Intl. J. Humanities (2016) Vol. 23 (3): (77-96)

A Study of Historical, Geopolitical and Geostrategic Specifications of Pouläd Castle of Tapuria (Tabaristän) in the Middle Islamic Ages

Mohammad Hasan Zaal[1], Seyed Mehdi Mousavi Kouhpar*[2], Javad Neyestani [3], Alireza Hejabri Nobari [4]

Received: 2015/10/10 Accepted: 2016/8/10

Abstract

The history of Tabaristän, from the late Sassanid era through the middle Islamic age, underwent significant social and political changes the result of which were independence seeking movements leading to some semi-independent local governments. Each of these governments claimed political and social governance over a particular region. Castles, as important and influential military bases, were means at the disposal of the commanders and governors to maintain their sociopolitical power. Among the known castles in the mountains of Mazandaran province, Pouläd Castle in Nour, the capital of Nour County, is one of the symbols of territorial defense. It is located on a tall mount off the city of Baladeh in Nour County. Being built on an elevated location and overlooking the important surrounding regions and strategic ways has made Pouläd Castle one of the important centers in the sociopolitical changes. The present study follows a field work method as well as a library research method to investigate the defense structure of Pouläd castle and its geopolitical and geostrategic role in the power distribution pattern over the region of Rouyän in Tabaristän during the Islamic middle ages. The results show that the builders had tried their best to enhance the stability of the castle by building several layers of walls, utilizing the slope of the mountain, building several defense towers, and using rocky and impervious points as natural forts. Architectural analysis shows that Pouläd Castle, with both its military and political functions, has had a prominent role in the political changes of western Tabaristän.

Keywords: Pouläd Castle; Defense Structure; Political Geography; Territorial Governance.

1. Assistant Professor. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Mazandaran.
2. Associate Professor. Department of Archaeology, Tarbiat Modares University. m_mousavi@modares.ac.ir
3. Associate Professor. Department of Archaeology, Tarbiat Modares University
4. Professor. Department of Archaeology, Tarbiat Modares University

[Downloaded from eijh.modares.ac.ir on 2024-03-28]

[DOR: 20.1001.1.25382640.2016.23.3.4.6]

1. Introduction

Castles have been very important to play their roles as a refuge for opponents, people, governors and mullahs in various political developments like the rise and the downfall of governments, internal crisis and onslaught of alien races. Further, the impact of these castles on social and economic developments is undeniable (Khalatbari, 1382: 7). In other words, castles –as symbols of martial and political authority- are closely linked to power bases and power support on the one hand and to social and historical contexts on the other. There is a great necessity to study this case in both political and social contexts according to the role and the strategic importance of these fortresses in the governance system.

Turbulent political atmosphere of Tabaristän state in the late Sassanid era and the early years of Islam and also the natural geography of the area including mountains, woodlands and plains, have caused many disputes between various groups. Establishment of semi-independent local governments like Ispahbodän-e-Tabaristän, Samanids, Ziärids, Alavids, as well as Arab raids expanded the bases of fortresses forming in Tabaristän political borders (Hakimiän, 1368: 1-6). Thus, we can see many castles, forts and chateaus in this region specially highlands. These castles have been located from the eastern borders of Tabaristän in Tamisheh to the westernmost spots in Chälous and Deylamän. Highland castles are the most obvious humanitarian efforts to defend, supervision and protection among the Iranian fortresses (Päzouki, 1376: 101). Natural conditions of the site and existing materials left palpable effects on highland castles structure thus there are some special features in them: building castles on single mountains up to its natural condition, use of mortar, plaster and unformed stones as materials, building forts for defense, being protected and indomitable in long time surrounds (Sotoudeh, 1345: 14; Päzouki, 1376: 161 & 225).

Furthermore, there is a direct connection between complexity, strength scale and impermeability of castle and its function. Large castles with strong and impermeable defense structure show political tension and military activities in a region. Existence of single watchtower between two castles indicates the geopolitical importance of region and also the necessity of a wide protection. Finally, the existence of watchtowers and Castles show a region's economic importance and the necessity of ways to protect it. Therefore, the study of defense structure of castles can show their function as well as the importance of the regions.

