

*Ravābeṭ-e siyāsī-ye salājeqe-ye rūm bā ilḥānān.*  
Tehrān, Amīr Kabīr, 1381/2002, 193 p. plus maps,  
tables and figures.

Charles Melville

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**Édition électronique**

URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/5925>

ISSN : 1961-960X

**Éditeur :**

CNRS (UMR 7528 Mondes iraniens et indiens), Éditions de l'IFRI

**Édition imprimée**

Date de publication : 15 mai 2006

ISSN : 0240-8910

**Référence électronique**

Charles Melville, « *Ravābeṭ-e siyāsī-ye salājeqe-ye rūm bā ilḥānān*. Tehrān, Amīr Kabīr, 1381/2002, 193 p. plus maps, tables and figures. », *Abstracta Iranica* [En ligne], Volume 27 | 2006, document 157, mis en ligne le 02 janvier 2007, consulté le 23 avril 2019. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/5925>

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- 1 The book begins with lengthy introductory sections on the Seljuks and the rise of the Mongols, so that the first references to Seljuk contacts with the Mongols (in 629/1232) comes only on page 87. Before then, the author rightly stresses the lack of unity among the Muslims and the damage (material and psychological) done by the rival ambitions of various rulers in northwest Iran, northern Syria and eastern Anatolia, which made Anatolia so vulnerable to the Mongols. The narrative essentially finishes with the death of the Parvaneh, after the battle of Abulustayn and the revolts of the Seljuk pretender, Jimri and the Qaramanids (in 676/1277). Thereafter, a very brief section (pp. 156-63) summarizes the complicated sequence of events in the reigns of Ilxāns Ahmad Teguder to Gazan, down to the death of the 'last' Seljuk sultan, Mas'ud, in 707/1307. This naturally marked the formal end of Seljuk political relations with the Mongols, though not of Ilxanid involvement in Anatolia. The book ends with a short survey of the various Turkoman principalities that emerged during the 14th century (pp. 164-73), including the Ottomans, and concludes with a summary of the whole work (pp. 175-82).
- 2 In short, the book covers the period also covered by the main source, Ibn Bibi. The lack of discussion of his work is surprising, in view of the space given to some of the other sources used (pp. 13-17). The author appears to be unaware of the printed edition of the first part of Ibn Bibi, and refers mainly to the *Mukhtasar* published by Houtsma, though with occasional reference to the facsimile text. She is also unaware of the edition of the section on Anatolia in al-'Omari's *Masālik al-absār* (ed. Taeschner, 1929; translated by Quatremère, 1838) nor is Mashkur's edition of the text of the Anonymous 14th century Seljuk chronicle noted. The new Tehran edition (ed. J. Nadiri, 1999) perhaps appeared too late to be used? Notably, the *divan* of Sayf Farghāni is mentioned, though only briefly

cited (pp. 157, 163). It is less surprising that only few European works are mentioned; some of the more notable omissions being Amitai-Preiss, Rudi Lindner, Spiro Vryonis and the French edition of Cahen's seminal work on pre-Ottoman Turkey.

- 3 Despite these defects, the book is a useful narrative history of the period, based on a large number of sources, including Arabic chronicles, which should also have been discussed in the section on sources. The author has a critical approach to these texts and is aware of the problems of disagreement that have occasionally led the secondary sources astray. However, there is very little analysis and no real exploration of Seljuk-Mongol political relations. There is no effort either to compare the Seljuk invasions of Anatolia with the Mongol conquests, which would have justified the long preamble on the rise of the Seljuks. Both had the same problem, for example, of dealing with the Turkoman groupings on their periphery, and of adapting steppe customs of rule to sedentary state formation.
  - 4 The book has no index, but concludes with 5 maps, 4 genealogical charts of the Seljuk and Mongol dynasties and 22 plates of coins (ranging from c. 590 to 680 A.H.).
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**Thèmes :** 4.1. Histoire médiévale

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