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5. Aran is an area between North Arakses, Baku and Genge in Caucasus, cf Bartold-Vasili, Historical Geography of Iran, translated by Sar Dadwar, 1st edition, Tehran, 1308, P. 279.
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9. Ojan is a city located in the route of Miana, 48 Kms from Tabriz . cf Bartold, P. 275.

the most prosperous economic and cultural areas of the world caused the Mongols to pay attention to Western North province ie Azerbaijan where had - received less damage. In addition, Azerbaijan had the military and strategic advantages from the view point of attack and defence against Altin ordu , Qiptchaq plain, Syria and Egypt, so it became the Ilkhans centre of residence. The Mongols' residence and their interest in Azerbaijan as well as the concentration of their administrative system in this area caused the transfer of the old wealth splendour, and culture of Eastern and Central - provinces of Iran to Azerbaijan.

According to Marco Polo, Tabriz became not only the political, economic and cultural centre of Iran, but an International trade centre and then became of great appeal to the eyes of merchants of East and West and was considered as the centre of trade and business. In addition to Tabriz, the - other cities of Azerbaijan such as Maragheh, Khoi, Ahar, Salmas, Dehqargan, and Ojan enjoyed glory and welfare relative to their geographical conditions.

it has sunk to the lake in the reign of Abaka - Khan. It is said that after his death in 663 AH at the banks of Zarineh river, Hulegu's dead body was transferred to Shahi Island and buried in the place where his treasuries were. In addition to Hulegu, his son Abaka Khan and one of the Mongol rulers are buried there. This is why this place has been known as " Gur-Qala" meaning the castle of graves (18).

The author of " Islamic Iran Architecture in Ilkhans Time ", Donald Wilber, writes " No ruined place comparable to treasuries or Hulegu's tomb has been found in Shahi Island. More Investigations, specially concerning the castle near the western coast, should be made. The engravings on the rock sheet inside the house show that the operations were carried out according to a map and its relation to Hulegu's time can only be a probability"(19).

Conclusions

The massacre of the people and destruction of old and historical cities of eastern and central - provinces of Iran such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Qazna, Merv, Tus, Nishabour, Raay and Isfahan as well as tens of other cities which were the most developed and civilized cities of that era and were considered

times. Finally, in the Qajarian era its name changed to Sahib al-Amr. At the present time it is the centre of foodstuffs and grains distribution in Tabriz (15). It should be noted that, after Hulegu, Tabriz was the capital of most Ilkhans.

Relics of Hulegu's Reign in Azerbaijan

1. The Observatory of Maragheh: Reconstruction of the Observatory has recently been focus of attention and after preliminary investigations the remained parts of the foundations and walls have been - discovered. A group of archeologists from Tehran University was appointed to reconstruct this great historical building (16).
2. Dark Blue Dome of Hulegu's Mother Tomb: There is a building in Maragheh called Dark Blue Dome which is wrongly known as Hulegu's Mother Tomb. According to investigations of Andre Gudar this building cannot be Hulegu's mother tomb, due to the fact that his mother was a Christian while the building is decorated by some Quranic verses in Kufic handscript (17).
3. Relics in Shahi Island: There are some relics in the altitudes of Shahi Island, in the Urmia lake, which are said to be built under the guidance of Hulegu for his treasuries. It seems that part of

to understand the situation as we note the confusions inherited from the times of Jalal ad-Din Khwarazmshah, local rulers and even Ilkhan."

Marco Polo's reports make it evident that people with different religions including Moslems, zoroastrians, Nesturians, Armenians, and Georgians lived together, but performed their own rituals, followed their own religious teachings, spoke their own languages and at the same time all of them considered themselves Tabrizians. He also notes that there are many pleasant gardens with different kinds of fruit trees (13).

One of the famous gardens of the time which we have received some information about, is Sahib Abad garden possessed and built by Sahib Divan Khwajeh Shams ad-Din Mohammad Joveini who was the minister of finance in the reigns of Hulegu Khan, Abaka Khan, and Sultan Ahmed Tekudar. He was an able as well as a rich minister and considered to be the second authority, after Ilkhan, in the administrative system. He spent much of his time in Tabriz. He had a big garden with a splendid building built on the north bank of Mehran river known as Sahib Abad garden (14). Later on a parade ground was made in the Yard of this big garden and other various buildings were built in it, in different -

had received less damage during the Mongol invasion and, as mentioned earlier, the Mongols had threatened the city several times, but each time people offered them gifts and accepted the "tribal system of life" to remain safe from massacre and destruction. - According to Bartold, both quality and quantity of these gifts indicate the citizens' remarkable high level of living which was earned through flourishing trade and industry (12).

