



KAY-ḲOSROW KHAN

KAY-ḲOSROW KHAN (b. 1 January 1674; d. Kandahar, 26 October 1711), Georgian royal prince of the Kartlian branch, also known as Ḳosrow Khan. He was the eldest son of Prince Levan (Šāhqoli Khan) and the nephew of Giorgi XI (Gorgin Khan, q.v.). His activities were well recorded by Sekhnia Chkheidze, a Georgian chronicler in the service of Prince Levan, who described himself as having been brought up with Kay-Ḳosrow Khan (Chkheidze, 1854, p. 312; idem, 1857, p. 15; idem, 1976, p. 14).

In 1704, during his father's absence, Kay-Ḳosrow Khan acted as the chief justice (*divānbeḡi*, q.v.) (Chkheidze, 1854, p. 320; idem, 1857, p. 24; idem, 1976, p. 23; Zhordania, III, pp. 6-7). Vakhushti Bagrationi wrote (p. 477; see also Brosset, II/1, p. 98 and II/2, p. 504) that Kay-Ḳosrow Khan had been appointed the prefect of police (*dāruḡa* [see [CITIES iii](#)]) of Isfahan in the previous year, 1703. However, according to Chkheidze (1854, p. 320; idem, 1857, p. 24; idem, 1976, p. 23), at that time this post should have been occupied by the Kakhetian Prince Kostantine (Maḡmud-qoli). In the summer of 1707 Kay-Ḳosrow Khan, having been appointed the prefect of police of Isfahan by Shah Solṭān-Ḥosayn (r. 1694-1722), Īwas sent there from Mashad to quell the bread riots (Chkheidze, 1854, p. 322-23; idem, 1857, pp. 26-27; idem, 1976, p. 25-26; Lockhart, pp. 49-50).

In the summer of 1709, Kay-Ḳosrow Khan succeeded Giorgi XI as the ruler (*wāli* [see [CITIES iii](#)] (mepe) of Kartli and became the commander-in-chief (*sepahsālār*) with the governorship of Tabriz and Barda. His half-brother, Iese (‘Aliqoli Khan), became the governor (*beglerbeḡi*, q.v.) and his of Kermn and



illegitimate half-brother Rostom (Rostam) the prefect of police of Isfahan (Chkheidze, 1854, p. 325; idem, 1857, pp. 30-31; idem, 1976, p. 29; Vakhushti Bagrationi, p. 485; Brosset, II/1, pp.103-104; Mostowfi, pp. 116-17). Kay-Ḳosrow Khan's brother Vakhtang VI (later Ḥāosaynqoli Khan) continued to rule Kartli on his behalf and sent him 1,500-men army reinforcements. In November 1709 Kay-Ḳosrow Khan led the Georgian and Persian army to Kandahar to avenge his uncle Gorgin Khan, who had been killed by the Afghans earlier that same year (Lockhart, pp. 87-88).

However, the army was said to have suffered from food shortages and low morale among the *qezelbāš* (q.v.) troops. After five months of besieging Kandahar, Kay-Ḳosrow Khan was forced to retreat. He was attacked and killed (or made a suicide attack with 200 of his men) on 26 October 1711 (Chkheidze, 1854, pp. 325-26; idem, 1857, pp. 31-32; idem, 1976, p. 29; Vakhushti Bagrationi, p. 489; Brosset, II/1, p. 108; Kavtaria, p. 205; Lang, 1952, pp. 532-34; idem, 1957, pp. 101-2). According to J. T. Krusinski, although they had lost the war, the bravery of the Georgians was highly admired by the Afghans: “that the Persians were but Women compar'd with the Aghvans, and the Aghvans but Women compar'd with the Georgians.” Krusinski also wrote that the death of Kostrow-Khan (i.e., Kay-Ḳosrow Khan) “was the most considerable Loss that Persia sustain'd on this Occasion” (Krusinski, I, p. 198). It is not appropriate to attribute the failure of the expedition solely to the “anti-Georgian sentiment” inside the central court represented by Fath-ʿAli Khan Dāgī estāni (Lang, 1957, p. 101; idem, 1952, p. 533), for the latter was the brother-in-law of Prince Davit (Emāmqoli) from the Kakhetian Bagratids (Brosset, II/1, p. 182; Puturidze, 1955, pp. 430-31). Fath-ʿAli Khan married one of his daughters to Rostam, the uterine brother of Kay-Ḳosrow Khan also married one of his daughters to Rostom, natural brother of. The Kartlian Bagratids continued to maintain relations with the North Caucasian principalities, too, with a complicated network of alliances and strategies. It can be safely assumed that the double-edged struggle for power was pursued inside the Safavid court and across the whole Caucasus simultaneously.



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