The history of political relations between Elam and Assyria

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ABSTRACT: Beginning of the third millennium BC, along with the expansion of trade, urban development and the creation of cultural, religious and political ties, the first administrative bodies - government is form in Iran plateau. One of the most prestigious civilizations that span over two thousand years, Elam, which stood against the endless attacks of Mesopotamia Nations and eventually destroyed by the Assyrians. Relations between Elam and Assyria administrations always have vicissitudes in history. At a time of Sargon II reign their relations had states in peace and war. This chapter details the relationship between the Sargon by Elamite ruler's co-period, their wars and the results have been discussed. Some wars occurred during the Snkhrby reign, the king of Assyria in 681 BC, who killed his father Ashrhdvn, and sat on the throne; during his reign expedition will follow their place to insure the resistance of his kingdom, only trust the Madd as reliable Assyrian tribute holds. In summary, civil wars and dynastic strife and struggle occurred at the Late of Elamite rule, and their effort to support Babylon from the Assyria was causing resentment of Assyria. Since, The Assyrian government was powerful; so attacked Elam and extinct their kingdom. The main idea of this research was proved.

Key words: Elam, Ashur, king, Snkhrby, Assyria

INTRODUCTION

Iran’s diverse geographic conditions led to generate diverse cultures that their origins are unknown. Great cultures such as Elam that their origin is not well-known (Ebrahimí, 2006). Beginning of the third millennium BC, along with the expansion of trade, urban development and the creation of cultural, religious and political ties, the first administrative bodies - government is form in Iran plateau. Some of the early inhabitants of the Iran’s plateau who lived in Khuzestan areas and Fars and western parts through dominate ethnic groups and alliances in the region have achieved this goal. The newly founded government has chosen "shush" which urbanized from around 3500 BC. Into the center of his administration and founded the most prestigious civilizations of the Iran’s plateau based on city’s great achievements. Elamite civilization for three millennia, has been dominated almost half of the southwestern Iran. Because of the proximity and close ties, Elam became link between of the central plateau, Mesopotamian and Dasht-e Lut civilizations (Taslimi, 2012). More than two thousand years of civilization in the ancient, middle and new of kingdom of Elam, they stood in front of the invasions of Mesopotamian’s and finally destroyed by the Assyrians (Arab and Sharifinasab, 2008). The names of Elam fade from the memories in the late second century AD, and the only remaining reference is in the Bible. A total of twenty-nine times in the Old Testament is called the Elam that helped scientists to discover the Kingdom. In fact, the land that called Iraq today has been one of the origins of Middle East civilizations and Babylon and Assyria kingdoms have been created at 1350 BC in this land. During the Iranian dynasties of ancient Mesopotamia was considered as an integral part of the realm (Seifzadeh, 2010). Historically, the quarrel of Iran and Iraq nations had came from ancient times (Yekta, 2009). The importance of this issue was the adjacent of Mesopotamia and Elam and the Assyrian’s powerful military and government. The aim of this study, was specifying the details of the relations between Elam and Assyria, underlying the causes of enmity between them, and finally describing the extinction of Elam by Assyrian.
Reign of Sargon II (705-721 BC.)

HumbanTahrah founded New Elamite dynasty in 760 BC. (644-760 BC). The next king, first “HvbnNiksh” defeated “Sargon” II, the king of Assyria in the year 720 BC and after that “ShvtrvkNhvnth” II became king. He intervened in the internal conflict in Mesopotamia, and sheltered “ApleMarduKaidin” the second king of Babylon who defeat of the Assyrians and escaped to Elam in 710 BC. The King left him an army in 703 BC. and he would again sit on the throne of Babylon(Curtis, 2009). The new kingdom of Elam lasted little more than a century. When “Sargon”, king of Assyria, planned to envisioned the development of their country, ‘HvbnNiksh’ the King of Elam, helped “Mrvdakhblladan” the King of Babylon who was the enemy of “Sargon”. Although they reached near the city ‘Der’ in 720 BC, but the opposition has failed to capture the city. Three years after the death of ‘HvbnNiksh’ Elam attacks into southern stopped temporarily (Cameron, 1960: 158). “Sargon” robust construction of border town “Sagbat” when he sat on the throne of Babylon. Although he did not occupy any territory in Elam, but he commanded to made the fortress. Whether “Sargon” of the continuing war in Elam was unwilling or unable, it is still unclear, although he obviously anticipated more problems. Even with the creepy Babylon, Elam remained threatens the country’s eastern border (waters 1391 45). The threat soon showed itself again. “Delta” the King of “Alypy” died in 708 BC. The name of the region was changed to “Sargon” by his nephew’s “Nibe” and “Aspabara”. “Nybh” requested help from “ShvtrvkNhvshh” and “Aspabara” from “Sargon” (waters, 2012). “Sargon” came to Babylon in 709 BC., seized the rest of fortifications belongs to the “ApleMarduKAydin”, and sit on his own.He did not seize more lands of Elam but fortified borders (Majidzadeh, 2007). When the “Alypy’s” king died in Lorestan, Elam suffered another setback. One of the sons demand helped of Elam to acquire father’s Crown, but the superior forces of the Assyria sat another son to the deposition and “Sargon” catch the ways to Great Road of Khorasanto ensure the safety of region.Although, there was weakness in the northern and western borders of Elam against Assyria, but conspicuous seizing lands owned by the Elam was not Assyria’s Policy (Stolper, 2010). Two important events occurred in the Middle East and affected Assyria’s strategy and policy over a hundred years: Egyptian intervention in Palestine and Elam intervention in Babylon. Both of these events were a consequence of “TygltPylsr” successes, which his progress on the Iran’s plateau cut the only trade to Elam that was open. Assumed enemies of Assyria the Elamite and the Egyptians are annexed to “Avarartvyyan”, but they did not attacked. So, they chose older resort but safer way (Ro, 1990). In the books “ancient history of Iran” and “History of Civilization in Ancient Iran” Pirnia and Poorreza noted the battle, between “Sargon II” and Elamite at the place called “Durilu” without mentioning a specific year, respectively (Pirnia, 1982 and Poorrezam 2006).

