



BAḲTĪĀRĪ IX. MORTAŽĀQOLĪ KHAN

Mortažāqolī Khan (1876?-1961), one of the last Baḳtīārī chiefs to have played an important political role. The only son of Najafqolī Khan Şamşām-al-Salṭana (q.v.) and grandson of Emāmqolī Khan, known as Ḥāji Īlḳānī, he was *īlbeḡī*, *īlḳānī*, and *ḥākem* of the Baḳtīārī tribe from 1925 to 1945. During this period he was a witness to all the stages of the transformation of the administration of the tribe: the abolition of the titles *īlbeḡī* and *īlḳānī* in 1933, the division of the territory of the tribe between the two provinces of Isfahan and Kūzestān in 1936, and the creation of the governorate of Čahār Maḡāl and Baḳtīārī in 1943. In 1946, Mortažāqolī Khan, who had married a daughter of the Qaşqā’ī chief Şawlat-al-Dawla, was together with the Qaşqā’ī brothers one of the leaders of the tribal uprising in Fārs (1325 Š./1946), the so-called “southern movement” (*nahzat-e jonūb*). This was fomented by the English in order to organize the secession of the southern tribal provinces and led to the reorganization of the cabinet by Prime Minister Aḡmad Qawām (Qawām-al-Salṭana; cf. Homayounpour, pp. 20, 165). Ousted by his cousin and rival Abu’l-Qāsem Khan of the Īlḳānī branch, Mortažāqolī Khan then ceased to play any political role.



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