



KURDISH TRIBES

KURDISH TRIBES. Kurdish tribes are found throughout Persia, eastern Anatolia and northern Iraq, but very few comprehensive lists of them have been published. The one most often cited is that of François Bernard Charmoy, which was based on the *Šaraf-nāma* by the 16th-century Kurdish historian Šaraf-al-Din Bedlisi (q.v.; I, pp. 55-85). An attempt to present an up-to-day list of Kurdish tribes follows.

KURDISH TRIBES IN PERSIA

Western Azarbaijan. The most important Kurdish tribes in that region are Jalāli (q.v.; around Māku), Milān (also around Māku), Ḥaydarānlu (on the Turkish border, southwest of Māku), Donboli (q.v.; Turki-speaking, around Koy and Salmās), Korahsunni (Kurdicized Turks, southwest of Koy), Šekkāk (south of Salmās), Herki (around Urmia), Begzāda (south of Urmia), Zerkā (on the Iraqi border, west of Ošnaviya), Pirān (on the Iraqi border, southwest of Naqada), Māmaš (around Naqada), Mangur (southwest of Mahābād), Mokri (around Mahābād), Dehbokri (east of Mahābād), Gowrāk (south of Mahābād, around Sardašt and northwest of Saqqez), Malkāri (around Sardašt), Suseni (west of Saqqez), Fayz-Allāh-begi (northeast of Saqqez). (For details, see Afšār Sistāni, pp. 137-95; Komisiun-e melli, pp. 117-29.)

Eastern Azarbaijan. In Qarājadāg (today Arasbārān), that is, the region between the Aras river and the Sabalān mountain range, there are six Shī'ite, Turki-speaking tribes of Kurdish origin: Čalabiānlu (q.v.), Moḥammad Kānlu, Ḥosaynāklu, Ḥāji 'Alilu (q.v.), Ḥasan Beglu, and Qarāčorlu. In Kalkāl, that is,



the region between the Bozġuř mountains and the Qezel Uzen (*owzan*) river, there are seven Shi'ite, Turki-speaking tribes of Kurdish origin: Delikānlu, Kolukjānlu (an offshoot of the Šekkāk), Šaṭrānlu (also an offshoot of the Šekkāk), Aḥmadlu, Šādлу, Rařvand, and Māmānlu. Finally, there are Shi'ite, Turki-speaking Šekkāk occupying vast areas northeast and northwest of Miyāna. (See Afšār-Sistāni, pp. 109-25; Oberling, 1964; idem, 1961, pp. 52-57, 80.)

Kurdistan. The most important Kurdish tribes in this region are: Sarřiv (on the Iraęi border, south of Bāna), Tilaku'i (Kurdicized Turks, around Sonnata and Zāġa), Bani Ardalān (around Senna [Sanandaj]), Jāf (southwest of Senna [Sanandaj]), Hulilān (southeast of Kermānřāh), and the following tribes between Kermānřāh (present-day Bāktarān) and the Iraęi border: Gurān, Kalhor, Sanjābi, Šarafbayāni, Kerindi, Bājalān (q.v.), Nānakuli, and Zangana. (See Afšār-Sistāni, pp. 223-59; Komisiun-e melli, pp. 130-33; also multiple entries in Nikitine and Arfa.)

Hamadān. According to Marduķ Kordestāni (I, pp. 86 and 98), the Kurdish tribes in this province are: Jamiri, Juzikān, and Šāhjān.

Luristan. According to Oskar Mann (p. XXIII), the Delfān and Selsela groups of tribes, the Armā'i tribe of the Ṭarhān group of tribes, and the Bayrānvand tribe in the Piř-e Kuh speak Laki. According to Marduķ Kordestāni (I, pp. 78, 86), both the Itivand and the Judeki tribes in the Piř-e Kuh are Kurdish. There is also a large tribe by the name of Kord in the Pořt-e Kuh (Rabino, 1916, pp. 40-45).