2. Theoretical Framework

The rise of militarism and defending sovereignty are two inevitable consequences of political developments, leaving their traces in the history. These monuments, with their spatial and temporal nature, imply that political and military tensions in different periods and in geopolitically significant areas had led to fortifications traces of which have remained for us. Nowadays, talking about historical geopolitics, the effect of geography and environmental factors on the variables of power, control and ownership of lands and in larger scope, studying power relations and struggles

[Downloaded from eijh.modares.ac.ir on 2024-03-28]

[DOR: 20.1001.1.25382640.2016.23.3.4.6]

over sovereignty throughout the history, are challenging topics for scholars in interdisciplinary fields such as archeology, geography, and social sciences (Bäi, 2009:8). Undoubtedly, the historical aspect of this filed has started when global powers entered international political arena to fulfill their imperial dreams and expand their territories (Mojtahed-zädeh, 2002: 132), i.e. the time when the Elamite, Median, Achemenid, Selucid, Parthian and Sassanid reigns in ancient Persia, respectively tried to achieve political integrity and turn Iran into the center of global politics and power by establishing local governments and creating independent administrative and political structures (Hafez-niä, 2002: 225-222). In addition to historical geography, numerous theories have been proposed in geopolitics about the effect of physiography on politics and sovereign authority. The gist of the most important theories indicates that natural environment has considerable effects on the geopolitics. Frederick Ratzel (1844-1904) emphasized that obtaining territories is the secret of human survival and highlighted government's role in obtaining more lands (Muier, 2000: 126). On the other hand, the connection of this field of study with historical geography was first brought up by Fernand Braudel (1902-1985), who mentioned the importance of political systems throughout the history (Feräsati, 1999: 76).

If we consider the military architecture of castles (case study: Pouläd castle) as a political power symbol or more general as a reflection of region political focus in a hypothetical pattern of power distribution, it can be studied in an archaeological context by utilizing historical and geopolitical approaches.

Pouläd castle or Nour fortress is the most important protective work of the Nour region. It as a strong symbol of political authority of governors, displays political and social conditions of the Rostamdär region of Tabaristän. According to architectural remains of the castle, some questions are being raised as: why they constructed nested walls on multiple surfaces and also why they built multiple watchtowers? What is the reasonable justification for using wide surface of mountain ridge which has a gentle slope and occasionally fast one to the west? Why they have used rocky spots as the natural wall? Do various citadels and defensive towers show both political and martial function of the castle? How we can interpret the geopolitical role of Pouläd castle in transforming the region into a political focus of Tabaristän in the middle Islamic ages?

Authors have recorded the results while visiting and predicating the castle. Afterward, they could investigate the role of Pouläd castle in political and social developments of Tabaristän in the early ages of Islam based on historical and geographical references. At last, the function of the castle will be studied and will be analyzed based on the natural geography of the region as how the castle was built as well as its spatial connection.

3. Pouläd Castle in Sources

The most important sources which have mentioned the events and the political conditions of Pouläd castle are the local histories. The main sources authors could come across include "Rouyän history" by Oliä-Alläh-Amoli and "Tabaristän and

[Downloaded from eijh.modares.ac.ir on 2024-03-28]

[DOR: 20.1001.1.25382640.2016.23.3.4.6]

Rouyän and "the History of Mazandaran" by Zahir-al-Din Marashi. These explain that one of the most important political and military centers of Tabaristän in the early ages of Islam was a mountainous area called Rostamdär –the capital of Estandärän-e-Pädousbäni government (Ibn-e-Esfandiär, 1320: 153-154; Amoli, 1348: 120-123; Marashi, 1363: 51-65; Barzegar, 1388: 586-636; Farai, 1379: 179-182).

