
Rudi Matthee
This interesting overview of Karīm Ḥān Zand’s tenuous dealings with the English in the Persian Gulf portrays the Zand leader as caught between his concern for Iran’s sovereignty and his desire to invigorate Iran’s commerce. The author’s insistence that the English presence in the Persian Gulf can be equated with their simultaneous activities in India overlooks the fact that aim was vastly different from the outcome. Similarly, to say that for the English, trade had become a cover for political objectives, seems an anachronistic way of blaming English imperialism at a time when Britain, though outstripping its rivals, was yet mostly keen on commercial profit and wary on political involvement in Iran.