

Political Relation of the Saljuqid and Qarazmshahian

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Abstract: The Saljuqid were tribal people who dwelled on the other part of Jeyhoun; although after a short time, they gained great power and formed a conquerors' empire. They succeeded in dominating the Qaznavid and by pushing Al-e-Buyeh aside, they gained control over Abbasid caliphate and expanded their sovereignty from Seyhun to Mediterranean Sea borders. That expansion urged relationships with neighboring rulers and in this approach, the bureaucratic organizations of Saljuqid that rooted in Sassanid Era played an effective role in those relations. The political communications were performed through an ambassador who had already received necessary trainings and Khajeh Nezamolmolk who had a deep knowledge on political organizations played roles. Khajeh believed that an ambassador must have characteristics such as wisdom, good memory, brave and good-looking. In addition to the political system of the Saljuqid, one must not underestimate the flourished Christianity beliefs beyond eastern borders of Iran and the efforts of Iranian Christians in introducing Christianity; for, in less than two centuries, it became the most important issue in establishing relationship between Iran and western countries.

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1 Political Relation of the Saljuqid and Qarazmshahian

The fertile lands of Kharazm would attract any eyes alongside Jeyhoun River. Those lands were entrusted to Anushtekin during the Saljuqid and after him; the region was transferred to Qotbeddin Mohammad by Sanjar. He ruled the land for thirty years under sovereignty of the Saljuqid and would go to Sanjar's court every year to renew his obedience. Nonetheless, after some time, Sultan Sanjar assigned Atsez, Qotbeddin Mohammad's son to rule Kharazm. He tried to establish an independent government from the Saljuqid. The independence motifs of Atsez made Sanjar suspicious. Atsez cut his relationship with the Saljuqid in 1134 AD and by capturing new regions, added to the geographic area of his land and called himself Shah (king). This made Sultan Sanjar to attack Kharazm and he defeated Atsez. After capturing Kharazm, Sanjar assigned his nephew, Soleyman, to rule that region. Soleyman's ruling led to public satisfaction. Ultimately, Atsez, climbed to power again; however, he never tried to confront Sanjar. In 111th 0 AD, Sanjar went to battle with Qurkhan Qarakhtaei and was hardly defeated. The defeat same hard to Sanjar and the Saljuqid because on one hand, it shook the prestige of Sultan Sanjar and on the other hand, encouraged Atsez in attacking Khorasan. His attack to Khorasan opened those lands to Atsez and he captured Sarakhs, Marv and Neyshaboor and it went so far that Sanjar's name was removed from Friday prayers. Although people of Neyshaboor rejected that and even showed disobedience. Atsez surpassed them severely;

however, he was forced to return from Khorasan to Kharazm after a while. This departure gave the opportunity to Sanjar to dominate Khorasan again. There was another clash between Sanjar and Atsez that finally led to peace. Returning properties of Khorasan and announcing obedience to Sanjar by Atsez, once again, were among the results of that peace. Nonetheless, it was only the surface because as soon as Sanjar returned to Marv, Atsez rebelled once again and sent to assassins to kill Sultan Sanjar. This caused a new battle between Sanjar and Atsez that led to the defeat of Atsez; who in turn, sent precious gifts for Sanjar but the latter did not accept that and conditioned that Atsez could be forgiven only if he would personally come to Jeyhoun borders and declare obedience verbally. Atsez accepted the term and as that was done, Sanjar returned to Marv to deal with Qarakhtaei on one border and Ghez tribes in Seyhun margins. Sanjar was captivated by the Ghez, an incident that pleased Atsez; but after some time, Atsez found that the dangers of the Ghez were far more than the Saljuqid and therefore, he started defending Sanjar and with the service of one of his generals, he helped Sanjar to escape from captivity. Atsez died shortly and Sanjar died after him. The Saljuqid reign faded away by the death of Sanjar and the dynasty fell by Qarazmshahian at last.

2. Relationship with the Qorian

Qorian dwelled in mountain regions between Heart and Ghazneh. The region had no central government in the beginning and the rulers of the region were in constant fights. However, gradually, they formed a powerful government and started

competition with other governments. Sultan Mahmud Qaznavid captured the region and received tributes. While Qaznavid were busy in India and due to the inefficiency of Bahram Shah, Qorian defeated the Qaznavid. After capturing Qaznavid territory, Allaeddin Hossein stopped sending taxes to Sultan Sanjar's court and removed king's name both from the coins and the Friday prayer ceremonial preaches. The rebel of Ali Chatri, the ruler of Herat against Sultan Sanjar and coalition of Qorian made Allaeddin Hossein strong enough to capture Herat and Balkh; however, the battlefield results were in favor of Sanjar and subsequently, Qorian rulers became subjects of Saljuqid government. Alaeddin Hossein was released after a while and was sent to Qor as its ruler. Sultan Sanjar was later captivated by the Ghez and was kept there for forty years. He fled rather late and died with no sufficient power to pursue his goals. The Saljuqid looked at Qor as a wild and undomesticated region with a population who lived in hardship. Unfortunately, Saljuqid failed to benefit from the potentials of those patient mountain dwellers. Lack of an efficient and practical policy led Qorian to step into the path of making a powerful government instead of serving the Saljuqid.

