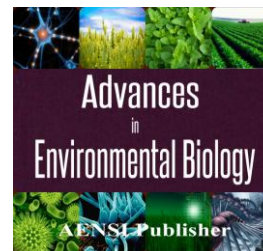




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Establishment of Quarantines in Persian Gulf Ports Based On Hablolmatin Newspaper

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ABSTRACT

The date of Iran boundaries' quarantine began from the Qajar era. At that time, quarantine of Persian Gulf ports was gradually dominated by the British government. With the advent of Pahlavi dynasty and Reza Shah's policies, who demanded the establishment of an effective central government and more control over the country's borders, the issue of Iran's monitoring on the southern ports' quarantines led to confrontation between Iran and Britain, which until that time was in charge of managing this organizations. These conflicts, which obeyed general policies of Iran's government based on consolidating its position in the Persian Gulf and its ports, eventually led to the independence of quarantine establishment in Persian Gulf ports. One of the oldest publications is Hablolmatin published by Calcutta (1311-1353 A.H) that contains very valuable information about social, economy, and culture life of various regions of Iran in the period of fourteen centuries A.H. It is worth noting that common approach in this newspaper was a critical approach to social issues of Iran's society in that days, and specially some of the wrong policies imposed in managing Iran's ports and coastal areas have been studied in this newspaper. Emphasizing on Hablolmatin newspaper, this paper investigates establishing quarantines in the shores of Persian Gulf.

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INTRODUCTION

Reza Shah came to power in November 1925. In his ambitious plans, Reza Shah called for restoring Iran's power and governance in Persian Gulf and its ports and islands. This Pahlavi's policy led to confrontation between Britain and Iran in some cases, such as Iran's property rights on Bahrain and the triple islands of Great Tunb, Small Tunb, and Abu Musa and quarantines of Bushehr, Khoramshahr, Jask, and Lengeh ports that was dominated by British. At the same time, Teymourash was appointed as court minister and responsible for negotiating with the British government about Iran's rights in Persian Gulf. Solving the problem of quarantine stations in the South ports and islands, which were established under the rule of British from 1896 A.D and British government urged to continue its domination over them, was one of the cases that were discussed. Teymourash and Dr. Hossein Khan Bahrami -head of the country's medical office- in negotiations that lasted more than one year insisted on Iran's claim, despite British pressure.

Factors such as nonpayment of the financial costs of quarantine, which Iran was responsible for it according to the parties' agreement at the time of establishing these stations, the claim of Iran's national sovereignty violation by British and the appointment of a Persian physicians as quarantine chief officer instead of British doctor were pressure levers that Iran benefited from them for promoting its purpose in this context. Also at this time, Iran claimed that -contrary to the UK's imagine- was worthy of managing quarantines centers. Quarantine system was applied for the first time in 1374 A.D in Venice and about the ships that were suspected of being infected with plague. Because of its influence, this action that prevent entering ships to the ports for 40 days became also prevalent in other parts. After that, quarantine laws were legislated, and punishments was identified for violation. The first quarantine station was established in the port of Marseille, France in 1383 AD. Being discovered the reason and transmission mode of many important contagious diseases, quarantine in the second half of the nineteenth century found a scientific basis. After the discovery of diseases diagnosis and prevention ways, regulations and laws related to the quarantine were changed, and instead of preventing the entry of ships and passengers, some actions such as reforming the ships' health status were done. In Iran before

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1852 AD (1268 AH) quarantine was locally, but in this year due to appearance of cholera in Iraq, Amir Kabir issued the order of quarantining the western border of Iran. In 1869 AD (1285 AH) Persian Gulf, India and Iraq were at risk of cholera that Iran was its origin. Under British government's pressure, sanitation parliament headed by Dr. Toulouse with establishing quarantine tried to improve the conditions, but due to financial problems this activity did not result in a significant consequence [4]. Once again, with the spread of plague in Iran, Persian Gulf and Iraq in 1877 AD (1293 AH), British government officials concluded that:

"In terms of quarantine in Persian Gulf, it seems unlikely that any action is predicted or performed by Iranian government in this context, any action in this regard should be done from the beginning. In addition, before implementing any suggestion, it is necessary to attract Great Britain cooperation, because Iran's government does not have any necessary armed forces for timely legislating quarantine regulations. In practice, the responsibility of helping Iran to protect its borders against plague in Persian Gulf region should be given to Britain." [4].