According to the aforementioned sources, Nour and Rouyän regions and their castles have always faced political conflicts and vicissitude history: like Eskandar's battle –the ruler of Lärjän province, Käroud castle and Namärestägh– against another ruler named Kävous which ended by failure and bondage of Eskandar and his imprisonment in Nour castle (Etemad-al-Saltaneh, 1373: 209). Among the governments existed in this region, there was a dynasty named Pädousbän which its progenies called the rulers of Rostamdär and had political life till the Safavid (Marashi, 1363:51-65; Barzegar, 1388: 586-636). The proximity and connection between Nour and Rouyän region and various political centers like Guilän, Qazvin, Täleghän and Lärjän increased its geostrategic and geopolitical importance.

The oldest source which has mentioned Pouläd castle is the History of Rouyän by Oliä-Alläh-Amoli written during sixth century Hegira. It tells about Ardeshir, the governor-general of Rouyän and his conquering of the castle:

"Ruler Ardeshir, appointed a chief on Deylamän state and people followed him up. One night Estandär-e-Hezär-Asb raided the chief and killed him. Ruler Ardeshir wanted him revenge… Ardeshir went to Nour castle and conquered that," (Amoli, 1348: 146-147)

Zahir al-Din Marashi has many times mentioned this castle in martial and political conflicts. While telling about sending corps out to conquer Rostamdär mountain castles, he mentions the castles of Täleghän Fälesin, Lorä, Emämeh, Shemirän and Nour (Marashi, 1364: 157-160).

"In the second half of 8th century of Hegira some castles like Kojour and Nour were being used for wars and conflicts between Kiä Jalälodin Deylami and ruler Kävous," (Marashi, 1364: 303-305)

About powering of Marashiän, the author of "*Rozeh-Al-Safä*" says: "after Kiä Afräsiäb punished by Teymour, it was a good time for Seyed Mir Qaväm and his sons to quarrel against blasphemy and proselyte Islam. In a little time they conquered Amol, Säri, Mäzandarän mountains, and castles of Firouzkouh, Nour, and Kojour etc. This happened before Mir Qaväm's death, in 781 Hegira" (Mirkhänd, 1373: 1116-1117).

Marashi also has mentioned the Nour castle while expressing the conquest of Mäzandarän by Amir Teymour:

"Teymour conquered Mäzandarän and moved to conquer Azerbaijan and Rome. Kioumarth stayed on Nour castle and Eskandar, the mullah who was a Teymour's fellow but against Kioumarth went to Firouzkouh castle and rebelled. Eskandar was arrested and then they gave Nour castle to a concierge" (Marashi, 1363: 122-127)

During the political life of Saljouqis and Khärazmshahis, Rostamdär and Rouyän were two regions which had relative

[Downloaded from eijh.modares.ac.ir on 2024-03-28]

[DOR: 20.1001.1.25382640.2016.23.3.4.6]

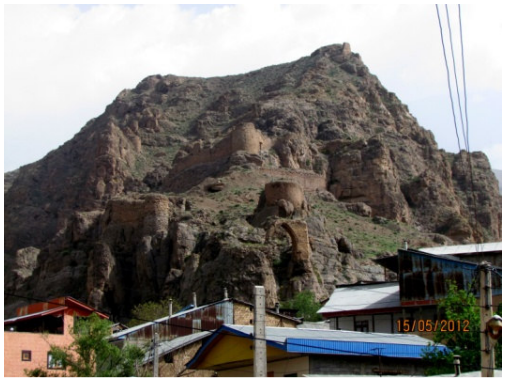
independence. They were under the authority of Estandär Pädousbäni government and Kin Khärieh Bävandi dynasty. Many of their political and economic decisions were got by local rulers.

