It turns out that its emotional expression is controlled for the following further climax. Moreover, the melody type called “forūd” is recognized and felt not as a merely descending figure but as a “recursion” function that forms “Charkh”.

Namely, this “View of Charakh” has a very important meaning in the mind of the leading player during improvisation in terms of “what to do next?” In the world of traditional music, musical acquisition is not merely memorizing traditional melody types as a repertory but rather the acquisition of a “View of Charakh”. Even in improvisation for fun, a musician sets up a “forūd” based on this “View of Charakh”.

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“L’Iran occidental après la chute d’Isfahan (1722) d’après des sources ottomanes: Étude sur la situation socio-économique des provinces de Hamadân et du Kurdistan d’Ardalân” (in French)
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Summary
Western Iran after the Fall of Isfahan (1722) according to Some Ottoman Documents: Study on the Socio-economic Situation of the Provinces of Hamadân and of Ardalân (Kurdistan)

In spite of their recent development in the field of urbanism and foreign trade history, studies on Iranian social and economic history still remain rather backwards, at least, in two respects. Firstly, these studies often concentrate on major urban centers, whereas, beside a few exceptional works, little attention has been given to minor towns and in particular to the rural sector, villages and nomads, where the majority of the people lived throughout history. Villages have been considered mainly as economic bases of the urban elite, and nomad tribes as providing military strength to successive dynasties. They have hardly ever been studied in themselves from a socio-economic perspective. Secondly, there are only few studies from the viewpoint of quantitative economic history and even the demographic analysis of great cities have rarely been tried. This has held researchers back to drawing even a simple outline of Iranian economic history on the long term. We talk about “decline” for one period of Iranian history and about “prosperity” for another. But these observations are often based on the analysis of political events of the epoch, not of the social and economic conditions of cities and villages. It goes without saying that these problems arise mainly because of the lack of relevant documents.
Using some unexplored sources, this thesis aims to examine the demographic and economic situation of cities, villages and nomads in two provinces of Iran - Hamadān and Ardalān (actual province of Kordesṭān) - at the beginning of the eighteenth century and to elucidate various aspects of urban and rural life in the areas considered. By comparing the two provinces that are neighboring but offer a geographically and economically stark contrast to each other, we present the diversity of the urban and rural settlements and some aspects of the urban-rural relations in eighteenth-century Iran.

The main sources are some Ottoman documents, the tahrîr defterleri, or cadastral records, of western Iran. Now preserved in Başbakanlık Arşivi (the Archives of the Prime Ministry) in Istanbul, Turkey, these records are the products of several Ottoman occupations of Iran between the late sixteenth and early eighteenth centuries. Most of them, consisting of more than 10 registers, belong to the later period, just after the breakdown of the Safavid Dynasty. These registers record in detail the names of each settlement or tribal group, its administrative affiliation, and a list of taxpayers and tax evaluations. These data provide rich information on settlement scales and economic activities of the regions, covering almost the whole territory of western Iran, including Caucasus, Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, Hamadān, Kermanshah and Lorestan. This thesis deals with two of these registers, TT907 and TT1066, which are respectively related to the province of Hamadān and the province of Ardalān.

In the first chapter, after identifying the approximate date of completion of the registers and the name of the surveyors, we note that, in spite of misconducts by some surveyors, the registers were rather complete and that they cover probably almost all the settlements in the area, including villages transformed into waqf as well as abandoned villages. On the other hand, damages caused by the Afghan and Ottoman invasions were serious, especially in certain places in the province of Hamadān. In fact, many empty villages can be found in the register of this province. It is thus necessary to interpret the data of the registers with extreme prudence.

Chapter II discusses demographic and economic characteristics of the villages in the two provinces. After pointing out the geographical features of the areas considered, we indicate the size distribution of the rural settlements according to the number of taxable people. The majority of the villages counted less than 30 taxpayers. But, more precisely, certain villages had only a few taxpayers, whereas others counted several hundreds of taxable people. The contrasts between the two provinces are also striking. In the mountainous province of Ardalān, where dry farming was dominant, both the villages and their arable land were
generally small. As for the province of Hamadân, with a vast fertile plain irrigated by several river systems and qanats (subterranean canals), it included much bigger villages, whose arable land was also extremely larger. The economic activities varied from village to village. The Ottoman registers certainly also confirm that the Iranian rural society generally depended on tillage and stock-farming. But, if the documents are more carefully examined, one realizes immediately that the rural economic life possessed more diverse characteristics. Certain villages were specialized in stock farming, others yielded rice crop. There were also those which were mainly engaged in fruit culture. Some localities had even manufacturing sectors like dye works.

Chapter III deals with other types of rural sites: cultivated lands (mezra'a) and winter quarter (kışlak). The mezra'a was employed in several ways. One cultivated there not only major cereals like wheat and barley, but also rice and fruit trees. Some mezra'as were used by nomads as winter quarters. Certain winter quarters, in their turn, were used by villagers. Peasants were not always sedentary and seasonal migration between villages can also be observed among them. Let us add that deserted villages were not completely abandoned. Some of them could be used as mezra'a and kışlak according to circumstances. In short, the same site could be transformed either into a village, or into a mezra'a, or into a kışlak, or into a deserted village. An aspect of the dynamism of rural society can be recognized here.

Chapter IV focuses on cities and towns. The size of urban settlements also shows a great variety between the two provinces. Some urban centers in the province of Ardalân were smaller than certain large villages, while certain cities, especially those in the province of Hamadân, were considerably large. The reasons of such an unequal urban development between the two provinces are multiple: administrative and military centrality, agricultural productivity of the hinterland, importance of commercial and manufacturing sectors, etc. Among these elements, our attention was drawn to the vital importance of the urban network. In the Hamadân province, almost all the urban centers were located along the main trade routes and they had important commercial and manufacturing sectors. It is obvious that there existed a dense urban network connecting these cities. On the other hand, the province of Ardalân had not formed such a network, which contributed probably to a relative underdevelopment of urban settlements there. We also stress the importance of agriculture in the cities as well, indicating that both tillage and stock farming played a significant role in urban economy.

In chapter V, to confirm the assumption presented above, we examine the relations between the cities and certain large villages in
the two provinces. If the dynamism of the urban network encouraged urban growth, it also stimulated villages, especially those which were situated at the proximity of this network. The result of our research largely supports our thesis. In the province of Hamadān, the large rural settlements emerged generally either around the considerable urban settlements or along the main caravan routes. In other words, no large villages were found far away from towns or trading routes. Thus, one can confirm that a rather strong urban network included not only the cities but also certain villages formed within the province. On the other hand, it should also be pointed out that certain large villages, like those in the province of Ardalān, developed under their own specific conditions and that their demographic rise cannot be explained by the connection with an urban network.

In conclusion, this thesis shows only certain aspects of the rural and urban settlements and their relations in some limited areas at a given time. Many questions still remain unanswered. The tentative conclusions presented here must be examined from a broader point of view in space and time. It is especially necessary to clarify material and human connections between the urban and rural centers. We hope that this thesis will contribute to a more thorough understanding of the socio-economic history of pre-modern Iran.

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