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This well-written article analyses the development process of the Bazaar of Teheran during the 19th century as well as its compositions and ownership relations. The particular interest consists in the role of waqf in the development and maintenance of the Bazaar. The author challenges the accepted notion, according to which the waqf institution generally contributed to the expansion of commercial facilities and that most of estates in marketplaces were waqf property. According to the author, in 19th-century Tehran, Qajar rulers played a significant part in the development of the market center by building bazaars and shops as well as purchasing sarays. Few of these estates, however, were endowed as waqf. In fact, only a few of shops in the Bazaar were waqf property. As for the sarays, which were used as shop, office, house, atelier, more than half of them were, at least partly, transformed into waqf. More interestingly, these sarays were increasingly shared by several owners, who established small waqfs in their portions. These findings indicates that, as far as the Bazaar of Tehran during the 19th century is concerned, the waqf institution did not much contribute to the expansion of the commercial complex itself, but it principally helped to maintain commercial facilities built in the Bazaar.
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Thèmes : 4.2.1. Safavides et Qâjârs

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