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An Overview on Commercial Relations between Iran and China in the era of Empires Sassanid

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Abstract

The most important impact of Iran and china relations on each other has been commercial exchanges. The history of the Iran-China trade relations to the late second century BC and the Empire Ashkanis erase. The most important of good which was exchanged between the parties was silk. Silk had many fans in Iranian territory, especially in Roman Empire. Iranian weren't main customers of silks. They were playing the role of business intermediaries and they had the role for 700 years and an important point is the expansion of business relations with China by the Western cities of Empires Sassanid. When we study the history of fights that happened in Iran many years ago, we can understand that the main reason of many fights was commercial issues. Routes that goods could be carried throughout them, had an important role for these fights. So paying attention to history of commercial relationships between Iran and China is so important because we can understand that many great fights in history of human is result of commercial issues (routes, resources, …) and also we can understand that because the Silk Road was passed through Iran, some Iranian kings considered it as a benefit and wanted to impose tax on merchants who wanted to pass through the Silk Road. So we can understand how important commercial issues were in the past by studying commercial history.

Keywords: silk, Iran, trade, China, Empires Sassanid, Roman Empire

Introduction

Plans of Sassanid governance were strengthening trade of china in the fifth century. Iran had an exclusive role in silk transition. Two points were important for Sassanid imperial; the first was maintaining this monopoly and the second openness of the commercial way for trading. As well as the most of fifth century kings were kept foreign markets to domestic traders. These factors were cause of war in eastern and western borders of Iran and of course reasons of causing the alliance between kingdoms of Iran,

China and Rome. One of the main causes weakening economy and creation of the famous seven-year famine was war with rebels on the eastern borders of Sassanid Empire. [1]

Due to the majority of the peasantry inhabitants, the Sassanid economy relied on farming and agriculture and Khuzestan and Iraq were the best areas for it. Nahravan Canal is one of the examples of Sassanid irrigation systems, and many of these things can still be found in Iran. Mountains of the Sassanid state were used on lumbering by the nomads of the region, and due to the great centralization of the Sassanid governance, they also managed to impose tax on the nomads and inhabitants of the mountains. During the reign of KHOSRAU I, further land was brought under centralization. [2]

Two trade routes were used during the governance period of Sassanid, one in the north, the famous Silk Route, and one less prominent route in the southern Sassanid coast. The factories of Susa, Gundeshapur, and Shushtar were famously known for their production of silk, and rivaled Chinese factories. The Sassanid's showed great toleration to the inhabitants of the countryside, which was important to create a great deal of stuff in case of famine. [3]

Persian industry under the Sassanid governance developed from domestic form to urban form. Guilds were numerous. Good roads and bridges, well patrolled, enabled state post and merchant caravans to link Ctesiphon with all provinces; and harbors were built in Persian Gulf to quicken trade with India Sassanid merchants ranging far and wide and gradually ousting Romans from the lucrative Indian Ocean trade routes. Recent archeological discovery has shown an interesting fact that Sassanid people used special labels (commercial labels) on goods as a way of promoting their brands and distinguish between different qualities. [4]

Political and commercial relations between Iran and China

History of relations between Iran and China was started in final years of the second century BC, Sent an ambassador to the west by The Imperial Western Han (25-206 BC) two times during the year 119 to 139 BC because of the getting to know Imperial China about far western territories by Chinese sent reports. This was main factor to developing trade by the Silk Road. [5] The Han sent Ambassador to Empires Iran in about the year 106 BC, [6] after united by Wei dynasty in North China, The relationship being established between china and Iran. The Alliance against of china in the year 582 was caused Sui dynasty attempting to establish political relations with Iran. The early years of the establishment of the Empire "Tong" was the most sincere political relations between Iran and china. [7]

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[1]. Shayegan, M.Rahim. 2003. "Approaches to the study of sasanian history" in Paitimana. Edited by Siamak Adhami. Costa Mesa, California. P. 363-384.
[2]. Tafazzoli & Khromov, p. 48
[3]. ibid.
[4]. Payvand -"Sassanids Used Commercial Labels: Iranian Archeologists". 21 August 2009.
[5]. Payvand -"Sassanids Used Commercial Labels: Iranian Archeologists". 21 August 2009. Retrieved 2009-09-25.
[6]. Payvand -"Sassanids Used Commercial Labels: Iranian Archeologists". 21 August 2009. Retrieved 2009-09-25.
[7]. Ibid.
Silk Exchange was the most important product between China and the Western world. Business broker was most important of Iranians roles in the silk trades. Merchants and Kings could rich of the Silk Road

and obtaining right of tax of foreign merchants to passing the Iran lands. The massive volumes of Sassanid coins have been found in the territory of China showed the importance of Iran in Western China trade.