4. Location of Pouläd Castle

Pouläd castle is one of the strongest castles located on the Baladeh part of Nour. Its geographical coordinates is: E: 51˚ 48′ 9″ N: 36˚ 12′ 8″. Its height of sea level is 2438 meters (Mousavi Kouhpar, 1378: 148). The best access route to the castle is Baladeh –Youssh route on the 40th km from Amol. This route is branched from the main road's right side and reaches to ancient mountainous town, Baladeh after 50 kilometers. There are other villages from the road beginning to Baladeh like Nej, Veläshed and Daviläd. This route ends in the Rouyän region. There are many mountains along the road and also a river valley between the mountains. The source of water for this river is primarily snows from the region's super elevation. It supplies a part of water for Haräz River. There are various ancient zones and many stony walls belonging to different historical periods.

Pouläd castle was built on a single high mountain ridge which is not connected to other mountains (Picture 1). The great height of mountain and the reasonable use of slope for building different surfaces can be considered as initiatives of builders in choosing the location. If we consider the Baladeh-Youssh road as a river, the plain which included Baladeh village is located at the opening of this road as a prolific delta. Baladeh village -near the castle- has expanded from north to south (Picture 2). This valley that is located between mountains is agricultural. Rabino in his itinerary to Mäzandarän and Astaräbäd tells that Baladeh is environ of Nour and also known from the Amol's 8 blocs [1] (Rabino, 1365: 64-75)





Pic 1: Pouläd Castle Pic 2: North - South Elongation of Baladeh from Pouläd Castle

5. Results

During the empirical Research of Pouläd castle, many physical contexture traits and various architecture spaces have been identified. There is just one path to enter

1 . this region is located between Nour and Amol in a way that is visible from both sides.

[Downloaded from eijh.modares.ac.ir on 2024-03-28]

[DOR: 20.1001.1.25382640.2016.23.3.4.6]

Pouläd which is located on the north and has a portal with zigzag arc[2] (Picture 3).

According to remains of the walls of Pouläd castle, we can consider 6 separable parts that are separated by nested walls.

a) First surface: this is the lowest, the biggest and the most smoothly part of the castle which is surrounded by an outermost wall. From its structures, only few parts of the main portal, the wall and remains of some watchtowers on south, south western and south eastern are remained. Natural rocks have formed a great part of its wall on the east, north and west.

b) Second surface: also in this part, we can see remains of walls and watchtowers that are not at the same level of 1st and 3rd surfaces. Thus, we can consider this wall as the 2nd one.

c) Third surface: there just remained some remnants of thick-set walls that are considered a separated surface because it is not located parallel with walls of other surfaces. There is a laver in this part of the castle with an approximate depth and diagonal of 1 meter.

d) Forth surface (citadel): there is a rock part after 3rd surface which has approximately 2 meters height and a gentle slope. Up to this, a square stone laver is located with e 2×2 m^2 dimensions. The wall base of castle forth surface begins from this spot which is the strongest part of castle (Picture 4). This part has an entrance with the width less than 1 meter and the height more than 1 meter, thick-set walls and a very strong watchtower. The aforesaid entrance is appropriate just for passing one man. A great two floors watchtower has been built up to the entrance. Existence of holes in a horizontal line in this watchtower and wood remains in these holes, indicate the first floor roof and the second floor bottom location in the middle of this tower wall. The wall and the tower of this part have jaggy edge which was used while defending against attackers. There is a hatch with a zigzag in the middle of aforesaid watchtower. It is up to around plains, Baladeh town and the structure's main entrance in the north.





Pic 4: Pouläd Castle entrance located on the south side Pic 3: Remnants known as the Citadel

2 There is another access on the west which gets in castle with a gentle slope. According to this way, we can say it belongs to our time and created by town people.

[Downloaded from eijh.modares.ac.ir on 2024-03-28]

[DOR: 20.1001.1.25382640.2016.23.3.4.6]

e) Fifth surface: access path from the forth strong surface to other surfaces has a fast and impassable slope. The fifth surface is located on the north and is a little upper than the forth one. Just a watchtower and some parts of walls are remained.
f) Sixth surface: the sixth surface of castle can be considered as the last and the highest part. Like the forth surface, this part is also one of the most important parts of the castle. There are some remains of right triangle walls, watchtowers and also circular structures which were probably used as water storage (picture 5).





