

## The investigation of the relationship of Ghaznavides with India

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### ABSTRACT

By formation of ghaznavid government in the east of Iran, Islam world borders were extended to India subcontinent. ghaznavian at their sovereignty period (351-582) had special attention to India and India had special position in foreign affairs of this government. The heads of this government even at the most critical time didn't ignore the local condition of India and followed their battles in this land. The paper tries to understand the reasons of ghaznavian battles to India and the effect of these battles on India by searching in the relations of ghaznavian with India. So, the researcher reviewed the relations of ghaznavian with India from the beginning of this government in its first period (351-431) and in the second period of the government (431-582) to clarify the up and downs of these relations and its effects.

**KEYWORDS:** Ghaznavids; India; Jihad; Darolkofr; Temple's wealth; Lahour; ghazni

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### INTRODUCTION

India subcontinent in the history was famous for its natural wealth. This factor and political unstable conditions of this land in the history has caused that winners and neighbors of this land especially from the north, west regions were attracted by it, and it was under the attack from them. Muslims also from the early centuries tried to occupy India. In the late fourth century by the formation of ghaznavian government, they pursued attacking India vigorously. So, this paper evaluates the reasons and effects of these attacks and their relations.

#### The relationship between Ghaznavids and India

In the history, India due to its wealth, prosperity and good condition had taken the attention of neighboring countries and occupiers. This country was located in a way that attracted the attention of some neighboring countries. Because India was governed by some of dispersed governments. In Islamic era, as it was about the invasion of Muslims to this land, the country was in the hand of Rajputs. There, an uncentralized feudal in terms of politics and military, had the power. Thus, there was no central and integrated political system in all over India and the effects of some of religions conflicts are seen in India (Dolafoz, 1937). This condition continued in India toghaznavian era.

The underlying condition of India and ghaznavian relations to have connection with the north and west side of its borders attracted them to India. As it was explained in the relations of ghaznavids and Samanids, the dependency and close communication of ghaznavi kings of Alptakin to Saboktakin with Samani kings, their border extension to transoxania was limited. In addition, karakhanids restricted the extension of ghaznavian occupied areas. In the center and west of Iran as Aleboye were the king in these areas and they did not let ghaznavian to rule in this area. Thus, India considering the underlying condition in it and its attractions was the best choice for ghaznavian to pursue development aims there. The proximity of ghaznein as the capital of ghaznavi government to India as Dar Al- Kofr had this benefit for ghaznavi kings that by raising Qaza discussion not only benefited spiritual supports of Muslims and neighboring governments and Abasid Caliphate but also, they benefit from materialistic and humanistic supports of some the Muslims in the neighboring governments. Alptakin, the founder of ghaznavi government, pursued these aims since his arrival to ghaznein in his speech with the king of ghaznein (Shabankarei, 1984).

Alptakin arrival in India has the following benefits for him:

1. In this way he was away from his enemies and the conflict with Mansur Samani.
2. As India was Dar Al-Kofr, in some battles he could gain religious position.
3. He could benefit from the good position of this region to proceed his long term goals to establish ghaznavian government in ghaznein.

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Thus, according to some sources (Hendoshah Asterabadi, 2008), pursued some wars (Qazavat) in India. Defeated kings of ghaznein in Alptakin era, by the aid of the corps collected from India, tried to fight with Alptakin, but they were defeated (Shabankarei, 1984).

