

Russian-Iranian Relations in the Safavid and Qajar Era: A Historical Study

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This research aims to analyze and study Iran's position in the strategy of Tsarist Russia during the reign of Peter the Great and the end of the rule of Nader Shah in the light of Iranian-Russian sources. Those sources attended to this issue for several reasons, including the geographical proximity between the two countries and the presence of Iranians inside Russia because of the loss of Iran and the loss of its territories, including Baku, Georgia, Rasht and other Iranian territories. Therefore, it came under the banner of Tsarist Russia, as well as Russian ambitions in Iran, especially during the reign of Peter the Great, who occupied half of Iranian territory and wanted Russia to become the owner of the silk trade in the first place in the world. Russia controls warm water ports and there is no competitor to it. Therefore, it became one of its first attention and strategy to impose its dominance on it.

Key words: Russian-Iranian Relationship, Geographical Proximity, Silk Trade

Introduction

The geographical factors between Russia and Iran contributed to the formulation of important roles in the relations between the two parties over the ages. The common border between the two countries had a clear impact on those relations, especially in light of the claims of ownership of some regions of each country and based on the weakness of the other country. Our research addresses Iran-Russia relations in the Safavid and Qajar era. We tried to follow those relations in all their joints and their results on the two countries, and the position of the two countries on the Ottoman Empire, where their positions were characterized according to the interest of each country. It is considered good for one party and not good for the second party. The research pointed to the relations between the two countries. It witnessed a

development during the reign of Shah Abbas Atavi, and then witnessed a breakthrough in later periods due to the change of the political atmosphere surrounding the two countries. In order to be more credible and far from merely subjective interpretation and exaggeration in the transfer of historical events, the researcher was keen to obtain a collection of books Arabic, English and Persian. The research dealt with the political events in the two countries and the position of each country against the other, and their position on the treaties and wars held during that period.

In this study, we followed the historical inductive approach which is complex and has many events, especially in the aspects of relations between those countries that have undergone phases in building convulsive and sometimes soft relations, and this requires knowledge of the most prominent of these events.

The beginnings of Russian interest in Iran date back to the second half of the fifteenth century. They were interested in this region commercially and religiously. The city of Tabriz was mentioned in the books of the first travellers who saw all regions of Iran, including Tabriz (Kamal, 1985). One who was impressed by those areas was the traveller (Nikitin Afanassy) (Farid, 2005). Upon his return from India via Iran for the duration (1466-1472) of a round-trip, and his second trip in 1472 from Hormuz in the Arabian Gulf, he said it was one of the most important commercial centres for convoys. In 1556, the Russian tsar Ivan IV, called the Terrible, seized Astrakhan city (1584-1533). The Volga River, one of Europe's most important and longest rivers, moved from its spring to its mouth in the Caspian Sea through Russia. That increased its commercial importance and the movement of merchant vessels passing through the Caspian Sea, primarily Astrakhan and the northern regions of the Caspian Sea; this achievement for the Russians is the beginning of their entry into Iran (Kamal, 1985).

Research aims

1. To identify Russian-Iranian relations and the nature of the factors affecting these relations.
2. Knowing the factors affecting Russian-Iranian relations (political and economic).
3. Knowing Russian-Iranian trade relations.

Research significance

The importance of researching the Russian-Iranian relations in the Safavid and Qajar era comes as a result of the relations between the two countries. The two have strategic interests in a region of geostrategic importance, both regionally and internationally. Iran is important



to Russia because it is Russia's main gateway to warm waters and Russia is the main gateway to Iran's trade.

The First Topic

Russia's relationship with Iran during Safavid rule

Iran experienced a flourishing period during the reign of Shah Abbas I and II in the mid-16th to the mid-17th century. During this period, Iran's trade and economic relations with its northern neighbour Russia, considered a route of access to Europe via the Caspian Sea and the Volga River, helped Iran compete with the Ottoman Empire in its trade with Europe through the Mediterranean sea and the Arabian Gulf. For its part, Russia wanted to weaken the trade of the Ottoman Empire, so it was in its interest to trade with Iran and to transfer eastern trade to its territory. From there were the beginnings of Iran-Russia trade relations (Kamal, 1588). Relations between the two countries were also united by their joint efforts to put an end to the Ottoman occupation of their countries (Mikhail, 1994).

