

The role of the "Moscow Company" in the history of the Safavids

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Abstract

The Safavid state possesses a significant spot throughout the entire existence of the statehood of the Azerbaijani public. The Safavid dynasty of Azerbaijan shaped the history of Turkish statehood for more than 200 years. They ruled not only Azerbaijan and its neighbors, but also large portions of the Near and Middle East. The Safavid state, like other great Turkish empires, brought peace to the people who lived under its rule for a long time. It also played a significant role in the preservation and further development of the material and spiritual culture of not only the Azerbaijani Turks but also of the other peoples included in this state, including the Iranian people. The best figure this increment was without a doubt the business entities upheld by the Realm of Britain. In 1553, one of these joint stock companies was set up in Russia, and it quickly took control of trade there. In the meantime, Anthony Jenkinson was made head of the Moscow Company in 1557, and one of his first responsibilities was to go on an exploratory voyage to the Caspian Sea and beyond. During this trip, he learned about Iran's potential for business.

Keywords: Safavid; Moscow Company; Russian- Safavid relation.

1. Introduction

Without a thorough investigation of the Safavid state's reciprocal relationships with Western nations, it is impossible to cover the entire history of diplomatic and economic relations between Europe and the Middle East. With respect to the focuses that brought the Safavid state nearer toward the western states, they had more political importance in the beginning of the state's presence; in this way, since the center of the fifteenth hundred years, the Safavid state has taken a main situation in the counter Turkish alliance in various times of the mission against the Ottoman Domain, which has turned into a significant issue in the international strategies of various European and Asian states. Western nations established close ties with the Safavids, and Safavid rulers fought with the same zeal for these ties in order to halt the Ottoman Empire's advance across Europe, strike at its adversaries from behind, and divide its forces into two fronts. In the seventeenth 100 years, the financial variable became prevailing in the relations of the Safavid state with the western states.

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Concentrates on show that during the time spent the supposed essential capital amassing, when "rivalry among European countries for the ownership of Asian items and American fortunes" was "hindered by the extraordinary geological disclosures and open to Spain, Portugal, and the Ottoman Realm Britain, which was not equipped for a military-political showdown, and had solidly set out on the way of frontier rule during the rule of Sovereign Elizabeth I Tudor (1558-1603), chose to lay out direct relations with India through the Volga-Caspian street, for example through the region of Russia". As is known, the Moscow Organization, which was laid out in 1554 and cornered exchange with Russia through the White Ocean, sent six exchange undertakings to the Safavid state during 1561-1581 [7].

2. The role of the "Moscow Company" in the history of the Safavids

The development of entrepreneur relations in Western Europe in the sixteenth century expanded the interest for unrefined substances and deals markets of the East. At that time, Portugal controlled the Indian Ocean routes, while the Ottoman state controlled the Mediterranean and Black Sea routes. Consequently, British merchants desired to relocate via the Volga-Caspian route to India from Azerbaijan. Despite the fact that Azerbaijan's crude silk and deals market were important to the English government, it expected to assume control over the zest exchange India along these lines. England's Queen Elizabeth Tudor (1558–1603) was concerned about Portugal's control of the waterways and wanted to protect her own interests by taking the Volga-Caspian route. He sent an expedition led by Antony Jenkinson along the Volga-Caspian route between 1561 and 1563 for this purpose. However, the British "Moscow" trading company representative Antony Jenkinson was unable to successfully carry out the government's mandate to establish an official trade. Because he didn't want to hurt Ottoman relations, Shah Tahmasib I didn't sign a trade agreement with the British. Coming back, Jenkinson held chats with Abdulla Khan Ustajli, Beylarbey of Shirvan. By his announcement, Abdulla Khan excluded English dealers from covering expenses and customs for the products they purchased in Azerbaijan, as well with respect to the merchandise they brought from Europe. In the sixteenth and seventeenth hundreds of years, Russia assumed a significant part in the unfamiliar relations of the Safavid state. Through the Caspian-Volga waterway, Safavids had economic relations with Russia. The urban areas of Kazan and Astrakhan, situated on this street, assumed the part of the fundamental leave points of the Safavid state to Europe and Russia. Sources mention the Safavid envoy's 1521 visit to Moscow and the purchase of numerous weapons, craftsmen, and cannons from the Moscow prince. Political relations among Russia and the Safavids were laid out during the rule of Shah Tahmasib I. Until the center of the sixteenth 100 years, Russian-Safavid relations had a restricted person [5].

