**Shah Abbas (I) and the policy of hinterlands**

The role of Ilkhan Mamasani and Kohgiluyeh in economic, political, and military reforms of southern Iran

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**Abstract.** Ilkhan Mamasani and Kohgiluyeh were two tribal structures in Kohgiluyeh County in Safavid era. Mamasani Ilkhanate dwelt in Poshtkuh, Kohgiluyeh, the east of the present province; and Kohgiluyeh Ilkhanate resided in the mountains of Kohgiluyeh, west of the present province. The Safavid more concentrated on east of Iran, Uzbeks and west, which was under the rule of Ottoman Empire. Then, Shah Abbas (I) recognized the significance of the south and Persian Gulf channel following its economic, political, and military reforms. He replaced land trade, crossing Ottoman to the west, by marine. Successive riots of Zolghadr immigrant Ilkhanate in Fars and Afshar immigrant Ilkhkhanate in Kohgiluyeh with native Ilkhanate, in addition to authority insider tribal chaos made Shah Abbas (I) send Allahverdi Khan, as Fars governor, to south. He brought the peace back to Fars, and southern islands and ports; and conquered Bahrain. The son, Imam-Quli Khan, was his proper successor continued father policy of undermining the Portuguese positions in Hormuz; considering the state military aided by Fars guerrillas, especially the Mamasani Ilkhanate and Kohgiluyeh, he captured the strategic Portuguese fort on the islands and returned the economic prosperity to the Persian Gulf.

**Keywords:** Portuguese, Safavid, Mamasani, Kohgiluyeh, Shah Abbas (I), Afshar

**INTRODUCTION**

The way from east to west, crossing Ottoman Empire, was under the turmoil. Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims as well as the trade were unsafe. Hormuz and its surrounding islands and ports were over one decade occupied by Portuguese. Iran required a safe trade way. The Zolghadr and Afshar, several generations of ruling Fars and Kohgiluyeh, perpetually fought over ruling with the local Khan and the capital, which not only caused insecurity in the two aforementioned counties, but also extended it to the southern. Shah Abbas (I), seeking its reform policies of removing Qizilbash, and returning the safety to the south, islands, and harbors, assigned Allahverdi Khan as the governor of Fars and Kohgiluyeh islands and harbors. He initially established the peace in Fars, suppressed and exiled The Zolghadr. Then, entered Kohgiluyeh and defeated the Afshar in Shushtar, some banished, some relocated, and local Ilkhanate were also repressed.

The son, Imam-Quli Khan, after his death, was the proper successor continuing father policy releasing Bahrain set other Fars western islands and harbors free; then, agreed upon releasing Qeshm and Hormuz with English along Shah Abbas (I) reform policy. He gathered a military force consisting of sate army, large numbers of guerrillas as well as local forces of Fars and Kohgiluyeh, in which Mamasani and Kohgiluyeh Ilkhanate were the most prominent. In addition to military roles, Kohgiluyeh also played a critical role in procurement. Imam-Quli Khan conquered Hormuz; in the honor of this victory ‘Gumbroon’ was renamed to ‘Bandar Abbas’ by Shah order; then, Hormuz razed following the facilities relocated. The safety roads of Fars and Kohgiluyeh to Isfahan were reconstructed. Imam-Quli Khan focusing on Baghdad and Basra intended to extend its territory across all southern regions; it was then that Shah Abbas (I) passed away and Imam-Quli Khan called back from Basra siege by Shah Safi. Four years later he and his family put to the death. Fars, again, divided into five commander settlements; the policy, which gradually appeared its negative effect on the government of Shah Suleiman and Sultan.

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Husayn. Shah Sultan Husayn continuing the policy of Imam-Quli Khan reconverting Fars into a county; though, local government riots no more obey the Shah command.

The policy of hinterlands (the role of Mamsani and Kohgiluyeh Illkhanate in economic, political and military reforms of Southern, Iran by Shah Abbas (I))

Hinterlands policies pursued by Shah Abbas (I) primarily focusing on refreshing Iran power in the Persian Gulf in several goal-oriented steps. The first step was the boom of cities in the vicinity of the Persian Gulf so that each connected a geographical area to the capital including Lar, Bandar Abbas, Fasa, Dehdasht, Kazerun, and Shiraz. Peace, equilibrium, and commercial boom backed to the cities; leadership issues assigned to Allahverdi Khan who oppressed and dispossessed insecurities actors of southern more of which were the Zolghadr and the Afshar in Kohgiluyeh. Local governors of Lar and Bahrain, as well as Lurs Illkhanate of Mamasani and Kohgiluyeh were also suppressed.

