

The Political and Military Elites in the Emirate of Granada (Ph.D. thesis)

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Abstract

The Ph.D. thesis deals with the political elites in Granada and analyzes them as a social group within its own dynamics. It is focused on their influence on political decision-making process, which is expressed by the influence of elite on reigning Naṣrid dynasty. It examines the elite denomination in contemporary Arabic written sources, their links and delimitations. These were mainly common economic and power interests. On the basis of the ḡāh pyramid it focuses on each aspect: Sovereign as a source of legitimacy of political power, the vizier as a major counterpart to the ruler, the inner circle of emir in which was concentrated the remaining part of the political elite, and also the Naṣrid women. Vizier, as the most significant part of this group, was eventually transformed to the role of regent and ruler's public representative. From the early 14th century with his power he began to tie the sovereign's power itself and he took over it almost permanently in the 15th century. The emphasis within the social elite group is based on the interactions between the respective members and their impact on the politics of the Naṣrid Emirate. In this relationship the ruler's elite figured as the indispensable part, whereas the emir was easily replaceable, because any ruler could guarantee to the elite its status.

Key words: Granada, institutions, political power, elites, wazir.