

Slavery in the Samanid State: its trade, types, and missions (261-389 A.H / 874-999 A.D)

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Abstract

This study investigates the issue of **Slavery in the Samanid State: its trade, types, and missions** (261-389 A.H) the time the Samanid dynasty ruled in Khorasan and Transoxiana in the east of the Islamic world. The study provides answers to crucial questions: how the slave trade flourished to become an important economic resource to the Samanids? What are the types and categories of slavery? What are the resources of slaves' procurement and how the Samanids controlled them? To what extent the Samanids made use of their distinctive geographical location to impose charges on it when crossing the Oxus River? What are important roles the slaves played for the Samanids both socially and economically? Also, what are the positive and negative effects of this trade on the state? The study adopts the historical approach relevant to sources and references; eventually resulting in achieving a number of goals, such as: proving how the slaves' trade helped the Samanids to spread Islam among the Turkish, and how expanding this trade, especially Turkish slaves, and promoting them in the army led those slaves to revolt and ask for independence. Slavery resulted in weakening the state; the Samanids fell a prey to their Turkish slaves. The Karagans killed the state at Transoxiana while Ghaznavids dominated it in Khorasan. After the Samanids' fall, the region transformed into Turkish territory heritably ruled by the Turkish, Karagans, and Ghaznavids followed in sequence by the Seljuks and the Khwarazmians until the Mongols in the Hijri seventh century.

Key words: Slavery, Samanid, Saklabi, Turkish, Bukhara, Samarkand, market.