

مشكلة الأسرى بين العرب المسلمين
والروم البيزنطيين
(132-370هـ/750-980م)

أطروحة تقدمت بها
رنا صلاح طاهر طاقة

إلى

مجلس كلية التربية في جامعة الموصل

وهي جزء من متطلبات نيل شهادة الدكتوراه في فلسفة
في التاريخ الإسلامي

بإشراف
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طه خضر عبيد

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The Prisoners of War Problems Between the Abbasids & the Byzantine Empire (750-980 A.D. / 132-370 A.H)

As hostilities dominated the relations between the Abbasid caliphate and the Byzantine Empire in both land and sea frontlines-for war used to be so frequently waged by either side as to make the Abbasids term it “Al-Masayif wal-Mashati” [summer and winter rounds], a serious and ponderous problem emerged whose humanitarian and cultural aspects had far-reaching consequences. This problem, namely: the prisoners of war problem gained more significance for the number of captives from both sides ran up to hundreds of thousands . This had , consequently, given rise to a rather fertile domain of communication which marked a colourful cultural chapter in the relations between the two cultures . Contiguity and continuous hostilities between the two empires had augmented the prisoners of war problem , ramified it, and gave it various dimensions.

The problem of the prisoners of war gains significance because it is one of the substantial problems whose subject matter belongs to history while its solutions and social ramifications belong to culture .

Temporally and spatially the problem of the prisoners to war during the Abbasid – Byzantine conflict is of a paramount importance . It tackles one of the crucial phases in the history of two powerful empires which were diametrically opposed in all aspects besides religious, political and military antagonism .

The researcher has applied the methodology of historical analysis which rests on relating phenomena and historical events , then discussing historical evidence , analyzing and interpreting it with the aim of arriving at historical insight . This line of inquiry depends on testimonies of both sides , let alone documents and references available on both sides.

The study has accordingly been divided into a brief introduction and four chapters :

The first chapter expounds the theoretical aspects of the provisions relating to POW and the way they were dealt with besides the situations in both empires and their impact on the emergence of the problem.

The second chapter deals with the circumstances and the conditions under which the prisoners of war labored in both camps from the moment they were captivated until their arrival to detention camps. Here, the research tackles the practical façade of the problem and reveals the

down-to-earth every day fact and suffering , torture , hunger , humiliation, estrangement and death .

The third chapter discusses the effect of the relations of the two empires on the problem of the POW as far as the political , military economic and religious aspects are concerned .

The fourth chapter tackles the methods and means employed in the release of the POW .

It appears from the discussion advanced so far that the POW is the one who had been captivated and imprisoned in the course of carrying out his duty towards the state and it was incumbent to the Abbasid Caliphate to release him and bring him back to his homeland . The study has also pointed out the superiority of the Arab – Muslims to the Byzantine rum through the victories they achieved and the POW they captivated. Byzantium dealt mildly at times with the POW regardless of the religious differences . However , there had been circumstances when they resorted to cruelty as a result of external or internal factors .

Finally , the problem of the prisoner of war remains a humanitarian and cultural issue everywhere and at any time . In a nutshell the, study has come out with the outstanding reality that Arab – Muslim people had dealt kindly and according to humanitarian principles with the POW setting for us an ideal to imitate forever.

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Abbasids and the Byzantine Empire
(750-980 A.D. / 132-370 A.H.)**

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By

Rana Salah Tahir Taqa

To

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Prof.

D. Taha Khedher Ubeid

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