

The Social and Political Stature of France in the Safavid Era

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Abstract: This paper reflects briefly political, social and economical stature of France of the 17th and 18th centuries. In its pursuit, it begins showing us how the Catholic Church played a major political role in political and spiritual developments of the country after starting to encounter new emerged religious groups such as Islam, Mazdaism and Manichaeism. A chronological glimpse on papal bulls and how they wish to be regarded as the ultimate authority, in a time of superstitious interpretations of Catholicism and its Vulgarization, will be discussed. Babylonian Captivity and Pope Boniface VIII's failure to draw the Catholic Church out from the sidelines are discussed in this section of the paper. Later, France colonizing attempts are introduced and how Captain Jack began a legacy of plunder and usurpation for the French merchants in parts of the new world, known as Canada nowadays. Cardinal Richelieu's, Jean-Baptiste Colbert's and Louis XIV's attempts in promoting the French colonies in India, North and South America and the African states will be discussed briefly.

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Introduction

The spread of Mithraism affected Greece, the Mediterranean, the Rhine river area, the whole Roman Empire, Belgium, England and Spain. As a result, it is regarded an important factor in bilateral relations between France and the Safavid state.

After the fall of the Safavid dynasty, a group of people took advantage of the void in the authoritative mechanism of the empire, equipping themselves with religions such as Mazdakism so that they could propagandize against Islam. Most of them did not stand a chance of survival in the Islamic states and as a result, they preferred to take refuge in remote territories of the Empire, adopting new identities.

Accomplishing no success, remaining members of this new emerged group felt it would be appropriate to acquire Islamic foil so that they could weaken Islamic fundamentals under such Islamic pretence. Ensuring public offices, high ranking military posts and top secret military mission were some of the privileges they could obtain under such Islamic camouflage. Serving in military battles between the Safavid State and Ottoman Empire and Roman Empire, they finally found their way to the heart of the Europe, which was France at that time.

They turned southern parts of France as one of the most important sites where propagandizing against Islam became materialized. Abundance of natural resources and a comfortable lifestyle, remoteness of this region from the Islamic states and the Islamic military camps, proximity to major European land roads including roads leading to Russia, Greece, the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea and the Black Sea,

the Ottoman Empire, Baghdad, Anatolia, Syria, the Caspian Sea, Khorasan, Azarbaijan and Caucasus and their mischievous attempts to take advantage from purity of Mithraism and other Zoroastrian beliefs made these settlements one of the strongholds of anti Islamic movements. Of course, Christian establishments did have defensive attitude towards this newly emerged group, but since they had anti Islamic propagandas, they encountered less fanatic attitude from the Christian establishments.

Having good public relation strategies and being able to organize and establish their settlements were their powerful features. Adopting these strategies and anonymous identities, they could make their plans operational in such remote states against Islamic fundamentals. The presence of some of the members of this group in the Christian army in the battles against Egypt proved that they preferred generally to be a participating part in any anti Islamic movement.

Some of them however, fancied that by relying on the power of their organization, they could create a stronghold against the Catholic Church in the heart of Europe, spreading Mani's philosophies in the southern parts of France and the Alp.

Finally, Pope Innocent III announced a papal decree against their activities in 1209. Appointed by Simon Demon Fort, the famous Christian leader, Albigeval with the tribal supports from Raymond VI, defeated army of the followers of Manichaeism and Mazdaism in Toulouse and Mudra in 1213. Two hundred followers of Manichaeism and Mazdaism were burnt alive in these battles. The result of such battles was the signing off on the Paris treaty

in 1229 supported by Blanche. The Montour agreement ended what Albjeval did. Two hundred people took refuge there were burnt in fire.

This group finally unleashed their ultimate strategy on the European and the Islamic states. Pretending to be conservative Christians, they began nurturing the idea of existence of enmity between Christians and Muslims that ultimately was materialized in the Crusade Wars between the followers of these religions. These battles were the indicators of their triumph in meddling in the European policies, obscuring the authority of the Catholic Church at the same time.

Disbelief and indifference on religious beliefs was another accomplishment for such groups, resulted from religious chaos and bloodshed between Muslims and Christians. Different interpretations and ideologies from main religious sects were introduced, obscuring, in much more serious scale, the authority of the Catholic Church. Observing the spread of such newly emerged readings of major religious sects, Pope Innocent III organized a counseling committee, consisting of clergymen of the Lateran IV council. It was appointed in this council that a series of serious public measures should be considered so that Catholic Christian beliefs could be reinstated in the European states, distracting public attention from superstitious beliefs and invalid religious interpretation.

The outcome of such harsh measures proved to be contradictory. Overt controlling mechanism of the Catholic Church in people's lives and its patronizing attitude towards them made them furious about such an attitude. One of the outcomes of such a furious attitude was people's general interference in the Catholic Church, having the excuse of a conservative Christian. Wearing the pretence of such conservative Christians, the constitution of the Catholic Church became weakened and vulgarized.

One of the vulgarizing efforts, tried by the English and the French governments for the sake of compensating the expenses of the crusades was the taxation of the Catholic priests who were the biggest land owners of these countries. Pope Boniface VIII considered this decision denigratory for the status of the Catholic Church. Condemning it blatantly, he decreed a papal bull in 1302, referred to as "Unam Sanctam". In this papal bull, he clarified that the positions and the states of the Catholic priests should be held sacred since they were the only group of people, he believes, that could act as saviors of the masses in the time of chaos and bloodshed.

