

سياسة تعيين ولاية العراق في العصر الأموي (41-132هـ / 661-749م)

رسالة تقدمت بها
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إلى مجلس كلية التربية - جامعة الموصل وهي جزء من متطلبات نيل شهادة
الماجستير في التاريخ الإسلامي

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ABSTRACT

The history of Iraq and its administrative extension constituted an inseparable part of the Arab-Islamic State. Its significant geographical location and remarkable cultural past made it occupy a paramount importance in historical studies particularly those devoted to the early period of Islam. Accordingly, and in tandem with this interest the present study is conducted to investigate the policy of appointing governors over Iraq during the Umayyad Reign, starting from the foundation of the Umayyad state (41H.661 D.) up to its downfall in (132 H./744 D.).

The paper drives at expounding the factors or considerations behind the selection of rulers of Iraq. This is to be achieved by pursuing the policy adopted by the Umayyad caliphs in selecting their regional governors over Iraq, and whether there had been a fixed rule for appointing governors over Iraq? Whether there were certain factors which dictated those consideration And to what extent Iraq's circumstances had dictated the sort of rulers selected for it. The study attempts at providing answers to those and similar questions.

The study rests on the analytical historical approach this is to be done by following up the biographies of the governors prior to their appointment to office and what were the tasks or missions they were in charge of before. This will point out the status they enjoyed and the roles they were assigned. This will

provide a cue for the criteria behind their selection. However, the lack of information on those governors , early except few well-known luminaries-negligence of historical references of details and the ramifications of the topic itself left us in the dark concerning the provision of a satisfactory answer of the main consideration behind the selection of a given governor especially when several factors partake in his nomination nevertheless the less, hard efforts were made to fill the gap and provide an answer.

Three main factors have been sorted out in the selection of Iraq's governors these factors are, family kind ship leadership competence (Administration and military) and tribal politics which either jointly or separately played a role in the choice of a given rule. Chronological order of governors was adopted whether one or more than one factor worked for their selection.

The study encompasses an introduction and four chapters beside a conclusion. The first chapter tackles the administrative policy before the Umayyad reign, i.e. during the message era and the patriarchal caliphate. It reviews the administrative divisions, governors' authorities, conditions for selecting the governors, and the general characteristics of regional administration during the Umayyad reign and particularly in Iraq.

The second chapter tackles the first factor of selection, namcly: kinship Umayyad geneology and the status of the

Umayyads among Arabs and Muslims besides their attitude towards the Islamic message and the role they played after embracing Islam were dealt with in the first section of this chapter. Then most important Umayyad governors over Iraq and the offices they held before their rule of Iraq together with the services they made to the Umayyad caliphate were accounted for in the second of this section of this chapter. It is noteworthy that the Umayyad governors appointed in Iraq were upright in morals and conduct besides their competence at leadership and religious dogma.

The third chapter discusses the leadership competence factor. In this respect, the Umayyad caliphs were more than careful when considering Iraq's governorship. They never risked appointing a governor lacking administrative and military competence. Iraq's significance made the Umayyad caliphs used to choose those governors whose competence was proven through previous administration and government of other provinces, or those who had shown quality and skill during Eastern conquests since Iraq was the base from which those conquests embarked towards Asia.

The fourth chapter deals with the third factor of selection namely: tribal politics here, most important tribes in Iraq are mentioned for those tribes had played a role in the appointment of governors over Iraq. Among these tribes were Bakr ibn Wa'il Tamim and Azd. Tamim had played a significant role in the

appointment of governors despite the fact that no ruler had been appointed from Tamim, for the Umayyad caliphs mistrusted the allegiance of this tribe while trying to keep it at abeyance. Tribal balance was a main concern for the Umayyads, and it is to this aspect that discussion was devoted through the rest of the study.

A considerable number of governors were appointed in Iraq in consideration of tribal policy adopted by the Umayyad. In order to maintain the tribal balance, the Umayyads, found no alternative but to ask the opinion of those tribes in that they follow the advice of Muaawiyah to his son rezid. According, the Umayyads had succeeded in some of their appointments and failed in others. In the latter case, the Umayyad caliphs used to dismiss the governors since dismissal redressed the tribal balance and satisfied the ambitions of some tribes whereas enabling the Caliphate of controlling those tribes for the interest of the State.

Tribal allegiance had imposed itself as an important factor in the appointment of governors. For the governors used to seek a tribal support in Iraq.

However, the policy of the governor was in tandem with the general State policy and for its purposes. Yet, some of the governors had no powerful tribal support in Iraq such as Thaqeef, which was only small tribe in Iraq. However, the Umayyad caliphs trusted the allegiance of the governors from this tribe, giving them wide authorities while Thaqeef governors

resorted in their part to absolute central administration in imposing their will on other tribes reducing tribal non allegiance to minimum.

Failure of some governments in imposing balance on tribes or in redressing tribal feuds led to protest and conflicts among those tribes which had, in its their, conduced to the downfall of the Umayyad caliphate later on.

This study has revealed the fact that there was not a fixed rule in appointing Iraq's governors during the Umayyad reign. However, it is safe to say that allegiance, competence and the capability of forcing balance of power among tribes were almost the fixed rule relied on in choosing governors to the helm in Iraq. Most of those governors were among the prophet's companions or those who directly ensued prophet's companions or among Traditionists. The theme behind that was the fact that Iraq was a springboard for Islam as a Message besides its being an Eastern military base.

Evidently, not a single factor was behind the selection to the governor title job of leading Iraq, but more than one factor. However, Iraq's significant location, population and resources made it foremost on the Umayyad agenda and it is for these reasons that leadership competence was the main or central criterion in relation to other factors, for in addition to the above-mentioned factors, it was the hotbed of numerous factions forming the opposition to the Umayyad Caliphate. It is,

therefore, a commonsense not to appoint someone lacking in experience with governance knowledge of Iraq and its people.

Opposing tribes to the Umayyad had, on the other hand played, role in appointing governors. For the Umayyads found it suitable for their interests to maintain a tribal balance satisfying some tribes ambitions while controlling tribal fanaticism which had spread from Iraq to the whole Islamic East. The government choice rested on dismissing governors and appointing others who would have satisfied the shift in its policy.

And in spite of the broad authorities given to some governors as Al-Hajjaj ibn-Yousif Al-Thaqafi which have gone so far as dismissing or appointing rulers over other provinces or in of choosing a crown-prince, these authorities did not mount up to mutiny or separatist tendencies. Umayyad caliphs were in all situations holding a tight rein on the State whether the matter was that of annexing a territory to the State, cutting it off or was it a matter of dismissing or appointing a governor in response to the public interest. This stresses the role of the caliph as a director of public policy and the maintenance of the office of the governor of Iraq and his role which stood in a no less rank than of a caliph viceroy in this important part of the Arab-Islamic State.

**The Policy of Appointing Governors over Iraq
During the Ummayyed Period
(41-132H./661-749A.D.)**

A Thesis Submitted

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To

**The council of the College of Education, University of Mosul
In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the M.A. Degree**

In

Islamic History

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2005-D.

1426-H.