The second step was constructing castles and fortifications in coasting cities by Imam-Quli Khan, the son of Allahverdi Khan (Vosughi and Habibi, 2008; 14). Imam-Quli Khan regarded as a proper successor to his father in obeying Shah Abbas (I) commands and policy. Hormuz conquest included one of the critical events of Iran history implemented following this policy.

Mamasani Illkhan and Kohgiluyeh were in a turbulent and chaotic position preceding the entrance of Allahverdi Khan into Shiraz due to takeover conflicts of two Afshar tribes of Kandzlou and Arshlou in Kohgiluyeh county; Lurs Illkhanate were intentionally or unintentionally in the Afshar battles. The Afshar governing tribe resided in Kohgiluyeh from the era of Tahmasb I, Safavid Shah of Iran (1514) to the ninth rein of Shah Abbas (1005). Khalil Khan Afshar, the number two man of Safavid, was the first ruler of Kohgiluyeh murdered in the revolt of ‘Shah Qalandar’ of Kohgiluyeh (1580, Islamic calendar). Three of its descendents Rostam Beig, Mahmud Beig, and Ali Sultan, governor of Dezful were selected as the Khan of the Afshar, respectively and participated in successive wars against the Lurs of Mamasani, Kohgiluyeh, and their allies (1543-1580, Islamic Calander); however, all three were killed (Hosseini Maneshi, 2006; 418). Iskandar Khan Afshar appointed to the government of Kuhgiluyeh by Safavid (1582) and oppressed rising of the Lurs of Mamasani and Kohgiluyeh led by Qalandar Shah aided by Ommat Khan Zolghadr, Fars governor (Turkmen, 2006; 53). Iskandar Khan was dismissed by a group of the Afshar rebellions appointing Shah Quli Khan Afshar to the Kuhgiluyeh self-government. The Afshar tribe, resident in Aghajeri, honored Hassan Beig as their Khan fighting as the opponent of Shah Quli Khan. Both were called from the Safavid capital for an election; however, Hassan Khan opportunistically killed Shah Quli Khan. Thus, Hassan Khan was approved and appointed due to Safavid lack of power (Vahid qazzini, 2006; 98).

Hassan Khan also failed to establish the peace in Kohgiluyeh County; therefore, Safavid capital sent Hatam Beig Etemad Al-duleh and Farhad Khan as the head of two national armies to Lorestan and Kohgiluyeh. Hassan Khan was dismissed and imprisoned, and the ruling assigned to Amir Khan Afshar, Kazerun governor. Further, the Lurs of Janki, Bandani, and Mamasani were fined in monetary (Vahid qazzini, 2006; 30) and (Turkmen, 2003; 503). Though, the Afshar rebelled, Mamasani, Javanki, and Bandani peasants were fined. The Afshar reinitiated revolving once the central government left. The rebellious branch against Amir Khan appointed Abu-al Fath Khan Afshar, grandson of Khalil Khan Afshar, as the Khan started fighting with Amir Kahn. Amir Khan asked the help of Mehdi-Quli Khan, Shushtar governor; meanwhile, Abu-al Fath Khan requested the Musha’sha’iyyah Seyyed Mobarak. Mehdi-Quli Khan, again, sought for the help of Bardi Khan, the Lur, which resulted in flaring riots. However, a compromise took in Ramhormoz surroundings, both parties retreated as the Lurs and Arabs conciliated (not willing to mixed with Turkic Afshar (Turkmen, 2003; 524). All chaos was transmitted to Shah Abbas (I), in person, by the capital expedition and Mehdi-Quli Khan, the Shushtar governor. Thus, Shah appointed Allahverdi Khan, the king general and advisor, to the government of Fars and Kohgiluyeh’s islands and ports. Shah Abbas, like the predecessors, disregarded southern areas. However, it was then, the ninth rein year that he considered the south following the peace was relatively established in east and west. Allahverdi Khan entered Kuhgiluyeh from Fars and Shoulestanat and killed large
numbers of Arshlou and Kandzlou dishonest Afshars. In addition, he neutralized Javanki, Bandani, and non-Lurs’ rebellious tribes. Unfortunate, disobedient Afshars and Lurs were so scourged and chastised that for never thought of trying any rebellion and turpitude (Vahid qazvini, 2003; 525), (Hosseini Fasaie, 1988), (Turkmen, 2003; 135). Allahverdi Khan ended the rule of the Afshar and unkindly oppressed the Lurs of Mamasani and Kohgiluyeh like the preceding capital expedition.

