Tomoko Morikawa. *The Emergence of ‘History of Iran’: Historiography in Qajar Iran*

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Electronic version
URL: https://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/40674
DOI: 10.4000/abstractairanica.40674
ISSN: 1961-960X

Publisher
CNRS (UMR 7528 Mondes iraniens et indiens), Éditions de l'IFRI

Printed version
Date of publication: 1 December 2013
ISSN: 0240-8910

Electronic reference
Akihiko Yamaguchi, "Tomoko Morikawa. *The Emergence of ‘History of Iran’: Historiography in Qajar Iran*, Abstracta Iranica [Online], Volume 32-33 | 2013, document 250, Online since 01 July 2016, connection on 31 August 2023. URL: http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/40674 ; DOI: https://doi.org/10.4000/abstractairanica.40674

This text was automatically generated on 31 August 2023.

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How did the “history of Iran” emerge in Qajar Iran? Premodern Persian historiographic literature generally presented a universal history; but, the author argues, a new historiography appeared in the late 19th century. It was mainly driven by the advances made in Iranian studies in Europe and their decisive impact on the elite and intelligentsia of Qajar Iran. Iranians started accepting the results of European research (archeological surveys and the decipherment of ancient epigraphs). For Iranian intellectuals of a nationalist stripe, this research proved the continuity running through the country’s history since the pre-Islamic times. To maintain the unity of a nation sharing a common language (Persian), they began seeing their country as the homeland of Aryans. They thus developed a unique historiography, which attached more importance to ancient Iran and pre-Islamic emperors.
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