Pic 5: Water storage remains in Sixth surface of Pouläd castle

It essentially used strong and local materials as indicated from the remains. As such, like all mountainous castles, mortar and stone were used in this structure. Mortar is also used for veneer in the castle's main citadel in a way that the trace of architect's hand is observable on walls. The interesting thing is that brick has not been used in any remaining parts and all of them are right triangle, circular walls or the walls connected to a circular tower.

6. Analysis

In this research, an attempt was made to survey the geopolitical and geostrategic role of Tabaristän Rouyän region in the middle ages of Islam with a case study of Pouläd-e-Nour Castle. This research was conducted in two parts. The first is about geopolitical and geostrategic role of the Rouyän region specially Pouläd castle in political developments of Tabaristän and the second one about analyzing the architecture spaces of Pouläd Castle and its connection to environmental potentials and geographic spaces.

Semi-independent local governments power in the 3rd and 4th centuries of Hegira and with the rising power of Saljouqis and Kharazmshahis rulers, there were many political conflicts in Tabaristän specially the western regions of: Rouyän and Rostamdär. The political and geographic importance of this region as well as the necessity of borders consolidation led to the construction of various castles in Tabaristän. This gained martial aims and more over was a symbol of ruler's political authority. These castles were power showing tools in a hypothetical pattern of power distribution. Also in many cases, they were factors of financial and human

[Downloaded from eijh.modares.ac.ir on 2024-03-28]

[DOR: 20.1001.1.25382640.2016.23.3.4.6]

security. There was the capital of Kin Khärieh Bävandi in Khärazmshähis and Marashiän ages. Locating and structural features of Pouläd castle like width, complexity and considered defensive preparations (nested walls and multiple watchtowers), existence of magnificent entrance on south with zigzag arc and also stone cisterns in 3rd and 6th surfaces show the role of Pouläd castle as one of the most important political focuses of Tabaristän.

Using the mountain slope for building multiple stair surfaces is a compatibility which builders had made with nature. By this they limited access paths to castle thus there was just one way for citizens. The connection of nested walls, watchtowers multiplicity and the strategic and geopolitical importance of region can be interpreted in this way. Youssh road to Baladeh is the access path of Rouyän and Lärjän that are two politically important regions of Tabaristän in Islamic ages. There are various villages from the main road of Amol to Tehrän up to Baladeh town. All of them have by-ways and we should traverse a long route to get there. Therefore the distance between village and the main road naturally ensure their safety. But the Baladeh town which has an important geostrategic position and is located on both sides of Youssh to Baladeh road is not secured enough. Thus it was necessary to protect this wide and permeable region with wide, strong and impermeable castles like Pouläd.

But what is the reasonable justification for building multiple towers in a castle? During the study, it was cleared that some parts of the mountain ridge on east, north and south are rocky and impermeable. But the eastern part and some shorter parts on the south are permeable. Also there are some sudden flat and permeable surfaces among rocky parts as indicated by building walls to connect the two rocks. Strong walls have been built in aforesaid spots which have more permeability that naturally make it necessary to build more watchtowers. Thus the distance of towers is less and number of them is more at spots which are permeable and the possibility of attacking and conquering is more. Also, there are low distanced multiple watchtowers in spots that are more important to protect and defend like the 4th surface of castle which we named citadel in this research.

Building citadel and the alcove and magnificent entrance to the castle and also the width and its natural result –noticeable population of castle- indicate the place's political operation over more its martial nature. The existence of water saving sources in various castle surfaces which their water flow were mainly by earthen water pipe system, indicate that the castle was crowded and the saving water considered for probable surrounds.

