



## ABU'L-FATH KHAN BAQTĪĀRĪ

**ABU'L-FATH KHAN BAQTĪĀRĪ**, a chieftain of the Haft Lang branch of the BaqtĪārī and paramount chief (*ilḳānī*) of the tribe. Abu'l-Fath was governor of Isfahan at the time of Nāder Shah's death in 1160/1747; he was confirmed in this post by Nāder's immediate successors, 'Ādel Shah, Ebrāhīm, and Šāhroḳ. When 'Alī Mardān of the Čahār Lang BaqtĪārī and Karīm Khan Zand captured the city in spring 1163/1750, he was obliged to put at their disposal his prestige and influence in the former Safavid capital. The three constituted a junta wielding power in western Iran under the pretense of establishing a neo-Safavid empire in the name of a puppet monarch, Esmā'īl III. A few months later, while Karīm Khan was campaigning in Kurdistan, 'Alī Mardān had Abu'l-Fath blinded and subsequently killed; he replaced him as governor with a cousin of his own and set off to occupy Fārs. This precipitated the rupture with Karīm Khan, who advanced to recapture Isfahan and by the following year had gained sole power in western Iran.

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