



BADAĶŠĀN II. THE MODERN PROVINCE

ii. The Modern Province

Badakṣān is a province (*welāyat*) of northeastern Afghanistan which covers 47,393 km². It is presently (1363 Š./1984) divided into eight districts (*woloswālī*) and three subdistricts (*‘alāqadāri*). The main town and provincial center is [Fayzābād](#) and Jorm is the only other locality with urban status within the province.

Although first attempts to erect Afghan Badakṣān into a province seem to date back to Amir ‘Abd-al-Raḥmān’s reign (H. K. Kakar, *Government and Society in Afghanistan. The Reign of Amir ‘Abd al-Rahman Khan*, Austin, 1979, p. 49), the area long remained merged with adjacent Qaṭaḡān (q.v.) to make up the province of Qaṭaḡān and Badakṣān. Under King Amān-Allāh, Badakṣān was a *ḥokūmat-e kalān* within that province and its subdivisions included four districts (*ḥokūmatī*) and six subdistricts (*‘alāqa*) (*Nezām-nāma-ye taqsīmāt-e molkiya-ye Afḡānestān*, Kabul, 1300 Š./1921, p. 21; a slightly different picture, which may suggest local administrative reorganization, is given by B. K. Koṣkakī, *Rāhnamā-ye Qaṭaḡān wa Badakṣān*, Kabul, 1302 Š./1923, p. 21; French translation by M. Reut, *Qataghan et Badakhshân*, Paris, 1979, p. 14). In 1324 Š./1945 Badakṣān was made a separate province of second rank (*ḥokūmat-e a’lā*) and the general administrative reform of 1343 Š./1964 had it finally promoted to full provincial status.



See [Table 5](#), [Table 6](#), and [Table 7](#) for compilation of the main available data about the present population and land use in the province, districts, and subdistricts.