

The Basis of States Division in the Ilkhanate Era

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Abstract

In the seventh century AH, after the Hulagu's- Genghis Khan's grandson, a new episode opened in Iran history. His entrance and conquests caused a new branch of Mongols to be established who were known as Ilkhanate or Hulagu Mongols. The government of this dynasty continued between 656 AD until 736 AD. In addition to all the advantages and disadvantages that were brought by the formation of this dynasty, caused Iran to be revived again after losing all its coherence during seven centuries after Islam entered this country. Moreover, this dynasty caused Iran to be recognized as an independent country and not as a part of Arabic caliphate countries.

From this respect, determining the limits of this newly revived country was highly significant by the Tatar wilderness forces; therefore, Mongols who did not have any experience in this respect asked Iranians to help them and arranged the division and managing the states according to the Iranian ministers.

It also should be mentioned that the states can be categorized in two major groups based on different states management. The states that were directly managed under the supervision of the central court, and the states that had half-independent governors, and saved their independency to somehow. In other words, the states divided into two depended and independent groups, each of which was divided into minor groups, respectively. For example, among the states in the first group, one can refer to Iraq Arab, Iraq Ajam (Jebal), Khorasan, and Azerbaijan, and among the states of the second group one can refer to Fars, Kerman, Shabankareh, Lor, and Gilan.

Keywords: States, Iran, Ilkhanate, Local Governments, Direct States

1. Introduction

If one can deny any achievement inside the Iranian civilization, and if one can question all the Persian services, one of the Iranian achievements cannot be denied undoubtedly, that is the way of governing. Iranians have had government from the very beginning and they were familiar well with the way of governing. The existence of universal governments since from the long past approves this claim; since due to the specific geographical position, the ancient governments of Iran were the cause of connection between the east and west cultures, they were both affective and being affected. This issued caused that one of the most advanced methods of governing to be created by Iranians; so that later on, whenever a foreigner could destroy the existence of this governments, they asked the Iranian bureaucrats to manage it. The Seleucids who established their satraps based on those of Achaemenid and the Arabs and Mongols who were the most significant conquerors, confirms this claim. In fact, it cannot be believed that a nation who has had one of the most central emperors for more than two thousand years, continuously, did not take the advantage of an organized economy or an administration. Therefore, the claim that the courses on history and political notions are only restricted to the western samples in our Universities and Colleges cannot have a correct basis. Anyway, one of the most critical periods that have been passed our country is the period of Mongols' presence and establishment. In this period our identity basis have been faced with a serious challenge in all the dimensions, and if the Iranian dignitaries did not try enough in all the scientific fields, there would not be any name of Iran and Iranians. Among these people, one can refer to the bureaucrats who could handle the political and governmental flows of Ilkhanate, and regulated the court, and the states systems based on a correct rule. Many issues have been written on the Ilkhanate government; however, it should be mentioned that these issues included social and political issues mostly, and geographical and administrative affairs have been considered generally. Anyway, the frontiers of Iran have been stated from Amoyeh to the range of Egypt and Sham;"however, these boundaries have had many differences at different times. Such as conquering Sham in three months at the time of Ghazan and relatively permanent Ilkhanate's wars with their Mongols' counterparts from Ulus of Eastern and North west regions that made many differences in those regions. Of course, it should be mentioned that significant states of Mawarannahr region, that were the

inseparable part of Iran before Arab's invasion, was separated before Hulagu's presence and was transferred to Ulus Jagadai. The Ilkhanate government faced with many differences from the internal perspective. Among these differences, one can refer to the separation of Shabankareh region from Pars State. Moreover, although some of the North West regions were considered as the states of Iran, they were regarded as the inseparable part of Ilkhanate tributary. Among these states one can refer to Armenia, Georgia, and to somehow, the Rome states. In fact, the type of categorization of Iran states was based on two factors of "geography" and "ethnic diversity" in this eighty-year period. In other words, each of these states were categorized due to the geographical limits and then based on the ethnics that were residing in that region.

Regarding the above-mentioned facts, it should be stated that this article is going to find the answer to this question that asks about the basis for Iranian states division.

1.1. A review of the geographical divisions of Iran before Islam

Simultaneously with the creation of the first government in Iran, the need for dividing the regions under the governance for better and simpler management of the area under occupation was felt. Considering all the types of divisions done, it can be understood that the first division done inside the Iran boundary is based on the geographical basics. In other words, the basis of these divisions has been geographical factors such as rivers, plains, mountains, or deserts. Anyway, this kind of division, turned into the basis for governments of Iran. Of course, it should be mentioned that the first division of Iran regions is related to the Achaemenid imperial rule.

