



## An Analysis of Economic Issues and Underdevelopment in Balochistan and the Makran Coasts during the Qajar Era

Ebrahim Taziki<sup>1</sup> | Seyyed Ali Akbar Aabbaspour<sup>2\*</sup> | Abdollah Rejaee<sup>3</sup>

1. Ph.D Candidate in the Department of History, No,C, Islamic Azad University, Noor, Iran

2. Assistant Professor, Department of History and Civilization of Islamic Nations, Az.C, Islamic Azad University, Azadshahr, Iran

3. Assistant Professor, Department of History and Civilization of Islamic Nations, Ba.C, Islamic Azad University, Babo, Iran

\* Corresponding Author Email: dr.aliakbar1346@gmail.com

### Extended abstract

#### Introduction

The Balochistan and Makran coasts of Iran have significant economic and commercial potential due to their geopolitical location, which includes access to ports in East and West Asian countries, proximity to energy resources in the Persian Gulf, and a strategic position linking them to Central Asian countries. The most notable aspect is that the Makran coasts are considered Iran's gateway to the world's open waters. Balochistan's proximity to India as a British colony, along with its interventionist presence, further increased the importance of both Balochistan and Makran, making the region politically influential in Iran's territorial developments.

When examining the Balochistan and Makran regions from a political, economic, and social perspective during the Qajar era, it is clear that they faced numerous challenges, such as the presence of foreign powers, rebellions, poverty, unemployment, smuggling, and emigration. Despite its many geopolitical advantages—such as its transit location, sea-based economy, regional and global trade links, and proximity to open waters and worldwide oil and gas resources—the Makran coast has not experienced suitable conditions for economic development. The region's vast potential has not been fully utilized for the economic progress and prosperity of both the area and the country as a whole. Over the years, successive Iranian governments have neglected to leverage the unique advantages of this region to improve the lives of the people in Balochistan and along the Persian Gulf.

The local and regional economy of the Makran coast has long depended on fishing, boat building, handicrafts, and other service industries. Given these circumstances, several questions arise: What factors have contributed to the region's underdevelopment despite its strategic and geopolitical significance? Were the failures solely the result of government neglect, including the inability of the Qajar governments to allocate



necessary resources and budgets, or did the policies and actions of foreign countries also play a role? Additionally, did the region's natural, climatic, and geographical environment contribute to its lack of economic and industrial progress?

### **Objective**

To investigate the causes of the lack of economic development and backwardness of Baluchistan and the Makran coasts during the Qajar era, the research question is: What factors contributed to the underdevelopment of this region in the Qajar era?

### **Methodology**

This study uses a descriptive-explanatory approach, drawing on library resources and publications to examine the economic and commercial issues of Balochistan and the Makran coasts. The research analyzes the effects of the ineffective policies of the Qajar government, as well as other factors influencing the region's lack of development.

### **Findings**

Underdevelopment from a domestic perspective was influenced by the government's inefficient economic policies and performance, geographical distance from the center, a power vacuum, insecurity, and the government's indifference to the region. Additionally, political interference in Iran's internal affairs and the colonial influence of the British and Russian governments, aimed at protecting their regional interests, contributed to the situation. These factors increased the vulnerability of the Iranian economy through the conclusion of political, customs, and legal agreements with Iran.

### **Conclusion**

In a brief and general assessment, it can be concluded that the economic situation in Iran during the Qajar era, like its political situation, reflected a profound sense of helplessness. Over time, the effects of this helplessness and confusion were felt across all sectors of the political economy. Therefore, one of the fundamental causes of Iran's economic backwardness was the political tyranny and lawlessness of the powerful in Qajar society.

At the next stage, Iran's economic challenges in the 19th century were closely linked to the inefficient economic policies and performance of the Qajar government, as well as the influence of the global economy and colonial policies, which in various ways became serious obstacles to the economic development of both the public and private sectors of Iran.

This article attempts to analyze the unfavorable economic conditions and the hardships faced by the people of the Balochistan region and the Makran coast, proposing two categories of internal and external factors as reasons for underdevelopment. From an internal perspective, factors such as the weakness of the state's economic foundation, the power vacuum and insecurity caused by the lack of a continuous military presence in the region and along the border, as well as the power struggles and rebellions of the Baloch chieftains, were highlighted. Additionally, the oppression and exploitation by government officials in collecting various unofficial taxes, along with corruption, led to a widespread distrust of the government.



