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- 1 This interesting article considers the Safavid advance on the Persian Gulf littoral during the reign of Šāh 'Abbās I, arguing that it should be put in a military and political strategic terms rather in the commercial context in which is customarily placed. Šāh 'Abbās's focus, the author rightfully contends, was military conquest and political centralization, and his incorporation of Hormuz and other ventures in the gulf and dealings with Fars province should be examined in this light as well. A related argument is that the Safavid use of artillery – including its use in subduing city walls – was much more widespread and sophisticated than is generally assumed. The argument that a sizeable military arsenal, including cannons, were located in the south is well taken, though the evidence for a direct armaments industry of Lar may well have been linked more directly to the existence of sulfur in the region than to presumed English supplies, for which the evidence remains rather sketchy.

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Thèmes : 4.2.1. Safavides et Qājārs

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