7. Conclusion

Mountainous castles that have martial and political importance are the results of two important factors: geomorphologic and geopolitical. Pouläd castle is the one that has both spatial and temporal nature with double function. In other words, castles like Pouläd were built in times the region's political space was acute and later they were used in political conflicts. The entire road leading to Baladeh town, there is no spot lacking regional coverage in strategic view and in dominance on region geography. Also the most appropriate

[Downloaded from eijh.modares.ac.ir on 2024-03-28]

[DOR: 20.1001.1.25382640.2016.23.3.4.6]

height in this region belongs to the single mountain which includes Pouläd castle. Pouläd castle, like other famous castles of Tabaristän has well displayed its geopolitical and geostrategic function as a main and effective center in political tensions and social and independence movements. This castle is also located and built up to special natural conditions. Location of the castle and the region's vicinity to two separated regions – Rouyän and Lärjän- indicate rulers' attention to local borders and their determination to protest the territory. According to political thoughts and the region's martial conditions, building strong castles on the border with two regions noticeably affect human and natural geographic formation. Thus, it is possible that crowd featuring the region have been changed and towns like Youshi, Baladeh and Rouyän have been created by building castles like this.

It can finally be said that the ruler's desire for preserving political borders and centers and also consolidating territorial sovereignty caused various and multiple defenses in ancient Tabaristän. The defensive feature remained there, is directly related to its geopolitical and geostrategic importance and also the acute political history. These defenses have been constructed in various sizes up to their location and function. The strong Pouläd castle in Rouyän is the symbol of political geographic impacts on the territorial sovereignty. It can be considered as a result of two aforesaid factors.

References

[1] Amoli, Oliya-alläh (1969), *The history of Rouyän,* Tehrän: Iranian Culture Foundation publisher.

[2] Bäi, Yar-mohammad (2009), *Historical Geopolitics of Iran*, Tehrän: Cultural Researches Center.

[3] Barzegar, Ardeshir (2009), *The history of Tabaristän*, Tehrän: Rasänash.

[4] Etemad-al-Saltaneh, Mohammad Hasan Khan (1994), *Al Tadvin-Fi-Ahval-e-Jebal-e-Al-Shrvin*, Tehrän: Fekr-e-Rouz.

[5] Feräsati, Ali (1999), *The Geopolitical factors and ideas*, Tehrän: Amen.

[6] Fray, R. N., (2000), *The history of Iran from Appearance of Islam to Saljouqi Period*, Translator: Hasan Anoushe, Tehrän: Amir Kabir.

[7] Häfez-niä, Mohammad Reza (2002), *The Geopolitics of Iran*, Tehrän: Samt.

[8] Hakimiän, Abu-Al-Fath (1989*), The Alavian of Tabaristän*, Tehrän: Elhäm.

[9] Ibn-e- Esfandiär, Baha-Addin Mohammad Ibn-e- Hasan (1941), *The history of Tabaristän*, Vol 1,Tehrän: Majles.

[10] Ibn-e- Esfandiär, Baha-addin Mohammad Ibn-e- Hasan (1941), *The history of Tabaristän*, Vol 2,Tehrän: Majles.

[11] Khalatbari, allähyar & Delrish, Fariba (2003), *The political and social role and function of castle in Iran middle age*, Tehrän: Shahid Beheshti.

[12] Marashi, seyyed Mir Zahir-Al-Din (1984), *The History of Tabaristän and Rouyän and Mazandaran*, Tehrän: Gostareh.

[13] Marashi, seyyed Mir Zahir-Al-Din (1985), *The History of Guilan and Deylamestan*, Tehrän: Gostareh.

[14] Mirkhänd, Mohammad Ibn-e- Khavand Shah (1994), *Rozeh-Al-Safä*, Tehrän: Elmi.

[15] Mojtahed-zädeh, Piruz (2002), *Geopolitics: Geo-politics*, Tehrän: Samt.

[16] Mollä-zädeh, Käzem & Mohammadi Mariam (2006) *Castel and military defense*, Tehran: Islamic Art and Culture Institute.

[17] Mousavi Kouhpar, Mehdi (2008), *Archaeological Atlas of Mazandaran Province*, Vol. 16, Nour.