From an external perspective, political interference in Iran's internal affairs and the colonial influence of the British and Russian governments, aimed at protecting their regional interests, worsened the situation. These interventions increased the helplessness of the Iranian economy through the conclusion of political, customs, and legal agreements. The export of raw materials abroad and the excessive importation of cheap goods were outcomes of the integration of underdeveloped countries into the global economic system in the 19th century.

As a result, the government largely ignored this region's important role in the developments of the Qajar era, leaving the people to face numerous challenges and disorders such as insecurity, poverty, unemployment, and intertribal conflicts. Similarly, the competition between colonial powers negatively impacted Iran's economy and the region's well-being.

**Keywords:** Balochistan, Makran coast, economic issues, Qajar, development.



## References

### Books

- Ādamīyyat, Fereydūn (1975). Fekr-e Dēmokrāsī-ye Ejtimā'ī dar Nehzat-e Mošrūṭiyat-e Irān, Tehrān: Payām. [In Persian]
- Ādamīyyat, Fereydūn (2018). Amīr Kabīr va Irān, Tehrān: K̄vārazmī. [In Persian]
- Ādamīyyat, Fereydūn; Nāteq, Homā (1977). Afkār-e Ejtimā'ī, Sīyāsī, Eqtešādī dar Āsar-e Montašer Našode-ye Qājār, Tehrān: Āgāh. [In Persian]
- Afšār, Irāj (1992). Bālūčestān va Tamāddon-e Dīrīne-ye Ān, Tehrān: Iršād. [In Persian]
- Ašraf, Aḥmad (1980). Mavāne'-e Tāriḳī-ye Rošd-e Sarmāyēdārī dar Irān: Dore-ye Qājāriyye, Tehrān: Zamine. [In Persian]
- Barqā'ī, Moḥammad (1977). Sāzmān-e Sīyāsī-ye Ḥokūmat-e Maḥallī-ye Bent dar Ayyām-e Ḥokmrānī-ye Kāndān-e Šīrānī: 1200-1373 H.Q. / 1166-1334 H.Š., Tehrān: Māzyār. [In Persian]
- Bartold, Vasīlī Veladimīrovīč (1929). Tazkere-ye Joḡrafiyā-ye Tāriḳī-ye Irān, Tarjome-ye Ḥamze Sardādvar, Tehrān: Etteḥādīye. [In Persian]
- Behzādī, 'Abdol-Rezā Sālār (1993). Bālūčestān dar Sālḥā-ye 1307 tā 1317 Qamarī, Tehrān: Bonyād-e Afšār. [In Persian]
- E'temād-al-Saltāne, Moḥammad-Ḥosayn Kān (1987). Al-Māter va Al-Ātār, be-kušē Irāj Afšār, ʒ 2, Tehrān: Asāṭīr. [In Persian]
- E'temād-al-Saltāne, Moḥammad-Ḥoseyn Kān (1988). Merā'at al-Boldān, be-kušē 'Abd-al-Ḥoseyn Navā'ī va Hāšem Moḥaddet, Tehrān: Dānešgāh-e Tehrān. [In Persian]
- Farmānfarmā, Fīrūz Mīrzā (1981). Safar-nāme-ye Kermān va Bālūčestān, Tarjome-ye Manšūre Etteḥādīye, Tehrān: Bābak. [In Persian]
- Flānden, Blāžen (1977). Safar-nāme-ye Ožān Flānden be Irān, Tarjome-ye Ḥoseyn Nūršādeqī, Tehrān: Ešrāqī. [In Persian]
- Flor, Vīlm (2015). Tāriḳče-ye Mālī-Mālīyātī-ye Irān az Šafavīye tā Pāyān-e Qājāriyye, Tarjome-ye Mortazā Kāzemī Yazdī, Tehrān: Tāriḳ-e Irān. [In Persian]
- Freyzer, ʒeymz (1985). Safar-nāme-ye Freyzer ma'rūf be Safar-e Zemestānī, Tarjome-ye Manūčahr Amīrī, Tehrān: Tūs. [In Persian]
- Ḥāj Sayyāḥ, Moḥammad-'Alī Maḥallātī (1977). Kāterāt-e Ḥāj Sayyāḥ yā Dore-ye Kof va Vaḥšat, be kušē Ḥamīd Sayyāḥ, Tehrān: Amīr Kabīr. [In Persian]
- Hidāyat, Maḥdī-Qolī (2006). Kāterāt va Kaṭarāt: Tūše-ī az Tāriḳ-e Šeš Pādšāh va Gūše-ī az Dore-ye Zendeḡī-ye Man, Tehrān: Zawār. [In Persian]
- 'Isavī, Čārlz (1983). Tāriḳ-e Eqtešādī-ye Irān: Qājāriyye, 1332-1215 H.Q.,