Kuzestān. There are three groups of Zangana and one of Jalāli in the Jāneki Garmsir, northeast of Ahvāz. They were brought there by Nadir Shah (Qā'em Maqāmi). There was also a tribe by the name of Āl bu Kord which occupied seven villages on the Kārun river south of Ahvāz (Lorimer, II, pp. 121, 1042).

Gilān. There have been two important Kurdish tribes in this province: Riřvand (or Rařvand) and 'Amārlu (q.v.). According to Rabino, the Riřvand formed part of the Bābān tribe of Solaymāniya and were moved to Gilān by Shah 'Abbās I. Later, they were chased out of most of their choice pasturelands by the 'Amārlu, who were moved to Gilān from northwestern Persia by Nāder Shah (Rabino, 1916-17, pp. 260-61; tr., pp. 304-6). The Riřvand now live mostly in Qazvin province. The 'Amārlu occupy some fifty villages between Menjil and Pirākuh in southeastern Gilān. (See Fortescue, pp. 319-20; Marduķ Kordestāni,



I, pp. 100-1; Afšār Sistāni, pp. 132-34.)

Māzandarān. There are three major Kurdish tribes in the province: Modānlu (north of Sāri), Jahānbeḡlu (north of Sāri), and K̄vājavand (south of Nowšahr). The K̄vājavand tribe, according to L. S. Fortescue (p. 317), “was originally brought from Garrūs (q.v.) and Kurdistān by Nāder Shāh.” The Modānlu and Jahānbeḡlu tribes were probably also moved to Māzanderān by Nāder Shah. According to Rabino (1913, p. 441).

Qazvin. The most important Kurdish tribes in this province are Ġiāt̄vand (q.v.), Kākāvand, Rišvand, and Ma‘āfi. The Ġiāt̄vand tribe dwells along the Qezel Uzen and Šāhrud rivers. According to Parviz Varjāvand (pp. 456-57), it was transplanted from western Persia by Āḡā Moḡammad Khan Qājār. The Kākāvand tribe lives northeast of Qerva, on the Siāh Dahān-Zanjān road. The Rešvand tribe occupies the districts of Alāmūt and Rudbār. The Ma‘āfi tribe dwells near the Qazvin-Tehran road (Fortescue, pp. 325-26). According to Varjāvand (pp. 459-60), there are also small groups of Bājalān, Behtu‘i, Čamišgazak, Jalilvand, and Kalhor in the province.

Tehran. The Pāzuki tribe is the principal Kurdish group in the province. According to Albert Houtum-Schindler (p. 50), it was once a powerful tribe residing near Erzurum in Anatolia; but it was broken up in the late 16th century, a fragment settling down around Varāmin and Ġār. In the Tehran region are also fragments of the following tribes: Hedāvand, Burbur, Uryād, Zerger, Kord Bača, Nānakuli, and Qarāčorlu (Kayhān, II, p. 111); and in Sāva there are Kalhor Kurds (Afšār Sistāni, p. 1115).

Isfahan. According to Marduḡ Kordestāni (I, p. 79), there is a Kurdish tribe in this province by the name of Bāzinjān. Moreover, the name of the town Šahr-e Kord southwest of Isfahan evidence the existence of Kurds in that region in the past (cf. Kord in Fārs mentioned below). This is reinforced by the remarks of early Muslim geographers (Mas‘udi, *Tanbih*, p. 88; EsĀṭakri, pp. 98-99, 115; Ebn Ḥawqal, p. 265; Moḡaddasi, p. 447).

