

Human-Social Identity of Metropolises Sample: Tabriz Metropolis (Iran)

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Abstract: Scientists of identity area believe that territory and geographical place play an important and significant role among identifying components. Human looks often for its roots in a special place and belongs to a place where its freedom, security, and essential needs and requirements are supplied. Therefore, no one is separated and isolated from time. Identity of any geographical place is consisted of three interwoven factors: (1) Natural specific factor and its apparent form. (2) Visible activities and their functions. (3) Concepts or symbols. There are several concepts, conditions and elements inside each of these three factors which can be combined in indefinite ways and organize a special identity. Identifying each place is special to the place. Places offer an experienced view from the alive, full of concepts, with external outlook world, continuable activities and functions. Thus, they are important source of individual and group identity and create a centrality where deep mental and emotional connections are established among people.

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1. Introduction:

The term of "Iran" known as "Aran" in the Middle Persian has been derived from old form of "Ariana" meaning "Aria land". The term of "Aria" has been used as "Airieh", "Arieh" and "Aarieh" in Avesta, ancient Persian, and Sanskrit, respectively. main meaning of the word is "liberal" and this is Iranians and Arianians whose languages were close together during ancient era named themselves in this name.

If we want to study status of Azerbaijan during history, it is better to know initial tribes of the land and the geographical limit where they lived.

Objects obtained from Kamtam cave located at southeastern Azerbaijan as a result of archeological investigations make it clear that human life in this area backs to Ashel, Moustieh, and Orniak eras.

It can certify the fact that some people lived in this area during Ashel, Moustieh, and Orniak eras. But the posed question relates to whether anyone lived in present Azerbaijan before the mentioned eras?

The earthenware obtained from ruins of different parts of Iran such as Hessar (Damghan), Gian (Nahavand), burnt city (Sistan & Baluchistan), and Hilan (Ilam) with geometrical shapes, pictures of trees, birds, animals especially ibexes indicate that Iran civilization in this regard dates back to 4000 years of prehistory or even more. The available documents and evidences point out that Mesopotamia was evolved gradually and definitely, colorful earthenware culture was persistently stable in Iran. The gun-metal era of Iran date back to about third millennium of B.C. Traces of the increasing activities

in metalworking of small objects usually made from gun-metal is seen in western Iran plateau.

2. Article:**2.1. Azerbaijan during Median era**

It is not exactly known when did Medians come to Iran and dwelled in present Azerbaijan and Kurdistan as well as great Median. An epigraph in which reports of third Shalmanasr's attack to a land known as Parsava located in Kurdistan mounts have been registered in 837 B.C. is the document initially refers to this tribe. The epigraph makes it clear that twenty seven commanders and rulers governed 27 under-populated provinces. The residents of these provinces were known as Medians. (shirazian, P27 & 28, 2001)

2.2. Etymology of Tabriz

Name of the city known as Tabriz have been used in different forms during last centuries, present as well as language of different tribes, travel accounts, and historical books indicating variable pronunciation and writings of the word. The oldest reference to the name of Tabriz is seen in epigraph of the second Sargon, an Assyrian king, dated back to seven centuries before B.C. The second Sargon took a travel to northwestern Iran at 714 B.C. aimed at occupy Orato lands. He entered Kurdistan through the present Soleimanieh (located at Kurdistan of Iraq), passed from present Parsava and southern coast of Urmia Lake, continued his way from east of Urmia Lake, and occupied Tarouei-Tomakis castle after passing through Oshkaia (Present Oskou).

3. Tabriz after Islam

In contrary to pre-Islam, history of Tabriz after Islam is clear and there is no need to collect

evidences from history perspectives. Introducing of Holy Islam to Iran ended oppression and unjust of Sassanian kings and promised a sympathetic life pacifying every oppressed Iranian. From perspective of this new custom, no one is preferred to others unless he/she is a pious one. Therefore, when Islam introduced to Iran and Tabriz, class distinction was automatically abolished and equity and just ruled instead. (Sardarinaia,p41&42,2002)

4. Safavid era

First Shah Ishmael, founder of Safavid dynasty (907-930 A.H.) departed to Azerbaijan after conquering Badkoubeh. He crowned in Tabriz in 907 A.H.