- Tarjome-ye Ya'qūb Āžand, Tehrān: Gostareš. [In Persian]
- Ĵamālẓāde, Seyyed Moḥammad-‘Alī (1956). Gaṅg-e Šāyegān yā Oẓā‘-e Eqtešādī, Berlin: Kāve. [In Persian]
  - Kedi, Nīkī-Ār (1998). Rīše-hā-ye Enqelāb-e Irān, Tarjome-ye ‘Abdol-Raḥīm Gavāhī, Tehrān: Qalam. [In Persian]
  - Ketāb-e Nārenjī (1988). Gozareš-hā-ye Siyāsī-ye Vezārat-e Omūr-e Kāreje-ye Rūsīye Teẓārī, dar Bāre-ye Enqelāb-e Mošrūte-ye Irān, be kušeš Aḥmad Bašīrī, Ĵ 1, Tehrān: Nūr. [In Persian]
  - Korzen, Ĵūrj Nātanīl (2001). Irān va Qeẓi-ye Irān, Tarjome-ye Ĝolām-‘Alī Vahīd Māzandarānī, Ĵ 2 va 1, Tehrān: ‘Elmī va Farhangī. [In Persian]
  - Kūhestānī-Nāḵād, Mas‘ūd (2020). Baločestān dar ‘Ašr-e Qāḵār: Goẓīde-ye Ĵarāyed va Maṭbū‘āt, Tehrān: Ābī Pārsī. [In Persian]
  - Kūrmūjī, Moḥammad Ĵa‘far (1965). Ḥaqā‘eq-al-Aḵbār-e Nāšerī, be kušeš Ḥoseyn Kādīvjam, Tehrān: Zovvār. [In Persian]
  - Lambton, A.K.S (1998). Mālek va Zāre‘ dar Irān, Tarjome-ye Manūčehr Amīrī, Tehrān: ‘Elmī va Farhangī. [In Persian]
  - Lambton, A.K.S (2008). Dar Tārīḵ-e Irān-e Kāmbriĵ (Dore-ye Afšār, Zand va Qāḵār), be Sarparastī Pīter Āvrī, Tarjome-ye Mortazā Sāqīb-Far, Tehrān: Ĵāmī. [In Persian]
  - Lesterenĵ, Gāy (2014). Ĵoĝrāfiyā-ye Tārīḵī-ye Sarzamīn-hā-ye Kālāfat-e Šarqī, Tarjome-ye Maḥmūd ‘Erfān, Tehrān: ‘Elmī va Farhangī. [In Persian]
  - Maḥmūd, Maḥmūd (1965). Tārīḵ-e Ravābeṭ-e Sīāsī-ye Irān va Engliš dar Qarn-e Nūzdahm, Ĵ3, Tehrān: Eqbāl. [In Persian]
  - Maĵd al-Eslām Kermānī, Aḥmad (1977). Tārīḵ-e Enḥitāt-e Maĵles, Esfahān: Dānešgāh-e Esfahān. [In Persian]
  - Mārtīn, Vānsa (2014). Barde-dārī va Masā‘el-e Ān dar ‘Ašr-e Qāḵār, Tārīḵ-e Ĵāme‘-e Irān, Ĵ 12, Tehrān: Markaz-e Dā‘erat al-Ma‘āref-e Bozorg-e Eslāmī. [In Persian]
  - Melkom, Serĵān (2001). Tārīḵ-e Kāmel-e Irān, Tarjome-ye Mīrzā Ismā‘īl Ḥayrat, Ĵ2, Tehrān: Afsūn. [In Persian]
  - Nāšeḥ, Zabīḥ-Allāh (1966). Balučestān, Tehrān: Franklin. [In Persian]
  - Pātīnĵer, Setvān Henry (1969). Mošaferat-e Send va Bālūčestān: Oẓā‘-e Ĵoĝrāfiyā‘ī va Tārīḵī, Tarjome-ye Šāhpūr Ĝūdārzī, Tehrān: Dehḵodā. [In Persian]
  - Šamīm, ‘Alī Asĝar (1996). Irān dar Dore-ye Saltanat-e Qāḵār, Tehrān: Modabber. [In Persian]
  - Seyf, Aḥmad (1994). Eqtešād-e Irān dar Qarn-e Nūzdahom, Tehrān: Čašme. [In Persian]