Fārs. According to Marduḡ Kordestāni (I, pp. 75-117), there are more than thirty small Kurdish tribes in Fārs. Many of these are undoubtedly remnants of tribes that followed Karim Khan Zand to Fārs; after the fall of the Zand dynasty, they were absorbed as clans by the Qašqā‘i tribal confederacy. They include the Saqqez, Zangana (five separate groups, including one that today forms a clan of the Kaškuli Bozorg tribe of the Qašqā‘i), Kuruni, Čegini (q.v.),



Burbur and Uryād (clans of the Qašqā'i 'Amala tribe), Lak and Vandā (clans of the Qašqā'i Darrašuri tribe), Kordlu (a clan of the Qašqā'i Qarā Čāhīlu tribe), and Kord-Šuli. (See Oberling, 1960, pp. 76-84; idem, 1974, pp. 225-31.) References to Kurdish tribes in Fārs, as well as to a town called Kord in the Isfahan area, go back to the 10th century (Mas'udi, *Tanbih*, pp. 88-89; Ebn Kordādbeh, p. 47; Eṣṭakri, pp. 113 ff., 125; Ebn Ḥawqal, pp. 264-65, 269, 270-71; Moqaddasi, p. 446). According to Ebn al-Balki, the five major Kurdish tribes of Fārs had been annihilated during the Arab conquest, and the Kurds that were in Fārs in the 12th century, other than the Šabānkāra, had been brought there by the Buyid 'Azad-al-Dawla. There were many Kurds in Fārs in the 11th century, including as many as five tribes of Šabānkāra (Ebn al-Balki, tr. pp. 5-13). Although Ebn Balki distinguishes the Šabānkāra from the original Kurdish tribes of Fārs, the name of one of the Šabānkāra five clans, Rāmāni (the other four are Esmā'ili, Karzubi, Mas'udi, Šakāni), is identical with that of a Kurdish tribe of Fārs mentioned in early sources (Eṣṭakri, p. 114; Ebn Ḥawqal, p. 270; Moqaddasi, p. 446). The Šabānkāra seized power from the Buyids in Fārs in 1062 and founded a dynasty of tribal rulers there (Ebn Balki, pp. 164-67; Bosworth, p. 156). Some of the Šabānkāra settled down in the district of Simakān, between Shiraz and Jahrom (Ḥasan Fasā'i, II, p. 314). Today, there is still a district by the name of Šabānkāra near Bušehr.

Khorasan. There are many thousands of Kurds in Khorasan, and most of them are descendants of tribesmen who were moved into the province by Shah 'Abbās I around 1600. The most important Kurdish tribes in Khorasan are: 'Amārlu (in the Marusk plain, northwest of Nišāpur), Šādlu (in the district of Bojnurd), Za'farānlu (in the districts of Šīrvān and Qučān), Keyvānlu (in the districts of Joveyn, Darragaz, and Radkān), Tupkānlu (around Joveyn and Nišāpur), and Qarāčorlu (in the districts of Bojnurd, Šīrvān, and Qučān). (See: Afšār Sistāni, pp. 984-1104; Ivanow, pp. 150-52.) The recent study of Moḥammad-Ḥosayn Pāpoli Yazdi shows the extent to which the Kurds of Khorasan have become sedentary (pp. 23-37).

Kermān. According to Percy Sykes (p. 210), there was a small Kurdish tribe in the Sārdū (or Sārduya) region in 1900. Until recently, there was also a clan of the Afšār tribe of Kermān by the name of Mir Kord (Oberling, 1960, p. 115).

Baluchistan. There are Kurds in northeastern Persian Baluchistan, who might be the descendants of tribesmen who accompanied the luckless Loṭf-'Ali Khan Zand on his desperate flight to Bam in 1794. Until the 1880s, they were dominant in Kāš, and their leader was known as the Sardār of the Sarḥad

(Sykes, pp. 106, 107, 131; see also Bestor). Today, they are widely scattered, some of them living on the southern slopes of the Kuh-e Taftān, others dwelling around Magas (today, Zābol); and still others are settled in Sistān (Afšār Sistāni, p. 918). Hosayn-‘Ali Razmārā mentions eight villages in the district of Bampošt that are inhabited by Baluchi-speaking Zand tribesmen (VIII, pp. 187, 248, 313, 315, 322, 372, 384). These probably moved to Baluchistan at the same time as the Kurds of Qāš.