However, before Achaemenid, as the first powerful governments of Iran, the Medians, considered a specific geographical basis for their government. Therefore, according to the ancient reports, this empire has divided the countries under the governance into two parts of big and small Medians¹. In addition to these reports, Diakonov presents a different division, and introduces the different parts of Median as "Median Atropates," "Sofla/Lower Median" and finally "The Ancient Median."² Anyway, as it is clear, contemporaneous with the creation of the first government in Iran, the need for dividing the different areas of government was felt more. Around the year 550 the Great Cyrus started fighting against the Median government, and occupied their country. He formed a vast empire little by little including the plateau of Iran, Mesopotamian plains, Minor Asia, Balkan Peninsula, Eastern Mediterranean coast, Nile Valley area in western Iran, a large part of Turkestan, and finally all the Indus Valley in the north and northeast (Helen Chapin Metz. 1989). Despite the multiplicity and diversity of the geographical environment and the presence of dozens of nationalities with different cultures, the diversity of this emperor forced the leaders to divide these regions in smaller parts to manage the territory much better.

Some researchers believe that from the collection of information achieved from the five inscriptions of the Achaemenid, the number of the states of Iran has been twenty-one at that time (Tamara Sonn. A. 2004). However, Darius counts the number of states as twenty-three at his time in the Bistoon Inscription:

1. Par
2. Khozestan,
3. Babel,
4. Ashoor
5. Adyabon
6. Obayeh
7. Egypt
8. People of Sea,
9. Sard (Lidi)
10. Greece
11. Armina
12. Kapdokieh
13. Parsoo (Khorasan)
14. Zarangeh
15. Herat
16. Kharazm
17. Bakhteh
18. Sogod (Soghd)

19. Gandareh
20. Sak
21. Satgosh
22. Rahanj
23. Makran

In addition, it should be mentioned that according to the system that Darius Achaemenid created, every country and states conquered was called "township" that was known as Satrapi, and each township was placed under the rule of empire that was called as "Shahrab" or "Kheshtreh Paveh" or "Satrap" (Frye RN. 2000). After the fall of the Achaemenid and transferring the country to the foreigners, a new division was presented. In fact, although the Seleucids did not have any influence in all the territory of Achaemenid, they divided the regions of Iran into seventy-two Satraps (Elton L. Daniel, 2001). There is not enough information available on the division of these Satraps into smaller regions. Moreover, in spite of very limited information on the activities of Iran in the Ilkhanate period; we know that there were two states at this time. One was the states that obeyed the internal kings, and followed-up the Ilkhanate's kings formally, and then the states that were directly under the domination of the central governance of Parthian kings, and the king assigned ruler. The number of these subsidiary states was eighteen (Sykes Sir Percy. 1915). In this period, Iran was managed mostly in the form of feudal, and probably was one of the main reasons of the fall of Arashkian's dynasty. After Ashkanyan, with the rise of Sasan dynasty, reclamation of Iran was possible. Sassanid territory was in the row of the widest emperors of the world, after the Achaemenid-in the periods before Iran Islam. Therefore, one can count the territory of the Sassanid-when it was placed at the peak of power as the following: in the east, the border of Iran has been alongside a line that has been extended from the heights of Kopehdagh to Kabul, Sefid Kooh, and Takht Soleiman Mountains, and the Indus River; in the northwest, the Caucasus Mountains was regarded as the natural borders of Caspian Sea, and the Persian Gulf determined the north and south range (Allsen, Thomas T. (2004). As it is clear, the Sassanid borders were consistent with the nature of Iran plateau. Therefore, it can be claimed that Iran has reached the real borders in this period and these borders were considered as a proper framework for the other governments who were decided to revive Iran. In the beginning of the Sassanid kings, the organization of the country remained as the past. It seems that Iran had been formed of independent governments as confederacy (David, Nicolle (1996)).

As it is mentioned in the historical sources, before Anushirvan to be enthroned, Iran was governed by the border guards, among which four borderguards of Armenia, Kharazm, around Rome, and the borderguard of Khazar border, and Arayana were highly significant (Richard Frye.1963).

However, in the period of Anushirvan, he created a modern organization for managing the country, and he divided the country into four eastern, western, northern, and southern (pazgas) parts. These four parts can be stated as the following:

1. Coost Khoorbaran (west) that included nine provinces (Richard Frye.1963)
2. Coost Nimrooj (Nimrooz) that included nineteen provinces
3. Coost Khorasan that included twenty-six provinces
4. Coost Kapkadeh that included thirteen provinces

Furthermore, in the other sources, the Pazgases are stated in another way that is a little different from the order mentioned above. According to this reference, the quad parts of Iran has been as the following: 1. Bakhtar (i.e. northern states) 2. Khorasan (i.e. Eastern states) 3. Nimrooz (i.e. Southern states) 4. Khoroozan (i.e. Western states). Anyway each Pazgas (province) has been composed of several big or small cities, and every city has had several villages in its domain (Yarshater, Yarshater.2008)