In 1589, diplomatic relations developed between the two countries. Shah Abbas Atavi sent delegations to Tsarist Russia headed by Bumble Ebee Beck and Hadi Beck to seek military assistance from the Russian Tsar against the Ottomans (Aleithmaniyn). He sent Russian Tsar (FudarAvavetsi) (1598-1584) to open a dialogue in Iran, headed by Prince Andrei and this was the beginning of relations between the two countries.

This encouraged Russian forces to occupy areas under Iranian control such as Derband, Karj, Baku, and Sherwan to rid Ottoman control over it (Abdel, 1991). This was instigated by the Shah of Iran.

The Shah promised Russian tsar Fudar Avavetsi that if the Russians were to occupy the areas or take them back from the Ottomans, they would be ceded by the Shah to the Russian Tsar (KaramZin).

Russia's Tsar Fudar Avavetsi found that he could not establish friendly relations with the Ottoman Sultan, so he decided to keep his promises to the Lithuanian emperor and the Spanish king to forge an alliance with the Shah against the Ottoman Empire. Shah Abbas had allied with the Ottoman Sultan. After it became clear to the Russian Tsar that the alliance was only a trick, (Abdulaziz Awad) Tsar sent Prince Andrei (Prince Andrei) to Iran to learn more news and investigate. In 1594 he was greeted warmly by Shah Abbas in Kashan city, where he paid a special tribute to Prince Andréi 's army of Shah Abbas and Iran's thriving trade, civilization and architecture, and told him: "He is working to achieve the basic goal of restoring the glories of the ancient Persian state, and the Shah indicated that he has a strong army of 6,000 fighters armed with firearms, 40,000 infantrymen and 30,000 artillery men,



and Shah Abbas swore to Prince Andrei and the Russian tsar that he had been true to the Russian tsar and to help achieve glory, interest and purpose (Abdul, 1991).

At that time, the Safavid state competed with the Ottoman Empire for control of new colonies. In order to forge alliances against the Ottoman Empire, Shah Abbas sent missions to the royal household of European kings, including Russia. In response, Russia immediately sent a mission to Iran headed by Alexander Serov Zاسبكي, to conclude a military agreement directed against the Ottoman Empire. Although no agreement was reached, the two sides reached an oral agreement to take joint action against the Ottoman Empire.

In 1625, there were events of particular importance: the dedication of Shah Abbas, to his faithful expiation of sins seized by the Persians after their invasion of Georgia to the Russian Tsar. On 14 July, the Russian Orthodox Church introduced a special feast for the event, the day of the arrival of Christ's expiation of sins.

In addition to the Ottoman threat to Iran from the north, another threat from the south was the Portuguese, who occupied the Strait of Hormuz and other sites on the Arabian Gulf. The Portuguese played a prominent role in the life of Iranians, ranging from oppression to forcing Iranians to buy their requirements at imaginary prices (Lt. Col. Sir Arnold, 1988). This required Shah Abbas to make an agreement with King James of Britain to recover the Strait of Hormuz from Portugal. So he issued a decree granting privileges for European traders, including Britain, and those who wanted to deal with Iran or Iranian traders (Lt. Col. Sir Arnold, 1988).

Shah Abbas was able to create a good relationship with the English people through the East India Company, which in 1616 acquired privileges in Persia. That established a commercial agency in Jask on the Iranian coast in 1616 and the company had a strong relationship with Shah Abbas; the two parties seeking to confront the Portuguese who succeeded in occupying the Strait of Hormuz in addition to other sites in the Arabian Gulf, and this company continued with a commercial character that was dominated until the end of the eighteenth century (Bowen, 1991).

In 1665, the East India Company (Jean Panet) sent a group of important businessmen to Isfahan, the capital of the Safavid state at the time, to carry out its affairs there and extend its influence in the Iranian capital. They met with Shah Abbas II, who welcomed the French delegation very much. Iran's relationship with Britain, Portugal, France and Russia was established, and in 1665 Shah Abbas II allowed French merchants to enter Iran and transport their goods in Iranian territory and also duty-free, and in 1669 three French merchant ships arrived. The size of that relationship increased with Iran during the Shah's government, and



French trade began to flourish in Iran, and its size increased under Shah Hussein who signed a trade treaty with Louis XIV in 1708 (Mohammed, 1643).

Bushehr and Bandar Abbas became important French trading centres for French traders, but as a result of France's entry into a seven-year war and the loss of France in 1756-63, France ceded the East India company area to Britain (Seven years').

