



‘EZZ-AL-DAWLA, ‘ABD-AL-ŞAMAD MİRZĀ

‘EZZ-AL-DAWLA, ‘ABD-AL-ŞAMAD MİRZĀ (b. Rabī‘ I 1260/March-April 1844, d. 30 Mehr 1308 Š./21 October 1929; [Figure 1](#)), half-brother of Nāşer-al-Dīn Shah and governor of Qazvīn; Borūjerd and Baḳtīārī; Hamadān; Zanjān; and Malāyer, Tūyserkān and Nehāvand. His mother, Oğol Beyga Ḳānom, was a Sālūr Turkman taken prisoner by ‘Abbās Mīrzā (q.v.) after he captured Saraḳs in 1248/ 1832. He was named ‘Abd-al-Şamad by Moḥammad Shah’s grand vizier, Ḥājj Mīrzā Āqāsī (q.v.), after the latter’s mentor Ḥājj Mollā ‘Abd-al-Şamad Hamadānī. He was four years old when Nāşer-al-Dīn Shah ascended the throne. Although he was not considered a potential threat to the throne, he was sent away as governor of provinces that were not believed to be too important or which could not generate large revenues for their governors (‘Ayn-al-Salṭana, p. 336; ‘Ezz-al-Dawla, pp. 64-69). Both S. G. W. Benjamin (p. 182), the first American ambassador to Persia, and Ḥosayn Maḥbūbī Ardakānī (E‘temād-al-Salṭana, *Ma’āter wa’l-āṭār*, comm., p. 481) have described his rule as tyrannical, a charge denied by his descendants (‘Ezz-al-Dawla, p. 144).

In 1289/1872, ‘Ezz-al-Dawla became the chieftain (*ilḳān*) of the Qajar tribe (E‘temād-al-Salṭana, *Montaẓem-e nāşerī*, ed. Reżwānī, p. 1933; idem, *Ma’āter wa’l-āṭār*, p. 41), a prestigious albeit ceremonial position he held for a year. It was partly in this capacity that he was selected to join Nāşer-al-Dīn Shah’s entourage on his first tour of Europe in 1290/1873 (for an account of this tour, see ‘Ezz-al-Dawla, pp. 180-253). ‘Ezz-al-Dawla was an educated man with a



knowledge of French and English and also an avid reader and book collector (Afzal-al-Molk, p. 189; Mo‘ayyer-al-Mamālek, p. 19). It is therefore possible that the progressive grand vizier, Mīrzā Ḥosayn Khan Sepahsālār, who initially suggested the trip to the shah, saw in him a potential ally. During his fourth tenure as governor of Hamadān, ‘Ezz-al-Dawla had a book compiled on the geography of Hamadān and Nehāvand, which includes his own contribution (Aḍkā’ī, 1375 Š./1996, p. 388; Afšār, pp. 26-27). In Jomādā I 1300/March 1883, ‘Ezz-al-Dawla was summoned from Hamadān to attend the coronation of Tsar Alexander III in Moscow (‘Ezz-al-Dawla, pp. 280-355, an account of the tour). He also served as the minister of justice (1302-4/1885-87). He sought refuge at the Russian embassy in Tehran during the last days of Moḥammad-‘Alī Shah’s reign (Jomādā II 1327/July 1909). According to ‘Abd-Allāh Mostawfī (*Šarḥ-e zendagānī* II, p. 311), he did so in order to evade paying taxes. A more recent explanation by ‘Ezz-al-Dawla’s grandson (‘Ezz-al-Dawla, pp. 105-9), however, describes the defection as motivated by a fear of retaliation from Moḥammad-Walī Khan Tonokābonī, the commander of the revolutionary army that captured Tehran, over some land dispute in Qazvīn.

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Figure 1. ʿAbd-al-Şamad Mīrzā ʿEzz-al-Dawla. After ʿAyn al-Salṭana, *Rūz-nāma-ye kāṭerāt-e ʿAyn-al-Salṭana*, ed. M. Sālūr and Ī. Afşār, Tehran, 1374 Š./1995.