

An Evaluation of the Effect of the Internal Relations of the Military Union Structure of Karim Khan Zand in the Formation of Zand Dynasty (1160-1176 AH)

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Abstract

The military unions of various rulers in monarchies always consisted of a combination of tribal and gunmen groups of various rural and urban areas of the country. Based on characteristics such as kinship or proximity with the ruling clan or the number of warriors, these groups had central or marginal roles in the military unions. The present research thus aimed to respond to this question that what type of political-military relations among different groups of the Zand military union vis-à-vis Qajar and Afghan military unions led to the rise to power of Karim Khan Zand. To answer this question, this study was performed using historical research and classifying internal relations in the Zand military union to as part of the analysis and interpretation of such features and their impacts on the accession of Karim Khan (1160-1176). The findings show that the *vand* tribes such as Zand, Maafi, Nankali, Jalalvand, Behnavi, Salarvand and Jaaf, inhabiting Pari, Kamazan, Gilan and Kaverdan regions played a key role in the coalition of Karim Khan Zand, based on the ethnic connections such as *laki* language and the tradition of consultative command. Due to the relative lack of personal and collective interests, Karim Khan could, in critical circumstances, unite with other tribes and gunmen groups, and gain victory without eliminating groups within the military union.

Keywords: military union, *vand* tribes, ethnic connections, gunmen bands, Karim Khan Zand.

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