2.1. The Historical Geography of Iran since Islam Entrance until Ilkhans

In the beginning of the seventh century, Sassanid became so weak due to the long wars with the Byzantine, internal disputes, and people's dissatisfaction, that they could not resist against the Muslims' army. Arabs conquered a huge part of Iran little by little between the years 12 until 96 AH. Therefore, Arabs did not know this region as a region that owns an independent government. The unanimity of Sassanid has been come to an end; the provinces and the townships that composed the Sassanid emperor were separated, and were become separate and independent units. Since this time, until the Ilkhanate's government in 654 AH, Iran had no political unanimity (Sicker, Martin (2000)). In other words, the Eastern countries of Islamic territories were in fact different and singular provinces that had survived by saving some of their special features. However, after a while, they regained their political association in the early Islamic periods (Hooker, Richard (1996). It should be

stated that talking about this political association does not mean the full organization of a country and geography, but it means the half-independent political powers that were decided to achieve power around the country. The regions conquered by these powers are not clear completely and exactly; in the first Islamic centuries- if we skip the geographical writings of some figures such as "Jayhani" and "Balami"- we see that until years later, there has not been any exact book about the political geographical issue of Iran. Ibn Balkhi's "Fars Nameh" may be regarded as first samples of these writings and books, that has been mentioned to this issue very well, a dissertation has been written in the age of Mongols (Shu'ubiyya Enderwitz, S. ".(1997). Anyway, for about two decades, and in the periods of Rashedin, Umayyad, and Abbasid caliphs, the agents or their representations governed the countries that composed Iran. It means that in the Ummayyad period, these regions were counted as the beholding of Kufa and Basra (Wiesehöfer, Josef (1996) However, the country divisions of Iran referred to its traditional and historical fields yet, so that the regions of Khoozestan, Fars, Kerman, Makran, and even Bahrain, and Oman were belonged to Basra, mountains, and Isfahan, Rey, Damghan, and Tabarestan, and Khorasan was belonged to Kufa(Amitai-Preiss1995). Although at this time, Iran was not regarded as a united country, if we want to determine its borders to somehow, we can define the borders as the following. The Zagros Mountains in the west, Azerbaijan borders, Aran and Armenia in the northwest, Ghahestan and Khorasan in the east, Kordestan in the southwest, and the northern coasts of Persian Gulf as the southern borders of Iran (Bertold Spuler.1972). By this description, if we want to look at the internal divisions of Iran at that time, we can refer to the eight regions:

1. Khavaran the north
2. Deilam
3. Rahab
4. Jebal
5. Khoozestan
6. Fars
7. Kerman
8. Kharazm

A brief look at the pre-Seljuk half-independent governments (Taherian, Saffarian, Samanids, and Buwayhid) indicate that none of them was succeeded to achieve all the territory of Iran before Islam, and they were only dominated on one part or some parts of that, until Seljuk dynasty achieved the power. Seljuk Turkmen were dominated vast areas, so that it could be stated that the Seljuk could create a territory as wide as Sassanid kingdom geographically (Bertold Spuler.1972). of course, it should be noted that although Seljuk had created a territory as vast as Sassanid's there was not any name of Iranians as an independent country yet. Moreover, the regions conquered were formed only the east part of the Islamic territory until 656 AH. In this year, Hulagu Khan one of the Genghis's grandson, established a new government called Ilkhanate after the first invasion of Mongol and fall of Kharazm Shahian, by the fall of Esmailian and the caliphate system. Fall of the Abbasid Caliphate in Baghdad was equal to revival of Iran. Since this time, Iran was recognized as a separate territory- like before Islam, and in fact, the Ilkhans can be regarded as the re-revivalists of Iran name for a part of eastern geography of Darlaslam.

3.1. The Basics, Iran's Geographical Limits in the Ilkhanate Era

Since the first half of the seventh century AH, the Mongol's forces attacked the borders of countries forming Iran, and this increasing force, could achieve the furthest western lands and borders during seven years. After these fast and heavy attacks, Mongols could attach these regions to their territory until 625 AH, and then they went out of those regions without forming a government in it, and only through transferring the affairs to the governors (Guzman, Gregory G. (2010). Mongol emperor that encompassed all the Asia, and even a part of Europe in its peak of power, after the death of the leader and the Great Khan- Genghis Khan, was divided among his children. This division that was the first crack in the Mongol's occupied regions divided their emperor into four parts as the following:

Russia was belonged to his eldest son, Jochi, Mawarannahr to his second son, Jagadai, and the Chinese Turkestan territories were belonged to his third son named Ögedei. Finally, the Mongolian main Yurt was transferred to his youngest son. These divisions were later known as "Yuan Emperor," in China, "Jagadai Khanate" in the Central Asia, "Ardoy-e- Zarrin" (Golden Horde) in Russia, and "Ilkhanate" in Iran(Charles Melville, . 1997).

