba Ardalan until the end of the rule of Halukhan who ruled independently.
2. From the period of Khan Ahmad Khan to the period of Amanullah Khan who became a semi-independent power.
3. From the time of Amanullah Khan until their fall, when the Ardalan khans had no power.

Before the Battle of Chaldoran, the Ardalan dynasty was cautious in the rivalry between the Ottoman and Safavid rivals and did not have a clear tendency towards either side. After this decisive battle, the situation changed. As the battlefields approached the territory of this family and sometimes this land became the main battlefield between the two powers in the region. In such circumstances, the rulers of Ardalan had to make their positions clearer in order to maintain their rule. Of course, the Safavid religious policy towards the Sunnis and the provocations of the Sunni Ottomans were not ineffective in adopting different and sometimes contradictory behaviors of the Ardalan rulers. In such a situation, in most cases, this local government, acted as a shield and defender of the Safavid territory

Chaldoran War

The Battle of Chaldoran was the beginning of the centennial conflict between the Ottomans and the Safavids. This battle took place in the city of Chaldoran in northwestern Iran on August 23, 1514 AD and led to the defeat of the Safavid army. When Shah Ismail Safavid conquered Tabriz and subdued the Aq Quyunlus and established a unified Safavid government, he declared the Shiite religion the official religion of the country and began to suppress the Sunnis.

This caused many Sunni people in Iran to seek refuge in the Ottoman Empire. Also, the emergence of a new power on the eastern borders of the Ottoman Empire and its alliance with the Europeans provided the political and religious grounds for a full-fledged conflict. After coming to power, Salim Khan I suppressed all claimants to the monarchy and made peace with European governments to secure the western borders, and then massacred Shiites in Asia Minor to fight the Safavids with the Ghezelbash leaders Do not cooperate. It is said that forty thousand of them were killed or deported to the western borders. The well-equipped Ottoman army, which numbered about one hundred thousand and had firearms and artillery support, was able to defeat the Ghezelbash army, which numbered about sixty thousand, and advanced as far as Tabriz, but due to lack of food had to They retreated and the Safavid government was saved from certain destruction. According to Kurdish sources, they had no role in this war and were neutral. As a result of this war, a large part of Kurdistan was annexed to the Ottoman Empire.

Wars of the period of Shah Tahmasb I "1532-1555 "

The ground for the war between the Ottomans and the Safavids was provided by the refuge of Ulmeh Taklu to Sultan Suleiman I and the subsequent assassination of Sharaf Khan, the ruler of Badlis, a Safavid subject by the same Amir Ghezelbash. Sultan Suleiman in 940 after making peace with the Hungarians and The incitement of the Turkmen tribes by the Safavids in Anatolia, as well as the destruction of Sunni tombs and shrines, including Abu Hanifa and Sheikh Abdul Qadir Gilani, determined to destroy the Safavid rule. Occupied most of Azerbaijan. After the victory of Shah Tahmasb I in the battle of Jam with Shibak Khan, he left Khorasan for Tabriz, but due to the hypocrisy among the Ghezelbash chiefs, he had only seven thousand soldiers, while Sultan Suleiman was close to Soltanieh and Abhar. Winter came and the cold of winter

And the lack of sufficient food forced the Ottomans to retreat from the city of Kurdistan to Baghdad. With the retreat of the Ottomans, Shah Tahmaseb went to Tabriz and punished some of his commanders for treason. Then to suppress Olmeh in Van. During the escape of Olmeh, his forces were attacked by the Kurds of Denbli to Amiri Haji Beyb Denbli and some of them were killed.

Kurds in response to the third Ottoman invasion of Safavid Iran

The third Ottoman invasion of the Safavid Empire in 955 AH was sparked by the instigation of Al-Qas Mirza, brother of Shah Tahmasb and ruler of Sherwan, who had taken refuge in the Ottomans. After Shah Tahmasb's second invasion of Georgia, Al-Qas Mirza struck a coin in his name in Shervan and built a disobedient building. Upon hearing this news, Shah Tahmasb sent an army to confront him and Al-Qas Mirza fled to Istanbul via Dagestan for fear of his life. After a while, Sultan Suleiman I, at the instigation of Al-Qas Mirza, attacked the Safavids with the Ottoman army. Shah Tahmasb ordered all farms and fields from Tabriz to the Ottoman borders to be set on fire and all karezes to be blocked. After entering Iran, Sultan Suleiman sent Al-Qas Mirza to Marand and moved to Tabriz himself. Shah Tahmasb sent an army to Marand that included Kurdish nobles such as Haj Sultan Danbali, Shamsuddin Badlisi and Shah Mansour Bey Siah Mansouri. Shah Mansour Bey was honored by the Shah due to the arrest of Delo Mohammad and became the Emirate. The Ottoman army was forced to return to the Ottomans after a few days in Tabriz due to lack of food and night attacks of the Safavids on their camp. After the defeat of the Ottomans, Al-Qas Mirza fled and left for Qom, Kashan and Isfahan via Hamedan, but none of the provinces accompanied him. The Ardalan district, ruled by Sorkhab, fled.