In this regard, Katrino Zeno states that:

"..... he (Shah Ishmael) arrived to Tabriz gate during the second day and occupied there because did not face any resistance and routed the opposites. Then, according to Shah Ishmael's order, body of commanders fought Sheikh Heidar in Darband war and were involved in his death were exhumed and burnt in bazaar because he wanted to revenge them".

During Shah Ishmael government, Tabriz was not greatly developed and no valuable construction was made there. In this era, parts of Iran especially Tabriz were exposed to attacks of the Ottoman Empire.

An unknown Venician merchant visited Tabriz during Shah Ishmael era describes it as follow:

"I think perimeter of the city is about 24 miles and has not ramparts like Venice. It has great palaces left by kings governed Iran. It has several glorious houses. Two rivers run in Tabriz. At a distance of half miles outside of Tabriz, a great river with salty water runs toward west and a stone bridge has made over it. Streams are seen in all adjacent areas and their water is supplied by subterranean canals. Inside of last kings palaces are wonderfully decorated and their exterior views are covered with different colors and gold. Every palace has an independent mosque and bathhouse decorated with beautiful and fine designs. All residents of Tabriz have used plaster works and different designs to decorate their rooms. Most mosques are also built in this way which arouses everyone's admiration. There is a mosque at the downtown. It was made so dexterously that I cannot know how to describe it. Anyway, I will try to do it. However, Tabriz has other important advantages including its very fine position in a wide eastern plain where it has been created as a small hole at slope of a high mountain although the mountain belongs to a mountain range lasting for three miles from the city. Tabriz has several gardens with ordinary plants including cabbage, lettuce, table vegetables as well as other vegetable found in Venice

such as turnip, carrot, spring onions, marjoram, parsley, and rosemary".

During early years of Karim Khan Zand monarchy, Azad Khan Afghan who was one of the commanders of Nader rebelled but defeated by Mohammad Hassan Khan Ghajar. Azerbaijan was occupied by Mohammad Hassan Khan in 1170 A.H. Azad Khan went to Baghdad. Soleiman Pasha, governor of Baghdad, equipped him with an army and he came to Azerbaijan. However, he could not do anything. Finally, he joined Karim Khan's army after his invitation.

In "history and geography of Tabriz Darolsaltanat" book, Nader Mirza registered events of the era as follows:

"Mohammad Hassan Khan, first Ghajar king, attacked Azarabadegan in 1171 A.H. and defeated the governors. When he decided to come back, he appointed his oldest son, Mohammad Khan, as the crown prince and stayed in Tabriz. After defeating of Mohammad Hassan Khan in Shiraz, the viceroy went to his father. Then, Fathali Khan Afshar Biglarbeigi Urmia occupied Tabriz until 1173 A.H. when Karim Khan Vakil attacked Tabriz but was not successful in his objectives. One year later, he wonderfully conquered Tabriz. Azerbaijan rulers became obedient and Vakil went to Shiraz".(velaiati,p57&58,2003)

5. Ghajar era

After Karim Khan Zand passed away (1193 A.H.), Agha Mohammad Khan Ghajar left Shiraz and occupied Tehran and Gilan within several years and governed there. In 1204 A.H., he went to Azerbaijan and donated Tabriz, Ardebil and some other cities to Hosseingholi Khan Biglarbeigi welcomed Agha Mohammad Khan. Nader Mirza writes:

"Tabriz was the place of sedition and sorrow. Khaghan Shahid came to Tabriz in 1204 A.H. Hosseingholi Khan Biglarbeigi came to the presence powerless and Khaghan Shahid appointed him to government of Tabriz, Ardebil, and Shaghaghi in addition to Khoy".

Heraclius occupied Ganjeh in 1207 A.H. At this time, Agha Mohammad Khan Ghajar suggested him to devote Irvan, Gharabagh, Shaki, Sehrvan, and Azerbaijan to him conditioned that leaves allegiance of Russian government and introduces Georgia as Iran tributary similar to Safavid era. But, Heraclius did not accept the suggestion. Agha Mohammad Khan Ghajar went to Georgia in 1209 A.H. and occupied Tiflis (Tbilisi). At the end of 1210 A.H., some armies were dispatched to help Heraclius, but at this time, Katrina passed away and her son succeeded her. Russian armies left Caucasus and returned to their own country. After passing away of Heraclius, his son, Giorki (Gorgin Khan), succeeded his father and put himself under protection of Russia.