In the beginning, the Great Khan and the Qaan residing in Karakoram, and then Beijing, governed these quad regions. Therefore, in 654 AH, Hulagu, the brother of the Great Khan- Möngke, was assigned to conquer the occupied lands in the East of the emperor, from Amoyah, to Egypt, and Sham that was not placed in the territory range of any Ulus. Mongol's war system, occupied the lands and countries one after another through war or peace, led by Hulagu (Biran Michael.1997). In order to achieve the predetermined borders in his mission to Egypt, and Sham, Hulagu moved his troops so that he made an end to his mission; however, his defeat in the war named "Ein-e-Jaloot" made an end to the unbeaten flow of Mongols, and made Euphrates as the permanent border between Mongols of Iran and Egyptian kings (Gregory G.Guzman.1988, Reuven Amitai, and Michal Biran. 2004). this defeat that was the final point of Mongol's conquests, was the beginning point for forming their government; moreover, Hulagu's the support of Kublai Khan, led him to be assigned as the Ilkhanate by the Great Khan. Furthermore, a region of Amoodarya in the East to the border of Egypt in the west, and in the north from Caucasus to Persian Gulf in the south went under his governance. By forming the centralized government of Ilkhanate, and by passing about seven centuries after the entrance of Islam to Iran, and by destroying a union under this title, the Ilkhanate could revive this past glory under a centralized and independent government; this government created an emperor in the east, by covering Iran and Iraq under a single government. Although this emperor could not achieve the Egypt and Sham in conflict with governors, it could achieve the Mediterranean by dominance on the Minor Asia, and it could create a united government in a country that used to be the realm of Achaemenid, Ashkanian, and Sassanid territory (Grousset Renee,1991). The extent of the Ilkhanate territory has been stated by various interpretations in different sources from Amoyeh to the limit of Egypt. The writer of Tarikh-e-Jahangosha states on this issue:

In the beginning of the seventh century, Mongols could conquer from the coasts of China Sea to the limits of Sham and Egypt in length and from the plain of Ghabchagh and Russia, and Poloni, and Hungary to the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea in width during thirty to forty years (Rawlinson, George.2005).

In addition to this, Hamdollah Mostofi has known the length and width of Iran in Ilkhanate's period from Rome Konya to Oxus Balkh, and Ebadan Basra to Babal Abvab, respectively. Although It was a wide range, it had turbulent boundaries that were attacked by Mongols especially Ulus Jochi in the North and jagadai in the East. These factors led Ilkhanate to decide to divide this country in smaller regions so that they can control this country and the regions under its control much better, and to take more advantage of it. It is said that the division done at this time, was followed by the pre-Mongol divisions and it was based on the geographical situation of Sassanid territory that was divided into two internal parts, including the countries forming Iran and countries, and subordinate governments, including Georgia, and the Armenia and Rome. Iran was also divided into regions called states. There are different reports about the states of Iran including; Marco Polo who believes that Iran is composed of eight states in his itinerary (Biran Michael.1997).

1. Ghazvin 2. Kordestan, 3. Lor, 4. Sistan 5. Esfahan 6. Shiraz 7. Shabankareh 8. Ton and Ghaen
However, the most complete divisions are stated in Nazhat Al Gholoob that is written in the late of Ilkhanate era. According to this report, Iran is divided into about sixteen states:

1. (Belad) The Cities of Arab Iraq³
2. (Velayat) The country of Ajam Iraq⁴
3. (Mamlekat) The State of Khorasan⁵
4. (Mavaze) Azerbaijan Positions⁶
5. (Belad) The cities of Ghahghestan and Nimrooz⁷
6. (Diar) The Country of Aran and Moghan⁸
7. (Begha) Districts of Shervan⁹ and Gashtasfi¹⁰
8. (Diar) The region of Rabieh¹¹
9. (Begha) Districts of Kordestan¹²
10. (Belad) The Cities of Khoozestan¹³
11. (Mavaze) The positions of Fars country¹⁴
12. (Velayat) The country of Shabankareh¹⁵
13. (Diar) The country of kerman, and Makran, and Hormoz
14. (Velayat) The country of Mazandaran
15. (Diar) The country of Ghomes and Tabarestan

16. (Begha) Districts of Jilanat

In the next stage, each of these states is divided into smaller units that are named by different names such as area, monument, Tasjoo, province, city, Tooman, Ghasabeh, and village, and other expressions. In addition to this, the name of each of these states is recorded by a special word such as Mozeh, monument, belad, Diar, and Velayat. Since the Nezhat Alghloob is the only geographical source of Ilkhanate era, that has applied these interpretations, it is impossible to compare them with other sources, so that one can give the clear definitions of the words, and make it clear that whether the application of these words have been based on system and specific flow.

Although some of these interpretations have not been limited to the Ilkhanate era, and they have been used in the previous periods as well, the definitions can be generalized to the Ilkhanate era by finding a relative definition. Therefore, in Majam Al Baladan, the word "Hozeh" has been defined as the following;

Hozeh: [the Persian word that means a part of one province, and Arabs have borrowed it and used it for province...] I (Yaghoot) say: Hozeh is any country that includes several villages. These villages should have one province or one river, so that its name can be used to name the whole Hozeh. As it is said: Darabgard is a province in Fars and has vast belonging, all of which is called Darabgard Hozeh.