In Saboktakin era, Chival the Indian king of India, attacked ghaznein and he was defeated in both (Fazlolah Hamedani, 1984 and Tatavi & ghhazvini, 2004). In one of these battles, Saboktakin used some of ghazian of transoxania to fight with Jipal (Shabankarei, 1984). After this victory, many parts were separated from India and they were added to the occupied areas of Saboktakkin (utbi, 2003). Thus, Saboktakin with the excuse of developing Islam invaded India and was dominant on most parts of this land (utbi, 2003). ghaznavi government that gained many victories beside India borders in Saboktakin era became an active Islamic government for leadership of Qazavat in India. This was transferred as legacy to Mahmood ghaznavi. Soltan Mahmood ghaznavi from the beginning pursued his development goals in India to get plunder and properties for government treasury called as Jihad with pagans (Kofar). He knew Jihad with Kofar as Kafare (Paying in return of your sin) of the war with Muslims (Ibn Asir, 1994). He went to war against Indians to follow his father's tradition. Apparently, Mahmood ghaznavi accepted Islam to do his Nazr as it was promised at the beginning of the government to cope with Islam enemies (Mirkhand, 2001) in a series of long term battles in India. These battles made him popular as the defender of Islam and Qazi among Muslims and made him famous in Islam History. Military operations of Mahmood in India were began in India since 392 H (Ibn Asir, 1994) and continued until 416 H.q (Ibn Asir, 1994). At this era, about 17 major attacks to India were done. In 392 H.q he invaded Jeput and suppressed Jipal the kind of the land ((Ibn Asir, 1994).

In 395H.q Panjap plain was invaded and the important city of Bahatie (Gardizi, 1984) was the target of this military action. In this city as person called Bohayara was commander. Mahmood ghaznavi gained many plunders in this war and tried to propagate Islam by building mosques there (utbi, 2003). In 396 H.q Mahmood ghaznavi attacked Moltan with the excuse that their commander, Abolfath, is the follower of Ismaeilian sect (He knew them pagans). Mahmood ghaznavi invaded there from Keshmir. As Anendpa, Moltan ruler, prevented Mahmood ghaznavi to enter the city, Soltan Mahmood fought with him and occupied his land and Moltan and Abolfath, ruler of Moltan took refuge in Sarandib or Seilan (utbi, 2003 and Gardizi, 2004).

Mahmood ghaznavi in 399 H.q attacked the kingdom of Nabse Shah, one of the Indian princes who became Muslim and was selected by Mahmood as its ruler. The excuse to attack this land was leaving Muslims tradition by Nabse Shah and gave the land to one of his commanders after occupying the prince kingdom (Gardizi, 1984 and utbi, 2003). Apparently, in 400 Hijri, Soltan Mahmood focused his attention on occupying Bahim Negat or Bahim Naqz castle. At first Berahman pal resisted against Mahmood but he was defeated finally and Mahmood got many plunders (Gardizi, 1984) Ibn Asir mentioned the date of this event as 398 H.q (Ibn Asir, 1994).

In 400 H.q, Narin region was invaded and the people of this region resisted a lot until Soltan Mahmood was obliged to accept the peace contract. This peace had many results for Mahmood ghaznavi: 1- Indians accepted to send many levies and taxes to ghaznein. 2- 2000 of Indian corps were as hostages in ghaznein. 3- by this peace contract, the trading from India to Khorasan started and the trading was prospered in these two zones (utbi, 2003 and Ibn Asir, 1994).

In 404 H. another region in India called as Nardin with famous temples was invaded by Mahmood ghaznavi with a lot of plunders. After this battle, Al-Qader sent the order of the government of the lands in the hand of Mahmood with the title of Nezamoldin (Ibn Asir, 1994). In 405 H.q Tanisher was attacked by Mahmood due to its famous elephants and misbehavior with Muslims and his corps after victory and getting a lot of plunders returned ghaznein (Ibn Asir, 1994). In 406 h.q Mahmood ghaznavi in a unsuccessful battle in India lost his group in water stream (perhaps one of the branches of Send river)and retreated to ghaznein (Ibn Asir, 1994). 409 h.q Qanuj in the right coast of Gong Rivers and its temples were occupied by Mahmood ghaznavi (Gardizi, 1984).

