

The Role of Local and Regional Conflicts of the Influential Dynasties in lack of Development of Shushtar in Afshareyeh and Zandiyeh Periods

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Abstract

Shushtar has experienced many conflicts and unrests during the Afsharid and Zandiyeh eras. Part of such conflicts was domestic, regional and trans-regional conflicts, and some of them happened within the city. Vakhushti Khan, GorginBeyg, and Circassia EldoromBeyg dynasties were frequently in conflict with one another over Shushtar rule from 1714 to 1748. During this period, some cities such as Shushtar, Dezful and Hoveyzeh came to battle with each other many times. Arabs of al-Kathir and al-Mushashaiyyah families gained the control of the political power of Shushtar at times. Disputes among Sheikhs of al-Kathir, Al- Mushashaiyyah and Al- Kaabi resulted in many violent battles within Shushtar districts (quarters) including Haidar Khane (Gargar) and Ne'matKhane (Moqehi) which were headed by Marashi and Kalantar families, respectively. Confusion and chaos resulted from the conflicts among headmen (Khans) of Bakhtiari, FeyliLurs and Kohgiluyeh had considerable influence over Shushtar. Trans-regional rebellions of Safi Mirza Dorouqin and Muhammad Khan Baluch severely affected the political conditions of Shushtar. At that time, Nader Shah showed up again in Shushtar and took action that had long-term consequences on this city. The massacre of the people of Shushtar in the seditious adventure of Muhammad Khan Baloch and the compulsory immigration of 500 families from Shushtar to Khorasan are some of the actions conducted during the ruling of Nader Shah. During Afshareyeh and Zandiyeh eras, the political control of Shushatar was ruled by many dynasties including Vakhushti Khan, Georgian GorginBeyg, Circassia EldoromBeyg, al- Kathir and Al- Mushashaiyyah, KalantarSadats, Bakhtiari and FeyliLurs, Qarachorlu and Keyvanlu Kurds, Urumi and AbiwerdiAfshars, and also some other rulers who occasionally had been moving around from Dezful to Shushtar. The current study asks why the rulers of Shushtar in the Afsharid and Zandiyeh periods were not eager to improve the social, political and economic conditions of Shushtar. The authors hypothesize that the political experience and the management ability of the dynasties who rules the city were not significant and they were not acutely aware of social class formation. Additionally, since rulers were not native, their enthusiasm or concern over Shushtar was not enough to conduct considerable actions for development of this city.

Key words: Afshareyeh and Zandiyeh eras, Domestic and trans-regional conflicts, Political status, Shushtar.

Introduction

Shushtar experienced many significant social and political changes throughout the Afshareyeh and Zandiyeh eras. Some of the Safavid local dynasties lived in Shushtar, for example Abul- Fath Khan from Georgian dynasty, Georgian EsfandiarBeyg and Seyyed Abdallah from MarashiSadah, Seyed Nur al-Din Jazayeria , and SeyyedFarajallah Kalantari. Many battles in Shushtar happened in Afsharid and Zand periods, which their outcomes considerably influenced Shushtar. Local rulers of Shushtar denied diplomacy and hospitality toward peasants, and the rulers who did not have adequate competence, management skills and intelligence encouraged malice, jealousy, revenge, abuse, crime and carnage in this city during their ruling time.

Conflicts between Vakhushti Khan and Georgian dynasties in Shushtar and Dezful

At the end of the Safavid Empire and after Georgian Abdallah Khan's death, Shushtar came under the rule of his brother, Muhammad Reza Khan. Once Muhammad Reza Khan was in Hoveyzeh, he was forced to depose and the city came under the rule of Muhammad Zaman, the son of Georgian Kalb Ali Khan. After a while, Muhammad Reza Khan, the brother of Georgian Abdallah Khan, became again the ruler of Shushtar. During the siege of Isfahan by Afghan corps, which lasted for six month, Mehr Ali Khan was appointed as the ruler of Shushtar, and Muhammad Husain Khan on behalf of his father, Mehr Ali Khan occupied the position. At that time, Kuhgiluyeh was ruled by Georgian Bijan Khan and his son, Abul-Fath Khan, took the control of Shushtar (JazayeriShushtari, 2009, p 144-145).