In Dehkhoda Dictionary, there are several meanings for this word and the word *Kooreh*

Kooreh is one village out of the five villages of Fars countries. The governors of Fars, has divided it into five villages, and each village is called one *Hozeh*. Moreover, *Kooreh* or *Hozeh* has been interpreted as the province. According to Nazem Alatba, several villages connected to each other is called a *Kooreh*. Moreover, each city has a *Kooreh*, and *Kooreh* is a district that includes several villages.¹⁶

Moreover, province has been defined as the following;

"Each province is divided into several villages, and each village is divided into several rural districts (Tasooj), and each rural district is divided into several smaller villages (Dieh)"

According to what was stated, it can be concluded that Hozeh (district) has been a part of a bigger province, in turn, it has been divided into several villages, and each village has been divided into several rural districts (Tasooj) and each Tasooj (rural district) has been divided into some smaller villages (Dieh). Furthermore, it can be claimed that the two expressions of city and borough are the equivalences for province and smaller villages (Dieh), respectively. This issue is also true about the words of cities (Belad) and country (Diar). In addition to these expressions, there are some concepts that can be regarded peculiar to the Ilkhanate era, and have not been explained in the encyclopedias and the geographical texts precedes them. Some of these expression are Bogheh (district) and Tooman (ten thousand). The word Bogheh (district) is a concept that has not been used in the geographical books before Ilkhanate. Thus, it seems that it is one of the geographical expressions of this period that have been used in several times about such states as "Kordestan," "Shervan and Gashtasfi," the desert between "Kerman and Ghahestan" (Loot desert) and the land of "Jilanat."

Late Dehkhoda has derived the word Bogheh (district) as the meaning of a piece of land that has been differentiated from other lands. Therefore, it can be guessed that such states as Kordestan that has been a mountainous region, for which this expression has been used, has been separated by other single mountains from other regions of Iran. Therefore, the word Bogheh (district) has been used for it. Of course, this assumption could be true about other regions named in the above sentences. However, one cannot talk about *Toman* explicitly, and its meaning is not completely clear. In Mongolian language, *Toman* means ten thousand, and whenever it is used about the army, it means ten thousand armies, and whenever it is used about financial issue, it means ten thousand dinars,¹⁷ but its meaning is not clear about the geographical divisions. Moreover, how some states that was mostly under the direct observance of central court, have been divided into smaller units, are all the ambiguous geographical historical points of Ilkhanate era.

During the government of Mongols, these states and the units composed them remained unchanged without any exception. The most prominent changes that happened in the geographical limit of Iran in Ilkhanate era, was the formation of new states of Shabankareh that was regarded under the title of *Koorey-e-Dar Abjard* a part of Fars states; however, at this time, it was turned into an independent state. In addition to that, the region of Yazd that was under the government of Atabak, and before it, it was regarded as a part of Fars state, at this time, it exited from the range of this state, and was attached to the vast state of Iraq Ajam (Jebal). Furthermore, it has been separated from the state of Jebal against Shooshtar and its adjuncts, and entered the state of Iraq Arab. In addition to the changes in transferring the states and regions ranges, some of the states and countries were placed for a time under the occupation of Ilkhanate, and after a time they were exited from the range of their

authority. Among these states, one can refer to adding Jilanat districts to the territory of Ilkhanate in 707 AH at the time of Öljeitü Sultan, and losing the authority of the Minor Armenia in late Ghazan Khan Periods, i.e. in 703 AH.¹⁸

It seems that the history of country divisions in Mongols era refers to the time of their arrival as the conquer forces to the conquered regions. The Mongols' conquer divided the beaten countries based on the conditions that have been obedient, into two groups. In fact, they called the countries to be obedient at first and based on the rules and instructions of Genghis Khan, and before starting the combat operations against the countries. If the Amir of that country accepted their orders without any resistance, the right of government, and managing the internal affairs would be assigned to that. The same behavior was applied about Fars Atabak, Kerman Gharaktanian, Yazd Atabak, and Minor Armenia and Georgia governments. These two groups- Mongols, and submitters- had some duties against each other. On other hand, if a region was conquered by power and force, it should be destroyed at first, and then its managing was assigned to conquer. The same thing happened to states such as Kordetsn, Sistan, Iraq Ajam, and Iraq Arab (Morgan David.2004). Anyway, the span of the territory on which Hulagu has been dominated, and a few followers and the Mongolian forces that was with him, was hard to be managed. This issue caused that the supervision of the central court on all the regions did not practiced the same. Therefore, the Ilkhanate government faced with several types of governments in his geographical range. These different types are including:

