



## DAŠTĪ (SUBPROVINCE)

**DAŠTĪ**, *šahrestān* (subprovince) on the Persian Gulf in Būšeher province, corresponding approximately to the area referred to as Māndestān and Sif Āl Moẓaffar in early sources (Ebn al-Balkī, p. 152; Yāqūt, *Boldān* III, p. 217). It is bounded on the north and west by the *šahrestāns* of [Dašttestān](#) and Tangestān, on the east by the *šahrestān* of Fīrūzābād, and on the south by the *šahrestāns* of Dayyer and Kangān. The administrative center is *Ḳormūj*, located at 60 m above sea level 82 km from Būšeher. According to the [census](#) of 1365 Š./1986, the population of Daštī was 51,409, 36 percent of which lived in urban, the remainder in rural areas; the average population density was thus 8.47 people per km<sup>2</sup> (*Natāyej*, p. 8). The *šahrestān* of Daštī is 6,065 km<sup>2</sup> and comprises two districts. The central *Ḳormūj* district, 3,903 km<sup>2</sup>, comprises the administrative center and two rural subdistricts (*dehestāns*), *Ḳormūj* and *Šanba*, with 105 villages. *Kākī* district, 1,151 km<sup>2</sup>, encompasses the *dehestāns* of *Čāgāpūr* and *Kākī*, with a total of forty-four villages.

The climate is hot and humid near the coast, hot and dry inland, and more temperate in the highlands. Water for irrigation comes from springs, wells, *qanāts* (underground aqueducts), and the river Mond. Dry farming (*deym*) is practiced in *Kākī*; the main products are cereals, dates (see [DATE PALM](#)), tobacco, and small quantities of rice (see [BERENJ](#)). Persian limes (see [CITRUS FRUITS](#)) are produced in *Šanba*. Most of the population of the *šahrestān* is engaged in agriculture or retail trade; handicrafts include rug weaving.

There are a number of fortresses, rock-cut tombs, and ruined settlements in the *šahrestān* (Eqtedārī, pp. 213 ff., 265-323). In ancient times there were a



number of ports in Daštī, reflecting its strategic location near the coast and on the main roads to Fārs and Kūzestān. According to *Nozhat al-qolūb* (ed. Le Strange, p. 119), in the 14th century the area was a desert 180 km<sup>2</sup> beside the sea, with no rivers or *qanāts*. It produced only cereals and cotton.

It is not clear from the written sources when the name Daštī was first adopted, but it can be surmised that the *šahrestāns* of Daštī and Dašttestān were once part of a single geographical unit. Only from the period of Nāder Shah (1148-60/1736-47) and later is there specific mention of people from Daštī; they were employed as musketeers by the shahs and fought against the British in 1273/1856, 1333/1914, and 1336/1917. They enjoy a reputation as courageous and patriotic people.

In the Qajar period Kormūj was a center of learning and the home of several writers and poets, foremost among them Mīrzā Ja'far Ḥaqāyeqnegār Kormūjī (1225-1301/1810-83), author of *Ḥaqāyeq al-aḵbār-e nāšerī* (a history of the reign of Nāšer-al-Dīn Shah, 1264-1313/1848-96) and *Āṭār-e ja'farī* (a geography of the world, with special attention to Fārs). The fortress of the hereditary chief Moḥammad Khan Daštī (d. 1299/1881-82), now a ruin, is located in the town of Kormūj (Afšār Sīstānī, II, p. 882; Eqtedārī, pp. 213-27).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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