According to the role of Persian Gulf in international trade and the importance of this region's health, ambassador of Austria – Hungary Empire in a letter written in June 27, 1877 AD (1297 AH) expressing the issue that Iran's government is not able to maintain Persian Gulf region and also to prevent contagious diseases, suggested that an international council under foreign regimes' rules should monitor the southern ports quarantine and its header should be an Iranian. British government welcomed this proposal and asked the opinion of Iranian government. After reviewing this issue, Iranian government declared that agrees with all parts of it, except financial parts. This suggestion was inconclusive due to financial disputes, and the issue of Persian Gulf ports quarantine was remained suspended for twenty years [4].

In 1313 AH, on the occasion of the prevalence of plague in Bombay, the council cooperated with the Iranian government in implementing health regulations. This council, which at that time its Secretary General was Schneider, and its members were Dr. Toulouse, Dr. Adcock (British), Dr. Mould (German), and a number of Iranian doctors, gave some suggestions to Mozaffar ad-Din Shah about border areas and Persian Gulf quarantine that were more exposed by infection. In 1314 AH the most important decision made by the council was legislation of internal regulations of quarantines. Again, the Health Council of Iranian government, headed by Dr. Schneider, began its work in 1322 AH and with the participation of all French officers of Tehran and other cities' Health. But, in 1324 AH the Health council could eradicate the terrifying plague, which started in the form of Pneumonia and by that time massacred many villagers [2].

In fact, establishment of quarantine in Persian Gulf ports is due to the prevalence of plague in India; and since Bandar Abbas is the first Port of India, ships should first enter Bandar Abbas then Bushehr and Lengeh port. Therefore, it is necessary to establish quarantine in this ports. According to Hablolmatin's reports on the establishment of quarantine in Persian Gulf: "quarantine of ports are very imperfect, and officials' attention to this service is very low, unfair officers pass people from the quarantine by one Qur'an and two Qur'an. At this time, if one person come from Bombay and dies after three days and he/she is one of the persons who has escaped from quarantine and that passenger is infected with plague, it will be necessary that ports governors apply honest and worthy persons for this duty. In Iran, especially Persian ports is not provided plague blockage conditions, and if, God forbid, this disease arrives in Iran, all people will be infected (Hablolmatin, 6th number, 1897, 68). Quarantine is not regular, and also Safaei that is a supplier of health against this evil disease, is eliminated in Persian ports (Hablolmatin, 8th number, 1936, 87). But according to the latest news reached based on the sentence of Persian's superordinate approved by Mr. Behjat al-Molk state's vice, there is a great emphasis on ports quarantine, and also the new officers have a perfect attention in this issue. The ships, called Patna transported Hebrew traders properties from Karachi, one of their passengers infected with plague and died, they could not be authorized to transfer and disembark their passengers in Bandar Abbas and Lengeh port (Hablolmatin, 24th number, 1996, 286).

If complete defense device existed in the borders and if we had quarantine and disinfect instruments and accessories in accordance with today's principles, we could prevented the spread of disease, and casualties, came into Bushehr and Hormozgan and Kerman, would not occurred, and the country would not tolerated such damages. It can be said that Iran due to its proximity to India, which is the main source and the real center of two serious and dangerous, that is cholera and plague, is always in danger and periodically every few years has been attacked by cholera and plague, and has tolerated heavy losses [2]. Dr. Colopel, senior surgeon of the British representative delegation In Baghdad was the first person who presented the necessity of establishing a quarantine center at Persian Gulf entrance to protect India. A year after that for the fourth time, plague appeared more severe, and health officers of Iran began their work. A special committee was immediately formed for this purpose that a number of Iranian physicians cooperated with them; the Indian government immediately dispatched a representative to investigate the best possible way to the Indian government's contribution in fighting against the disease spread.

In July 1899, one of the hardest plague epidemics occurred in Persian Gulf that the villagers and clericals disagreement with that issue was apparent. Cholera was a disease that they knew and they were afraid of it. Plague was a kind of death that they were not very familiar with it. They blame the British for all discomforts,

which were caused by health regulations. Despite local oppositions and central officers' calmness, the British quarantine officers continued their duty. Iran health council was the only organization that helped in this field. According to the council's recommendation, a disinfectant device were ordered by local authorities of Bushehr [4].

One of the other action performed to control and limit cholera and plague in Persian Gulf region was that Dr. Toulouse, named Shaykh al-Atteba, established Sanitation Parliament, then Quarantine Organization was founded to prevent the entry of plague and cholera from the borders that one of the other duties of this parliament was examining the accuracy of physicians' test. It is said in *Almaser al-Asar*: Since the issue of illiterate physicians and their homicide was found too much, imperial's sentence was issued to build a big parliament and to test the physician's knowledge and experience, anywhere [6].