1. The states that were governed directly, and divided into two groups:
 - A) The states that Ilkhanate, and their substitutions were present in them, and they can be named as the central states. Khorasan and Azerbaijan were placed in this group.
 - B) The states that were governed under the observance of the deputies and messengers of the central court, such as Iraq Ajam, Mazandaran, Aran and Moghan. It should be stated that the representatives and messengers of the central court in the states, which were mostly called "hakem" (governor) and in some cases "shahneh" (sheriff), were responsible to make the presence of Ilkhanate stronger, and to weaken the Amirs and clan of local powers.
2. The states that were governed indirectly under the supervision of the central court, that can be called as subordinate states as well. If we want to analyze these states more exactly, we will name two groups of "internal governments" and "marginal governments." This categorization has been done based on the type of government residing in the states, and represents the internal governance of the states and the relationship with the central Ilkhanate court.

2. Direct States

In addition to the above-mentioned categorization, these states can be categorized in another way, strategically. In fact, accuracy in the type and the type of managing the states that were managed directly, indicate this point that these states were divided into two branches:

1. The first type was the districts and regions that were regarded mostly by the Mongolian Khans and their representatives due to their geographical, and strategic situation, and due to the vast area that they have been occupied from Iran. Some of these states were Iraq Ajam and Iraq Arab.
2. The second type included the states that the Ilkhanate government was decided to save them formally in his geographical limits, and they did not try to present in them, which caused them to be destroyed little by little during the Ilkhanate government. Some of these states are Kordestan and Sistan. In addition, in the direct supervision system of the states in Ilkhanate era, the importance of some cities and tomans sometimes were more than other states, an obvious example of which is the situation of Esfahan toman in the Iraq Ajam state.

Direct states in this period were including; Iraq Arab, Iraq Ajam, Azerbaijan, northwest states, including Aran and Moghan, and Shervan and Gashtasfi, diar-e-bekr and rabieh (island), Kordestan, Khozestan, Sistan, Makran, Hormooz, Khorasan, Mazandaran, Ghomes and Tabarestan. Moreover, a part of Rome or the minor Asia has been governed under the supervision of Ilkhanate central court (ÊGeorge Lane, 2003; Denise Aigle, 2005; Pfeiffer, Judith, and Sholeh A. Quinn , eds.2006).

3. Indirect States

The political structure of the governmental institutions of Iran faced with major developments after Seljuk. This issue created the changes in the government that taking power of the local dynasties in different regions was one of them. One of the factors that intensified this issue was the issue of determining the prince that was not compatible with the tribal customs. Moreover, the presence of people named Atabak, that was to help the little Seljuk princes to manage the provinces, and was one of the main reasons of breaking down the power and authority and the appearance of local governments, can be regarded as another reason for this issue.

Among the other reasons that helped to intensify this flow, one can refer to the spread of granting system, the increase of Abbasid caliphate, and the tendency of people residing in the provinces to the local governments (Pfeiffer, Judith, and Sholeh A. Quinn, eds. 2006). Simultaneously, by the invasion of Mongols to the southern regions of Iran, the local dynasties such as Molouk-e-Shabankareh, Atabakan-e-Yazd, Fars, and Lor had half-independent lives. Such governments became the tributary of Kharazm shah's kings and then the Ilkhanate's tributary. When Hulagu entered Iran and established the Ilkhanate dynasty, he tried to manage and govern the conquered countries through the feudal government existing in Iran. Therefore, in the beginning the local governors were expected to accept the Mongols and most of the governors showed their obedience by sending the representatives and messengers. In the opposite side, Hulagu maintained these governors. Little by little, and by expanding the Ilkhanate administration, sending more tax and tribute, was regarded as the factors that a local governor was expected. The considerable point in this issue is that, Ilkhanates did not have any observance in receiving and collecting these sums, and the governors' behavior with their subordinate peasantry. Among the other duties of the local governors in relation with Ilkhanate was sending troops and cash for repressing the disobedient neighbor governors and foreign campaign that formed a major part of Ilkhanate relations with the governors (Browne, E. G. 1997). The political marriages that took place between two centers of powers were other issues. The local governors did this in order to strengthen their political and social base. Moreover, Ilkhanate did it in order to gain much more observance on the regions under the government of local governors. Despite all the authority that the local governments had, the general policy of Ilkhanate was to keep them as much subordinate as they could. Of course, it should be mentioned that these states are divided into two parts according to their geographical situation. The indirect states can be divided into the two groups of "interior plateau" and "marginal plateau." According to this categorization, the states of interior plateau were the states that were forced to be more harmonized with the Ilkhanate central system. Moreover, the above-mentioned issues, including the annual imposed tribute, sending troops and cash to stand against the foreign threats, and regular supervisions from the central court was more about this type of subordinate states or the indirect states.

