

The aim of this paper is a thorough historical study of the 19th century superpower struggle between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Russian empire for Iran (Persia), Afghanistan, Inner Asia and Tibet, popularly known as the Great Game. The study is based on the chronologically arranged description of the Great Game's key events, nevertheless, these are examined also in a broader frame of the 19th century's international political and diplomatic developments as well as in the context of the internal changes within Persia and her neighbours in the period studied. The main centre of its attention will be Persia, the most important and most interesting subject of the Anglo-Russian rivalry in Asia. As far as other regions are concerned, we will particularly examine the case of Britain's engagement in Afghanistan and Russia's conquest of Central Asia, both with their impacts on the general Great Game's political issues.

The opening chapter deals in rich details with the historical and geopolitical presumptions of the Anglo-Russian struggle till the end of the 18th century. In its first part we will examine the events in Persia herself. After more than five decades of anarchy, plundering and internal civil strife the young and ambitious Turkoman dynasty of the Qajars had established herself as a leading political and military force,