

Hormuz Island and the Portuguese (with a Brief Description of Ibn Majid)

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Abstract

This paper initially deals with the process of the transfer of the name of “Hormuz” from a harbor town near the present Minab to Jarun Island in the first year of the 8th century (AH) and, then, presents some of the descriptions of Hormuz Island provided by world travelers before 909 AH/1503 AD or four years before the invasion of the Persian Gulf by the Portuguese. Next, it provides an account of the conquest of Persian Gulf ports by Afonso de Albuquerque, the Portuguese Admiral, in 913 AH/1507 AD and the reactions of the residents of these ports to this event. The writer then continues with the defeat of the Portuguese and their being expelled from the region in 1031 AH/1622 AD. The Appendix presents a brief description of Ahmad Ibn Majid and his role in the Portuguese penetration of the Persian Gulf.

Key Terms

Persian Gulf, Hormuz, Vasco da Gama, Afonso de Albuquerque, Shah Abbas Safavid, Imam Quli Mirza, Ahmad Ibn Majid

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