Among the most important battles and final victories of Mahmood ghaznavi in India is occupying Sumanat occurred in 416 H.q. In this battle Mahmood ghaznavi after a bloody combat with defenders of Sumanat temple, occupied there. After this victory, a lot of spoils of these temples were available for Mahmood ghaznavi corps (Ibn Asir, 1994 and Gardizi, 1984). The aims of Sultan Mahmood ghaznavi of attaching India is grouped in the framework of political and economical goals. Regarding the political goals two cases should be considered:

1. Extending the occupancies and political barriers in the west and north of Mahmood ghaznavi kingdom.
2. Attracting the attention of Abasi Caliphate and using Matue forces in the framework of religion

In the extension of the occupancies of Soltan Mahmood in the east and west fronts, ambitions of Soltan Mahmood were not ineffective. But the important case to extend his occupancies to the east and India were some barriers as Dialame and karakhanids in the west and north of his kingdom and perhaps they avoided his corpse to proceed to that direction. At the beginning of the government, the condition was not satisfied to proceed in those areas. But considering the situation of India on that time, this opportunity for Mahmood ghaznavi was provided to extend his occupancies region and forming a kingdom. Mahmood by starting religious wars called as Jihad in India

that was Darl-Al- Kofr could attract the positive attitude of Abasi caliphate as the legal leader of Sunni people in the world. So, by building mosques in occupied land in India and sending Fathname and spoils to DarlKhalafe of Baqdad pursued this aim (Shabankarie, 1984, Hendo Shah Estarabadi, 2008 and Ibn Khalkan, 2002). To follow these aims, Mahmood ghaznavi know the war with Indians as the retaliation of killing Muslims (Ibn Asir, 1994) and promised to attack every year India (Mirkhand, 2001). So, he used Matue force to enhance his corps in the battle with India (utbi, 2003; Hendo Shah Estarabadi, 2008 and Gardizi, 1984).

Of course all the political and religious orientations of Soltan Mahmood here was using Indians wealth and its economical aspect. India was a region full of temples and considerable wealth, golden and silver idols and having all these not only were meeting the demands of Mahmood ghaznavi court, but also it added his magnificence and some of the captives and human resources from India were appointed in the ghaznavi government (Gardizi, 1984) and it increased the prosperity of this area economically.

Invasions of Mahmood ghaznavi to India had considerable influences in terms of politics, economics and culture in India. Politically, it caused that extensive land such as Moltan, Send and Kashmir etc were separated from India and were added to ghaznavian domain and gradually these regions changed to Muslim land. Socially, in these battles, most part of India were damaged from the population point as their people were killed due to being atheist (Ibn Asir, 1994) or they were captive as a slave. The presence of Turk and multi- nationality corpse in that region caused that population combination of that region is changed gradually. From the economical point of view, Mahmood ghaznavi attack to India imposed much destruction to Indians as some temples were destroyed and sometimes these temples were scared and these sacred things were effective on the routine economy of its followers. But consecutive attacks of Soltan Mahmood destroyed these centers and Indian people were at loss in this way (Ibn Asir, 1994 and Mirkhand, 2001).

Culturally, most of the temples and cities or artistic works were destroyed in these battles (Hendoshah Esterabadi, 2008). Then gradually the culture of some parts of India was changed and they got familiar with Muslims culture. From religious point, some actions such as building mosque and propagating Islam (Gardizi, 1984) in Mahmood ghaznavi invasion cause to spread Islam in India. Apparently in the era of Mahmood and Masoud ghaznavi, the administration of Indian occupied areas was the duty of corps commanders and some of the garrisons (Beihaqi, 2007).