When Agha Mohammad Khan was killed in 1212 A.H., riots were taken place in some regions especially Azerbaijan and Sadegh Khan Shaghaghgi appointed his brother, Mohammad Ali Soltan, to Tabriz government. Danbelian Khans cooperated with Fathali Shah's forces in suppressing the revolts. To appreciate their endeavors, Fathali Shah transferred Tabriz and Khoy government to Jafargholi Khan Danbeli. After entering Tabriz, Jafargholi Khan Danbeli took actions to acquire independency in 1213 A.H. but finally he could not resist against Abbas Mirza, the crown prince, thus Abbas Mirza entered Tabriz.

Political, communicational, and economical importance due to being located among Czar Russian and Ottoman governments was such that Fathali Shah decided to transfer its government to Abbas Mirza. Afterwards, each of the princes was going to succeed father after his dying resided in Tabriz which was the city for dwelling the crown princes.

Seemingly, no important events were taken place in Azerbaijan during Ghajar era. But, due to adjacency with Russia and Ottoman, the inhabitants were affected by thoughts of these two adjacent countries such that thoughts of Caucasus liberals during Czars government especially in 1905 spread in Azerbaijan. Revolutions of Ottoman against cruel and despotic emperors of the country were also effective in enlightenment of Azerbaijan inhabitants. These factors changes Azerbaijan to one of the centers of Iran constitution revolution.

Russia which was worry about constitution revolution in Iran attacked Tabriz through Jolfa in 1326 A.H. (1908) in accordance with previous agreement with Englanders with the excuse of protecting his nationals. In this attack, they hung some of the liberals including Shahid Seghatoleslam Tabrizi who was a famous and pious scholar. Then, they appointed Hajj Shojaoldoleh Samad Khan Maragheie, a notorious and despot person, as Azerbaijan ruler, Russians extended their residence in Iran with different and unjustifiable excuses. Finally, Russian 1917 revolution was started and Russian rulers and soldiers residing in Iran dispersed and left Azerbaijan in 1917.(velaiati,p121&122,2003)

6. Role of Tabriz Bazaar in Iran Policy

Tabriz Bazaar was of economical centers of Iran acquired significant economical, political and social power after Safavid era. Merchants of the Bazaar along with shopkeepers, craftsmen and other groups resisted against sedition, oppression, and injustice of aliens and their domestic agents, forced every oppressive government to fall back through closing Bazaar, and can act as powerful base of every revolution in Iran. In fact, Tabriz Bazaar played an essential role in all social and political revolutions of

Iran. This was merchants rose at most critical social-political conditions of Iran and helped and assisted Iranian nation in their victories through supporting revolutionaries, bestowing their wealth, supplying the budget required by other revolutionary groups, and attending meetings held to protest against oppressive governments.

Tabriz inhabitants significantly promoted their social knowledge level as a result of transactions and necessity of being familiar with regulations, policies and associations and were leader and pioneer in the important and critical revolutions and movements including tobacco forbidding movement, revolt of Zeinab Pasha and Esian against England colonizers, victory of constitution revolution, Dr. Mosaddegh's government, revolts of 5 June 1963 (15th Khordad, 1342) and 18 Feb., 1978 (29th Bahman, 1356) within the last 200 years.(shakoui,p74-77,2007)

7. Role of Tabriz in revolt of 29th Bahman

In contemporary history of our country, Tabriz is not only one city rather it is an epical treasury during history. At every period of Iranian history especially some recent centuries, champion Tabriz rose at front lines of the nation campaigns and raised freedom and honor flag of Iran. The history refer to campaign of the honored and liberal nation with proud results obtained by the valiant such as Sattar Khan, Bagher Khan, Seghatoleslam, Khiabani and thousands of unknown celebrated campaigners have rose in the most frightening and critical conditions of the country and fought to reach their rights, freedom, independency, integrity of Iran and felicity of all oppressed Iranians.

For this reason, Azerbaijan and its inhabitants were hated by devil monarchies and being attacked by venomous propaganda during recent years.

8. Industries of Tabriz

Making carpets, short-napped coarse carpets, ceramic, traditional covers, light and cotton summer shoes, traditional dyeing, printing, embroidering, pottery, skin and leather products, wood arts, traditional designing and painting, and bookbinding.