The ruling times of Georgian Abul-Fath Khan and Sheikh Faros al-Kathir in Shushtar

Abul-Fath Khan was the ruler of Shushtar when Safi Mirza Doroughin rebelled against him. In 1716, Khwaja Ismail Bakhtiari was warmly greeted by Abul-Fath Khan with his military officers in Koraiye district of Shushtar. Abul-Fath Khan's direct involvement in imprisoning Safi Mirza in Slasel Castle was one of his mistakes. Imprisoning Khajah Ismail Bakhtiari was another action taken by Abul-Fath Khan that provoked a storm of protest by Shushtarians. Shushtar people discharged Mehr Ali Beyg, the representative of Abul-Fath Khan and Sheikh Faros al-Kathir was appointed as the ruler of Shushtar. A large number of grandees of Shushtar were killed in Safi Mirza Doroughin rebellion including Mirza Muhammad Baqer, the son of Mirza Shah Mir Marashi, and Husain QoliBeyg, the son of BeygMirshekari from Georgian Beyg dynasty. In 1717, Safi Mirza left Shushtar and fled to Kohgiluyeh (Imam Ahvazi, 2000, p386; JazayeriShushtari, 2009, p145; Kasraw, 2010, pp 109-110).

EsfandiarBeyg's rising to power from Georgian GorginBeyg dynasty in Shushtar

When Sheikh Faros al-Kathir took the control of Shushtar, her representative was EsfandiarBeyg from Georgian GorginBeyg dynasty. EsfandiarBeyg was a benefactor and honorable person, always considerate and kind towards the peasantry. He always attempted not to tyrannize the people of Shushtar or to behave patronizingly towards them making them annoyed, making many donations. According to Aqa Sheikh Mehdi Sharaf al-Din Shushtari in "Shushtar History" manuscript, "EsfandiarBeyg, having the Mirshekar office, was one of the noblemen and the authorities of Shushtar during the reign of Nader Shah and

Sultan Hussein.” He ordered to build a school in 1722 as well as Mirshekar Mosque next to that school. To bring order to the political affairs of Shushtar, EsfandiarBeyg came to a compromise with Shykh Faros al- Kathir; as a result. The Shushtarians and vassals were protected from damage and massacre (JazayeriShushtari, 2009, p.158; Kasraw, 2010,pp. 111-112; Imam Ahvazi, 2000, p.386; Sharaf al-Din Shushtari, p.34).

Conflict between Abul-Fath Khan and Kalb Ali Khan for gaining the political power of Shushtar

Nader QoliBeyg Afshar joined the army of shah Tahmasp II and was given the title of “TahmaspQoli”. In this period, Safi Mirza was killed. Kalb Ali Beyg, the son of Georgian Mehr Ali Khan took part in Safi Mirza murder and shortly after, he became the new ruler of Shushtar (JazayeriShushtari, 2009, pp. 158-159). However, since al-Kathir Arabs were in power in Shushtar, they did not allow the people to become aware of this event. Kalb Ali Khan was in Dezful and summoned masters and grandees from Shushtar to Dezful. He attempted to join the camps of Shah Tahmasp II, whereas Abul-Fath Khan visited Shah prior to his arrival and could join Nader Shah’s corps near Shiraz. Under the mediation and request of Muhammad Ali Khan, Shushtar came under the rule of Abul-Fath Khan. Being in Dezful, Kalb Ali Khan headed to join Nader Shah, but near Borujerd he heard the news of his deposition. Hence, he left his army and moved towards Nader Shah (Imam Ahvazi, 2000, p.387; Kasraw, 2010, p.113-114).

The first presence of Nader Shah in Shushtar and his achievements

Nader entered Shushtar in the middle in 1721. He sent Abul-Fath Khan to Feyli Lorestan to suppress Ali Mardan Khan Bakhtiari. He also sent Kalb Ali Khan, the

son of Georgian Mehr Ali Khan, to a special mission to get 1000 toman gift as a token of his arrival to Shushtar. Nader settled in Masoum Aqa's house, the son of Behbood Aqa who was Vakhushti Khan's ghulam (servant). Muhammad Ali Khan, the son of Aslan Khan, moved to Esfandiar Beyg Mirshekar's house (Imam Ahvazi, 2000, p. 389).