The Shah sent an ambassador to Sorkhab Ardalan and asked the Kurdish emir to extradite the prince. Finally, al-Qass surrendered and went to the king with Shah

Nematullah Yazdi, who was his sister's husband. Shah Tahmasb in exchange for Niko Khidmati Sorkhab Ardalan set a cash amount of one thousand tomans for him every year.

Kurds against the fourth Ottoman invasion of Safavid Iran

After the third war between Iran and the Ottomans, a series of events took place in the Kurdish regions that paved the way for the fourth Ottoman invasion of Iran. Due to lack of manpower, he was forced to fence the inside of the castle. Eventually, his wife, Hassan Beg Mahmoudi's sister, opened the gates on her brother, and the invaders were able to gain control of his temper. Shortly afterwards, Alexander Pasha summoned Shah Tahmaseb to war in a letter. Shah Tahmasb sent troops to confront the Ottomans. There were significant numbers of Kurds in both corps. In 961, the last round of the fourth Ottoman and Safavid battles was completed, and that was the attack of Osman Pasha on Sorkhab Beg Ardalan. In this year, Osman Pasha attacked the city of Zur, the throne of Sorkhab Bey. Amir Kurd sought help from the Safavid king. After informing Badr Khan Estajlou and Amir Ghayb Bey and Sultan Mirza, the Shah sent Sorkhab Bey to help. The Ottoman forces fled the battle with the arrival of the Safavid army. After a while, Osman Pasha attacked the city of Zur again. Sorkhab Bey fled before the war and thus the city of Zur was captured by the Ottomans. Eventually, with the campaign of Sultan Suleiman, the years-long border conflict practically turned into a war between the two sides. In 961, Sultan Suleiman advanced to Nakhchivan again, but a short time later he was forced to retreat due to the burnt land policy of Shah Tahmasb and as a result of lack of food. After this, Sultan Suleiman and Shah Tahmasb saw the good of the parties in peace, so they concluded a treaty in Amasya. There is no mention of Kurdish activities in the sources after this. It seems that Shah Tahmasb used the Kurds on the border as a spy. In other periods when the conflict between the Ottomans and the Safavids

continued, the Kurds played a significant role, and the western and northwestern regions of Iran have always been a strategic region among these battles.

Khan Ahmad Khan Ardalan was the son-in-law of Shah Abbas who had succeeded in capturing Mosul, Kirkuk and Rwanduz. But the slander of the Safavid servants caused his son Sorkhab to go blind by the order of Shah Safi, which caused Khan Ahmad Khan to go to the Ottomans and attack the Safavids in support of them, but the revolt was repulsed and Khan Ahmad Khan died due to illness. He also died. During the reign of Shah Abbas I, when he decided to organize the IRGC to confront the Uzbeks and the Ottomans, he thought that one of the most common methods of attack by the Ottomans and the Uzbeks was their surprise attack. Shah Abbas saw the only solution that could prevent this was the formation of several guerrilla and organized groups consisting of Kurds and Afghans. The Kurds, due to their proximity to the Ottoman rule and their familiarity with the mountainous and harsh conditions and the climatic and geographical conditions of the border between the two empires, could easily be divided into several groups and lurk in certain places along the way of the Ottoman army. Attack them. The plan was also used among Afghan guerrilla groups against Uzbek attacks. These plans were useful to Shah Abbas in many wars, such as the Battle of Tabriz (1618).

Conclusion

The situation of the Ardalan dynasty shows that the Safavid government did not have a hostile attitude towards the Kurds at the beginning of its rule, but after the Chaldoran war, it changed its attitude towards the Kurds, which can be said that the reason for this was more religious. The Safavid rulers recognized the Kurds as Ottoman allies. The greatest role played by the Kurds in the Safavid-Ottoman

Wars was during the reign of Shah Tahmasb I. Even the background of the war was related to the border clashes in the west and northwest of the country when Olmeh Taklu took refuge in the Ottoman Sultan Salim and Sharaf Khan, the ruler of Badlis, a Kurdish ruler of the Safavid dynasty, was killed by him. Of course, this is not new in the history of Ardalan, but in other Safavid-Ottoman battles, Kurdistan province has always been considered by the Safavid and Ottoman Empires due to its strategic importance. The Ardalan dynasty not only played a decisive role in the battles between the two empires, but also in the Safavid court, so that during the coronation of the king, the governor of Kurdistan carried the king's sword.

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