Philip IV, the King of France, disregarding this papal bull, ordered for the imprisonment of the pope. After his death in prison, Benedict XI, his successor abrogated Unam Sanctam, by which the authority of the French government was reinstated.

After Benedict XI's death within 10 months of his selection in the papal conclave, Cardinal Clement, known as Pope Clement V was selected as the new pope of the Catholic Church. Being a close ally to Philip IV, he supported the French government. His preference of Avignon, the city in the bordering area of France and Italy, to Rome for the settlement of the papal establishments was an explicit indicator of his personal favors towards the French government.

"Babylonian Captivity" is the name some historians utilize to refer to this corrupt era in the history of the Catholic Church. People became more indifferent to religious and papal decrees and religious interpretation became prevalent in the Catholic states. After Clement VII's death, there came a time when Pope Gregory XI and Pope Urban VI claimed simultaneously papacy of the Catholic Church. The one in Avignon was supported by the French government and the one in Rome was supported by the English and the German governments. It was clear such a support would at least lead to political conflicts in the Catholic Church. This era lasted for more than forty years, resulting in politicalization of churches.

Such politicalizations brought immeasurable wealth for the churches, making their followers doubtful about their constitutions and genuineness. Although there were genuine men of God in some Christian temples, corruption was too much in the constitution of the Catholic Church that influence of this religious constitution diminished in people's lives day by day, resulting in the emergence of a number of illegitimate sects and superstitious interpretation of Catholicism.

Sadomasochism was one of the outcomes of such illegitimate readings from Catholicism, propagandized by Flow Jinan. His followers wandered in the streets in groups of two, hitting each other with chain and collars so that they could relay the message of mortality of earthly life. In their opinion, the only way to set one self free from the early sin is to torture your sublimary flesh and bone.

France was one of the biggest and strongest countries in the central Europe. Levying taxation in territories such as Languedoc, Provence, Bretagne, and Normandy was the reason why the French government could be regarded as one of the most successful countries in the economical arena of the time. Of course, England and the Netherlands were the economical poles of Europe, whose economical statures were greater even than prosperous France. France's population was fifteen millions which made this country the most populated country among European states. During the reign of Spaniards in Europe, Europeans became more interested in buying French lands. One of reasons of such absorptions towards the French lands was Strabo's studies on the

Mediterranean Sea and how even Galois regarded this area as an ideal geographical site. Spain and Portuguese were pioneers in expediting this area even before the French themselves. The reasons why the French themselves were not able to actualize such expeditions were long lasting civil and foreign battles and religious conflicts between various sects in the country.

Early in the sixteenth century, France started establishing new colonies. At Francisco's era, Captain Jack's marine forces were commissioned to discover parts of the new world, known as Canada nowadays. Hendrix IV encouraged strengthening the colonizing efforts as he sat inherited the throne. His chancellor, Cardinal Richelieu, devoted all his life to develop fighting schemes for the French army, keeping always in mind the seaways play an important part in any battle.

The plundered wealth from these colonized regions brought made Rhycheleauthink of forming a private army. He ordered 45 warships to be built in the Atlantic Ocean and 30 Glairs in the Mediterranean Sea. Forming the first marine council in France and acting as its chairman, he equipped ports in Toulouse, Grover, Brest and Borat.

Encouraging merchants to establish their commercial companies in the colonize regions such as South and North America, Senegal, Gambia and Madagascar was one of the schemes he had in his mind for the evolution of the colonized territories.

In Cardinal Richelieu's time, France occupied the North Christopher Islands, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Dominica, and other Islands located on the eastern shore of India in 1635. Captain Tom Lumber set up Senegal as the residential area for the French colonizers, and called it Sine Louis in 1638. With Cardinal Richelieu's death, the foundation of Montreal began to develop, making it a monumental city in the honor of his services.

It was in Cardinal Richelieu's time that the common invasions of super powers of the world got their official political coloring, or in other words, the issue colonization was introduced. It was during these years that illustrative maps of Asia and Africa were provided in 450 French and American encyclopedias.

Jean-Baptiste Colbert followed Cardinal Richelieu's footsteps. He had the exact ideological attitudes Cardinal Richelieu sustained in his life.

Working as a counselor for commercial companies in the Far East, Senegal and Guinea and counseling them in how to have secure sea trade, Colbert believed colonization must be the top priority for upcoming French governments so that France could prevail economically and politically. The ultimate result of his services was equipping the French marine forces with 117 frigates, 30 boats and 30 warships in 1683, introducing 1200 officers and 53 sailors on deck.

The control of French colonies was given to the ministry of Marine army, and a governor was their head. As a result it became clear how to govern the colonies by dividing them in to provinces.

Discussion

In Louis XIV's era, the ports of Laconia and Anthill became French colonies and the French government strengthened their establishments in Senegal. They tried to occupy isolated islands in the Indian Ocean after they occupied Bourbon and Morison Islands in the Netherlands with the objective of entering the golden gates of India. The French East India Company occupied Pond Sir, Caracal in their pursuit of colonizing India.

Early in the eighteenth century, French colonization continued for thirteen years. Ultimately Louis XIV, suffering from a series of defeats from England, the Netherlands and Austria agreed to have peace treaties with the aforementioned countries. The peace treaty of Rastatt with the Fourth Emperor of Leasburg on March 1714 was one of major treaties he signed off. According to this peace treaty, all the sea passages to England must be re open. Prohibition of selling slaves, which was one of the substratums of this treaty, was a serious blow for the French economy, leaving three million Frenchmen in foreign debt.

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