In the invasion of India, Masoud ghaznavi didn't have progress like his father. Soltan Masoud at the beginning of this kingdom tried to attack India but after consulting with minister Ahmad Ibn Hassan Meimandi about the situation of transoxania and Qharakhanian and Seljuqs and Abasids Caliphate and Gorgan, it cause to postpone this case to other time (Beihaqi, 2007). At this time commanders of Masoud ghaznavi including Ahmad Yanaltekun won in India and he occupied even to Benares (Beihaqi, 2007). This caused that Masoud ghaznavi used some the Indians who were at service at his father's Mahmood era to eliminate the rivals in India. Thus, Talk Hendo was assigned from ghaznavi king to kill Ahmad Yenaltekun in India and Lahour (Beihaqi, 2007). Ahmad Yenaltakin at this time revolted against Masoud ghaznavi (Beihaqi, 2007). But Telk Hendo suppressed some of Masoud commanders, Ahmad Yenaltakin and his sons and occupied India and Lahor (Beihaqi, 2007, Hendshah Estarabadi, 2008 and Ibn Asir, 1994 and Ibn Khaldun, 1980). Telk Hendo in return to this service, became the commander of India corps (Beihaqi, 2007). After this event, Majdud, son of Masoud was appointed as the ruler of India and were sent to India with some formalities (Beihaqi, 2007).

In 428 h.q Masoud ghaznavi tried to go to India to occupy Hansi castle. He knew the reason to this attack, the promise to God (Nazr). However Vazir Ahmad Ibn Abdolsamad and Bu Nasr Moshkan were not agreed about going to India and asked him to focus his attention on the western half of the government, Khorasan and Saljuqian (Beihaqi, 2007). But Soltan Masoud in 429 h.q moved to India to occupy Hansi and after killing many Berahmanans, occupied Al-Azra castle and made many women and children captive (Beihaqi, 2007). After occupying Hansi, Masoud ghaznavi had some victories in India including Sonopet. After getting many captives and considerable plunder, he returned to ghaznein (Gardizi, 1984). According to some resources, after these victories, Majdud was appointed as the ruler of Lahour (Gardizi, 1984). The last trip of Soltan Masoud to India was apparently after the defeat of Dandanqan of Saljuqs in 432 h.q (Beihaqi, 2007). He was killed in the way, in Marikle region as the result of corps revolt, nephews and his brother, Mohammad (Ibn Asir, 1994).

In the second period of ghaznavi government, successor of Soltan Masoud lost a great part of their domain in the west and transoxania. They focused their attention to the east, India and Lahour, due to the problems in the west, the presence of Saljuqs. At this period, exploitation of India resources in the form of treasury of temples and using slaves were not something to be ignored by ghaznavian. since the government of Soltan Masoud ghaznavi, two strong Indian dynasties called as family Pare Mare ruling in Maloveh and Makchurian ruling in Tripouri, emerged in the north of India. Their strong kings were called, Behuje and Karne or Lakshmikrne, respectively. These kings retreated the position of ghaznavian to the east of Panjab and only after the death of Kerneh, Muslims could have a long-term fight in their base in Lahor. At this time, Lahour was as the second capital of ghaznavian. Divani

establishments of India administration were located in Lahor and this city was the gathering center of Qazian and other fans of Jihad who were greedy about plunders of Dar-Al-Kofr (Basourth, 2001).

After Modud was appointed as the ruler, he faced with many problems by India. The first problem was his brother, Majdud who was appointed as the ruler of India and Lahour at his father government (Beihaqi, 2007). After the death of Soltan Masoud he occupied some regions as Send to Hansi, and Tahansir and he claimed to be ruler and revolted against Modud (Hendoshah Estarabadi, 2008). Modud went to Lahour to suppress him but Majdud was suddenly dead and this finished the conflict and Modud occupied the regions being occupied by Majdud (Hendushah Estarabadi, 2008; Ibn Khaldun, 1980; Ibn Asir, 1994; Khand Mir, 1974 and Mirkhand, 2001). The second problem in India at the beginning of Modud government was riot of Qhermatian of Moltan. They occupied this city (Mobarak Shah, 2001). Modud by sending the corps to Moltan could return this region by compromise and he was called Khotbe as Abassid Caliphate and Modud name (Mobarak Shah, 2001). The third problem is the unification of some of Indian Raja against Modud in 435h.q. They occupied Lahor. Modud sent a corps to suppress them. By the conflict between Indian Rja, they refused to fight with Modud corps but some of them were defeated by Modud corps and the occupied regions by Raja were occupied again by Modud (Mirkhand, 2001; Ibn Khaldun, 1980 and Hendoshah Estarabadi, 2008 and Ibn Asir, 1994). In 440 h.q Modud sent his sons, Abolqasem Mahmood and Mansour to suppress some of the riots in India, after suppressing these riots, the commander of Indians were complimented by Modud corps to restore order in the country (Hendushah Estarabadi, 2008).

