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- 1 The *hajj*-pilgrimage in pre-modern history has been discussed mainly from an Ottoman perspective. McChesney fills a major gap in the history of the *hajj* in focussing on the major routes available to pilgrims from Central Asia. These were the northern route around the Caspian Sea into Ottoman territory, the southern maritime route through India, and the central route through Safavid Iran. Following his earlier work on the permeability of the Sunni-Shi'i divide, McChesney argues convincingly and with meticulous source criticism against sectarianism as an explanation in itself. Correcting Faroqhi and others, he demonstrates that in fact the central route through Iran was for most of the time the more convenient and important pilgrimage route to Mecca for Central Asian pilgrims.

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Thèmes : 4.2.2. Asie centrale

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