Snkhryb’s kingdom (681-704 BC.)

After “Sargon II,” “Snkhryb” sat on the throne of Assyria. The struggle between Elam and Assyria ended in favor to the country during the “Snkhryb” (681-705), king of Assyria. He began battles in the northern border then to develop his empire. The king of Elam “HlvshHalludush” took advantage of Assyria’s situation in the north and captured the king of Babylon through raid to “AKAD” land. This event has used by the king of Assyria; he entered in the Susa valley through South of Elam (the Persian Gulf) and destroyed 34 castles and towers. It is unknown how the internal rebellion, deposed “Hlvsh” and “KvtrNhvnth” was his successor. Hereinafter as before, Babylon was the reason of the ongoing wars in two countries. When “Murdock Apleldin” re-claims the throne of Babylon, in the year 703 BC., again in his support, “ShvtrvkNhvnth” was sent the army to Babylon. The new king of Assyria, “Snkhryb” (681-704 BC), reacted promptly, shattered army of Babyonia and Elam and supports a new king to sit on the throne. After that, “Snkhryb” invaded the Kish and Kutha cities in 702 BC, and almost overwhelmed Babylon (Smith, 1921). In the year 694 BC “Snkhryb’, began new attacks. “Phoenician” Ship-builders must be brought to the Euphrates and Tigris for his fleet. Because the Elamite had the control of “Lower” parts of the Tigris, boats must be crossed only half of Persian Gulf. After reaching the “Arachtu” channels, moving towards the Euphrates was resumed. After five days of fleet pause due to unfavorable winds and large waves, they reached Elam and joined to the “Snkhryb” army through Persian Gulf. In addition to relentless persistence of Elamite, coastal cities one after another fell to the Assyrians. At that time, the king “Mrvdakhblladanan” died (Hints, 2008). The Babylonian refugees “Nagytv” city, had conquered by Assyrian, too (Mirsaiidi, 1996). The second “HvbnAynmnh” outfitted the huge army of Parsumash (Nine state of west Lake Rezaieh, the regions that called Parsamash by ShmshyAdad the fifth and is in the possession of the Achaemenid Persians probably), “Alypy” (North Lorestan) and Arami tribes who lived around the eastern side of the Tigris in the Persian Gulf to support the king of Babylon MushezibMarduk and attacked to Assyrians. “Snkhryb” understands the risk of that huge army and sit on the region, “Hallule” near the Tigris River in northern Mesopotamia troops and expected to army. Bitter war broke out between the armies of Assyria and Elam (Luckenbil, 1924). “Snkhryb” is alleged to have won this battle but in the chronicles of Babylonian it is mentioned that “HvbnAynmay” defeated Assyrians. In fact, the battle did not result in any definitive way;
“Snkhryb” managed to destroy the unity of Elam and Babylonia but “MardukMvshzyb” still remains the king of Babylon (Mirsaiidi, 1995). Esarhaddon is the name of one of the kings of new Assyria era and he was the son of “Snkhryb”. During his reign (681-669 BC.) expedition replaced by imposition of treaties in order to ensure the survival of the peaceful reign and lineage, only to win the support material (small kingdoms in Zagros) held as a tribute to Assyria will suffice. Lorestan the land that was independent of the state governments of Western countries was considered as a part of western MAD country. According to the documents of Elam, after “HvbnHltsh First” die in Susa, his successor, “HvlvshvAynshvshynk second”, the son of “HvbnAymnh “who defeated the troops of “Snkhryb, came to the throne (Negahban, 2011). Asrhdvn’sset backedin his first invasion to Egypt, greed “HvbnHltsh” to take advantage of this proper position. Thus, using Elam’s army through the city of "bit Aymb y" seized the “Sypar” which was about 25 miles from Babylon. Assyrian garrison stationed there, was not able to cope with Elam then Elamites had plundered the town and attempted murder. Shortly after the attack, he died in his palace without catching any disease (Majidzadeh, 2006). Asrhdvn greatest victory was when after "HvbnHltsh" Second death; on a plot that is likely to Asrhdvn plan his brother Urtaki heir to the throne. He reigned between the years 663-675 BC (Negahban, 2011).

