Ryuichi Sugiyama. Vaqf Endowments to the Emām Reżā Shrine during the Late Safavid Period

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This paper investigates the role of vaqf endowments in the development of the Emām Reżā shrine in Mashhad during the late Safavid period. An examination of several collections of vaqf documents concerning the shrine shows that the majority of donors came from the governing elite, including Safavid rulers, and that many of the endowment properties were farmlands and commercial facilities. These were, significantly, concentrated in the vicinity of Mašhad, this being evidence of the mausoleum’s limited religious influence. The beneficiaries of these endowments included various charitable and scholarly activities. More noteworthy, some vaqfs were intended to support Sayyids; and others, to promote Shiite rituals such as ta’ziyye. According to Sugiyama, these vaqfs lent Shiite features to the shrine.
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