As Allahverdi Khan recognized the chivalry of Mamasani and Kohgiluyeh’s Lurs, utilized them for its all campaigns in Lar, Bahrain, and capturing of Baghdad. Allahverdi Khan headed to Baghdad in September 29, 1603 joined by the rulers of Kohgiluyeh, Shushtar, Hamedan, and Lurestan (Monajjem Yazdi, 1987; 245). Allahverdi Khan’s division was also accompanied with the local army of Kohgiluyeh in the war against Ottoman, and in the areas of Azerbaijan, and Armenia.

He was succeeded (1614) by his eldest son, Imam-Quli Khan, after his death. Imam-Quli kept Fars and southern areas of Iran united along Shah economic and national reforms. Hormuz, Qeshm, Kish, Bahrain to Basra were occupied by Portuguese from 1506 to 1622; in another word, 119 years of colonization of southern islands and ports. Shah Ababs I ordered Imam-Quli Khan to conquer Hormuz; on the other side, he was delegated to negotiate with English navy on marine cooperation. Imam-Quli Khan in a military deployment gathered state corps, provincial corps (including the Lar, people of the islands and harbors, as well as the Turks resident in Fars), local Mamasani Ilkhanate guerrillas and its subtribes, Kohgiluyeh Ilkhanate and subtribes, Dashti and Dashtestan areas around the Persian Gulf.

He sent a herald to any country requesting for the help of all armies
He gathered the army in 20 days including all the governors, rulers and tribe headers
Its army consisted of many nationalities including the Lur, the Kurd, and the Bakhtiyar
(Unknown and Ghadri, 2005; 5)

The aforementioned army dismounted in Hormuz following the harbors’ immunization including Gumbroon and western harbors aided by Iranian and English navy. There occurred a seriously crucial battle regarding the Portuguese weapon powers and strong fortifications, which led to large losses. It was pitched battles and Iranian warriors’ panache. It was in such sceneries that the poet of “Jangnameh Keshm and Jeroun nameh” mentioned people by their tribe extension. It revealed that of the four brave Iranian commanders two were of National army and the other two were of Mamsani Ilkhanate. It stated that:

The commander was from Mamasai, a man full of manhood, intrepidity, and bravery
He was such a brave, superpower warrior in the battle day
He would never runaway at the hard day of the fight
He roared like a lion fought courageously in the battleground
He killed all the enemies by its fortitude fighting
There was no courageous warrior like him in the battleground killing all the invaders
(Unknown and Ghadri, 2005; 8).

The poet characterized the Khan of Mamasani and its bravery; meanwhile, introduced him as the leading commanders excelled over peers through its courageousness. Then, he referred to Amir AHmadi Javid, a person from other Mamsani tribes:

‘Amir Ahmadi’ from ‘Javid’ was an optimistic, hopeful champion
He attacked the intruders and murdered the foreigners
The foreigners retreated back never thought of fighting against such courageous men
(Anonymous and Ghadri, 2005; 9)

It seems that Amir Ahmadi was the foremost commander who attacked to the enemy lines by his army and the Portuguese defeated. This war event may be attributed to the time where Portuguese and its western and local forces defended outside the citadel. The poet added that the army of tropical tribes and Mamasani Lurs captured one of the Portuguese water well in spite of the sharp steep of the citadel.
entrance located on the height. Then, the poet complained of the foreigners’ firearms and recognized their superiority in firearm unfair:

*The only superiority of the attackers is the artillery and guns entangled courageous Iranian warriors
However, the strong kings fought only by mace, sword, and bows*

The Portuguese several times requested for peace; however, Imam-Quli Khan avoided and rejected as the triumph was approaching. He demolished Hormuz after the victory over Portuguese retreating from the Persian Gulf. All the facilities relocated to Bandar Abbas; then, reported to Shah Abbas (I), who also ordered razing of Gumbroon, and other islands and ports.