PaalAshvrbny kingdom (627-668 BC)

In the eighth and seventh centuries, a bitter war occurred between the kings of Assyria and Elam and finally, Elam was conquered by "AshvrbnyPaal" in the year 645 (Kardan et al, 1999). "AshvrbnyPaal " founded the first modern libraries in the Middle East.Apparently, peaceful relations between Elam and Assyria, continued until the first half of his kingdom (Waterz, 2012). Apparently, during “AshvrbnyPaal” expedition to Egypt and Abyssinia, in alliance with "TmptyHvbnAynshvshynk" Around the year 665 BC, “Avrta ky” decided to invade Mesopotamia. At that time, “AshvrbnyPaal” attempted to eliminate "Avrta ky" attack. After the conquest of Elam by AshvrbnyPaal, the land was divided into two parts: one part that included the Susa, was forgave to the eldest son of three boys “Avrta ky” known as the “HumbanNigash” who had defected to Nineveh in 663 BC, and the other part that included one of the important city of Elam called “Hydalv” (Behbahani), to the other boys called him Tammaritu (Amieh, 2010). In this king’s era the Elam became extinct by the Assyrians. There are differences about the time of Elam extinction, some resources mentioned 645 BC. and others mentioned 636 BC.

Finally Elam was divided into two parts, the northern part called "Anzan" felled to the Persians (Afsharsistani, 1993). Susa and other areas of the southern part felled to the Assyrians (Amieh, 2010).Death of "AshvrbnyPaal" in 629 BC, led to waned Assyrian power quickly, but the situation did not change much about Elam. Medians were placed in the region that called nowadays Kurdistan (Gvtym old),(Hynts, 2008).

CONCLUSIONS

The main cause of the confrontation between Elam and Assyria has been the proximity of the two countries and Assyrian efforts for expansion of the East. Actually, in Mesopotamia Babylonia in south and the Assyrians in north, were against each other for domination and conquest of Mesopotamia. Finally, Babylonians were subdued by Assyrians. Assyria and Elam became Neighbors. Until Elam was totally collapsed, continuous contact between the two countries is seen sometimes at peace and sometimes conflict with each other (Amieh, 2010). Due to the special geographic position included of the quarries, forested mountains and fertile plains, the land of Elam has enjoyed unparalleled economic diversification. For this reason, the country has been attacked by Sumer, Akkad, Babylonia and Assyria from the West (Guardian, 2011). Civil wars and dynastic strife and struggle occurred at the Late of Elamite rule, and their effort to support Babylon from the Assyria was causing resentment of Assyria. There is a little information about relations between Elam and Assyria, from the death of "Avrta ky" till campaign of “AshvrbnyPaal” against "Tyvmn" and a ten-year hiatus in our knowledge of Elamite history remains unclear. Tyvmnset persistent messages to extradite his nephew, sons of HvbnHltsh second and Avrta kyand provoked a war "AshvrbnyPaal" (Waters, 2012). “AshvrbnyPaal” did not deliver Refugees (Waters, 2012). Various sources suggest that at this time, Elam was turned into an Assyrian province. "AshvrbnyPaal" has claimed that the Assyria’s god and goddesses shine, forced Elam to Succumb.

In summary, civil wars and dynastic strife and struggle occurred at the Late of Elamite rule, and their effort to support Babylon from the Assyria was causing resentment of Assyria. The main cause of the confrontation between Elam and Assyria has been the proximity of the two countries and Assyrian efforts for expansion of the East. Therefore, the main hypothesis of this research has been proved.
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Elam enters the historical record via Sumerian historical texts in c. 2700 BCE which give an account of the first war in recorded history. The Sumerian king Enemebaragesi of Kish defeated the Elamites in battle and brought back rich spoils of war to Sumer. The political structure, attested to in the Middle Elamite Period, began during this era in which kings were legitimized by the gods and would raise monuments and temple complexes to them in return for military strength, a prosperous reign, and the continued health of the royal family. It was long thought that the king's nephew was his successor owing to inscriptions regarding the sister of the king but it is now understood that this referred to the practice of the king impregnating his sister in order to keep the bloodline pure.

The History of Israel-Palestine Conflict. Jews have been persecuted throughout history due to their religious beliefs and foreign culture. In 1897, Jews started a movement called a Zionist movement, to escape persecution and establish their own state in their ancestral homeland, Israel. The World Zionist Organisation was created to advocate for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. As a result, a large number of Jews started flowing into Palestine and they bought land and started settling down there. By 1916, Palestine came under British control after the Sykes-Picot Agreement. Civilization of Elam geographically includes southwest of Iran. This civilization, attempt is made to study political, military and cultural relations among different governments of Elam and Assyria, which had sometimes hostile relations and sometimes friendly relations in different stages of history of these two countries. Based on results of this research which is comparative and analytical, main reason for confrontation between Elam and Assyria is immediate adjacency of these two lands and effort of Assyria to expand toward the east.