The Venizian tourist and merchant, Marco Polo, who visited Tabriz in the midst of the seventh - century (1271 AD), which is close to the reign of Hulegu ie at the time of Gikhatu (690-693 AH), is the only tourist who gives us valuable information - concerning the city. He writes, "Tabriz is and inhabited city in Iran. It is the most populated and thriving city. Its residents earn their livings - through trade and manufacturing different goods. Various kinds of silk and brocade clothes are woven in its workshops. It enjoys a very favourable - condition for trade, and merchants from India, - Baghdad, Mosul, and Hormoz go there on business. One can find the most precious jewels and pearls in this city." He then adds, "Merchants trading with foreign nations are rich, but the majority of the residents do not live in comfort. However, it is not different

he stayed in that palace (8).

Mogan plain was also a place for winter quarters. The crossing of Caucasus, Ojan (9), Qarabaq, and the banks of Jeqatu or Zarineh river were other sites for setting up camps.

Hulegu's mother was a Sirkuiti Christian and his favorite wife, Dokuz Khatun, was also a bigoted christian and as a result Hulegu paid a special attention to Christianity, nevertheless, he was tied up with Buddhism (10). This is why he had many idol-temples built in Khoi and he himself worshiped in them (11).

It is obvious that after the death of Hulegu and in the reign of Sultan Ahmed Tekudar (681-683AH) who became a Moslem, these temples began to ruin and finally at the time of Sultan Mohammad Ghazan Khan (694-703 AH) and under his direction they were completely destroyed. Although Maragheh was the official residence of Ilkhan, but as noted above, the Mongols had a wandering system of life and migrated to aforesaid lands in summers and winters. Thus, they had to find a suitable place for the concentration of their administrative and governmental organizations. This place should be near their traffic areas. So, Tabriz was considered to have the suitable conditions of being capital. Tabriz

centre of his government and the administration of Azerbaijan and Aran (5) was left to his other son, yeshmut.

Hulegu made Maragheh as his official residence and paid great attention to it. Maragheh had - favourable conditions to set camps and government administration of Hulegu in. It was an even plain with Safi river or in local terminology "Sufi Chai" passing by, which poured into the Urmia lake. On - the one side, it was located in western south of - Sahand mountain slope and was very suitable grazing land. After settlement in Maragheh, Hulegu requested the renowned scholar of the time, Khwajeh Nasir ad-Din Tusi to establish the well known Observatory (6). At that time moving to summer and winter resorts was still a common way of life amongst the Mongols. Later on, in the process of the history of Iran, this phenomenon developed into a kind of tribe-feudal system which had great impacts on the internal - policies until recently (7).

Obviously many camps were set up near Maragheh in which the tents of Khan's relatives as well as other Emirs and statesmen were established. Of course, in addition to Maragheh, other areas were of interest to Hulegu. Among them was Alataq located in Armenia where Hulegu had a palace built in it. In summers

parts of Mesopotamia, Hulegu returned to Iran - through Syria and Hamadan and then went to Azerbaijan. Before his departure to Azerbaijan, Hulegu had entrusted valuable booties of Baghdad and other - battles to one of his trusted Emirs named Naser - ad-Din son of Ala ud-Din the governor of Raay to carry to Azerbaijan. He, then, had a firm castle - built in Shahi island to protect these treasuries(4).

After the conquest of Baghdad and receiving his share of booties as the Great Khan, Mongke Qa'an the elder brother of Hulegu died and his other - brother Qubilai Qa'an(658-693 AH) succeeded him. He left the administration of areas between Amu-Darya and Syria, Khurasan, Central Iran (Irak Ajam), Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Anatolia and Irak to Hulegu. Afterwards, Hulegu received the title of Ilkhan which meant " the dependent Khan " or " chief of the tribe ". This title was transferred to his - successors so that they were known as Ilkhans - Dynasty. In fact, Hulegu was dependent on the centre of the Mongol Empire, but from the time of Abaka Khan (663-680 AH) the Ilkhans Dynasty of Iran - became completely independent. Hulegu divided his realm of sovereignty into different parts. Khurasan, central Iran, and Tabarestan were allotted to his - elder son, Abaka, who determined Nishabour as the