Muhammad Ali Khan proposed the plan of rehabilitating and repairing Mizan Dam. Nader prescribed conscientious individuals and state accountants to calculate the repair costs and allocated 1470 toman from Kashan funds for this purpose. Esfandiar Beyg took responsibility for spending the given money for repairing the Mizan Dam. Headmen of Shushtar (Kadkhodas) including Hajji Muhammad the son Hajji Zaman; Hajji Muhammad Ali, the son of Hajji Abd al-Husain Mevla; Hajji Mohsen Khwaja Mirza, Abd al-Karim's son and Hajji Masoum, Hajji Taqi Qalas's son gave constant support to Esfandiar Beyg in the repairing of dam. Esfandiar Beyg struggled and worked hard to rehabilitate Mizan Dam and passed on soon after. In the same year, the river overflowed and the newly repaired dam was ruined. The gardens and agricultural lands dried because of this incident, since Shushtar plain (Mian-Ab) was feeding from Gargar River (Kasraw, 2010, p. 114; Jazayeri Shushtari, 2009, p. 159).

Nader's battle with the governor (vali) of Baghdad and his assistant request from Georgian Abul-Fath Khan

Until 1723, Shushar was under rule of Bijan Khan's son, Georgian Abul-Fath Khan. In this year, Nader went to Isfahan and summoned all the government appointees and rulers. Nader got Shah Tahmasp II abdicated and appointed the baby son of Shah, Shah Abbas III, as the king. Additionally, this year he sent Muhammad Beyg Qanjlu Khorasani to Shushtar and appointed Moamen Beyg to the

deputy governor of Khuzestan. Before this position, he had the office of QollarAqasi of Marv and Abbas QoliBeyg from Circassia Eldorom dynasty filled his tax attorney position by the order of Nader Shah. When Nader was at fight with his opponents, he ordered Muhammad Beyg to return to his own conflicts (Imam Ahvazi, 2000, p. 391). In this time, Abbas Qoli took control of Shushtar and Dezful and since then he was named Abbas Qoli Khan. During this time, Abul-Fath Khan was condemned to a sedentary lifestyle. Fighting against the governor of Baghdad, Nader needed huge amount of tar. Abul-Fath Khan delayed in carrying certain amount of tar from Shushtar to Baghdad. After performing his task, Abul-Fath Khan was prohibited in Nader's camp. At that battle, Nader did not gain much success(Sha'bani, 2010, pp. 31-32;JazayeriShushtari, 2009, pp. 162-163).

The rebellion of Muhammad Khan Balooch in conflict with Georgian Abul-Fath Khan

After unsuccessful siege of Baghdad, Nader released his army for two months. Muhammad Khan Balooch, a member of Nader's military force and the ruler of Kohgiluyeh, went to his hometown. Muhammad Khan Balooch and Abul-Fath Khan met each other many times and both of them were thinking of a rebellion against Nader. They circulated rumors about Nader's second crushing defeat from Ottomans and that he has been disappeared in war. They send a messenger to Dezful to spread their wrong news. But, the messenger was from Dezful, and he revealed the truth of the issue to people- that the assassination of Nader during the battle was merely a rumor. This false information caused Dezful people not to let Muhammad Khan Balooch and Abul-Fath Khan enter the city. However, Shushtaris were not aware of Muhammad Khan Balooch and Abul-Fath Khan's

uprising against Nader and admitted them to the city (JazayeriShushtari, 2009, p. 162).

Being in Shushtar, Abbas Qoli Khan went to Dezful and from where he headed towards Nader's camp to meet with Nader and tell him the spreading rumors. After overcoming the governor of Baghdad, Nader turned his attention to Khuzestan, appointed Najaf Sultan Qarachorlu as the ruler of Shushtar, and made AslamasBeyg, the son of Georgian Muhammad Ali Khan to accompany him (Imam Ahvazi, 2000, p.392).

Nader's second appearance in Shushtar and slaughtering Shushtarians

Abul-Fath Khan fought in Salasel Castle against Nader's troops and AslamasBeyg and Najaf Sultan Qarachorlu entered Shushtar. Najaf Sultan Qarachorlu was in Jannat Makan and Hajji Muhammad Qoli housed him. After three days, Nader moved to Hoveyzeh and accommodated in Masoum Aqa's home to rest. Masoum Aqa was the son of Behbood Aqa, who served as the ghulam of Vekhushti Khan. Nader was very friendly to Abbas Qoli Khan and the headmen of Shushtar. After few days, Nader summoned military officials and masters (Kasraw, 2010, pp.117-118).

Abul- Fath Khan was arrested by the order of Nader. Nader furloughed his army for three days. Many residents of Shusahtar were slaughtered by Nader's troops. This large-scale slaughter lasted from Wednesday 6th March to Friday 8th March of 1726 resembling Genghis Khan's crime of killing local population. Many prisoners were with Nader during his expeditions and some of them were assassinated, for example Abul-fath Khan and khawja Husain Qopanchi. Miraza Abdallah Marashi and Mirza Seyyed Ali, the son of Mirza Eshaq Marashi, survived by the plea made by AslamasBeyg (JazayeriShushtari, 2009, p.163).