The Safavid power began to weaken after the death of Shah Abbas I in 1629. Russian-Iranian relations had been disrupted, with Russia moving towards Sweden and Bologna (Kamal, 1985). The weak new Iranian authorities opened the way for European colonial countries, by concluding agreements and granting privileges to foreign countries, allowing colonial powers to extend their influence and control through agreements, and grant them trade privileges and freedom of movement, for several reasons:

First, unrest had engulfed the whole of Iran, and its comparatively large population. That affected the creation of markets, human resources, and the authority of the Shah over the people.

Second: Iran's strategic southern regions and coasts are remote and far from the centre of power, which were easily controlled by the colonial powers and the building of military bases there (Molchanov, 1991).

The second Topic

Deterioration of Russian-Iranian relations during the reign of Great Petar 1662-1725

At the beginning of the reign of Peter the Great (1725-1662), one of his most important works was restoring Russian-Iranian relations, especially commercial ones, in the same period that saw the end of the Safavid and the invasion of Iranian territory by Afghan tribes.

One of the most important objectives of Great Peter after taking office was to obtain warm water ports for Russia, control and acquire Iran's silk trade with Europe, and make Russia the only way for this important trade, because of its importance and benefit to the Russian economy (Allosin Mobin, 1336). In addition to trying to make the Caspian Sea a Russian lake, and attempting to control and expand the northern and southern regions of Iran (Khodakordian, 1360) in 1696-1690, the Russians carried out campaigns called Campaigns of Azov to seize the Fortress of Azov, located at the mouth of the Don River in the Black Sea, for a quarter of a century, i.e. 1726-1. Meanwhile Russia fought the Northern War against Sweden which ended with Russia taking over part of the Baltic Sea (Lawrence, 1425).



Peter worked to take important measures to continue his policy in Iran. In 1708 he sent a Russian mission headed by Israel Ori to Iran in Isfahan, to meet shah Hussein Alsafawi (1790-1722) (Lawrence, 1425). Ori's arrival in Iran raised the concerns of representatives of the major powers, Britain and Germany, at the Safavid court (Mohammad, 1997).

But the goal of Peter the Great, in sending Israel Ori, was to learn about Iran, gather as much information as possible about its economic, social and military conditions, and discuss the issue of the Christian people in Iran (Mohammad, 1324).

Peter continued to follow Iran's internal and external affairs. So he sent a second envoy to the Safavid court, Petroofitsh Volynosky.

Volnoysky's mission was difficult. Peter ordered him to explore the power of the Shah, the power of the shah-run government and his relationship with the Ottoman Empire, as well as a set of wills and objectives (Mohammad, 1323). Volnoysky made efforts to reach a trade treaty with the Iranian Government, and to convince the Shah that the Ottoman Government was the sworn enemy of Iran and Russia, so the Tsar wished to establish strong relations with neighbouring Iran (Mahmoud, 1353).

Peter the Great provided his envoy with certain instructions

1. Gathering detailed information on Iran's conditions and the rivers that flow into the Caspian Sea through Syrian-Turkish territory to Russia.
2. A complete definition of Iran's military power.
3. Making a trade treaty with Iran.
4. If he fails to achieve his mission, he must do everything in his power to put obstacles and difficulties in the way of trade between Iran and the European states.
5. Convincing the Shah and his ministers to turn the silk route to Europe by Armenian merchants.

In addition to emphasizing the collection of detailed economic and military information and various issues (Mahmoud, 1353), Shah Hussein received Mr. Volnoysky with a warm reception. A Russian-Iranian trade agreement was concluded in 1719 under which Shah Hussein granted Russian merchants all trade privileges for Iran, including the right of buying Iranian silk from all parts of Iran unconditionally, and practising all their businesses freely, for the process of buying and selling Iranian silk.

In return, Shah Hussein's government pledged to provide all protections for Russian nationals and traders inside Iran. Volnoysky's efforts did not stop there, but he persuaded the Iranian Shah (Mahdi, 1363) to appoint Ayramovas the first Russian consul in the Iranian city of



Rasht to become an important trading centre for the Russian and Iranian states (Mysorex, 1429).