3. From a military and strategic point of view - Azerbaijan had a special position. On one hand, through this province, the Mongols could dominate Armenia and Georgia and prevent Qipchaq plain from driving toward Black Sea and the Iranian Plateau; On the other hand they could establish diplomatic ties with Byzantine Empire via - Anatolia. It is worth mentioning that after the division of Chinggiz Khan's Empire between his four sons Jochi, Ogedei, Chagatai, and Tolui; Qipchaq plain or Altin Ordu, located beyond - Khwarazm lake and Caspian Sea, was allotted to Batu Khan who was Jochi's son. Iran was finally - allotted to one of Tolui's sons: Hulegu Khan. At the beginning of Hulegu Khan's reign in Iran a very severe competition started between them. The best route for Altin Ordu to invade Iran was through Caucasus and Azerbaijan. The last point is that the Mongols were eagerly wishing to capture Syria, Palestine and Egypt. Azerbaijan was a suitable province to reach Mesopotamia and East Mediterania and, in general, had the best position to prevent the invasion of West North and conquest of Syria.

Hulegu in Azerbaijan:

After the conquest of Baghdad and various -

Baghdad and abolish the religious state of Abbasid Caliphs. Due to the fact that each of these two religious poles could potentially be a source of resistance and confrontation against the invaders; both aims of Hulegu were considered of great importance to the Mongols. In 651 AH Hulegu arrived in Iran and after making necessary provisions destroyed the castles of Ismailis. He, then, drove toward Baghdad through Qazvin, Hamadan, and Kermanshahan and finally on Safar 4th 656 AH Baghdad collapsed(3).

The Position of Azerbaijan Under New Conditions:

After his return from Baghdad, Hulegu chose - Azerbaijan as his residence and seat of government due to the following reasons:

1. Despite the overruns of Jalal ad-Din Khwarizmshah and local rulers, Azerbaijan had received less damage compared to Eastern and Central parts of Iran. The centre of this province, Tabriz, was immune from massacre and plunder due to the heavy tributes and gifts offered by its citizens to Mongol commanders.
2. The geographical situation of the valley between Sahand and Sabalan altitudes as well as the - favourable climate of Azerbaijan, and also summer and winter resorts therein, was compatible to the Mongol habits and ways of life.

of hard work and experiment of these cities, under the Islamic culture and civilization, were destroyed by the process of events.

Iran became a part of a Great Empire whose centre was Qara Qorum in Gobi desert located in Eastern Asia. The administration of Iran after its conquest was in the hand of a Mongol ruler or governor, appointed by the Great Khan, who enjoyed the company of Mongol chiefs and commanders as well as the cooperation and the guidance of Iranian statesmen. Within a period of 28 years (626-654 AH) five Mongol governors named Jormagun, Jentemur, Nusal, Gerguz, and the Emir Arghun held ruling positions in Iran (1).

Under a Quriltai in Qara Qorum, Mongke Qa'an (648-657 AH) elected Great Khan and the authority transferred from the house of Ogadai Qa'an (626-639 AH) to the house of, in Mongol terminology, Orug Tolui Khan. Mongke Qa'an, then, decided to expand the Mongol possessions and occupy new territories in both Eastern and Western Asia. For this purpose he decided to dispatch his brothers Qubilai and Hulegu to China and Iran respectively (2).

In his commission, Hulegu had two assignments: firstly, to destroy the castles of Ismailies and make their agents to submit; secondly, to conquer

D.Esfahanian, Ph.D. *

Azerbaijan in the Reign of Hulagu

Introduction:

The Mongol invasion led by Chinggiz Khan to Syr-Darya coasts in 616 AH changed the destiny of Iran, once more after the Arabs attack, giving rise to unpredicted course of events. A tribe moved from the furthest part of the Eastern Asia and within a period of about 30 years captured the whole continent except India, went beyond Danube and drove into the heart of central Europe. Iran was also on the route of this eradivative invasion. At the beginning of this expedition the thriving, developed, and civilized cities of Transoxiana, Khurasan, and Central Iran were trampled under the hooves of the horses of Tatars. Thus, the achievements of several centuries

* Department of History university of Tabriz.