[Downloaded from eijh.modares.ac.ir on 2024-03-28]

[DOR: 20.1001.1.25382640.2016.23.3.4.6]

[18] Muier, Richard (2000), *A new survey on Geopolitics, Translator: Darreh Mirheidar*, Tehrän: Geographical Army Institute.
[19] Päzoki Tarrudi, Näser (1997), *Defense of the Islamic period*, Tehrän: Cultural Heritage Organization (Pajuheshgäh).
[20] Rabino, H.L (1986), *Mazandaran and Estär Abäd*, Translator: Gholäm Ali Vahid Mäzandaräni, Tehrän: Scientific and Cultural.
[21] Sotoudeh, Manouchehr (1996), *From Astärä To Estär Abäd*, Vol 3, Tehrän: Agäh.
[22] Sourtiji, Sämän (2002), *Ancient Castle of Mazandaran*, Tehrän: Cultural Heritage Organization (Pajuheshgäh).

[Downloaded from eijh.modares.ac.ir on 2024-03-28]

[DOR: 20.1001.1.25382640.2016.23.3.4.6]

[DOR: 20.1001.1.25382640.2016.23.3.4.6]
[Downloaded from eijh.modares.ac.ir on 2024-03-28]

بررسی نقش مؤلفه‌های ژئوپولیتیک تاریخی و ژئواستراتژیکی قلعه پولاد طبرستان در قرون میانی اسلامی

محمد حسن زال[1]- *سید مهدی موسوی کوهپر[2]- جواد نیستانی[3]- علیرضا هژبری نوبری[4]

تاریخ دریافت: ۹٤/۷/۱۸ تاریخ پذیرش: ۹۵/۵/۲۰

تاریخ طبرستان از اواخر دوره ساسانی تا قرون میانی اسلامی، نشانگر تحولات مهم سیاسی و اجتماعی است که نتیجه آن ظهور جنبش‌های استقلال‌خواهانه و حکومت‌های نیمه مستقل محلی بود. هر یک از این حکومت‌ها، داعیه حاکمیت سیاسی بر منطقه‌ای خاص داشته‌اند. در این میان قلعه‌ها، به عنوان پایگاه‌هایی مهم و تأثیرگذار برای تحقق اقتدار سیاسی حاکمان به شمار می‌رفت. از میان قلاع موجود در ارتفاعات طبرستان، قلعه پولاد نور، یکی از نمادهای حراست از حاکمیت سرزمینی است. استقرار قلعه، در مکانی مشرف بر مناطق اطراف و مسیرهای راهبردی، آن را به یکی از مراکز تأثیرگذار در تحولات سیاسی بدل کرده است. هدف پژوهش حاضر که اساس آن را مطالعات میدانی و کتابخانه‌ای شکل داده، بررسی ساختار دفاعی قلعه پولاد و نقش ژئوپولیتیکی و ژئواستراتژیکی آن در الگوی فضایی توزیع قدرت در منطقه رویان در قرون میانی اسلامی است. نتایج این تحقیق نشان می‌دهد که ساخت دیوارها در سطوح مختلف با استفاده از شیب کوه، ایجاد برج‌های دفاعی متعدد و به کارگیری نقاط صخره‌ای به عنوان حصار طبیعی، تلاش قابل ملاحظه‌ای در استحکام‌بخشی به قلعه بوده است. تحلیل فضاهای معماری نشان می‌دهد، قلعه با دو کارکرد نظامی و سیاسی، نقش بارزی در تحولات سیاسی منطقه ایفا می‌کرده است.

واژگان کلیدی: قلعه پولاد، ساختار دفاعی، جغرافیای سیاسی، حاکمیت سرزمینی

۱. استادیار دانشکده علوم انسانی و اجتماعی دانشگاه مازندران
۲. دانشیار گروه باستان‌شاسی دانشگاه تربیت مدرس m_mousavi@modares.ac.ir
.۳. دانشیار گروه باستان‌شاسی دانشگاه تربیت مدرس
٤. استاد گروه باستان‌شاسی دانشگاه تربیت مدرس

[Downloaded from eijh.modares.ac.ir on 2024-03-28]

[DOR: 20.1001.1.25382640.2016.23.3.4.6]