



ARDAKĀN-E FĀRS

ARDAKĀN-E FĀRS, a small upland town of the *ostān* of Fārs (hence to be distinguished from the [Ardakān-e Yazd](#)), lying in 30° 16' north latitude and 51° 59' east longitude and situated at an altitude of 7,257 ft/2,212 m. It is thus within the southern Zagros region, one of high valleys and steep mountain ranges, connected now by a road to the provincial capital Shiraz, 60 miles/96 km to the southeast. To the northwest of Ardakān is the massif of the Kūh-e Barm-e Fīrūz, which rises to 12,050 ft/3,672 m, whilst the town itself is on the headwaters of the most easterly constituent of the Zohra river system which flows down to the Persian Gulf at Bandar-e Hendiān.

Ardakān has played little part in the history of Iran. It is not mentioned by the Arabic geographers nor by Ebn al-Balkī and Ḥamdallāh Mostawfī, though the latter does record in his *Nozhat al-qolūb* (p. 128, tr. Le Strange, p. 127) the district to the southeast of Ardakān called Deh 'Alī, modern Dālī, 5 farsakhs from Ardakān. The historical geographers of the Qajar period, such as E'temād al-Saltāna's *Mer'āt al-boldān-e nāšeri* and Ḥasan Fasā'ī's *Fārs-nāma-ye nāšeri*, do give some information on the 19th-century town, when it was the center of a *bolūk* in the province of Fārs, bounded on the east by the *bolūk* of Kām Fīrūz and Bayzā and on the other sides by the lands of the Mamasanī nomads. It had about a thousand households then, with a water supply from the Šeš-Pīr and Ardakān rivers; its summer crops included wheat, barley, and, for export, ordinary beans and red beans, whilst it was also a transit-point for the clarified butter of Kūhgīlūya exported to Shiraz. Fasā'ī further lists various of the '*olamā*' from Ardakān, including a philosopher of some eminence from the



later Safavid period, Mīrzā ‘Alī Reżā’ Taǰallī.

Ardakān is at the present time the center of a *baḳš* of the same name within the *šahrestān* of Shiraz, and in ca. 1950 had a population of 5,240 Persian speakers; the rural hinterland, however, forms part of the summer pasture grounds (*yaylāqs*) of the Turkish Qašqā’ī nomads (q.v.).

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(C. E. Bosworth)