

# CONTENTS

CONTRIBUTORS . . . . .	xiii
FOREWORD . . . . .	xix
INTRODUCTION ( <b>Charles Melville</b> ) . . . . .	xxv
1. Some Preliminary Observations . . . . .	xxv
2. The Writing of Persian History . . . . .	xxxii
3. Previous Work . . . . .	xxxv
4. The Scope of the Volume . . . . .	xxxviii
Synopsis . . . . .	xl
5. Themes in Persian Historiography . . . . .	xliii
Mastery of Time . . . . .	xliii
The Historian and the Truth . . . . .	li
Bibliographical Note . . . . .	lv
CHAPTER 1: HISTORY AS LITERATURE ( <b>Julie S. Meisami</b> ) . . . . .	1
1. Introduction . . . . .	1
2. The Rise of Persian Historiography . . . . .	6
3. The Triumph of <i>Enshâ'</i> . . . . .	19
4. Texts and Analyses . . . . .	35
The Murder of Abu-Moslem . . . . .	35
The Murder of a Vizier . . . . .	42
5. Concluding Remarks . . . . .	53
CHAPTER 2: THE HISTORIAN AT WORK ( <b>Charles Melville</b> ) . . . . .	56
1. Bureaucrats, Historians, and Littérateurs . . . . .	57
2. Aims and Means . . . . .	64
3. Bureaucratic Crises and Military Conflicts . . . . .	73
Civilian Casualties . . . . .	73
The Ruler at War . . . . .	87
4. The Measure of Success . . . . .	98

## PERSIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY

### CHAPTER 3: THE RISE AND DEVELOPMENT

OF PERSIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY (Elton L. Daniel) . . . . .	101
1. Abu-Ali Bal'ami and the Genesis of Persian Historiography . . . . .	103
2. Other Arabic to Persian Translations . . . . .	114
3. Gardizi and the <i>Zeyn-al-akhbâr</i> . . . . .	120
4. Abu'l-Fazl Beyhaqi and his <i>Târikh</i> . . . . .	126
5. The <i>Mojmal-al-tavârikh</i> . . . . .	136
6. Provincial and City Histories . . . . .	139
7. Saljuq Dynastic Histories . . . . .	149

### CHAPTER 4: THE MONGOL AND TIMURID PERIODS,

1250–1500 (Charles Melville) . . . . .	155
1. A Sense of Place . . . . .	162
A World on the Move . . . . .	176
A Sacred Space . . . . .	179
Small is Beautiful: Local Histories . . . . .	182
2. History as Propaganda . . . . .	185
3. An Epic Age . . . . .	192
4. Past and Present . . . . .	198
Morals and Memorials . . . . .	199
Patronage and Audience . . . . .	202
5. Conclusions . . . . .	206

### CHAPTER 5: SAFAVID HISTORIOGRAPHY

(Sholeh Quinn and Charles Melville) . . . . .	209
1. Introduction . . . . .	209
2. The Safavid Chroniclers: A Brief Overview . . . . .	211
The First Generation . . . . .	211
The Second Generation . . . . .	212
The Era of Shah Abbâs . . . . .	214
Late Safavid Chronicles . . . . .	216
3. Patronage . . . . .	222
4. Universal and Dynastic Histories . . . . .	224
5. Organization and Dating Systems . . . . .	227
6. Content and Themes . . . . .	229
The Safavid Genealogy . . . . .	232
Safavid Origins . . . . .	236
The Coronation of Shah Esmâ'il . . . . .	240
7. Methods of Composition . . . . .	244
Safavid Prologues . . . . .	244

## CONTENTS

Imitative Writing: Late Safavid Chronicles . . . . .	248
Narrating the Present . . . . .	251
8. Discussion . . . . .	254

### CHAPTER 6: PERSIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY IN THE 18<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY (**Ernest Tucker**) . . . . . 258

1. Introduction . . . . .	258
2. The Main Chronicles of the Afsharid Era . . . . .	259
Mirzâ Mahdi Khan Astarâbâdi's <i>Târikh-e Nâderi</i> . . . . .	261
The <i>Târikh-e Nâderi</i> in the Safavid Historiographical Tradition . . . . .	262
Astarâbâdi's Works as Epitomes of the Ornate Style . . . . .	265
The Last Section of Astarâbâdi's Work and Uncertainties in its Patronage . . . . .	266
Mohammad Kâzem Marvi's Portrait of Nâder's Errors . . . . .	267
The Long Twilight of Safavid Historiography . . . . .	269
3. Chronicles of the Zand Interlude . . . . .	270
4. Non-Chronicle Genres of Historiography during the 18 <sup>th</sup> Century . . . . .	273
5. Qajar Historiography after the Turn of the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century . . . . .	274
The <i>Târikh-e Mohammadi</i> of Mohammad-Taqi Sâru'i . . . . .	274
The <i>Târikh-e Mohammadi</i> in its Historiographical Context . . . . .	275
Sâru'i, the Afsharid Legacy, and Questions of Royal Legitimacy . . . . .	275
6. Historiographical Trends during the Early Qajar Period (1797–1848) . . . . .	280
7. Nâser-al-Din Shah and the Twilight of the Court Chronicle Tradition . . . . .	283
8. Conclusions . . . . .	291

### CHAPTER 7: LEGEND, LEGITIMACY AND MAKING A NATIONAL NARRATIVE IN THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF QAJAR IRAN (1785–1925) (**Abbas Amanat**) . . . . . 292