One more element that was essentially as successful as the ocean power in the dynamic support of the English in abroad exchange was the presence of business entities that coordinated English trader ships in accordance with the business interests of the country. These organizations, which worked under the oversight of the English government with the power allowed by the crown, comprised of numerous financial backers with an audacious soul who were searching for huge however hazardous and possibly productive speculations. These investors also contributed to the companies' capital. These organizations got provincial imposing business model privileges from the rulers or legislatures in their districts of movement, and once in a while they were even ready to make unmatched business and political organizations with the naval force that the English government put at their disposal.⁵ Perhaps of the earliest English organization that spread from Europe to the Far East and America was

the Moscow Organization, which completed business exercises in a Russian area. Despite the fact that its establishments were laid a couple of years sooner, the Moscow Organization, which got its most memorable honor from the Russian experts in 1555,6 predominantly completed business exercises in a Russian area. Nonetheless, since this was insufficient for the individuals from the organization, they kept on looking for business sectors in various geologies of the East to track down new kinds of revenue. As will be examined underneath, because of these quests, the English found the Iranian market.⁷ Until they experienced the English, the Safavids' strategic contacts with the Europeans were very restricted and by and large appeared as looking for a partnership against the Ottomans. Conversely, the English cared very little about this locale with the exception of a couple of endeavors in the pre-Safavid period [6].

Trade relations between Iran and Russia were developing toward the end of the Safavid era in the 17th century and the first quarter of the 18th century. Russia and the Safavid state exchanged ambassadors in the 17th century. Only Shah I Abbas was granted three occasions to host Russian ambassadors: in 1618, 1623, and 1626. The ambassadors went to the neighboring nation with a certain number of merchants each time. Specifically, when the Safavid minister left for Russia in 1648... furthermore, when the Russian minister Lobanov-Rostovsky visited the Safavid state in 1654, an enormous number of finance managers and a lot of freight went with them. Thus, the last, 250-300 Russians and an enormous number of stacked camels came to the adjoining nation"[2].

After a decade, or at least, in 1664, the Russian minister visited the Safavid state with around 600 individuals (400 of them were traders). They brought 13 major northern ponies, two elegantly improved carriages, watches, different fascinating things, canines of various varieties, hawks, fur creatures, and so forth they present it to the lord with incredible regard. J. According to Charden, the locals greatly value these trips. J. "In 1664, two ambassadors who visited on behalf of the Grand Duke of Moscow arrived in Isfahan with 800 people accompanying them," Curzon writes about the same event. They are seated in the royal palace, where they are greeted with great respect... Very soon it is found that the reason for the consulate is of a business nature" and that meeting the designation with the envoys effectively was excluded from paying charges in the area of the Safavid state. "They were rejected and expelled by the Shah, enraged by such duplicitous activity." As per J. Curzon, "Cossack assaults on Mazandaran are the very response of the Fantastic Ruler (Tsar Alexey Mikhailovich - R.D.) to this kind of demeanor." P.P. Melgunov, while examining the exercises of Iranian vendors in Russia, states: "There were caravanserais - visitor houses for unfamiliar visitors in Astrakhan, of which Gilan or Iranian visitor house was vital, which shows us that the exchange of Russians with Iranians was created and broad; Iranian dealers were even in Moscow and had their own yards (dvor) there, yet a bigger number of Iranians accumulated in the Gilan chateau than in Moscow [3].