In fact, it can be perceived from Hablolmatin's reports about ports quarantine that the ports quarantine performance was initially irregular and incomplete, which was due to the quarantine officers' ignorance in this regard and they passed people from quarantine regions by receiving small amount of money and this issue resulted in higher incidence of disease. But the new state's vice appointed new officers in this service who had greater accuracy in quarantine, and establishment of appropriate quarantines was essential first in Bandar Abbas and next in Bushehr. Because India was suffering from plague, and Bandar Abbas was one of the first ports of India, and cargoes and goods were imported to Bushehr and Lengeh, after Bandar Abbas.

Now we examine the quarantine in Bushehr port:

A) *Establishing quarantine in Bushehr:*

In summary, it can be said that the importance of Bushehr begun during Qajar dynasty, next the peak of the development of this port was during 1319-1320 AH. Shif is an island in the western of Bushehr. Previously, Shif was a valid island, and Bushehr's quarantine was placed in this island. In all reports of this set, people's leaving and entering Bushehr port were through Shif. Thus, it seems that all travelers who come into Bushehr or want to leave it should stop in Shif, and then enter the ports through the smaller ships, vice versa (Nezam Mafi, 2005, 18th number).

According to Hablolmatin: "based on the English news written by the king, emphasized sentences about Bushehr port's quarantine are issued, due to the illness in Bombay" (Hablolmatin, 7th number, 84th year, 1934). Then a telegraph was received that Balyuzgary and quarantine's British physician should be informed about it, and if everyone become sick in the city, he/she must be taken to the region. The townspeople disagreed, and on Tuesday, the sixteenth of Rabi al-Awwal united and closed shops and flocked and pulled scholars from their homes, then bustled in a mosque, sent a telegraph to Tehran and said "we don't allow to continue the quarantines. If there is any illness, we ourselves help. Traders also sent a telegraph, people closed shops and waited for an answer from Tehran, Mr. Daryabeigy and the others went and asked them to go and open their shops but they didn't accept.

In the case of quarantine and peoples' quarrel, Mr. Daryabeigy call some managers and officers of government departments. They went and after abundant speeches they agreed to give a signed letter to Mr. Daryabeigy and commit to stop the quarantine. The scholars accepted and wrote and signed a letter, but some of the fighters took the letter and tore it up, and said that the sentence should be issued from Tehran; so, the meeting was disrupted and the fighters attack to Iran Telegraph and said that "we want an answer from Tehran". Daryabeigy prepared all gunners and soldiers and sent them to the alleys to announce that "if the shops and markets continue to be closed more than one hour, their owners will be reprimanded supreme court. Therefore, the fighters escaped, Daryabeigy asked scholars not to accompany people and tell people to go and engage in their businesses. So, people were quiet from Friday (Hablolmatin, 39th number, 1938, 460,).

It is founded in other sources that "in this weekend, two British doctors entered Bushehr from Bombay to study and discover the issue of plague. In terms of quarantine and cleaning the city, a telegraphic sentence has been issued from Tehran. Daryabeigy that has gone to Lengeh, will enter Bushehr in the first decade of Rabi al-Awwal. It is hoped that after his arrival, correct activities will be done in quarantines order and cleaning the country. Announcement of this news that illness has spread around the city of Bushehr, people are panicking. But in there is not this illness in Bushehr, and Mr. Daryabeigy attempts to completely manage the quarantine, and also to clean the country. In fact, cleanliness has an important role in this issue. It is said in *Soraya* newspaper that: "Thankfully, so far no news is heard and no sign is seen about this illness in Bushehr port and its surrounding, and perfect accurate is allocated to quarantine, and seriously prevent people from entering and exiting. In March 1906 a mild form of smallpox became prevalent. In addition to this case and quarantine of two suspected cases of plague in Perspolis, which has come from Bombay in May 1323 AH, there was not any case to talk about. So generally the public health has been favorable. As before, resident representative physician is charged with the responsibility of administrating the quarantines. And in this respect no happening has been occurred and there is no disagreement between local officers. Representatives of foreign countries are increasingly jealous about managing the quarantine by British, and use all opportunities to criticize our regime [3].

Therefore, if the government want to protect Persian Gulf borders against epidemic diseases in India, it is necessary to immediately deploy qualified physicians with adequate salary as chairman of Persian Gulf quarantines; otherwise, if cholera or plague appears in India, Iran's ports will be infected and this infection will spread in the country. The chief of southern ports quarantines –who placed his internal headquarter in Shiraz, and he wasn't able to perform his duty from there- will be deployed again in a few days later in Bushehr, because Bushehr port is more suitable than the other regions as the residence center of the head of Persian Gulf quarantines [2].