3 Relations with the Qaznavid

The relationship between the Saljuqid and Qaznavid is a very old one and can be traced back to prior to Saljuqid sovereignty. The relationship had more than one hundred and fifty years of age with many ups and downs during that period. When Sultan Mahmud of Qaznavid allowed the Saljuqid to settle in Transoxiana, a decision that had positive consequences for Qaznavid because after a very short time, the settlers started complaining and Mahmoud Qaznavid was forced to attack the region and win their subordination. By death of Mahmoud Qaznavid, the internal and domestic disputes and disagreements in Sultan Masoud Qaznavid's ruling period caused rebels of Saljuqid Turkmen and due to Sultan Masoud's negligence, the Saljuqid Turkmen succeeded in capture Neyshaboor and Toghrol announced himself as Sultan. Such act urged Sultan Masoud to attack Khorasan. The Saljuqid Turkmen apparently surrounded but later chose small and guerrilla attacks and clashes with the Qaznavid soldiers. Ultimately, in Didegan battle, the Saljuqid Turkmen defeated the Qaznavid. After the defeat, the Qaznavid lost many regions and could only keep Ghazneh.

As Zahiroidoleh ascended to throne, a peace treaty was formed between the two neighboring rulers and Zahiroidoleh's son, Masoud, married the daughter of Malek Shah of the Saljuqid. By this political marriage, the Qaznavid territory was kept

safe from invasions of the Saljuqid. Alaodolleh Masoud sent troops to Qorian after becoming the ruler but clashes between him and his brother and Bahram Shah, one of his brothers, seek protection of Sultan Sanjar and the latter awarded him protection. He was crowned in Ghazneh. The close ties of Bahram Shah and Sultan Sanjar continued for thirty six years and during this period, the domination and authority of the Saljuqid put the Qaznavid under its shadow. Bahram Shah, later in an unwise act killed Ghotbeddin Mahmoud Qaznavid who had come to him as a refugee and this led to enmity of the Qaznavid although it turned out against the Qaznavid. Finally, the Qaznavid sovereignty came to end completely by Moazeddin Mohammad Qori.

Although the Saljuqid relations with east in the first half of the 11th century contributed to the development of Iranian-Islamic cultural influence in India, the unstable ties of those relationships neither helped the Qaznavid from fall nor did it have any fruits for its fading empire. The foreign policy of the Saljuqid in east, particularly against the Ghez and Qorian Turkmen and wreaking the bureaucrats against military generals not only became a weak point for sovereignty of Sultan Sanjar, but also its painful consequences continued after his death. The eastern borders of the Saljuqid became so helpless that eventually Kharazmshahian and later the Mongols put an inevitable end to the remaining of that glorious period. It became a scene in Iranian history that some historians call it brilliance without any lights and a glory empty of any hope of promotion. That era could be considered as the classic period of culture in Islamic Iranian history.

4. Relations with Eastern Rome

By establishment of Byzantine and fall of Rome in Europe, Byzantine became the heir of the ancient Rome and from that time on, it kept its position as a threat to the borders of Moslem nations. Nonetheless, Moslems attacked Byzantine many times and preceded to Constantinople, they never could keep a permanent stay and penetration in that period. On the other hand, the glory and greatness of Constantinople increased day after day.

By Malazgard's battle in Albarsalan of Saljuqid and by Malekshah's ascending to throne, the great vizier of the Sultan, Khajeh Nezamol Molk advised the Shah to send troops to Armenia. The attack put the latter lands into domination of Moslems and eventually, by capturing Georgia, the Saljuqid king could reinforce his power in those regions. In that time, an independent group of Turkmen penetrated in Anatolia and this led to invasion of Romanos, the Byzantine's emperor to north Syria. He released

many of those regions from the sovereignty of the Saljuqid and preceded even reached Halab.