Considering all these problems in India and solving them by Modud at his government, the reaction of ghaznavi corps against these movements show the special importance of India for ghaznavian. They gathered all their forces to fight against any revolt in India and tried to keep India. India at the era of Modud successors was a refuge for ghaznavi government revolts. As at the era of Ali Ibn Masoud ghaznavi, one of this followers in the court, Ali Ibn Rabi after revolting against ghaznavi government went to Pishavar with a group of kings and slaves and occupied that area with Moltan and Send and stayed there until the era of Abdolrashid (Hendushah Estarabadi, 2008). In Abdolrashid era, Ali Ibn Rabi was brought to ghaznein by trick and Noshtking Hajeb Kharkhiz was selected as Amir Al- Omar of India. He was sent to Lahour and got some of the regions such as Negerkut castle from Non-Muslim people (Hendushah Estarabadi, 2008). Kharkhiz government in India was a support for Abdolrashid and ghaznavian as by revolt of Kharkhiz in India against Toghril Kafer Nemat, usurper of Abdolrashid throne, Togrol government was collapsed and this ruler as the representative of ghaznavian in India gave the government to Farokhzad ghaznavi (Khand Mir, 1974 and Ibn Asir, 1994). In Ibrahim ghaznavi era, military and political position of ghaznavian increased. As Ibrahim after concluding the peace contract with Saljuqs (Khand mir, 1974) was free to pursue military operations in India. He went to India with the intention of Qaza and after wars in that land, got many women and children in cities and castle as captives (Tatavi and Qazvini, 2004 and Khand Mir, 1974 and Ibn Asir, 1994). Thus, he restored ghaznavian ancestors' tradition in India that was problematic from the period after Masoud. He could gain great victories in India in 472 h.q (Ibn Asir, 1994) and he could be proud of the magnificence of ghaznavi government in Indian land after Mahmood and Masoud era.

In the era of Soltan Masoud Ibn Ibrahim (Third Soltan Masoud), Sepahsalari of India went to Hajeb Toqatkin and he took some measures from Lahour to extend ghaznavian occupancies in India and after passing Gang river plundered that region and returned to Lahour (Hendushah Estarabadi, 2008). Some researchers know the information about Masoud in India in poems of Osman Mokhtari and Abolfaraj roni and Masoud Saad Salman to the period that Masoud III Was the ruler of occupied regions in India from his father, Ibrahim (Bosworth, 2002).

The son and the first successor of Masoud III, Shirzad at the time of his father government was the agent of India (Bosworth, 2002).

This shows the attention of final kings of ghaznavi to keep India and their successors and prince had India government and the occupied land in their successor position era. In the war between Malek Arsalan ghaznavi with Bahramshah, India was one of the centers of defending Malek Arsalan against Bahramshah as by providing the required force from India and some Indian allies, Malek Arsalan could defeat Bahram Shah but later Bahramshah by getting help from Sanjer won the war against Malek Arsalan and his Indian allies (Hendoshah Estarabadi, 2008).