The compulsory migration of Shushtarians to Khorasan by Nader

Najaf Sulatan Kurd Qarachorlu ruled Shushtar in 1725 for about 6 month. He received a command from Isfahan that have 500 Shushtari families migrated to Khorasan. Supposing each family consisted of 10 members, almost 5000 people were forced to leave Shushtar. Following Najaf Sultan, Abbas Qoli Khan took the responsibility of Shushtar and ruled the city for two years (Imam Ahvazi, 2000; p. 397).

The rising of Al-Mushashaiyyah dynasty to power in Shushtar

In 1739, MevlaMotalleb Khan who had been ruling aldoraq (the old name of Shadegan) revolted against a number of Arab Sheikhs and Abbas Qoli Khan. MevlaMotalleb Khan imprisoned the ruler of Shushtar, Muhammad Khan the son of Sultan Qarachurlu. Meanwhile, MevlaMoralleb Khan suspected Abbas Qoli Khan and sent him to jail. The corps of MevlaMotalleb Khan betrayed him, and the armory was burnt in fire and 80 people were killed in this incident. Once, MevlaMotalleb Khan went to Hoveyzeh, he took Abbas Qoli with him. In Shushtar, Muhammad Khan, the son ofEsfandiarBeygMirshekar took the power. When Ali Qoli Khan, Nader Shah's nephew, took the political control, Abbas Qoli Khan was appointed as the ruler of Shushtar, but he was imprisoned by Al-Mushashaiyyah dynasty. Hence, his brother Muhammad Khan on behalf of Abbas Qoli Khan came to Shushtar as the ruler in 1740.

Political control and authority of Shushtar were constantly transferring among Georgian GorginBeyg, Circassia EldoromBeyg and Vakhushti Khan dynasties due to the disputes among them. The ever-changing political control and authority of

Shushtar was due to the disagreements and conflicts between Abbas Qoli Khan and his brother, Muhammad Khan from Eldorom Beyg with Muhammad Reza Beyg, the son of Esfandiar Beyg from Georgian Gorgin Beyg and Esmail Beyg, the son of Mehr Ali Khan from Vakhushti Khan dynasty (Kasraw, 2010, p.133; Imam Ahvazi, 2000, pp.402-403).

The struggle of Abbas Qoil Khan and Mehr Ali Khan for gaining the political control of Shushtar

Muhammad Reza Beyg was appointed as the ruler of Shushtar in 1743, but Sheikh Saad al-Kathir was not pleased with this decision, he ended the partnership with his dynasty and rose up in revolt against NematKhane (Dastva) with the help of Karkar (or Gargar or Haidar Khane) neighborhoods (quarters). In 1743, Abbas Qoli Khan returned from Lurestan and went to Dezful. Mehr Ali Khan who was from Georgian Vakhushti Khan dynasty was captured by the order of Abbas Qoli Khan in Band Bar Castle in Dezful. Since there was a familial bond between Mahr Ali Khan and al-Kathir dynasty, they directly supported Mehr Ali Khan. Hence, a battle was to happen between al-Kathir dynasty who were allied to Mehr Ali Khan and al- Mushashaiyyah dynasty who were the supporter of AbbadQoil Khan, which the flooding of Karkheh River prohibited the bloodshed and killing. Eventually, SeyyedFarajallahKalantar mediated between the two dynasties and brought peace to them (JazayeriShushtari, 2009, p. 168).

The rising of Kalantar dynasty to power in Shushtar

During Vakhushti Khan's ruling period (1621-1657), Hajji Muhammad TaqiKalantar was appointed the office of Kalantar- bashi (the head of Kalantar or sheriff). It was during the ruling time of Vakhushti Khan that Seyyed Rashid al-

Din Dezfuli came to Shushtar and started to build structures (JazayeriShushtari, 2009, p. 171).

