

Thesis Title: The role of religious minorities such as Jewish and Zoroastrians in Islamic Revolution

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Abstract

The aim of this research work is to examine the role of religious minorities including the Jews and the Zoroastrians in Iran's Islamic revolution. Then I will examine the causes of the concordant of those minorities with the revolutionaries in the months leading to the revolution.

The main question of the writing is what role did religious minorities including the Jews and the Zoroastrians played within the trend of Iran's Islamic revolution.

Considering that this research work in the first instance makes an effort to offer a suitable description of the trend of the participation and seeks to explain the role that the minorities including the Jews and the Zoroastrians played in the Islamic revolution thus due to that I have not put forward a hypothesis. The method for gathering data is a library one and it has to do with my conducting interviews.

In the interviews some questions in an open form are put forward and the person who is interviewed answers them. Also the method concerning examination of the data is a descriptive one.

The most major findings of this research work is that Jewish and Zoroastrian religious minorities did not play a role in launching the revolution. In the last phases of the people's fighting they joined the revolutionaries.

The concordant of these minority groups was participation in the 1357 Arbae'en and Tasua-Ashura protests, publication of some declarations supporting the revolutionary rule expression of hatred of the Pahlavi regime, establishment of revolutionary organs such as the coordination committee of Zoroastrians and the Jewish intellectual society. One of the main causes of the interdependence of religious minorities and the revolutionaries was protection of their existence. In each period in order to protect their little population they cooperate with the ruling orders. It should be mentioned that among the minorities there were intellectuals who opposed the despotic rule of the Shah and wanted a rule that had a just leaning. The concordant of these groups of minorities with the revolutionaries had much influence in the joining hands of those who believed in the same religion.

Key words: *History of revolution, despotic rule of the Shah, minorities, History of revolution*