On Monday, the twelfth of Muharram, a ship carrying two hundred and thirty pilgrims entered, those pilgrims were quarantined for 24 hours, and then on Tuesday the thirteenth of Muharram the pilgrims were liberated approximately 1000 meters away from the city and two rupees as quarantine right were taken from each of them, except those how were plundered and wretched (Hablolmatin, 31th number, 1938, 364). The quarantine of Bushehr was extremely serious and strong, it means that rich and poor were all alike, however it was not previously like this. After Mr. Daryabeigy's arrival, poor people have not been oppressed by quarantine officers (Hablolmatin, 13th number, 7th year, 148). So, the disease was eradicated, and entering some of fruits were authorized (Hablolmatin, 8th number, 12th year, 1943, 16). By reviewing the references we find that from the viewpoint of Hablolmatin establishing the quarantine in Bushehr was a necessary and indispensable issue. Because of the existence of plague in India, quarantine was established by a British physician, and this subject first stimulated the citizens and scholar and businessmen's resistance and strike, because they didn't want to give their honors to the neighbor physician; so, this crisis ended by Daryabeigy's tact, then maintain most of the pilgrims in quarantine for 24 hours, and the function of Bushehr quarantine was stable and accurate, and all people had to equally pay for the quarantine. Therefore due to establishment of quarantine and also due to having discipline to advance its targets, the illness was eradicated in Bushehr and the quarantine was stopped.

In the other sources, it is said that Mr. Daryabeigy had complete accuracy about quarantine and Bushehr's cleanliness. In some cases that suspected people came from Bombay, they were quarantined. Britain was responsible to this quarantine, and Bushehr was considered as the central of residence for the header of Persian Gulf quarantines.

B) Establishing Quarantine in Bandar Abbas:

Bandar Abbas quarantine is poor, but it has rest and relaxing accessories for the first and second class passengers. Some parts of the quarantine center of third class passengers should be repaired. Also, a separate part that, which belongs to patients with contagious diseases and suspected passengers, needs repairs [2]. According to the news in Hablolmatine: "Navab and Al-Heydar enter Bandar Abbas to regulate the quarantine and also to prevent infecting plague, because the quarantine of Persian Gulf ports is due to plague in Bombay, and Bandar Abbas is the first port of Indian ports, it means the first ships go to Bandar Abbas and then Lengeh and Bushehr ports. Therefore, regulating the quarantine in Bandar Abbas is predictable than the other ports, and according to Shahriary's order there is a doctor in Bandar Abbas. Navab and Al-Heydar, and mentioned doctor attend in Bandar Abbas (Hablolmatine, 18th number, 1934, 214).

According to the quarantine orders issued by the government, Mr. Mirza Nasrollah Khan, who is Abbasid dynasty's vice, is careful about the quarantine. The quarantine period will be 24 hours if no illness is not seen; otherwise, the next 24-hour-period will be added (Hablolmatine, 12th number, 1934, 140). Mr. Mohammad Hassan Khan, the government's vice- Motamed Al-Soltan, who is one of the wise and politic persons, is very worried about the quarantine. Because this function was previously regular, but now it isn't. If the quarantine can be transferred from Bandar Abbas to Larak Island, this action will be praised (Hablolmatine, 10th number, 1936, page 112). The news related to Bandar Abbas's quarantine can be seen in the other references as following: the names of quarantine doctors who have come in Abbasi from 1935 to 1952 consist of: Patrick became the officer of Lengeh, Mohammad Azim-Khan came to Abbasi two times, Fredrik Smith in 1911 came to Abbasi from Lengeh [7]. The government and its physicians considered three places of Abbasi and Minab as quarantine, in which passengers were hold. But fortunately in Abbasi no one has been stocked [5].

In fact, after reviewing the news in Hablolmatine about Bandar Abbas's quarantine we can understand that a quarantine was established in Bandar Abbas to prevent infecting Bombay's plague to this region, this quarantine was placed in approximately 6 kilometers away from Bandar Abbas, and a number of physicians attended in Badar Abbas. The quarantine's period was 24 hours. Then this quarantine has been transferred from Bandar Abbas to Larak Island.

C) Establishing Quarantine in Kerman:

It was said about the quarantine in Kerman: "and after the news of spreading evil disease in Iran had been heard, a quarantine was established in Kerman, and every day some special wise officers was sent to quarantine office to receive accurate information about this issue, in case irregularities occur in their work, for example via bribery, and they protected Kerman and its residents against this disease very serious. It is believed that Kerman will be protected against this illness (Hablolmatine, 14th number, 1943).

