



## ḤEŞĀR (1)

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**ḤEŞĀR**, the name of a region in the eastern part of Transoxania, in the upper course of the Sorḵān Daryā (medieval Čaġānrud) and the Kāfernehān (on most modern maps it is called Gissar, derived from a poor Russian transcription). It is a fertile valley stretching for about 110-120 km in a latitudinal direction to the south of the Ḥeşār range, which separates it from the upper Zarafšān basin; its maximum width is about 20 km. In the early Islamic period its eastern part was known as Šumān, and its western part as Aḳarun (see Barthold, *Turkestan*<sup>3</sup>, p. 74; *Ḥodud al-‘ālam*, tr. Minorsky, pp. 115, 353). In the 4th/10th century, under the Samanids, Šu-mān and Aḳarun were included as territories in the possession of the Moḥtājīd dynasty, whose center was in Čaġāniān, south of Aḳarun (see Barthold, “Čaġhāniyān,” in *EI*; Bosworth, “Muḥtādīds,” in *EI2*). The region was inhabited by mountain Tajiks known as Ġarča, or Ġalča, although a penetration of Turkic groups could have begun already under the Qarakhanids. In the post-Mongol period the names Šumān and Aḳarun were already forgotten, while the name Ḥeşār appears for the first time in the history of Timur’s career (Šaraf-al-Din Yazdi, foll. 95a, 97b, 98a, 125a, 195b, 196b, 199a; see also Neẓām-al-Din Šāmi, II, p. 14, from Ḥāfeẓ-e Abru), both as the name of a plain (*jolga*) or province (*velāyat*), as well as the name of a town. In the latter case, its complete form is Ḥeşār-e Šādmān “Ḥeşār the Joyous”; according to a plausible conjecture by M. M. D’yakonov, “Šādmān” was a later interpretation of the earlier, and already little understood, “Šumān” (see D’yakonov, p. 183; Davidovich and Mukhtarov, p. 23). Ḥeşār-e Šādmān, situated on the Kānaka, a tributary of the Kāfernehān, was apparently a strong fortress already: the region served as an armory (*zarrād-*



*kāna-ye kāşş*) for Timur (Šaraf-al-Din Yazdi, fol. 195b); after the death of Timur, Kalil Sultan tried to capture Heşār seven times without success (Tāj al-Salmāni, fol. 167b, tr., p. 122).

After Šähroḡ defeated Kalil Sultan in 811/1409, he gave Heşār to Moḡammad Jahāngir b. Moḡammad Sultan, who ruled it until his death in 836/1433 (*Ḥabib al-siār*, III, pp. 581, 622). Under Sultan Abu Sa‘id (862-73/1458-69), the governor of Heşār was Qanbar-‘Ali Beg Moḡol (*Bābor-nāma*, ed. Mano, I, p. 39; tr. Thackston, p. 61). After the death of Abu Sa‘id, his son Sultan Maḡmud Mirzā, having fled from his brother Sultan Aḡmad Mirzā in Samarqand, came to Qanbar-‘Ali in Heşār and from there ruled a large region, which, besides Heşār, included Čaḡāniān, Termeḡ, Ḳottalān, Baḡlān, Qondoḡ, and Badaḡšān (*Ḥabib al-siār*, IV, p. 97; *Bābor-nāma*, ed. Mano, loc. cit.). When Sultan Maḡmud moved to Samarqand upon the death of Sultan Aḡmad, his amir Šojā‘-al-Din Ḳosrow-Šāh (according to Bābor, a Qepčaḡ from Turkestan) continued to rule Heşār and all the other provinces mentioned above, except Badaḡšān (*Bābor-nāma*, ed. Mano, I, p. 42; tr. Thackston, p. 63; according to Mirzā Moḡammad-Ḥaydar, p. 163, Badaḡšān also belonged to Ḳosrow-Šāh). In 901/1495-96, Sultan Ḥosayn Bayqara tried to dislodge Ḳosrow-Šāh and unsuccessfully besieged Heşār (this campaign is described in detail in *Ḥabib al-siār*, IV, pp. 203-6, and *Bābor-nāma*, ed. Mano, I, pp. 49-53; tr. Thackston, pp. 68-71). Ḳosrow-Šāh ruled this entire region as an independent ruler until the Uzbek conquest. The economy of the region prospered (cf. Davidovich, 1983, pp. 202-23), enabling him to maintain an army of 20,000 soldiers (*Bābor-nāma*, ed. Mano, I, p. 42; tr. Thackston, p. 63; Moḡammad-Ḥaydar, p. 165). By this time the population of the region already included many Turkic groups: Čaḡatays, Moḡols, and some Uzbeks who had separated from Šaybāni Khan. The advance of Šaybāni Khan caused great concern to Ḳosrow-Šāh (Moḡammad-Ḥaydar, pp. 163-64), but he refused to help the Timurid Badi‘-al-Zamān Mirzā to fight the Uzbeks (*Ḥabib al-siār*, IV, pp. 293-94). In 910/1504-05, Šaybāni Khan conquered Heşār, which was given to two brothers, Ḥamza Sultan and Maḡdi Sultan (*Bābor-nāma*, ed. Mano, I, pp. 190-91; tr. Thackston, p. 164; Moḡammad-Šāleḡ, pp. 96-116, 157-62, 172-87, 211-15; Moḡammad-Ḥaydar, pp. 178-79). In 917/1511, Heşār was briefly reconquered by Bābor, and Ḥamza Sultan and Maḡdi Sultan were put to death (*Ḥabib al-siār*, IV, pp. 523-24; Moḡammad-Ḥaydar, pp. 243-45), but in 918/1512 Heşār was finally conquered by the Uzbeks (on the devastation and famine caused by the Moḡols who fought the Uzbeks on the side of Bābor see Moḡammad-Ḥaydar, p. 262), after which the province was given to the sons of Ḥamza Sultan and Maḡdi Sultan (*Bābor-nāma*, ed. Mano, I, p. 556; tr.



