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Rudi Matthee

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- 1 Armenian hopes that a Christian Crusade might liberate them from Muslim domination go back to the middle of the 16th century. This article discusses an important episode in the so-called Armenian liberation struggle, the campaign of Peter the Great against northern Iran in 1722-23. The author assesses the role of the well-known itinerant diplomat Israel Ory in the Armenian overtures toward various European courts, noting how the Armenians were ready to make common cause with the Russians, possibly against the Turks. He also makes clear that, at this point, Armenian (and Georgian) aspirations were religious rather than « national » in nature. Their hopes of collusion with Russia never materialized, though, since in 1724 the Russians gave priority to an accommodation with the Ottomans with the aim of dividing Iran's northwestern territory between them.
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Thèmes : 4.2.1. Safavides et Qâjârs

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