The description of cholera in Kerman was as following: On Wednesday, the third of Zi-Gha'de a telegram was sent from Mashhad's consul to the British doctor who was living in Kerman. According to the letter, cholera was appearing in Mashhad from three days ago, and half of the patients were died. Because the passengers between Kerman and Khorasan are much, and every day a large number of passengers or traders are passing from this line, so if a disease appeared in Mashhad, it will be appeared in Kerman after a few days [2]. After some people had been infected with cholera in Kerman, the elders planned to scape. In summary, this commotion scared people, and it was possible to occur a difficult revolution. In such a terrific condition, Mr. Shahab al-Mamalek, the state's vice, immediately called the heads of guilds, and ordered them to open shops, and then quarantines established according to the British doctor were eliminated, and Mirza Ahmad-Khan purchased a large amount of lime, and poured in some places. Also the other actions were done to maintain health (Forughi, 343th number, 1943, 1322). Therefore, the department of maintaining health formed a state to immediately prevent cholera with the help of physicians [2]. It is hoped that God will protect Iranian people from this disease. The other arrangements for maintaining health such as cleaning of town and streets, removing dirties, and so on were provided (Hablomatine, 13th number, 12th year, 1943, page 4). In fact, by investigating references about Kerman's quarantine, it can be perceived that the reason of quarantine in Kerman was cholera appearance in most of the city of Iran, and the officers of Kerman's quarantine did their duties with complete accuracy and discipline, and a number of skilled physician were also present. To prevent spreading this disease, drugs were prepared, and the other actions were done such as cleanliness and neatness of the city and streets, and elimination of dirt pollutions and also contaminated water. According to the other references, due to an outbreak of cholera in Mashhad and high traveling and trading between Mashhad and Kerman several persons have been infected with cholera in Kerman. So the state vice in Kerman planned some actions to maintain the health, such as lime pouring in some areas. And also the department of maintaining health established a quarantine in Darband, which is the first part of Kerman territory, and several physicians were selected to protect the quarantine.

From the above discussions about the quarantine in Kerman, it can be concluded that Bushehr port was more appropriate than elsewhere, as the center of residence of quarantines of Persian Gulf, and establishing some places for quarantining Bushehr's people and the existence of a British physician led to residents protest, because they didn't want to give their honors to the neighbor physician, and this complain led to the closure of markets and shops, and scholars collaborated with the people. But based on the recommendation of the Health Council of Iran, a disinfectant device was ordered by local officials in Bushehr. In most cases, the pilgrims had to pay quarantine right, except some persons who were poor. In fact, the quarantine of ports in Persian Gulf was due to plague in Bombay, and Bandar Abbas is the first port of India for entering shops, after it Bushehr, Lengeh, and Kerman. But because of establishing quarantine and performing the preparations for cleaning cities, passages, and bathing waters cholera and the plague were eradicated and the quarantines were stopped.

Conclusion:

Introducing the issue of quarantine during sensitive area of the early years of Reza-Shah reign can't be known only as an attempt to strengthen Iran's health infrastructures. The issue of quarantine in this years was mixed more than anything with political issues between Iran and Britain that each of them wanted to consolidate its position in Persian Gulf. Political and economic credibility, which were resulted from the quarantines administration for British government in Persian Gulf, encouraged the British government to maintain it. Iran also wanted to consolidate its sovereignty over a part of its territory, and the quarantine office of important ports in Persian Gulf could make it possible for Iran. Confrontation of these policies eventually led to Iran's dominance over the South quarantines. Iran's success in this area can be divided into two categories, including internal and international factors: in terms of internal factors in Iran after a period of turbulence, a strong central government with strong nationalistic tendencies was formed. Establishment of this government and its tendency to centralization converted South quarantine issue to an important issue for Iranian government, through which they wanted more dominance over the South ports and dispossess Britain from this vital canal of Iran. In terms of international factors, the world was approaching to the end of the colonial era and the signs of economic recession in some countries such as Britain became apparent, and also quarantine centers financing, which at that time could not add a heavy financial burden on the government of the UK, made the presence of this government in this region more difficult. Also international laws, such as laws that allow countries to monitor departure and arrival of foreign ships to their ports and water, helped Iran to prove its right in international communities. Thus, using this conditions in the summer of 1928 after a long struggle, Iran could undertake administration of the Southern ports quarantine, and Bushehr hospital.

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