



KANGARLU

KANGARLU (variants are Kungurlu, Kengerlü), a tribe in Azarbaijan and the Qom-Verāmin region of central Iran. Kangar was the name of a branch of the Pečenegs (Pers. *Bjnāk*, *Bjānāk*; cf. Rásonyi, p. 131). Yet there does not seem to have been any link between them and the Kangarlu tribe of Iran (Togan, p. 100) who first came to prominence as a clan of the powerful Ostājlu tribe of the Qezelbāš tribal confederacy (Reid, pp. 114-21, 196-97).

Several important Safavid leaders belonged to the Kangarlu. Aḥmad Solṭān Kangarlu was governor of Šahrivār and Verāmin in 1526-27 (Barqué-Grammont, p. 98). Šadr-al-Din Khan, who was governor of [Astarābād](#) in the 1530s and 1540s, helped repulse two Uzbek invasions (Eskandar Monši, pp. 105-107, 138). Another Kangarlu leader who fought against the Uzbeks was Mošṭafā Beg Kangarlu, the governor of Tun and Ṭabas in the early 1590s. For two years, his small force of Ostājlu warriors bravely resisted an Uzbek onslaught, until, in 1593-94, he was finally captured and executed (Eskandar Monši, pp. 455-56, 488-90). [Eskandar Beg Torkamān Monši](#) (b. ca. 1560-61; d. ca. 1633) included Maqṣud Sultan Kangarlu (p. 1085) into his list of the great commanders during the reign of [Shah ‘Abbās I](#) (r. 1588-1629). Shortly after the Safavid capture of Erevan in June 1604, Maqṣud Sultan was appointed governor of Nakhijevan (Naḵjavān), north of the river Aras (see [ARAXES](#)). Later that year, when Ottoman forces threatened the area, Shah ‘Abbās I ordered Maqṣud Sultan to evacuate the entire population of the province, including the Armenians of Julfa, to Qarāja Dāg (Arasbārān) and Dezmar (Eskandar Monši, pp. 656, 668). In the following year, the Armenians were



deported to Isfahan (see [JULFA](#)).

Many Kangarlu settled north of the river Aras, probably in around 1500, when the Ostājlu moved into [Azarbaijan](#). At the beginning of the 19th century, J. M. Jouannin, described these Kangarlu as “a small tribe established in Persian Armenia, on the shores of the Aras, and numbering up to four or five thousand individuals” (Dupré, II, p. 459). In 1921, M. H. Valili Baharlu (pp. 61ff.) wrote that there were Kangarlu around Gökçāy, Javānšir and Šušā. Many of these are undoubtedly the descendants of Kangarlu who were forced to move south of the Aras river by Shah ‘Abbās I in 1604, and were then allowed to return to their original grazing grounds, when [Shah ‘Abbās II](#) (r. 1642-66) attempted to repopulate the frontier regions of his realm.

Today, there is a clan of the Ḥāji ‘Alilu tribe of Qarāja Dāg by the name of Kangarlu. In 1960, it comprised some 25 households. A village by the name of Kangarlu is located 24 km to the north of Mešginšahr, in the same area (Razmārā, *Farhang IV*, p. 429). The inhabitants are probably the descendants of Kangarlu who were moved to Qarāja Dāg in 1604 and remained there. Some Kangarlu also settled in western Azarbaijan. One group, which was mentioned by Maftun Donbuli (p. 253) and Valili Baharlu (p. 61), lived between Selmās and Koy, where there is still a village by the name of Kangarlu (Razmārā, *Farhang IV*, p. 429). Another group apparently lived to the east of Bostānābād, one-third of the way between Tabriz and Miāna, for there is also a village by the name of Kangarlu (*ibid*). It is uncertain when these two groups moved to western Azarbaijan.

Finally, there is a group of Kangarlu in the Qom-Verāmin region in central Iran. According to Jouannin (Dupré, II, p. 460), it comprised some 1,000 individuals in 1809. In 1849, M. L. Sheil reported about a group of Kangarlu, living with a group of Arabs of [Damāvand](#) and a group of Qarā Čorlu in 1,000 “tents and houses” (p. 397). But S. I. Bruk (1960b, p. 32) estimated in the late 1950s that the Kangarlu comprised 30,000 individuals—a figure which seems somewhat excessive. It is possible that these Kangarlu have been in that region since Aḥmad Sultan was its governor in the 1520s.



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