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- 1 In past years, Maeda has published a series of well-documented papers on the Safavid *Ē* *olāms*. His arguments are consistent: contrary to common belief, the *Ē* *olāms* were not always slave soldiers whose ethnic identities were lost, but faithful servants to the Safavid shahs, allowed to retain ties with their own relatives and native countries. In this stimulating paper, relying mainly on the recently discovered third volume of the *Afḍal al-tavārīḥ* of Faḍlī Ḥūzānī al-Eṣfahānī, the author examines in detail the *Ē* *olāms*’ role in Šāh ‘Abbās’ policy toward the Caucasus. He points out that the Šāh did not only manage to counterbalance them against the powerful Qizilbāš tribes in the Safavid political system, but also actively employed them in his conquest of the Caucasus, manipulating their ethnic identities and family ties in their native countries.
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Thèmes : 4.2.1. Safavides et Qājārs

nompropre Safavides

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