

# CONTENTS

<i>List of maps</i>	x
<i>List of tables</i>	xi
<i>Foreword</i>	xii
<i>Preface</i>	xiv
<i>Notes on dates, transliterations and translations</i>	xvi
<i>Maps</i>	xviii
Introduction	1
Why Isfahan?	1
The sources	4
<b>PART 1</b>	
<b>The disputed capital</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>1 Identity</b>	<b>23</b>
The great city of western Iran	23
A full-grown city	23
Indigenous and non-indigenous elites	27
An “Irāqi” identity	32
Analysing movements	33
The spread of intellectual movements	35
The choice of Arabic as the language of social distinction	41
The ‘second Baghdad’	44
An early assertion of local identity	44
The latent rivalry	46
An ambition made real	49
<b>2 Conquest</b>	<b>53</b>
Means of resistance	54
Political sense, financial capacity, and tactical advantage	54

## CONTENTS

The decisive support of the population	58
The motives of the local elite	62
How the Ghaznavids were perceived	62
How the Saljūqs were perceived	66
The fall of Iṣfahān	71
3 Capital	75
A gradual installation	75
The first sultans	76
The reign of Malik-Shāh	78
Why Iṣfahān?	83
Practical considerations	84
The search for legitimacy	86
From tribe to state	88
The uses of a city	90
The signs of power	90
The sultan's camp	93
<b>PART 2</b>	
<b>The reshaping of a local society</b>	<b>103</b>
4 Domination	105
Before Niẓām al-Mulk	106
Establishing control	106
Alp Arslān's reign	110
Iṣfahān under Niẓām al-Mulk's control	112
Control of the divans	113
Control of local positions	115
Control of the taxes	117
Niẓām al-Mulk's policy in Iṣfahān	121
The heart of the network	122
The madrasa	123
Clientelism on a grand scale	126
5 Reactions	130
Māfarrūkhī, ally or opponent?	130
The Hanbalis play a waiting game	135
Hanbalism in Iṣfahān	135
The Hanbali view of Saljūq rule	138
The passivity of the Iṣfahān Hanbalis	139
The Ismaili resistance	142
The Ismaili preaching	142
The Ismailis of Iṣfahān	144
Power struggles among the Ismailis of Iran	148

## CONTENTS

6	Civil war	153
	The collapse of the Saljūq order	153
	The reign of the emirs	153
	The Ismaili offensive	157
	The mobilization of the Sunni networks	162
	The reasons for a political awakening	162
	Further opposition to Berk Yāruq	167
	The anti-Ismaili pogrom	168
	The trial of the siege	170
	The destruction of Iṣfahāni Ismailism	172
	The end of the dynastic feud	172
	Muḥammad and the recapture of Shāhdiz	174
	The decisive role of the Sunni networks	175
7	Consolidation	182
	Two decades of peace	182
	A capital restored to its glory	182
	Wealth and urban development	184
	The anti-Ismaili dynamic and its limits	188
	The witch-hunt	188
	A change of course	194
	The formation of the ‘two parties’	197
	Hereditary control of local appointments	197
	The beginning of the tensions between Hanafis and Shafi‘is	200
<b>PART 3</b>		
<b>Turkish emirs and Iranian elites face to face</b>		<b>205</b>
8	A new context	207
	Loss of rank	207
	Iṣfahān loses its status as capital	207
	The power of the emirs	210
	Wars great and small	212
	The period of the <i>turktāz</i>	212
	The period of the <i>fitnas</i>	218
	A society under pressure	220
	The tyranny of the local authorities	220
	Increasing poverty and economic decline?	226
9	The power of the notables	230
	Šā‘id and Khujandīs	230
	Family structures	230
	The places of power	233

## CONTENTS

The networks of power	236
The network inside Iṣfahān	237
The network outside Iṣfahān	242
The community's final resort	246
Direct assistance	246
Intercession	249
<b>10 The era of the Khujandīs</b>	<b>256</b>
The time of the Lesser Saljūqs	256
The downfall of the vizier Darguzīnī	257
The wars of Fārs	259
The siege of Baghdad and the <i>ra'īs</i> 's gamble	264
The time of the Atabegs of Ādharbaījān	269
The return of central control	269
Forced collaboration	272
The crisis of the Atabegs' state	274
<b>11 The era of the Ṣā'ids</b>	<b>281</b>
The Ṣā'ids come to dominate Iṣfahān	281
The new alliance	281
The destruction of the Khwārazmian state and its consequence for Iṣfahān	286
The re-establishment of the Khwārazmian state in western Iran	288
The bloody prospect of Mongol conquest	292
A successful resistance	292
The dramatic denouement	295
<b>Conclusion: the conditions and nature of political action in the context of Turkish domination</b>	<b>298</b>
 <b>Appendices</b>	
<b>A Chronology of Iṣfahān from 420/1029 until 633/1235–6</b>	<b>303</b>
<b>B The actors of the history of Iṣfahān from 420/1029 until 633/1235–6</b>	<b>308</b>
<b>C Books dedicated to Iṣfahān before the Mongol period</b>	<b>317</b>
<b>D Presence of the Great Saljūq sultans in Iṣfahān</b>	<b>319</b>
<b>E The governors of Iṣfahān after the time of the Great Saljūqs</b>	<b>324</b>
<b>F Original texts of the extracts</b>	<b>330</b>

## CONTENTS

Synopsis	379
<i>Bibliography</i>	385
<i>Medieval sources</i>	385
<i>Modern sources</i>	392
<i>Indexes</i>	413
<i>Places</i>	413
<i>Person and groups</i>	418
<i>Sources</i>	429
<i>Technical terms</i>	433