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Title of the Thesis: Indo-Iranian Commercial Relations (1796–1918)

Abstract:

Keywords: Iran & India Trade, Qajar dynasty, East India Company, Persian Gulf Trade

The reign of the Qajar dynasty in Iran (1796–1925) was one of the darkest times in the history of Iran. Iran was under the influx of foreign powers: the Russian empire in the north, which resulted in two wars, one between 1808 and 1913, and the other from 1826 to 1828 (which resulted in the separation of some rich and important parts from the country); and the influence of Britain over Persian Gulf, which eventually turned it into a British sea. The struggle between these two powers and the weakness of the government of Iran under Qajars, which increased day by day due to corruption and tyranny of the rulers, eventually made Iran a tool for these two countries. When the agreement of 1907 was signed, Iran was separated into two parts: north, which was under the control of Russia and south, which was under the control of Britain. The fall of the Russian empire and change in the policy of Britain regarding Iran saved the country from this crisis. Researches on the history of Qajar have been mainly covering the political and social aspects of the history of this period and there are only a few researches on the economic status of Iran in this period and most of these unfortunately only covered the trade relations with Russia and Britain. Even though India was the most important trade partner of Iran during the late 1880s and Iran has been among the first ten trade partners of India, there are no researches covering this, and only mention trades with Britain. This research hopes to achieve the goal of covering the trade relation between Iran and India separately, without putting this trade relation as a part of the trade between Iran and Britain. The author wants to change this view with this research. This research covers this history from 1786 to 1918. The year 1796 is the year in which the Qajar dynasty was established, and 1918 is the year in which the First World War ended and the trade relation between the two countries started to increase again after 30 years of decline.

This research is divided into six chapters. In Chapter I, general information about the trade in this period of time (1796–1918) is given.

After Chapter I, which covers the different aspects of economy of Iran in the Qajar period, this research covers the trade relations between Iran and India in five chapters, with one chapter giving an overview of the trade between the two countries in this period, four of them in different periods of time in detail and the last one covering the role of the merchants and the companies in these relations.

In Chapter II, different aspects of trade relations between Iran and India in this period (1796-1859) and important reasons that resulted in a slow trade growth between the two countries compared to the global trade growth and total foreign trade of India are covered.

Chapter III covers the period between 1860 and 1889. This period was important for the trade between Iran and India. During this period, despite the fact that the trade between the two countries doubled, India lost its place as the first trade partner of Iran to Russia by 1889.

In Chapter III, all aspects of Iran and India's trade in this period and the reasons in decrease of Iran's trade with India and increase of this trade with Russia are covered

Chapter IV deals with the period between 1890 and 1913. In this period the total trade of Iran grew three times, but the total trade value between Iran and India did not change, .which resulted in India getting the third position in the foreign trade of Iran. In this chapter the reasons for this decrease are mentioned.

Chapter V covers the years between 1914 and 1918. In this period we see a great rise in the trade between Iran and India, which resulted in India getting the first position in trade with Iran again. In this chapter the reasons that caused this increase is covered.

In Chapter VI, the role of the merchants and companies in trade between Iran and India between 1796 and 1918 is covered.