

Bureaucrat Governors: An Investigation of the Transformation of the Timurid Military-Political Structure in Shahrukh's Era

*Seyyed Abolfazl Razavi**; *Soroush Azadbakht***

Abstract

Timur's era was the time of the conquest and evolution of the empire during which a military aristocracy played the most salient role in the structure of power. In Shahrukh's era, a kind of structural transformation occurred in the nature and manner of the exertion of power that could be considered as the passing of the power of Timurid Empire from a military-dominated discourse to a military-civil structured power. In this era, it seems that, for the first time throughout Iran's history, the governors and military agents distanced from the merely military functions and permanent stances of *the men of the sword* by engaging themselves in administrative and executive activities. The present study thus employed a descriptive analytic method to not only ponder on the administrative structure of the Timurid period, and the effort to a conflict between the *literati* and *the men of the sword* but also to address the major question of what the effects of the transformation of the political structure and the institutionalization of the Timurid power in Shahrukh's era on the function and stance of the military governors of that period were. The results of the research indicate that in the light of the realistic personality of Shahrukh and the institutionalization of power in his era, the administrative structure was improved so that some governors paid attention to official affairs and created a new political experience in the history of Iran's middle period.

Keywords: Timurids, Shahrukh, man of the sword, literati, military structure, political structure.

*Associate Professor, Department of History, Kharazmi Univeristy;
Abolfazlrazavi@khu.ac.ir

** Corresponding author: PhD in Post-Islamic History of Iran.

| Received: July 25th, 2018

Accepted: December 12th, 2018|