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- 1 The author of this short article, Touraj Daryaee, is a well-known expert on the history of the Sassanid empire. Here in the frame of a collected volume dedicated to the many aspects of the so-called Silk Road, he deals with the role of Parthia in connecting Roman provinces and the Mediterranean basin with Central Asia and China. What is interesting in his contribution is the reaffirmation of the role in between that the Arsacid played, a role already accepted and recognised for their successors, the Sassanids. Daryaee offers a short panoramic view of the topic in line with the volume's scope; nonetheless, he registered the most recent acquisitions of the specific topic research. Interestingly, he deals with a period that precedes the one he used to work on, analysing it with the eyes of an expert of the Sassanids and the consolidated knowledge of the events which followed. The paper assumes thus the characteristics of a search for the beginning and the origins of historical processes and circumstances well established and studied as the Sassanian influence on the Silk Road.

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