- Seyf, Aḥmad (2001). Estebdād, Mas'ale-ye Mālikīyat va Anbāšt-e Sarmāye dar Irān, Tehrān: Rasāneš. [In Persian]
- Seyf, Aḥmad (2008). Qarn-e Gomšode: Eqtešād va Ĵāme'e-ye Irān dar Qarn-e Nūzdahom, Tehrān: Ney. [In Persian]
- Seyf, Aḥmad (2018). Negāhī bā Dūrbīn be Eqtešād-e Irān (az Mošrūte tā Konūn), Tehrān: Kargadan. [In Persian]
- Šojā'ī Dīvkalā'ī, Seyyed Ḥoseyn (2019). Tose'e Nayāftegī va Šan'tī-sāzī-ye Irān dar 'Ašr-e Qājār va Pahlavī Avval, Tehrān: Tīsā. [In Persian]
- Šūster, Morgān (2007). Ektenāq dar Irān, Tarjome-ye Ḥamīd Afšār, Tehrān: Māhī. [In Persian]
- Zāhed, Fayyāz; Mūsavī, Hoda (2018). Ĵāme'e va Bāzār dar 'Ašr-e Nāšerī, Tehrān: Tārīk-e Irān. [In Persian]

#### Articles

- Fallāḥ-Tūtkār, Ḥojjat (2006). Bāzṭāb-e Mas'ale-ye Dehqānī dar Maḵles-e Avval (1945-1947), Nāme-ye Tārīk-Pažūhān, 7(4) 144-130. [In Persian]
- Sepāhī, 'Abd al-Vadūd (2005). Baločestān dar Āstāne-ye Enqelāb-e Mašrūte, Nadāy-e Eslām, 6(23-22), 87-82. [In Persian]

#### Documents

- Asnād-e Vezārat-e Kāreje 1943-1944, Kārton 15, Pūše 1/4. [In Persian]

#### Newspapers

- Ḥabl al-Matīn (1925). Šomāre 25, 23 Mordād 1925. [In Persian]
- Ḥabl al-Matīn (1925). Šomāre 27, 27 Šahrīvar 1925. [In Persian]
- Ḥabl al-Matīn (1935). Šomāre 20, 9 Ze al-Qe'de 1935. [In Persian]
- Ḥabl al-Matīn (1936). Šomāre 30, 26 Moḥarram 1936. [In Persian]
- Ḥabl al-Matīn (1939). Šomāre 11, 23 Ramaḍān 1939. [In Persian]
- Ḥabl al-Matīn (1943). Šomāre 22, 29 Ze al-ḥajje 1943. [In Persian]
- Ḥabl al-Matīn (1943). Šomāre 8, 14 Ša'bān 1943. [In Persian]
- Ḥabl al-Matīn (1944). Šomāre 14, 29 Ramaḍān 1944. [In Persian]
- Ḥabl al-Matīn (1944). Šomāre 24, 6 Moḥarram 1944. [In Persian]
- Ḥabl al-Matīn (1949). Šomāre 10, 11 Ša'bān 1949. [In Persian]
- Ḥabl al-Matīn (1949). Šomāre 31, 10 Šafar 1949. [In Persian]
- Ḥabl al-Matīn (1949). Šomāre 8, 9 Ša'bān 1949. [In Persian]
- Ḥabl al-Matīn (1950). Šomāre 36, 11 Rabī' al-Avval 1950. [In Persian]
- Ḥabl al-Matīn (1953). Šomāre 21, 2 Moḥarram 1953. [In Persian]



- Irān (1909). Šomāre 77, 22 Ze al-ḥajje 1909. [In Persian]
- Muḏaffarī (1941). Šomāre 9, Šafar 1941. [In Persian]
- Muḏaffarī (1943). Šomāre 2, 29 Ze al-Ḥajje 1943. [In Persian]
- Muḏaffarī (1944). Šomāre 26, 24 Ze al-Qe‘de 1944. [In Persian]
- Muḏaffarī (1945). Šomāre 4, 26 Šafar 1945. [In Persian]
- Nedāye Vatan (1948). Šomāre 30, 9 Ša‘bān 1948. [In Persian]