



## BEGLERBEGĪ

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**BEGLERBEGĪ** (Pers. also *-beygī*), a Turkish title meaning “*beg of begs*,” “commander of commanders.” In the Il-khanid period it is sometimes employed in chronicles to designate the leading amir in the state, e.g., of Taḡačar (Ṭaḡājār) in 694/1295 (Waṣṣāf, *Tajzīat al-amšar wa tazjīat al-ašār*, ed. Bombay, 1269/1853, p. 284); and according to the Mamluk geographer ‘Omarī (*Masālek al-abšār*, ed. and tr. K. Lech, *Das mongolische Weltreich*, Wiesbaden, 1968, text, p. 93, tr. p. 153), this was the regular usage. In this case the term would have been synonymous with *ulusbegī* “amir of the *ulus* (state),” and equivalent to the Arabic-Persian *amīr al-omarā’*. Under the Safavids the title came to be applied to governors of the more important provinces. At first governors of all ranks were called merely *ḥākem*, but *beglerbegī* appears in an edict of Ṭahmāsb I in 950/1543-44 referring to the governor of Herat. During the succeeding decades the title is used for the governors of numerous provinces, including those of Azarbaijan, Qarabāḡ, Šīrvān, Fārs, ‘Erāq-e ‘Arab, and Astarābād. At the same time, however, a few provinces—those, it seems, regarded as strategically more important—were administered by a *wālī*, and by the end of the Safavid period this term had superseded *beglerbegī* also.

See also [BEG](#).



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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