After a while, the son of Seyyed Rashid al-Din Dezfuli, SeyyedKhalf became Hajji Muhammad Kalantar's son-in-law; accordingly, the hereditary appointment of Kalantar was given to Seyyed Sadiq, the son of SeyyedKhalf. This office passed in turn to SeyyedNematallah, the son of Seyyed Muhammad Sadiqa, and finally to Seyyed Muhammad Husain. In 1744, some disagreements started between Muhammad Reza Khan from GorginBeyg dynasty and SeyyedFarajallah Khan Kalantar. This caused SeyyedFarajallah Khan Kalantar to move to Haidar Khane (GargarMahaleh). On the one hand, severe conflicts from 1744 to 1746 between Kalantar and MarashiSadats, and Dastva and Gargar neighborhoods, on the other hand battles between Muhammad Reza Khan and al-Kathir dynasty culminated in a sever bloodshed, massive killing, and fierceness in Shushtar. Mirza Ebrahim, the brother of Mirza Abd al-BaqiMarashi, noted the most important statement about the casualty of the unrests. Abdallah Marashi, the Khan (ruler) of Gargar was forced to immigrate. He became sick in the Bakhtiari region and shortly after passed on (Imam Ahvazi, 2000, p. 408;Kasraw, 2010, p. 136; JazayeriShushtari, 2009, pp. 182-183).

After Farajallah Khan Klantar's death, his son Assadallah Khan came to power. Mir Abd al-Latif Khan Shushtari describes him as: "He was honored during Muhammad Karim Khan period and was assigned independently to rule the province and the rural areas. He was totally in awe of people and nobility, and was very diligent and exacting about policies implementation and preventing massive killing." Finally, he was assassinated. In the era of Aqa Muhammad Khan and Fath Ali Khan Qajar, Abul-Fath Khan, the son of SeyyedFarajallah Kalantari was officially appointed as the ruler of Shushtar. In 1800, Muhammad Ali Mirza

Dowlatshah who was the first son of Fath Ali Shah, came in Shushtar and arrested Abul- Fath Khan and blinded him (JazayeriShushtari, 2009, pp.120-121-128-129-228; Imam Ahvazi, 2000, pp. 412-413-414; Kasraw, 2010, pp. 136-137).

Administrative and court-related positions in the Afsharid and Zandiyeh Eras Khan and Sultan appointment

“Khan” refers to a senior title for somebody who was appointed by Shah to govern a distinct area. Khan was kept under the observation by Shah and was only responsible of him. He also performed his tasks only with the approval of Shah. The district ruled over by a Khan was divided into several areas that in turn were ruled by the individuals owned “Sultan” title. In fact, Sultan referred to the subordinate title: Vali (governor or the local ruler of an important province) (Najafi Barzegar, 2014, pp. 258-259). The next appointment among the governing posts was “Beylerbeg” or “Beylerbeygi”. Khans spent the major part of the income of their district on the internal and personal affairs, as well as the salary payments to fulfill his commitment. A small amount of income was given to the court. Khan was also responsible of protecting the governed area against the external pressures and threats. During Afsharid and Zand eras, most of powerful Khans did not gain power, except for Bijan Khan and AsfandiarBeyg, who both turned much attention to the development and progress of Shushtar(Navaei and GhaffariFard, 2007, p. 320; Najafi Barzegar, 2014, p. 260).

The appointment of the minister of state (province assistant)

Within the territory of state rulers, there were officials who assisted rulers with organizing the ruling tasks. They were granted with the title of “minister or vizier” by the ruler. Every minister who was appointed by the central government was called “the minister of a given ruler”. In the Afsharid and Zandiyeh periods, “wakil

or provincial deputy” has been mentioned many times in the governmental systems, indicating the apparent lack of Khans appointed by Afsharid and Zandiyeh (Navaei and GhaffariFard, 2007, p. 320).

The appointment of Kadkhoda (Headman)

The post of headman or Kadkhda was chosen by Kalantar who administered the neighborhoods (quarters) and directed the headman. Taxes determination and business-related matters were some of Kalanters’ duties. Some Kadkhodas of Shushtar such as Hajji Muhammad the son Hajji Zaman; Hajji Muhammad Ali, the son of Hajji Abd al-HusaynMola; Hajji Mohsen Khajah Mirza, Abd al-Karim’s son and Hajji Masoum, Hajji TaqiQalas’s son gave constant support to EsfandiarBeyg in repairing the dam (Navaei and GhaffariFard, 2007, p. 331; JazayeriShushtari, 2009, p. 159; Kasraw, 2010, p. 114).

