



ABU'L-FATH KHAN JAVĀNŠĪR

ABU'L-FATH KHAN JAVĀNŠĪR, son of the ruler of Qarābāg, Ebrāhīm Kalīl Khan Javānšīr, and through his sister brother-in-law of Fath-'Alī Shah. In the First Russo-Persian War Abu'l-Fath Khan supported the Persians and fought on the side of the crown prince 'Abbās Mīrzā; his father placed himself under the protection of the Russians (in 1804) and died two years later near his capital, Shusha, in somewhat mysterious circumstances. In the treaty of Golestān (1813), Qarābāg was ceded to Russia; even before it was signed, Abu'l-Fath Khan withdrew from Qarābāg along with his fellow tribesmen, and 'Abbās Mīrzā made him governor of Dezmār. "Dezzamār" (according to Yāqūt) lay on a southern tributary of the Aras, which flowed into the main river at Ordūbād; by Yāqūt's time it was already described as a stout fortress (*qaḷ'a ḥaṣīna*; see Schwarz, *Iran*, p. 1172; Le Strange, *Lands*, p. 167). In the years following 1813 Abu'l-Fath Khan smuggled his warriors back across the Aras into southern Qarābāg and took up residence in the village of Garmī (eight *farsangs* south of Shusha). Presumably this must have been done with the connivance of his brother Mahdī-qolī Khan, who had succeeded his father in 1806 as governor of Shusha in the service of the Russians. A map drawn by W. Monteith and preserved in the British Foreign Office (no. 60/13) shows that Abu'l-Fath Khan's domain bordered in the south on the Aras and stretched from Kodā-āfarīn in the east to the Maqrī mountains in the west. Since he continued to hold office as governor of Dezmār, his territory lay partly on Persian and partly on Russian soil—an anomaly characteristic of the situation at that time. Admittedly the exact location of the frontier in the area of Maqrī and Qapān (the tract of land around Ordūbād) was a bone of contention; the



Russians, at least, regarded the Aras as their frontier. In 1818, long before the outbreak of the Second Russo-Persian War, 'Abbās Mīrzā invaded the territory to which the Russians laid claim and which was de facto under their sovereignty; supported by 100 horsemen, he brought Abu'l-Fath Khan back by force. This frontier violation by the crown prince is not mentioned in the chronicles but is reported by the British chargé d'affaires, Willock, in a letter of 22 March 1818, to Castlereagh (Foreign Office, 60/13). What happened to Abu'l-Fath Khan thereafter is not known; he does not appear to have taken part in the battles of the Second Russo-Persian War. His brother Mahdī-qolī Khan crossed into Persian soil in 1822. Under the terms of the peace of Torkmānçāy in 1828, the whole of Qarābāg was finally ceded to Russia.

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