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- 1 This article examines the question of Qajar modernity – a term that definitively seems to have replaced « modernization » – through the lens of measures that were taken to prevent the spread of the plague epidemic in the 1877s. Though European observers faulted the Iranians for doing little to halt the disease, the crisis did prompt the Qajar court to endorse the idea of border quarantine. It also laid the groundwork for a growing awareness of the link between hygiene and health, and, in assuming a foreign origin of epidemics, it even spawned a perceived connection between pestilence and patriotism and a need to safeguard Iran's borders from medical attack.

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Thèmes : 4.2.1. Safavides et Qâjârs

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