

Iranian Foreign Trade and the Agricultural Commodity Exports in the Nineteenth Century

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During the three quarters of the last century, Iranian foreign trade, most of which was with industrialized Europe, especially England and Russia, expanded at unprecedented rate. This change progressed through the great watersheds of the Industrial Revolution, and some branch of handcrafts-based manufacturing activity began to decline due to competition from industrial imports. Patterns of production in the Iranian economy began to shift towards agricultural commodity production for world markets.

My task will be to investigate the relations between the expansion of export-oriented agriculture and the patterns of land-ownership, tendency and their evolution in the nineteenth century. This study particularly deals with the former process, and in the next paper, I will discuss some critical features of Iranian agricultural society.