In 1069, Albarsalan and Romanos signed a peace treaty and but in 1070, Romanos attacked Armenia unexpectedly. The attack led to a great battle in which, Romanos was defeated and captivated. He was released by paying a huge ransom, accepting annual tribute and freedom of all Iranian and Moslem captives in Rome and some regions such as Alraha, Manbij and Anatoly were attached to the Saljuqid Empire. The withdrawal of Romanos from paying annual tribute gave an excuse to the Saljuqid to attack Rome and Soleyman Ebn Qaltamesh started capturing regions in Minor Asia by the order of Nezamol Molk. He did his job in the best possible manner and continued with attacks and even that group of the Saljuqid who were in Minor Asia did not obey Malekshah that much and was known as rebels by Malek Shah. The view of Malek Shah on Rome Empire was to keep a peaceful life with the Romans.

5. Political marriages during Saljuqid

The tribal marriages were common practice among Oghouz Tribes since ancient time. They used marriages as a tool to reinforce their tribal unions. The tradition was followed by the Saljuqid empires as well.

After clashes of Toghrol and Abukalijar of Deylan in 1047 AD and upon their peace, in order to reinforce the peace, Toghrol married Abukalijar's daughter and at the same time, gave his niece, daughter of Davoud, to Abukalijar's son. Marriages among individuals of the Saljuqid courts and the Abbasid caliphate or their children were among factors that were used for reinforcing peace and friendship.

In 1095 AD, Caliph Alqaem Beamrollah married Davoud's daughter. The goal of caliphate was to respect Toghrol and save both rulers from any risk of breakage of friendship by enemies. Among political marriages of Saljuqid kings, one may recall the marriage of Albarsalan's son with the daughter of Ghazen ruler. The marriage united the two families of Qaznavid and Saljuqid. Marriage of Malekshah and Turkan Khatoun the daughter of Transoxiana King was another of such political marriages. Turkan Khatoun played a great role on sending the successor of Malek Shah to throne after the death of her husband. When Albarsalan found factory in Darband zone, Boghrat, the son of Georky, the ruler of the region, asked for peace and sent his daughter to Sultan's court as his wife.

However, sultan divorced his wife after some time and Nezamol Molk married her.

The marriage of daughter of Malekshah and Turkan Khatoun to Moghtada the caliph was one of

the contradictory marriages. In 1087, the caliph sent his vizier, Ebn Jahir to Isfahan to ask for the hand of the princess. Nezamol Molk advised the vizier to see Turkan Khatoun, the wife of Sultan if he wanted to succeed. Turkan Khatoun conditioned the marriage-by intermediation of Arsalan- with receiving fifty thousand Dinnar by the caliph and his promise of not marrying another woman. The caliph accepted the term. The girl was sent to Baghdad with glamorous entrance in 1093. Jahir sent one hundred thirty camels with Roman velvets and the caliph sent three hundred torchmen to welcome the bride and his mother-in-law.

The noblemen of Malekshah had brought so many candles and torches that night of Baghdad seemed to be noon. The princess was being sent to the groom's house with three hundred slave girls and a jewelry-decorated seat. However, after some time, the daughter complained that her husband showed no anticipation and Sultan returned his daughter to Esfahan. The princess went to Esfahan with Abolfazl Jafar, her son with Moghtada and died after a few months. Malek Shah tried to name Moghtada's son as his heir and make Esfahan the capital of the caliphate. By the death of Malek Shah, the son, with compromise of Turkan Khatoun and conditioning that caliph must accept Tajolmolouk, her son's succession and dividing two hundred thousand Dinnar among noblemen of Nezamiieh tried to become a Vizier; however, Ottoman, the deputy of Nezamol Molk set up the military slaves to kill him and the son was killed. Turkan Khatoun; on the other hand, fell ill when she planned to go to Tajoldoleh. In her will, she asked to have Mahmoud as the next king but this did not happen and Barkiagh crowned as king.

6. Discussions

The changes in topography, altitude, The Saljuqid were desert dwellers. They first captured Khorasan and took it away from the Qaznavid and later, they captured vast territory from beyond Seyhun to Mediterranean margins. Their domination over the Abbasid Caliphate made them a heavy burden in the Islamic world and their relationship with other rulers became particularly important. Their relationship with the Qaznavid was first by battles and wars but later, political marriages led to peace between the two rulers and they even showed supports towards the Qaznavid. The relationship of the Saljuqid and eastern Rome was a hostile one in most parts. Albarsalan opened the gates of Anatoly to Moslems in Malazgard battle and the region that had stood up against invaders for many centuries fell in the hands of the Saljuqid government. The influence of the Saljuqid in eastern Rome and Syria was among factors of crusade wars, as believed by some

historians. The role of political marriages was very important for the Saljuqid and neighboring governments.

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