



JĀĠORI

JĀĠORI, a term of uncertain etymological origin, is both a tribal section of the Hazāras and a district (*wolu-swāli*) of Ġazni province in Afghanistan. In Hazārajāt (q.v.), former tribal names tend nowadays to refer to territories. This evolution mirrors the general breakdown of social organization based on descent groups after the conquest of the region by the Amir ‘Abd-al-Raḥmān at the end of the 19th century (see [AFGHANISTAN x](#)).

Situated somewhere between 2000 and 3600 m, the district of Jāḡori covers 1,855 square km in the upper [Argandāb](#) valley and is bounded in the west by Mālestān and Dā‘i-čopān, in the north by Nāwor, in the east by Qarabāḡ and Moqor, and in the south by Gelān and Argandāb. Non-governmental organizations and the United Nations’ agencies active in the region estimate the total population between 99,126 (AVICEN, p. 20) and 150,000 (GRSP, p. 5; Johnson, p. 46). In spite of the climate, the altitude, and the rare precipitation (less than 300 mm per year), population density is very high. The demographic pressure is intense, which accounts for a constant migratory flux. This trend increased dramatically after the Communist coup of 1978. The government troops and the Red Army did not control the district, which was nevertheless the theater of bitter internal conflicts. The economy is essentially based on the remittances of the men who work in Kabul, Quetta (Pakistan), or Persia, and on irrigated agriculture. Autumn wheat dominates, but spring wheat, barley, potatoes, beans, onions, carrots, turnips, and fodder plants are also cultivated. Other crops are almonds, mulberries, apricots and apples. In local discourses and representations, but also by the social practices, the district of Jāḡori can



be divided into more than twenty regions (*manṭeqas*), which have never, however, been officially acknowledged. The list may vary, but includes Almetu, Anguri, Bābā, Busaʿid, Čilbāġtu-ye Oqi, Čilbāġtu-ye Paši, Dahmarda, Dāwud, Ḥaydar, Heča, Hutqol, Kamarak, Lumān, Maska, Pātu, Sang-e Māša, Sapāya (or Ḳodādād), Sayyed Aḥmad, Šašpar, Šerzāda, Šolġla, Siā Zamin (or Pošt-i Čob), Taberġān, Uliātu, and Zerak. Available sources (Leech, p. 336; Maitland, pp. 369-75; Ġarjestāni; Poladi, pp. 37-38) have drawn slightly different pictures of the tribal sections of Jāġori. It would be misleading to impose an arbitrary order on this diversity, which expresses the changing political coalitions in genealogical terms. The following list is only indicative (Monsutti, 2002, pp. 125-26): Ātā (Oqi, including the Mir section, Bābā, Maska, Dahmarda, Koša, Heča); Bāġočari (Lumān, Busaʿid, Nedām, Ḳodā-dād); Ezdari (Mirdād, Ḳvaja ʿAli, Ḳāṭer); Gari (Anguri, Dawlatšāh, Qara, Dāwud, Zirak, Ḥaydar). Two other groups present in the region have a distinct origin; they are Paši, which are sometimes said to be of remote Pashtun descent, and Qalandar, who were refugees arriving from Daʿi-čopān and Arġandāb at the end of the 19th century.

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