During Ilkhani era, painting was renewed and promoted to higher levels like other technologies, sciences, and literature.

Author of "History of Iran Industry" book talks about pottery industry during seljukian era: "Ray city was another main center of this industry (pottery) and other important cities were saveh, Neishabour, Susa, and Tabriz. Pottery known as Minaie and is famous all over the world is made in Ray, Kashan, and perhaps, Tabriz".

It should be mentioned that industry of carpet making was popular in Tabriz during the mentioned era." Islamic traditional books have introduced Azerbaijan as one of the biggest carpet centers since

3rd century A.H. The industry was always developing and progressing in Tabriz such that Ghazan Khan covered its mosque and Shabestan (parts of a mosque designed for sleeping or nocturnal prayers) with excellent carpets of Tabriz".

Similar to other regions, carpet making in Azerbaijan follows two urban and rural methods. But, in this rural categorization, Heriss is classified in a separate group.

- 1- Urban carpet making class or Tabriz kind includes Sarab, Mianeh, and Meshgin Shahr in addition to Tabriz, Maragheh, and Marand considering some special features
- 2- Heriss and adjacent areas class include Heriss, Garvan, Ahar and surrounding villages, Sharabian and its adjacency
- 3- Rural carpet making class is mainly prevalent in cities of East Azerbaijan province such as northern Arasbaran, sarab, Mianeh, and Hashtroud
(Articles of Iran Urban Development & Architecture Congress, Cultural Heritage, 1995)

9. Carpet making in Tabriz

Carpet making was conducted in Tabriz for a long time and is especially important considering its significant role in evolution of Iranian carpet. The city was of main production and transaction centers during monarchy of Holakoo Khan, the Mogul king, and carpet making passed its evolutionary course in step with Herat. During Safavid era, great carpet making workshops were developed and first-class carpet makers gathered there and created worthy and valuable carpets. Samples of these carpets are now decorating museums all over the world.

Tabriz carpets have always been desired by domestic and abroad markets considering interesting designs and fine texture. During recent seventy years, the carpets were woven in different and variable designs including Goldani (flowerpot), Derakhti (tree), Mehrabi (adytum), Gandil (candle), Heivan (animal), Shekargah (hunting ground), Herat, Shakh Barg (foliage), Shah Abbasi, Afshan (dishevel), Eslimi (Islamic), Gole Farang (Foreign flower), Bandi Kheshti or Ghabghani (block), Ghab Ghorani (Quran frame), geometrical figures and some Islamic works and buildings, Riz Mahi (small fish), Lachak Toranj (fichu and citron), and Botteh (bush) from the smallest to the biggest possible sizes.(shakouei,p100-102)

10. Discussions

Carpet making frames used in urban carpet making class include Tabrizi frame or rotary frame which is regarded as special innovations of Tabriz inhabitants. Natural colors of Azerbaijan carpers include alizarine (light pinkish red), Ghermez Daneh

(light pinkish red and fiery red), Spark (yellow), lawn, olive, and emerald green consisted of combination of yellow and azure. Mouse color (dark gray) or black soil locally known as "Ghareh Toprakh" is extracted from Mishebareh mines of Arasbaran.

Azerbaijan has many cultural and historical works due to its special historical and geographical conditions. Oldness and maintaining these heritages which are introducer of our history and culture, on one hand, and potential of tourism attraction, gain income and cultural publication, on the other hand, should be considered in evaluating public culture of the society.

Castles and forts such as Ghaleh Jomhour or Dezh Baz, pashtou, Zahak, Peigham, Nodouz, Joshin Holakoo, Ghahghaheh, etc. are appropriate potentials for presence of youths and interested ones from all over the country to participate in mountainous sports and being familiar with history and culture of the region.

In addition to the mentioned references, most travel accounts referred to Tabriz and its position such as Ibn Hoghel, Marco Polo, Venician merchant, Ambrociokentarini, Vincentio d'Alessandri, Iter Persikon, Morris De Kotzebue, Alexi Soltikov, Ben Tan, Colonel F. Columbar, Baron Fiodorkov, Kent De Gobino, Madam Diolafva, Kardi, Ahmad Dorri, Kent Dosersi, Sharden, Ibn Maskouieh, and Yaghout Hemavi, etc.

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