



HAŠTRUD

HAŠTRUD, a sub-province (*šahrestān*) in the south of Azarbaijan, situated between 36° 45' and 37° 24' N. and 46° 25' and 47° 24' E, some 134 km from Tabriz and 101 km from Miāna Sub-province. It covers 6,240 km² with an average elevation of 1,150 m. The major river in Haštrud is Qarānqučāy, a tributary of Safidrud (Qezel-uzan). Haštrud is a well-watered sub-province with a number of streams and between 300-500 mm annual rainfall. It also possesses a number of hot springs. The mountains of Haštrud are a continuation of Sahand mountain, located west of Haštrud. Five mountains are higher than 2,000 m, the best known being Āgdāg 2,950 m high. The geological strata of the mountains belong to the Tertiary Period. Mineral deposits include salt, gypsum, lime, marble, and iron. Haštrud's climate is a mountainous, temperate type, the weather varying between -3 C in January and +34 C in August (Kāmači, pp. 510, 518-19; Āsayeš, p. 18; Ja'fari, pp. 35-39).

Earlier Haštrud was part of Marāḡa Sub-province. In 1948, it was separated from this sub-province and was included in Tabriz Sub-province, but in 1960 it became a separate sub-province.

Haštrud consists of four rural districts: the Central District (*baḡš-e markazi*), Northern Čāroymāq, Southern Čāroymāq, and Quričāy. It has 13 *dehestān* and 577 villages. The administrative center of Haštrud is the township of Saraskand. According to the 1966 census it had a population of 164,486 with only a miniscule growth rate between 1956 and 1966. In the 1996 census, the population has been reduced to 120,406, owing to emigration to larger towns (Sayfi, pp. 17-19; Sāzmān-e barnāma, p. 14; Markaz-e āmār-e Irān, p. 41).



According to the 1996 census 22,278 people were living in urban areas and 98,090 people in villages, with a few people carrying on a nomadic life. In the townships the number of men were 10 percent more than women, whereas, in the villages, women were about 10 percent more than men (*National Census, Haštrud*, 1996, p. 41).

The language of Haštrud is Azeri Turkish and the dominant religion Twelver Shi'ism. The chief basis of livelihood is agriculture, both irrigated and unirrigated (*dəym*). Cereals, legumes, fruits, honey, butter, and animal fodder constitute its chief products. Industry is weak in Haštrud, and income from it does not amount to more than 0.02 percent; in this respect it is one of the most backward sub-provinces of Azarbaijan. There were, however, 1,856 rug-weaving looms in 151 villages with 3,712 people engaged in rug-weaving (*National Census, Haštrud*, 1996; Kāmači, p. 519; Sayfi, pp. 19-20).

Some 2 km to the east of Qara-āgāč, a village in Čā-roymāq are found ruins of a fortification known locally as Qal'a-ye Zaḥḥāk (Moṣāḥeb, p. 810; *National Census; Haštrud*, 1996, pp. 228-35).

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