It is known that, taking into account the advantages of Astrakhan as a port city, in the middle of the 16th century, Anthony Jenkinson made considerable efforts to establish trade relations between Europe and the Safavid state through the Volga River. It is no coincidence that P. Della Valle pointed out that this route is superior to the sea route insisted on by the Russian embassy in 1622: "If the Muscovites are firm in their opinion, if they negotiate to resolve the issue, if they have enough financial resources to implement their plans, I am sure that this would be a possible option for the British, that is, they would trade with Moscow through that route, without the risk of war" [1].

The far-sighted policy of Ivan IV - in 1552, and in 1556, the annexation of the Khanate of Kazan and Astrakhan to Russia, created a prelude for the further expansion of trade relations with Central Asia. As it is known, "Ivan IV (1533-1584), who was preparing for the Livonian War (1558-1583), exempted the merchants of the Moscow Company from customs in order to draw England to his side; they were also given the right to trade with Eastern countries through Russian territory. The British tried to make Russia economically dependent through the Moscow Company and establish direct trade relations with India through Russian territory... The strengthening of the Moscow Company in the East was contrary to the future plans of tsarism. In 1570, Ivan IV canceled the privileges of the Moscow Company. At the beginning of the 18th century, during the Polish-Swedish intervention, the plan of the Moscow Company to capture the north of Russia and the Volga-Caspian road was wasted [5].

It is true that later difficulties within the Russian state inhibited this process, but trade relations between the Safavid state and Russia along the Caspian coast and through the Volga River continued to develop in terms of the security of the listed routes. "Russian commercial capital, which is weak compared to the commercial and industrial capital of Western Europe, due to the territorial proximity of Russia to the Middle East, including the Safavid state, and the strict policy of the Russian government in relation to trade through the Volga-Caspian route ... (in the specified geographical area) is stronger He was getting rid of the possibility of competition with Western European capital. This situation finds its legal reflection in the New Trade Regulations adopted in 1667; so, according to this statute, foreigners were not allowed to travel from Arkhangelsk to Moscow and from there to other places without a special tsar's certificate.

3. Result

The volume of unfamiliar exchange turnover of the Safavid state shifted essentially in various times of the seventeenth hundred years, contingent upon different international strategy and monetary variables. At the end of the 17th century and the beginning of the 18th century, the level of the Safavid state's international trade relations can generally be described as unsatisfactory. This was characteristic against the foundation of the general decay of the realm. Obviously, on the off chance that the Safavid state had not fallen, all things considered, global exchange relations would have created somewhere unexpected. In this way, the opposition of the western states in the East, including the region of the Safavid state, is growing. Thusly, a frail state turns into a cutthroat field. Step by step, Russia acquires a benefit in this field, which establishes the groundwork for its future military and political hostility. while by far most of delegates of English-speaking historiography accentuate political and auxiliary abstract variables in the fall of the Safavid Domain, practically each of the Azerbaijani and Russian students of history consider financial elements, as well as universally significant factors, for example, the improvement of the entrepreneur technique for creation in European nations and the uprooting of world shipping lanes.

- As a rule, for English-language historiography, the turmoil of circumstances and logical results, need and happenstance is a regularly noticed case, and the instances of historiography connected with the period we are contemplating are no exemption in this regard;
- in English-language historiography, focusing harder on the investigation of political history issues, looking at the historical backdrop of the Safavid state as the historical backdrop of the Safavid

- administration, has made an impediment to the creation of goal results;
- Practically every one of the specialists who addressed the issues of the historical backdrop of the Safavid state to some degree consider the Safavid domain one of the strong and extraordinary realms of the East, which assumed a main and unequivocal part in tackling portentous issues in the existence of both Eastern and Western Europe in the Medieval times, with regards to Eurasia, and the way of life of humanity. portrayed as an express that made significant commitments to its depository;

The majority of authors agree that Turkic tribes established the Safavid state, that Azerbaijan served as its center, and that it only lost its leadership position later due to a variety of objective and subjective factors.

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