

***Political and Doctrinal Conditions in the Safavid Dynasty
During the Reign of Shah Isma'il As-Safawi
(906-930 A.H.—1500-1524 A.D.)***

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Abstract

This thesis attempts a study of the political conditions in Iran during the reign of Shah Ismail As-Safawi, founder of the Safavid Dynasty. It also sheds light on the transition from the Sunni to the Shiite doctrine in Iran under his rule. The study consists of an introduction, a prologue, three chapters, and a conclusion.

In the Introduction, I state the reasons why I chose this topic; then I explain its importance. Finally, I review the literature and the most important references I have relied on while I was writing this piece of research.

The prologue gives a hint about the geographical extent of the Safavid State; it also demonstrates the historical background in Iran before the emergence of this dynasty.

Chapter one of this thesis is entitled, *The Safavids and the Establishment of the Safavid Dynasty in Iran*. This chapter has two parts. Part one reveals facts about the Safavid family and their religious and political activities before the emergence of the state. Part two discusses the emergence and expansion of the Safavid Dynasty and Ismail As-Safawi's efforts to stabilize the country.

Chapter Two explains the political ties of the Safavid Dynasty during Shah Ismail As-Safawi's reign. It comprises four parts. Part One demonstrates the political relations with the Uzbek State in Transoxiana. Part Two tackles the Safavid-Ottoman political relations. Chapter Three sheds light on political relations with European countries. Part Four handles political relations with the Mameluke Dynasty in Egypt and the Levant (Greater Syria).

Chapter Three discusses in detail how Iran under Ismail As-Safawi shed the Sunni doctrine for the Shiite Twelver doctrine. This chapter is divided to three parts. Part One tackles Twelver Shiism in Iran before the emergence of the Safavid Dynasty. Part Two focuses on the Safavid family and the Shiite doctrine. Part Three sheds light on the causes and results of Iran's conversion to Shiism.

Finally, the Conclusion displays the most significant results I reached in this research study.

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