Bahramshah in his era went to India many times to eliminate some of his rivals including Mohammad Bahlm as the commander of Malke Arsalan in Lahour. Apparently, at this time, Bahlm revolted against Bahramshah and he didn't accept his power. In the first invasion in 512 h.q Bahramshah defeated this commander but forgave him and in the second invasion, could defeat him and determined the new commander in Lahour called Salar Hossein Ebrahim Alavi (Hendoshah Estarabadi, 2008; Jozjani, 1984; Mirkhand, 2001 and Mobarakshah, 1967). Apparently, at this time, Lahor was famous enough for final ghaznavi rulers including Bahramshah that they minted separately with Indian symbols to be common on that region (Bosworth, 2002).

After the invasion of Ghourian and Ala-Edin Hossin Ghouri at Bahramshah era to ghaznein (Jozjani, 1984) and its destruction, namely after the attack of Ghuzz to ghaznein city, Khosro Shah ghaznavi went to India and selected Lahor as his new capital (Jozjani, 1984). At Khosro Malek time, with the increase in the attacks of ghourian to

Panjab and Lahour, finally in 582 h.q, Shahab Al- Din ghouri occupied Lahour and finished the government of Khosro Malek and appointed Commander Ali Kermakh from ghourian to the government of Lahor (Hendoshah Estarabadi, 2008; Jozjani, 1984). Thus the government of two final ghaznavi kings (Khosro Shah and Khosro Malek) as limited to Lahor and some of the regions of North west of India were collapsed by the dominance of ghourian completely and ghaznavian dynasty was collapsed. Since then, ghaznavian in occupied regions of India replaced ghourian.

## **Conclusion**

The formation of ghaznavian government along with pursuing military policy in the east extended Islamic government borders to north and west of India. ghaznavian in various invasions to India, made the political and religious bases of India so unstable. Apparently the main excuse of their invasion to India was done only due to extending Islam and doing Jihad with pagans but without any doubt, Geographical conditions and political condition of India is at the same time with the government of ghaznavian in this land and the underlying conditions on ghaznavian borders in northern and western regions, as gharakhanian and Dialameh as two rivals of ghaznavian in the first period of this government and in the second period of their government, Salajuqs were replaced by these governments and it cause that ghaznavian focus on India to develop their borders. They provided the opportunity to form an emperor by developing their occupied regions. In all the period of ghaznavian, some items such as Qazveh (war) with pagans and developing Islam religion were the main motivations of their invasion to India but certainly some important factors such as ambition of this government and gaining new regions in this area and gaining the great wealth of India were the main factors to be taken into by ghaznavian in this region. Thus, all the political and religious orientations of ghaznavian in relations with India is benefiting from India wealth and its economic dimension. The wealth being gained from India during ghaznavian attacks made their economy prosperous in the land under the rule of ghaznavian. Invasions of ghaznavian to India had great political, social, economical and cultural effects in India. In terms of politics, it is caused that great areas such as Moltan and Send, Kashmir etc are separated from the domain of Indians and are added to the domain of ghaznavian and gradually these areas turned into Islamic countries. Socially in these battles, most parts of India were damaged from population aspect because the people were killed due to some charges as being atheist and or they were slave and captive. The presence of Turk and multi-nationality corps in this region caused that its population configuration is changed over time. Economically, these invasions caused many damages for Indians as it destroyed some of the temples and sometimes these temples were sacred and these sacred areas could be influensive in routing economy of its followers. These consecutive attacks destroyed these centers and Indian people were at loss considerably. Culturally, most of the temples and cities or perhaps art works were destroyed in these battles and gradually the culture of some parts of India changed and they got familiar with Muslims culture. From religious point of view, some actions such as building mosque and propagation of Islam in ghaznavian attacks caused that Islam was common in India. In the second period of ghaznavian government as they lost a great part of their domain in the north and west (Khorasan and transoxania) considered India especially even in the final years of this government; Lahor was selected as the capital of their kings. The underlying conditions on ghaznavi government at the end of their dynasty increased the importance of India and occupied areas of this region. By ghaznavian collapse in Lahour by ghourian, some parts of India came out of the dominance of ghaznavian and they were under the dominance of ghourian and some local kings.

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