*Shah was cheerfully pleased receiving good news of its army’s victories
He ordered the assignee to conquer ‘Gumbroon’ and overthrow all the intruders
“There is no room for negligence and delay; it only needs your courage and obedience”*

Imam-Quli Khan established the security in the Persian Gulf and surroundings in 1625; then, he noticed Basra and Baghdad as well as the Ottoman and other western penetrating. Imam-Quli Khan, the Beylerbey, aided by the Lurs of Mamasani and Kohgiluyeh, the Baloch, Turk, Eillat, and Arabs of Doraghdad and Ramhormuz crossed Behbahan and Shushtar toward Basra and Baghdad (Hosseini Fasaie, 1988; 437). It is worth notifying that according to Safavid writings, they intended on blockading Basra; and Baghdad is disregarded. “Imam-Quli Khan, the Beylerbey of Fars, surrounded Basra; the Roman requested for safely surrendering. It was then that he received the death news of Giti Setani (1629); therefore, conquer was delayed (Vahid qazvini, 2004; 530).

The Kohgiluyeh County, the Lurs of Mamasani, as well as Khuzestan not only involved in this war, but also they were the procurement responsible for national and state army, which was resulted due to the hinterlands’ economic policies so that despite Hormuz blockade, food supplies arrived from hinterland cities:

*Doragh, Ramhormoz, and Behbahan sent huge amounts of supplies to the front by an order from Khan (Jangnameh Keshm, 2010; 47)*

The aforementioned verse indicated that the supply storage located back front and in the vicinity.

The second objective of hinterlands’ policies was connecting islands and ports to the capital, which required constructing main roads departure from southern harbors, crossing hinterlands and approached to the capital city as destination. The roads were from Shiraz to Isfahan, Ganaveh to Dehdasht, Isfahan, from Bandar Abbas to Fasa, Shiraz, to Isfahan and etc. the aforementioned roads required reconstruction and security, which was provided by the 22-year ruling of Imam-Quli Khan in Fars and Kohgiluyeh. Then, Kohgiluyeh County and its governing settlement, Dehdasht, boomed and luxurious structures constructed imitating the capital.

Tavernier considering Fars and Iran road security stated that “these tollmen were appointed across the country so that all criminals will be soon discovered only by referring to them. Indeed, there is no room for escaping of wanted and criminals… It is totally safe to travel alone by no caravan” (Tavernier, 2004; 277).

*Murder the bandit so that the caravan is safe in roads*

Immunization policy of the roads, prosperity in business, development in agriculture and husbandry in the southern of Fars and Kohgiluyeh all attributed to the perfect management of Imam-Quli Khan. Once Imam-Quli put to the death by the order of Safi Shah in 1631, the late Safavid kings unconsciously swerved the policy of hinterlands. As Shah Safi again divided Fars into six ruling settlements (including Larestan, Shiraz, Doragh, Kohgiluyeh, Bahrain, and Sarvestan) giving the opportunities to the feudal and
local governments. Shah Sultan Husayn continued the policy of Imam-Quli Khan and appointed Safi-Quli Khan as the Beylerbey of Fars, Kohgiluyeh, and surrounding islands and harbors (Floor, 1992; 60). However, it was too late then as the local Khans disobeyed the central government so that the southern of Iran, practically, returned to the era preceding Shah Abbas (I).

CONCLUSION

Though, Safavid writing less regarded the local army and its contribution in national wars, certainly, the role of local guerrillas or county army was not less significant than the national army in Safavid era. According to Safavid historical writings, the Eillkhan Mamasani, Kohgiluyeh, and other counties of Fars known as tropical counties played a critical role in Iran-Portuguese war not only in front, but also in procurement and supplying in the back front. The biggest barrier to the south safety was the Qizilbash of Zolghadr and Afshar ruling settlements. Over two centuries of inherited ruling residence caused not only the attitude of inherited government, but also they even disregarded the central government preferring their self-governed governors to state governors even if the same tribe. The immigrant Ilkhkhanate always disputed to native Ilkhkhanate due to the cultural, political, and military contrasts so that resulted in several riots in Kohgiluyeh and Fars. Shah Abbas (I) informed by the governors of Khuzestan and its missionary expeditions; thus, sent Allahverdi Khan to Fars for punishment and launching the reforms.

Fars and Kugiluyeh took the advantage of prosper business and husbandry, as well as the safety over the twenty-two years of Imam-Quli Khan ruling. The death of Imam-Quli Khan and the nonstrategic policy of the two late Safavid Shahs, the chaos, insecurity, and feudalism returned to south. Shah Sultan Husayn pursued Imam-Quli Khan policy so that reappointed a governor for Fars, Kohgiluyeh and the ports. However, the government foundations were weak and local Khans ignored central government. Thus, the successful hinterland policy of Shah Abbas, which was followed by economic, security, and military achievements in the southern areas, was indeed overlooked and the former conditions appeared.

REFERENCES