States and indirect governments that had a half-independent government include:

Atabaks in Fars in Fars state, Shabankareh Molouk¹⁹ in Shabankareh State, Kerman Gharakhtaiian, major and minor Lor Atabaks in an area of Iraq Ajam, Yazd Atabaks in an area in Iraq Ajam, the local governors of Gilan in Jilanat State, Al Kart in Herat in an area of vast state of Khorasan, and finally the local government of Armania Alakbar.

It seems that regarding the fact that the countries were placed in the plateau, and the supervision of Ilkhanate court was more and organized on them, they could be less challenging for the central court, and such dangers as independence threats few if any Ilkhanate government at least at the time of powerful Ilkhanate. In other words, the general strategy of these states was a kind of convergence strategy toward the central court. Another issue that intensified this convergence much more was the issue of religion and at the time of Muslim Ilkhans caused some political and religious circles among these governments and the central court. In the opposite side, there were the indirect marginal states or the subordinate countries of Iran that were situated out of the determined limit and border of Iran, but they were regarded as the subordinate countries of Ilkhanate. Regarding the situation of the country and other factors such as race and religion had a sort of divergence approach toward Mongols, and used any chance to gain the independency and more freedom, and being away from the central court helped this intention as well. Among these indirect marginal governments, one can refer to Georgia and Minor Armenia. moreover, although a part of Rome (Minor Asia) has been under the direct supervision of Ilkhanate court, the Rome Seljuk have had a kind of half-independent governance in a part of this country, which destroyed completely at the time of Ghazan Khan (Lambton ÉAnn K.S. 1988).

4. Conclusion

1. The type of states categorization in the Ilkhanate era was one of the reasons of Ilkhanate's power. It was the reason that the focus of this dynasty lost later and due to deviating of that, and our political society faced with tension again. The way of dividing Iran was first based on two factors of "geography" and "ethnic diversity." Analyzing the way of historical geography way of Iran since years ago shows that various states of Iran were separated in different regions due to the available geographical revenues. Furthermore, the accommodation of the special tribes in a specific region was among the other factors of dividing Iran into different states. At any time, this issue faced with some changes due to special political issues, and was flown in the Ilkhanate era as well.
2. Primary Ilkhans' look to the states of Iran was more based on achieving more benefit. The Ilkhanate non-Muslim sultans do not have neither domestic nor patriotic advantage for prosperity of the Muslim countries, nor did they consider any spiritual and heavenly advantage for them. Therefore, they

supervised the states as far as they could achieve more and better revenue. Thus if a state did not have enough advantage and benefit for them, they did not anything for its prosperity. Although this issue was clear among the final newly Muslim Ilkhans, they were not expected more than "Muslims Sultan."

3. In general, the governors of states can be divided into two branches: A) the selected governor by the central court, B) the half-independent governor. These half-independent governors had to play two significant roles inside the state: first, the central court had to be aided by giving tax and soldier, and second. They had to create security in the country under their governance. These two factors caused the country to remain safe against foreign aggression and internal chaos.
4. The ordering of the Ilkhanate states of Iran-regardless considering the mentioned categorizations caused that a totality, independent completely, named Iran to be revived, a totality that had been lost its independence and existence as the subcategory of Islamic caliphate emperor for about seven centuries. Although Iran of Ilkhanate era could find clear and independent borders like the Sassanid era, one cannot claim definitely that these borders had complete accordance with the borders of Sassanid era. In fact, there were some differences in the northern east and northern west borders of Iran at these two times.

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Notes:

