



DŌŠĪ

DŌŠĪ, small town and district on the northern slope of the central Hindu Kush in Afghanistan. The town is situated at the junction of the Sorḳāb and Andarāb, the valleys of which are traversed by two old caravan tracks linking Kabul with Qaṭaḡan. The one, along the Sorḳāb via **Bāmīān** and the Šebar pass, was the usual post road at the end of the 19th century (Peacocke, p. 404); the other, along the Andarāb, passed through the Panjšēr valley and the Ḳāwāk pass. Dōšī was thus a transit point between southeastern and northeastern Afghanistan. In 1343 Š./1964 modernization of the once difficult but more direct road to Kabul through the Sālang pass, which branches off the Andarāb road at Ḳenjān 22 km east of Dōšī, has greatly enhanced the activity of the town, accounting for numerous teahouses and a busy *bāzār* of 120 shops, to meet travelers' requirements (Grötzbach, p. 87); modern hotel accommodations and petrol refueling are lacking, however, both having been located in the smaller *bāzār* at Ḳenjān. Dōšī has some religious significance, as it is the usual residence of the *sayyeds* (claiming descent from the Prophet Moḡammad) of Kayān, a leading Isma'īli lineage from Dara-ye Kayān, a left bank tributary of the Sorḳāb.

Dōšī is also the administrative headquarters of a district (*woloswālī*) of 1,735 km² belonging to the province of **Baḡlān**. The population of the district includes Larḳābī Tajik and Pashtun newcomers (mostly from the Sāfi tribe) in its lower northern part, and Isma'īli Šēḳ-'Alī Hazāra in the higher southern part. In 1886 it was estimated at 935 families, of which 49 percent were identified as Hazāra, 34 percent as Pashtun, and 17 percent as seminomadic



Tajiks (Maitland, p. 440; reproduced, with errors, in *Gazetteer of Afghanistan I*, pp. 63-64). In 1922 it was put at 2,399 households, approximately 9,000 inhabitants (Koshkaki, p. 52). In 1979 the first demographic [census](#) found 37,600 permanent inhabitants in the district, 22 in-habitants/km². Although little more than estimates, these figures suggest impressive demographic growth.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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