The appointment of Mirshekar

Mirshekar position was ranked as a subordinate job in the Safavid era. Mirshekar was charged with watching the hunting affairs, controlling court hunters, and taking very good care of hawks (a group of medium-sized diurnal birds of prey). Mirshekar appointment consisted of more than 200 members. Hawks were used for falconry of some other birds such as crane, goose and duck. Mir Shekar- bashi (the head of Mirshekarappointment) was another important post in Safavid reign. All officials engaged in hunting affairs had to obey MirShekar. Salary payments of other junior officials involved in haunting were also made after the approval of Shekar- bashi (Navaei and GhaffariFard, 2007, p. 322)

The family tree of Georgian GorginBeyg is as follows: GorginBeyg; his son ZalBeyg whose one of his action is constructing Qelalak Garden; RostamBeyg; EsfandiarBeyg who donated Mirshekar Mosque and Mirshekar School;

Muhammad Reza Beyg, the son of Esfandiar Beyg Mirshekar. Esfandiar Beyg ruled Shushtar for a while and passed away in 1622 (Jazayeri Shushtari, 2009, pp. 135-143; Seyouri, 2007, p.62)

The appointment of Sheikh al-Islam:

Sheikh al-Islam was the highest rank of Shiite position and was assigned by the chancellor (Sadr-e-Azam) and the approval of Shah. Sheikh al-Islam was in charge of Hisba (religious) affairs. He was also qualified to issue judicial opinions based on Jafari jurisprudence. The school of jurisprudence is followed by Twelve-Imami Shiite in general. Sheikh al-Islam of capital reportedly chose Sheikh al-Islam for others cities. “Enjoying what is right and forbidding what is wrong” was crucially an important duty of Sheikh al-Islam. Endowments and the other related organizations (Waqf) have an considerable influence on the economic history of Iran and the economical formation of religious organization. During Afsharid and Zandiyeh rules, Sheikh al-Islam office was managed under Jazayeri Dynasty (Shushtari, 1984, pp. 107-108-118).

In this regard, Seyyed Noor al-Din, Nematallah Jazayeri’s son who was born in 1667 occupied Sheikh al-Islam office until his death in 1737. This position was also occupied by Seyyed Morteza the son of Noor al-Din.

Intending to stay in Shushtar, Nematallah Jazayeri moved from Hoveyzeh to Shushtar. This coincided with Fath Ali Khan’s rule (the son of Georgian Vakhushti Khan), who reigned from 1657-1685. Fath Ali Khan was the state deputy of his brother, Aslamas Beyg and both brothers admired and honored greatly Nematallah Jazayeri. They had Nematallah Jazayeri’s house built next to Jameh Mosque and Hajji Mahammad Taqi Kalantar constructed a caravansary around there, in which Seyyed had been instructing his pupils. The caravansary continued its operational activities even after Nematallah’s death. Throughout famine,

disarrays, and civil wars, Nematallah continued to teach scholars and Ulama in his school. Aftermath, Hajji Seyyed Abu l'-Qasim, one of Nematollah's students and HajhiSeyyedEsmail Bazzaz who was of distinguished benefactors, got the school repaired and brought religious trainers and Ulama to school. Many scholars of religious science attended the classes of this school with acclamation (Sharaf al-Din Shushtari, p.35).

Conclusion

Iran experienced many unrests and conflicts during Afsharid and Zandiyeh periods. When Nader Shah Afshar and Karim Khan Zand gained power, a surge of desire to the throne was developed in the other opponents. Simultaneous with these events, Shushtar came under the ruling of the officials who did not have enough competence, management skills and intelligence to soothe social and political chaos and rebellions. Local rulers of Shushtar acted cruelly toward inferiors and the poor during the Safavid era. However, under the rule of Afsharid and Zandiyeh Shahs, the growing greed and malice of the rulers predominated over their governmental tasks and the corresponding matters. During such conditions, there existed some people who were farmer, craftsman or calligrapher and tried to become rich overnight to be promoted to higher positions and to be influential in the political power of Shushtar. Subsequently, most rulers of Shushtar never acted judiciously and competently in developing Shushtar; excluding Georgian Bijan Khan and EsfandiarBeyg.

A lot number of indecisive combats occurred within and out of Shushtar that caused many propertied Shushtarians families to immigrate to Iraq and India. In late Zandiyeh era, Dezful had been upgraded to a more secure and peaceful city, while Shushtar was exposed to unrests and conflicts. In this period, non- native

rulers were not keen of Shushtar prosperity and progress. Mass killing and bloodshed were occurring in public in this city. Slaughter of Shushtar people by Nader Shah and his armed forces in 1725 became as a formative model for other local rulers of the region. Compulsory immigration of 500 families from Shushtar to Khorasan and interference with social classes of Shushtar are other Nader Shah's actions.

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