Koad could Kingdom reached late in the fifth century. He had attention to economic and political relations with China. Entered of china a group had a letters KOAD (Chinese sources in the Chi-he-to) for relations developed of trade, economic and political with Chinas Empire in the year 518 AD [8].

King Khosrau was crowned in 531 AD. He has follow up of political relationships in ancestor's policy with China. He sent a few group of ambassadors to South China, they could met with southern dynasty royalty (Liang) 533 AD and 535 AD [9] as well as the group of ambassadors went in the Northwest of the capital of the China's Empire (Chan-an) in year 550 AD . [10] Administered of based rule of King Khosrau I was a combination of government activities, traditional methods and local of decision. [11] At the time of King Khosrau II Sassanid State could reach of Maximum growth. He had a strong army and operation of great military in throughout of the Eastern Roman lands. The main reason of top military power was economic backing from the second half of the sixth century. Changes in the Sassanid rule and disturbance of balance in certain boundaries in the west were special characteristics of king Khosrau II rule [12]

In the tense years, China was united by Clans T'ANG in the year 618. China was Iran's neighbor after the war and defeats the Turks. King YAZDEGERD III sent ambassador to China for get help because he was under Turks pressure in the East and Arab pressure in the West. In 638 AD after the death of King YAZDEGERD III in Marv, his son PIROZ (Bi-lu-si) crowned to Takherstan. PIROZ sent an ambassador to China for getting help but he could't defeat the Arabs. Finally, He went to Imperial Chinese in the year 673 AD.

The effect of Iran and China commercial exchanges on domestic policy the Government Sassanid

Khosrau I extended the current vast trade network further. The Sassanid state now tended toward monopolistic control of trade, with luxury goods assuming a far greater role in the trade than heretofore, and the great activity in building of ports, caravanserais, bridges and it seems that trade and urbanization were linked to each other. Persians dominated international trade both in the Indian Ocean, Central Asia and South Russia in the time of Khosrau, although competition with the Byzantines was at times intense. Sassanid settlements in Oman and Yemen testify the importance of trade with India, but the silk trade with China was mainly in the hands of Sassanid vassals and the Iranian people, the Sogdians.

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8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Shayegan, M.Rahim. 2003. "Approaches to the study of sasanian history" in Paitimana. Edited by Siamak Adhami. Costa Mesa, California. P. 381.

The main exports of the Sassanid people were silk, woolen and golden textiles, carpets and rugs, hides, leather and pearls from the Persian Gulf. There were also goods in transit from China (paper, silk) and

India (spices), which taxes were imposed by Sassanid customs, and which were re-exported from the Empire to Europe. It was also a time of increased metallurgical production, so Iran gained a reputation as the "armory of Asia". Most of the Sassanid mining centers were at the fringes of the Empire – in Armenia, the Caucasus and above all, Transoxania. The extraordinary mineral wealth of the Pamir Mountains on the eastern horizon of the Sassanid Empire led to a legend among the Tajiks, Iranian people living there, which is still told today. It is said that when God was creating the world, he tripped over Pamir's, dropping his jar of minerals, which spread across the region. [13]

The first King of the Sassanid that tried to stabilize position in the occupied land, attempted to create the Royal towns. In fact the especial factor of urban economy was attention of boost foreign trade and the silk trade with China[14]. Perhaps the final winner of acts was King Khosrau in the fifth century. He could play an important role in creating the political balance to the benefit of Iran by Setting up foreign trade with Iran and Rome. His wealth has caused much legends about treasure of the Sassanid Kings (especially Khosrau II) be made. It is evident that trade with China was one of important strategic for Sassanid government and had a direct effect on wars of Iran and Rome in the period of King Khosrau II. Main reason of caused instability and unrest in Iran was death of King Khosrau.

Conclusion

Main cause of changes in internal and external policy of Sassanid government was Iran and China commercial exchanges. These changes happened during the fifth and sixth centuries. Sassanid government was dependent on foreign trade and transit affairs. The income of lucrative silk trade was caused that all parties want to play a role in this business. This high profit caused military conflicts throughout this Silk Road route. Transiting by Silk Road was a factor for balance of the Roman military power uses by Sassanid state. The Sassanid government of fourth century had shifted attention from rural areas to urban trade development.

In summary we can know as the main factor that Iran and China trade caused wars of King YAZDEGERD II and PIROZ in the fifth century and the political changes the creation of a military Union during the 6th century and early 7th century.

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[13]. Nicolle, p. 6
[14]. Nicolle, p. 6

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