KURDISH TRIBES IN TURKEY

Most of the Kurds in Turkey have become sedentary and many have lost their tribal identity. According to Marduḡ Kordestāni (I, pp. 75-117), at the beginning of the 20th century the principal Kurdish tribes of Turkey were the following. They are listed according to district (*velāyat*). For more information on Kurdish tribes in Turkey, see Ott Blau (pp. 608-9), Mark Sykes (pp. 451-86), and Badile Nikitine (pp. 161-62).

Adıaman: Telyā.

Afyon: Jahānbegli.

Ağri: Sāderli, Qālāti, Ḥaydarānli, Ḥamadikān, Zilānli, Bādeli, Ādamānli, Bašmānli, Jalāli, Bāzikli.

Amasya: Aruk.

Ankara: ‘Amarānli, Nāşerli, Zirikānli, Judikānli, Tirikān.

Bitlis: Mudeki, Qāzali, Ḥasanānlu, Ātamānikān, Jabbarānli.

Diārbakır: Diārbakri, Musek, Şayḡdudānli, Surkişli, Dersimli, Qāzāli, Beşeri, Tirikān, Purān, Bekirān, Raşkutānli.

Elaziğ: Gurus, Kulbaban, Sinān, Āşmişart, Behirmāz.

Erzurum: Herka‘i, Zirikānli, Ḥasanānli, Piziānli, Raşvān.

Gaziantep: Delikānli

Hakāri: Kekā, Şemsiki, Neri, Ḥakāri, Ḥasanānlu, Balikār, Dināri.

Kaysari: Ḥājibānli.



Kirşehir: ‘Amarānli, Tāburowg̃li, Barakatli.

Konya: Kalkāni.

Malatya: Sināminli

Maraş (Mar‘aş): Gugarišānli, Kikān, Vāliāni, Nederli, Nāšadirā, Duġānli, Delikānli, Jelikānli, Balikānli.

Mardin: Dāḡuri, Tur‘ābedin.

Muş: Māmakānli, Lulānli, Šekerli, Panjinān, Silukān, Selivān, Ḥasanānli, Azli, Panijāri, Zerzān, Balikān.

Siirt (Se‘ert): Mirān, Musek, Kaviān, Dersimli, Dāḡuri, Ḥosayni, Jaziriān, Panjinān.

Sivās: Kučeri, Āḡčešmi.

Tokat (Toqat): Aruk.

Tunceli (Tunjeli): Milli, Dersimli.

Urfa: Givarān, ‘Aluš, Čāpkasān, Abu Tāher, Emerzān, Bārān.

Van: Maḡmudi, Herka‘i, ‘Isā‘i, Yazidi, Sepikānli, Duderi, Kāni, Jelikānli, Tākuli, Tāpiān, Bārezānli.

Yozgat: Mākāni, Kātunoġli, Tāburoġli.

KURDISH TRIBES IN IRAQ

There are still many powerful Kurdish tribes in Iraq. According to Moḡammad-Amin Zaki (pp. 399-410), the most important Kurdish tribes in Iraq in 1931 were the following. They are listed according to geographical region (urban center). For more information on the Kurdish tribes of Iraq, see Henry Field (1940), Cecil John Edmonds, and Hasan Arfa.

Arbil: Āko, Dizā‘i, Surči, Gerdi, Herki, Bārzān (q.v.), Buli, Širvān wa Barādust (q.v.), Zārāri, Kīlāni, Bervāri Bālā, Bervāri Žiri, Košnāv, Pirān.

Kāneqin: Bājalān, Zenda, Leylāni, Kāka‘i, Šayḡ-bazini, Bibāni, Dāwuda, Kākevār, Pālāni, Kāġānlu.

Kerkuk: Šarafbayāni, Barzenji, Dilo, Tālebāni, Jabbāri, Šuhān, Zangana, ‘Amarmel, Šālehi.

Mandali: Qarā ‘Alus.

Mosul: Šeqqāq, Duski, Zibāri, Misuri, Ārtuš, Sendi.

Solaymāniya: Jāf, Marivāni, Pišdar, Ḥamāvand, Āvrāmi, and Esmā‘il ‘Azizi.

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