1. Reshaping Court Chronicles and Universal Histories . . . . .	296
2. Towards Greater National Awareness . . . . .	308
3. The Publication of State-Sponsored Histories . . . . .	314
4. The Decline of Chronicles and New Approaches to History . . . . .	324
5. In Search of Ancient Iran . . . . .	327
6. Translations and the Rediscovery of the Past . . . . .	333

## PERSIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY

7. Discourse of Decline and Renewal . . . . .	337
8. History as Awakening . . . . .	344
9. Shaping a Nationalist Discourse . . . . .	346
10. Forgotten Narratives . . . . .	351
11. Local Histories and a National Narrative . . . . .	357
12. Popular Histories and Memoirs . . . . .	361
13. Conclusions . . . . .	364

### CHAPTER 8: HISTORIOGRAPHY IN THE PAHLAVI ERA

<b>(Fakhreddin Azimi)</b> . . . . .	367
1. Introduction . . . . .	367
2. Hasan Pirniyâ . . . . .	370
3. Abbâs Eqbâl-Âshtiyâni . . . . .	377
4. Ahmad Kasravi . . . . .	384
5. Fereydun Âdamiyat . . . . .	399
6. Men of Letters and “Iranologists” . . . . .	413
7. Institutional, Political and Cultural Context . . . . .	423
8. The Constraints of Conventional History . . . . .	429

### CHAPTER 9: OTTOMAN HISTORICAL WRITING

<b>IN PERSIAN, 1400–1600 (Sara Nur Yıldız)</b> . . . . .	436
1. Introduction: Ottomans and the Persian Tradition . . . . .	436
2. Ideological Experimentation in Early Ottoman Historical Writing . . . . .	441
Shokr-Allâh’s Persian <i>Bahjat-al-tavârikh</i> (1459): Universal Islamic History and the Cosmological Underpinnings of Ottoman Ghâzi Ideology . . . . .	443
3. Versified Persian Historical Writing . . . . .	450
Mo’âli’s <i>Khonkâr-nâme</i> (1474): A Defense of Mehmed II’s Imperial Power . . . . .	450
Malek Ommi (T. Melik Ümmi)’s <i>Shâhnâme</i> , or the <i>Bâyazid-nâme</i> (1486) . . . . .	456
Versifying Selim I’s Conquests: Adâ’i’s <i>Shâhnâme-ye mohârebe-ye Soltân Salim</i> (ca. 1520–21) . . . . .	462
4. Ottoman Court <i>Shahname</i> -composers under Süleyman and his Successors . . . . .	469
5. Persian Epistolary Histories . . . . .	480
Ottoman Dynastic History and Epistolary Composition . . . . .	480
Edris-e Bedlisi’s <i>Hasht Behesht</i> (ca. 1506) . . . . .	483

## CONTENTS

Prose and Epistolary Historiography in the Süleyman and Post-Süleyman Era . . . . .	496
6. Conclusions . . . . .	499
CHAPTER 10: HISTORIOGRAPHY IN CENTRAL ASIA SINCE THE 16 <sup>TH</sup> CENTURY (R. D. McChesney) . . . . .	503
1. Introduction . . . . .	503
2. Hâfez-e Tanish b. Mir-Mohammad of Bukhara. . . . .	508
3. Soltân-Mohammad Motrebi of Samarqand . . . . .	514
Motrebi's Works . . . . .	521
4. Mahmud b. Amir Vali of Balkh . . . . .	524
5. Conclusions. . . . .	530
CHAPTER 11: HISTORIOGRAPHY IN AFGHANISTAN (R. D. McChesney) . . . . .	532
1. Mohammad Yusof 'Riyâzi': The Making of an Historian . . . . .	534
2. Feyz-Mohammad Hazâra 'Kâteb' . . . . .	541
The Making of the <i>Serâj-al-tavârikh</i> . . . . .	552
The Publication Process . . . . .	552
The Sources of the <i>Serâj-al-tavârikh</i> . . . . .	553
The Style and Contents of the <i>Serâj-al-tavârikh</i> . . . . .	554
3. Hâjj Mirzâ Abd-al-Mohammad Khan Pur Alizâde Esfahâni Irâni 'Mo'addeb-al-Soltân' . . . . .	557
4. The Beginning of a New Historiographic Tradition . . . . .	562
CHAPTER 12: INDO-PERSIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY (Stephen F. Dale) . . . . .	565
1. Introduction . . . . .	565
2. Early Persian Historiography . . . . .	568
3. The Delhi Sultanate . . . . .	570
4. The Afghan Interregnum: 1451–1526 and 1540–55 . . . . .	576
5. The Mughals . . . . .	579
Mughal Autobiographical Literature . . . . .	581
Histories of the Mughals . . . . .	586
Bâbor and Homâyun. . . . .	586
Akbar . . . . .	588
Jahângir . . . . .	593
Shâh Jahân . . . . .	594
Owrangzib . . . . .	597
Bahâdor Shâh and the Later Mughals . . . . .	598

## PERSIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY

6. The British and Indo-Persian Literature . . . . .	602
7. Provincial Histories . . . . .	605
8. Conclusions . . . . .	609
Bibliographical Note . . . . .	610
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	611
1. Persian and Arabic Texts (manuscripts and printed editions) and Translations . . . . .	611
2. Turkish Works (manuscripts, editions, translations) . . . . .	630
3. Secondary Studies, Modern Histories . . . . .	630
INDEX . . . . .	669