He was given the task of studying ways to move towards the Caspian Sea. He was also assigned to build warships, and sent to Iran Captain Bastakov on an exploratory mission, and Volinsky was given the task of exploring the situation in the Caucasus region, where various and complex liberation movements began (Abdul, 1991). Those areas began with uprisings against his opponents the Ottoman Empire, in addition to many of these areas. The Russians sought protection from them, and one of those areas is Georgia and Armenia. An Armenian politician presented his plan to the Russian Tsar Peter to liberate Armenia from Persian control and said to him, "It has been more than 250 years and we are under Persian control and our people hope your Majesty will rid him of Persian control (Mahmoud, 1353). The Tsar replied that he was busy with wars with Sweden and could not go to war with him to liberate Armenia.

Russia's Tsarist policy toward Iran changed at the beginning of the third decade of the eighteenth century. Peter prepared to carry out a large-scale attack on Iran, especially after the deterioration of relations and political conditions there. First, events had developed in the Caucasus. There was a large-scale war by the Prince of the Georgian city of Leathergun (Daoud Bek) against the Persians. Second, some Russian commercial convoys were looted in 1722 by Iranian bandits in Shamakhi Area. That was a pretext for Peter carrying out his massive campaign against Iran. At the same time, Peter sent Volnoysky to the province to intervene in solving the Georgia problem (Molchanov, 1991). He told Daoud that the Christians and Georgians should not take any action against the Persians before the arrival of Russian forces, during which time the Afghans went to Isfahan after the defeat of Shah Hussein and occupied the Iranian capital. The son of Shah Hussein (Tahamas Mirza) was appointed Shah of Iran. Shah Tahamas Mirza asked for help from Russia and Peter to help him get rid of the Afghan invasion. Peter led his military campaign in late 1722, known as the First Russian Campaign which lasted until the spring of 1723. Russian forces led by Peter were able to occupy Baku and Derband and Rasht (Sir, 1922).

Disputes between Russia and Iran continued, especially after Russia took control of most areas of Iran and reached the city of Killan. This raised the fears of the Ottoman Empire, because the arrival of Russian forces in this way threatened their interests in the Caucasus. So the Ottoman Empire threatened Russia, that it agreed to support Iran in its war against the Russians if Russian advances continued inside Iranian territory.

This made Peter order an end to The Russian Advance and withdrawal from those areas occupied by Russian forces (Kamal, 1985). To stop the destruction of Iran and Russia, the

two countries sought to put an end to their disputes, and reached a new treaty known as the Treaty of Petersburg from 1723. It included a number of items, most importantly:

1. The Russian Tsar provide military assistance to the Safavid Shah.
2. The Iranian Shah recognizes his returnees to Baku and Derband to the Russian Tsar.
3. The Iranian Shah pledges to help Russian troops with supplies.
4. Ensure the freedom of trade and movement between the two countries.
5. Establishing a bilateral friendly relationship between the two countries (Hassan Perniau).

With this treaty, Shah Tahmasb II ceded all of Iran's territory to Tsarist Russia in order to get the Iranian throne. In return, Russia would support the Shah against the Afghan invasion, as well as the Iranians' emphasis on the continuity of free trade between the two countries (Kamal, 1985).

The French government felt the danger to its interests if there was a war between Russia and the Ottoman Empire, so it sent to its ambassador located in Istanbul Marquis (de Potak) to diplomatically resolve the crisis between the two countries. Actually the Marquis (de Botak) reached an agreement by concluding a treaty between the Russian and Ottoman parties, and in 1724 included the following items:

1. The cities of Hamadan, Kermanshah, Irwan, Tabriz, Aruja, Sanandaj, are under the control of the Ottoman Empire.
2. The provinces of Mazandan, Esterabad, Shirvan and Gilan are the Persian state.
3. The Dreband line to Turkestan is a dividing line between the two countries.
4. The remaining cities are inherited property under the control of the Shah (Farid, 2005).

The two parties did not commit to the agreement for a long time. Turkey, especially, began to bypass the terms of the treaty, as it did not take a few months until the Ottoman forces began to take control of Astarabad, Caspian and other cities kept by the treaty under the control of Shah Tahmasp. This means that the Ottomans struck the 1724 treaty against the wall and overtook it, and then the Ottomans did not implement the Treaty of 1724. The Ottoman forces went to the Iranian capital Isfahan. In a short time, Ottoman forces captured the important cities of Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, Armenia, Georgia, Qom from central Iran and part of Shirvan and Dagestan. Only part of Shirvan and part of Dagestan remained in Russian forces (Fathullah Abdullah Baq).