1. Diakonov, A.M., 1992: 79-92. In addition to these two narratives, the famous Mongolologist-Dr. Bayani-has named and counted the states and Satraps of Median era by applying the specialized sources of this era: 1. Madia (Atorpatkan), 2. Pars (Pars people have a government in that site; however, they have been accepted the nationality of Median as well), 3. Armenia (since it was regarded as a rich state, it has had the internal independency very much), 4. Ashoor, 5. Ilam, 6. Darnegyana (Sistan, Kerman, and a part of Makran), 7. Part and Hirkanya (the most important states of this part have been Ghomes and Khorasan), 8. Arya (Herat), Khazarm, and Soghd, 9. The country of Sakaha and Kaspiha, 10. Baloochestan and Makran. *Ref.* Bayani, Shirin, 2002: 69
2. Iranshahr, *Nashriyey-e-komision-e-Meli-e-Yoonesco dar Iran*. Journal of National Commission for UNESCO in Iran, 1963: 1042, as cited in Eslah Arbani, 1995: 34.
3. Shervan state included the cities; Bakoo, Shamakhi, Ghebleh Firooz Abad, and Shabaran. *Ref.* Mostofi, Hamdollah, 1957:106
4. The lands situated in the western coasts of the Caspian Sea, were known as Gashtasfi region, and due to being near to Jilanat region, their people were sibling (the same race) with people of Gilan. *Ref.* Amir Ahmadian, Bahram, 2004: what do we know about Iran [*az Iran che Midanim*], page 62
5. In Sovar Alaghalim, it has been known as the island. It is twenty-nine tropical cities, and the limit is joined with Rome, Armen, Sham, Kordestan, and Iraq, and Mosei is the daralmolk." *Ref.* Mostofi, Hamdollah, 1957:120
6. The province of Kordestan has included sixteen provinces at the time of Mongol Ilkhanate's governance. These sixteen provinces included seven cities: 1. Kermanshah, 2. Dinor, 3. Shar Zoor, 4. Dezbil, 5. Darband Zengi, 6. Alishar, 7. Darband Taj Khatoon, 8. Ghaley-e-1. Bahar, 2. Kheftian, 3. Hersin, 4. Kongor, 5. Several villages and smaller villages named Vastam, Karand, Khoshan. *Ref.* Mostofi, Hamdollah; 1957:127-129
7. A relatively stretched triangle that is situated in the southern west angle of Iran, and was limited to Lorestan in the north, to the Persian Gulf in the south, to Fars, in the east, and to Iraq Aran in the west, was called Khozestan. *Ref.* Mostofi, Hamdollah, 1957:130
8. "western border of Fars, is Khozestan, and all the western to the north, the borders of Esfahan, and Jebal, and its southern border is the Fars Sea. Its eastern border is the borders of Kerman, and the northern border is a desert between Fars and Khorasan, and all the northern border is Esfahan border, and Jebal land." *Ref.* Abolfada, 1970:367
9. The most prominent changes that happened in the geographical borders limit of Iran in the Ilkhanate era. First, forming the independent and new states of Shabankareh that was regarded under the title of Korey-e-Darabjard a part of Fars State
10. Its limits were until Makran and Maghazi that are in that limit, and until Shabankareh, Iraq Ajam, and Maghazi that are between Kerman and Ghahestan, and its Daralmolk was the city Govashir." *Ref.* Mostofi, Hamdollah; 1957:170
11. Hamdollah Mostofi has known it as a region outside of Iran, that has paid tax only to the governor of Kerman. *Ref.* Mostofi, Hamdollah;1957:172
12. According to the Hamdollah Mostofi's report the bureau right of Hormoz Island has been outside of the territory of Iran. *Ref.* Hamdollah, Mostofi;1957:172
13. Mazandaran is the name of one of the composing states of Ilkhans geographical territory, that is situated in the north of Iran, and in the south of Caspian Sea. Mazandaran has been divided into seven tomans named Jorjan, Estar Abad, Amol, Rostamdar, Dehestan, Roghand, Siah Rastagh, and Morostagh. *Ref.* Mostofi, Hamdollah; 1957:197
14. A geographical limited area is situated, in the north of which is Mazandaran, in the south is Loot Desert, in the east in Khorasan, and in the west is Jebal. This area included one of the states of Ilkhanate era named "Ghomes." *Ref.* Mostofi, Hamdollah, 1957:200
15. "its length was equal to forty miles from Sefid Rood and Rostamdar, and its width was equal to one mile from Daylaman and Tavalash states. Its limit is joined with Mazandaran, Iraq Ajam, Azerbaijan, and Majd Khazar." *Ref.* Mostofi, Hamdollah;1957: 202
16. As an example, one can refer to some cities of Khorasan in the first level of Mongol's attack, and the issue that they stayed safe from destruction. While these countries rioted against present Mongolian representatives in the furtherance of Sultan Jalal Aldin Kharazmshah's victories, placed their city against the most brutal destruction of human history. Eghbal, Abbas, 2536:50 and 52. Moreover, on this issue, one can refer to Ili's ideas and the subordination of some cities of Iraq Ajam such as Holeh. In this way, the residents of these cities got safe. Against such cites as Bokhara, Samarghand, Marv, and Balkh, which did not submit against Mongol's severe attacks, and fought, destroyed.
17. Mostofi, Hamdollah, 1957:85 and 103 the situation of Azerbaijan has been different from other direct states to somehow, and these states have been managed and governed under the Ilkhan or his successor's supervision like the vast state of Khorasan. *Ref.* Mohsen Jafari Mazhab, Azerbaijan dar Doorey-e-Moghlan, Azerbaijan in the Mongol Era, Ketab-e-Maah, 2004.
18. In some references, these two states have been discussed under the issue of Azerbaijan. *Ref.* Mostofi, Hamdollah, 1957: 103.
19. Spular, Bertold, 2007: 106. On the Minor Armenia, it should be mentioned that this country was regarded as the most faithful subordinate government toward Ilkhanate. Finally, it seems that Ilkhans did not send anybody even for observance to this country. Finally, by showing weakness in the dynasty of Ilkhanate, and Egyptian kings' taking power, this land was exited from the range of Mongols' observance, and turned into the Egypt tributary since about 705 AH. It general, it should be stated that the relation between Ilkhans and Minor Armenia was derived and affected by their relation with Egyptian kings.