Thackston, p. 411).

Since then Ҳеҷār has remained under Uzbek rule. During the first half of the 16th century the province was an appanage of the sons of Ҳамза Sultan: first of all Šāh-Moḥammad, who was killed during the Uzbek siege of Herat in 957/1550 (see Rumlu, II, p. 444), and then his younger brother, Timur Aḥmad, who, for two years (963-964/1556-57) even claimed to be the supreme khan of the Uzbeks of Transoxania (see Davidovich, 1952; idem, 1992, pp. 56-59). In 982/1574, Ҳеҷār was conquered by ‘Abd-Allāh Khan, who gave the province to his cousin Uzbek Sultan (Ḥāfeẓ-e Taniš, pt. 2, foll. 194b-199a, tr., pp. 165-73). During the 17th century, Ҳеҷār was governed by various Ashtarkhanid (Janid) princes, who were mostly subordinate to the Ashtarkhanid ruler of Balkh (see Eskandar Beg, tr. Savory, II, p. 797; Moḥammad-Yusof Monši, tr. Semenov, pp. 221-24; Burton, p. 270), but, with the decline of the Ashtarkhanids, the predominant role in Ҳеҷār seems to have been gradually acquired by the Uzbek tribe Yüz; the strongest one in the region (erroneously referred to by Barthold, “Ҳиҷār,” and later repeated by Spuler, “Ҳиҷār,” as a Turkmen tribe; the error comes from the name Turkman-Juz, which is, in fact, the name of one of the three main clans of the Uzbek tribe Yüz; see Karmysheva, pp. 95-96, 222-31). Another numerous Uzbek group was the Lakay tribe, who lived in the southern part of Ҳеҷār (Karmysheva, pp. 231-36; erroneously called “Tajik tribe” in Spuler, “Ҳиҷār”). Tajiks (the Ġalča) were pushed to the higher mountain areas mainly in the north of the region. After the collapse of the central authority in Bukhara in the first half of the 18th century, the Yüz tribal chieftans became independent rulers of Ҳеҷār, which at that time included, besides Ҳеҷār proper, also the territory south of it, as far down as the Amu-Daryā (already in the 17th century work *Baḥr al-asrār*, it is said that Ṣaġāniān, or Čaġāniān, “is now known under the name Ҳеҷār, because its center is Ҳеҷār-e Šādmān”; see Maḥmud ebn Wali, p. 58). Moḥammad-Raḥim Khan, the first ruler of the Manġit dynasty in Bukhara, conquered Ҳеҷār by the end of his reign, in 1171/1758, after a long campaign, during which the Ġalčas and the Turks of Ҳеҷār offered a stubborn resistance. After his victory, Moḥammad-Raḥim notoriously ordered many “minarets” of severed heads of killed and executed enemies to be erected throughout the province (see Karminagi, foll. 289a-306b). However, a year later Moḥammad-Raḥim Khan died (ibid., foll. 308b, 310a), and Ҳеҷār became independent again. Later on, for almost a century, the rulers of Ҳеҷār would choose sometimes to recognize the authority of Bukhara, though they often remained independent, especially after the mid-19th century. In 1283/1866, Amir Moẓaffar-al-Din conquered



Ḥeṣār, but in 1285/1868, after the Russian conquest of Bukhara, all eastern provinces of the Khanate of Bukhara seceded again. In 1287/1870 Moẓaffar-al-Din, with the military help of the Russians, who wanted to “compensate” the amir for his loss of Samarqand, finally conquered Ḥeṣār and incorporated it into the khanate. He divided the province into five provinces (*velāyat*), including Ḥeṣār proper; the governor of Ḥeṣār proper had the title of *qoṣḥbegi*, while the governors of the four other provinces, as well as those of Kulāb and Baljuvān, were subordinate to him. In 1886-1906, Ḥeṣār was governed by Āstāna-Qul, the amir’s half-brother, who received the highest Bukharan title of *ataliḳ* and enjoyed a very high status; after his death, until the end of the Khanate of Bukhara (1920), the governors of Ḥeṣār changed frequently (on the last period of the Bukharan rule in Ḥeṣār, see Khamraev, pp. 25-39). The seat of the governor remained in Ḥeṣār-e Šādmān, but in summer the *bek*, as well as most of the population of the town, would go to the town Qarataḡ, higher in the mountains, because of its much better climate (Qarataḡ was totally destroyed by a catastrophic earthquake in 1907). Other towns of the province included Dushanbe, Regār, and Deh-e Now (pronounced Denaw).

European (exclusively Russian) descriptions and travel accounts began to appear from 1875 onwards, when the Russian authorities organized the first “Gissar Expedition” under N. A. Maev; subsequently, the region was visited frequently by Russian scholars, officials, and military officers. (See Pirumshoev, for a good summary of the study of Ḥeṣār by Russian researchers before the revolution; for a bibliography of this literature, see Bregel, pp. 814-27.)

After the revolution in Russia and the fall of the Khanate of Bukhara, Ḥeṣār became one of the main centers of the anti-communist guerilla movement (*basmačī*), whose local leader, Ebrāhim Bek Lakay, continued fighting until 1927, when he fled to Afghanistan (see Togan, pp. 438-39, 463-67, 470-471; in 1931 he returned from Afghanistan, but was captured and executed, see Hayit, p. 278). With the creation of the Soviet republics, Ḥeṣār formed the core region of Tajikistan, including its capital Dushanbe.



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