With the death of Great Peter in 1725, all military and commercial actions between Iran and Russia in the Caucasus were stopped for external and internal reasons related to Russia's



status, where all its dreams stopped after the death of Great Peter and temporarily diverted its attention from the Caucasus region (Abbas, 1999).

The third topic

Relations between the two countries under the rule of Nader Shah

In the late eighteenth century, there was an important change in the Iranian arena that accompanied the emergence of Nader Shah al-Afshari in Iranian government. Nader Shah succeeded in expelling Afghans from his country (Ushar, 2006) after they occupied the city of Isfahan in 1728 (Raja, 2001) under the leadership of Mahmoud Al-Afghani. Nader Shah led a campaign at the head of a force of fifteen thousand fighters, and the two armies met, the Iranian army and the Afghan army, at the city of (The Infidel Regain of the Castle). (Persia) There was a bloody battle between them in which the loss of the Afghans in favour of the forces of Nader Shah and the Afghan forces constituted defeat. Afghan leaders asked Nader Shah for reconciliation and agreed to his request, on condition that all of their weapons and equipment would be delivered to the Iranian army (Ahmad Kazim).

Despite the overwhelming victories achieved by Nader Shah al-Afshari over Afghan forces, he did not continue his attack against (Ashraf) cousin (Mahmoud al-Afghani) for some time, until the army could regain its strength and organize its ranks. The battle between the Afghan army and Nadir Shah forces took place near the Mehmandust River on September 20, 1729. The Persian forces triumphed over the defeated and lost Afghani forces. This was one of the important steps that Nader Shah had hoped to achieve, and one of his ambitions (Iman Miteb Mohy). From this time, relations between the Ottoman Empire and Tsarist Russia were in a very critical state because of the territory of Iran was not divided among them satisfactorily. This served Nadir Shah's plans towards the two countries, after which began Russian assistance to the Shah and his army, that had fought the Ottomans at the edges behind the Caucasus (Ali, 1992). Nader Shah was able to restore Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Dagestan to Iranian territory, and relations between Tsarist Russia and Nader Shah became strong for several reasons; the most important being the deterioration of relations between the Ottoman Empire and Russia.

With the death of Peter in 1725, Nader Shah installed the pillars of his rule and the growth of his power. The two parties worked to conclude a new treaty in the city of Rasht in 1732, during the reign of Empress Ann, known as the Treaty of Rasht. (Kamal Mazhar Ahmad) The Iranian representative was Mohammad Ibrahim, and on the Russia side Shavirun. They agreed to return to Iran the territories granted to it by the Petersburg Treaty (For details on) in 1723, and to oblige Russia to withdraw its troops from the cities of Astrabad and Gilan beyond the Kura River, which is the border between the two countries (Hassan, 2005). Russia



obtained economic privileges, including the exemption of its exports from taxes as well as imports.

The treaty also included the restoration of friendship, understanding and interest relations between Tsarist Russia and Persia (Robert, Conquest), as well as the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the exchange of ambassadors among themselves and the immunity of Persians who served the Russians during the Russian occupation of some Persian cities (Ali, 1992).

According to the Congregation Treaty of 1735, Nader Shah prevented Russians from working inside Iran and entering Baku and Derband (Saeed, 1342), and threatened the Russians with an alliance with the Ottoman states against them, if the cities (Baku and Derband) and other states did not return to Persia.

Russia was prepared to return those states to Persia because it was not in their interest to fight the Ottoman Empire. Also, Persia was not a danger for Tsarist Russia, whereas it feared for its security against the Ottoman Empire, so it stipulated for Persia the Congregation Treaty (Robert, Conquest), including some conditions:

1. The parties must not enter into negotiations with the Ottoman Empire.
2. Neither of them should conclude a single peace with the Ottoman Empire.

Under the second clause, the Persian state continued to fight the Ottoman Empire until it recaptured all the territories under the control of the Ottoman Empire (Kamal, 1985).

In return, Russia agreed to return everything it had previously seized from Iran (NBAHOB, 1959), in exchange for Russia's important trade and economic gains from Iran, as well as exempting all Russian goods from customs taxes and duties (Fathullah Abdullah). In return Russia pledged to Iran not to allow any of the European countries or the Ottoman state to impose control over it.

