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The Reflection of Components of Western Modernity in the Intellectual and Technological Structure of Safavid Iran

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Abstract

One of the key aspects of studying the civilizational transformations of Safavid Iran is examining the reciprocal influences of Iran's relations with the West and their reflection in the intellectual and technological structure of Iranian society. In light of the political necessities arising from European conflicts with the Ottoman Empire, as well as the growing appeal of Western intellectual and technological achievements to Iranian elites, relations developed between Safavid Iran and Western powers, manifested through the visits of travelers, ambassadors, and Western craftsmen to the Safavid court.This research, using a descriptive-analytical approach, seeks to answer the question of how the elements of Western modernity were reflected in the intellectual and technological structure of Safavid Iran and what impact they had on Iran's civilizational transformation. The findings show that although these relations led to the emergence of some new intellectual trends, military technologies, and decorative structures in Iranian society, structural limitations, the sanctified view of kingship, the influence of the harem, and political authoritarianism prevented these developments from leading to a fundamental transformation within society. Ultimately, the manifestations of modernity remained largely confined to the upper classes.

Keywords: Modernity; Western Civilization; Safavid Iran; Intellectual Structure; Technology; Civilizational Relations.

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