Nader Shah pledged to continue friendly relations between the two parties, and consider the enemies of Russia as his enemies (Lawrence, 1425). Iran also pledged not to conclude any unilateral agreement or treaty with the Ottoman Empire without Russia knowing (NBAHOB, 1959). Russia had commercial interests in Persia, as Russian companies continued to work within Persia. One special interest of the terms of the King's Agreement allowed English merchants to send their goods to and from Persia via Russia, so a Russian company sent one of its representatives, Captain John Elton, to Persia to study both the situation there and ways of transportation between the two countries. He was able to gather information about the



Persian market, and to meet Rezamali Mirza the son of Nader Shah, who granted him wide privileges in trade and economic terms.

Russian officials gathered, upon Elton's return to Russia. They were told that Persia was a large and important market for the consumption of English wool, because of the extreme cold – and that all the poor and rich Iranian people were buying fur and English wool clothes. The envoy stated the importance of Mashhad city as a big market. For the Iranian people it is an important religious centre, from which goods can be sent to all parts of Persia, Kandahar and Kabul (Ali, 1992).

Conclusion

1. Iran has remained an important axis of Russian strategy by virtue of several factors, including its 2,500 km border with its Russian neighbour. Further, over the centuries, Iran has formed the longest line that connects Russians directly with the Middle East, which is the heart of the vital world, and the international shipping artery and the international trade centre.
2. Relations between Tsarist Russia and Persia are old and include economic and political aspects.
3. Relations between the two countries flourished during the reign of Shah Abbas I.
4. Iran considered Russia its trade route to Europe, so it has always tried to have friendly relations between them at least.
5. Shah Abbas al-Safavi used the Russians to stand up to the Ottoman expansion.
6. After the death of Shah Abbas I in 1629, weakness began to heal in Persia, causing the end of Iran-Russia relations as the Russian government moved to start new relations with European countries such as Sweden and Bologna.
7. At the beginning of the reign of the Russian Tsar Peter I (1662-1725), one of his most important works was the restoration of Russian-Iranian relations, especially commercial ones, during the period that saw the end of the Safavids and the invasion of Afghan tribes into Iranian territory.
8. Peter worked on important measures. For example, he sent a representative to Isfahan to incite Iran to declare war against the Ottoman Empire.
9. Russia has obtained more important privileges from Iran and in various fields, especially in the economic field, which is one of the most prominent means used by Russia to penetrate into Iranian territory and draw out of control from Iran, especially the territories of Baku and Georgia.



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from God, and soon dauphin was appointed crown prince of France, the rule of France for 54 years (1661-1715), and its fate was characterized to the point of unimaginable history of France without it, he is the owner of the famous word State I, and I state. Schama, Simon (1990). *Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution*, ISBN 0679726101.

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Nader Shah did not abide by this clause of the Congregation Treaty, in late 1735 he entered into unilateral negotiations with the Ottoman Empire for reconciliation and resulted in the signing of the Istanbul Treaty on September 28, 1736, while Russia continued its fourth war with the Ottoman Empire for another three years. Seen: Kamal Appearance Previous Source, p. 22.

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Persia was dominated by internal turmoil following the Afghan invasion, with Shah Mahmud al-Afghani sacked Hussein al-Farsi from his rule. Afghan rule in Persia continued in the reigns of Mahmud and his cousin Ashraf. Some northern provinces. See Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani Ibrahim, *Government of British India and Administration in the Persian Gulf (Documentary Study) Saudi Arabia*, p. 208.

Prince Andrei Bonolowski is the son of Yuri Dolforoxy, who inherited the throne of Kiev after the death of his father, Prince Yuri, but did not stay in Kiev, but declared himself a prince in the city of Vladimir in the Principality of Ruzdal in northern Russia.

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The son of Shah Hussein Safavi, during his reign, was sent to the Caspian after Mahmoud al-Afghani approached Isfahan. He assumed the throne after his father was killed by Ashraf al-Afghani. Preserving his crown, his reign saw the deterioration of the country so that Russia and the Ottoman Empire shared most of Iran's territory. For more details, see Hassan Perniau Abba Iqbal, *Iran's History of Aghaz-e-Qaraghis-e-Qajareh Series*, Intesharat Ghanam, B.T.

Ushar, (2006). It is the word of the origin from which the word Afshar is derived, that is, the person who accomplishes his work quickly. See: Ahmed Kazim Mohsen Al-Bayati, *Persia under the advisory rule 1736-1747*, unpublished doctoral thesis, College of Education, Mustansiriya University, p. 28