The Baha’is of Iran, Transcaspia and the Caucasus

Volume 2 - Reports and Correspondence of Russian Officials

Edited by

Soli Shahvar, Boris Morozov and Gad G. Gilbar

The growing interest in the Baha’i of Iran, Transcaspia and the Caucasus

This volume, edited by Soli Shahvar, Boris Morozov and Gad G. Gilbar is interesting, instructive and significant. Much of the material present here has never been published, and most of it was not even accessible before the fall of the Soviet regime. The correspondence between Baron Rozen and Captain Tumanskii shows how deep and enduring their interest in the Baha’i religion was. Tumanskii’s letters are particularly significant because of his long association with Baha’i of Ashgabat and his friendship with the erudite Mirza Abu’l Fadl Gulpaygani. The letters and reports of Russian government officials tell us about Baha’i’s history and theology, and much of what they tell is erroneous, but they throw much light on the attitudes of the officials themselves, attitudes that formed the basis of policies of their government toward Baha’i communities within the Russian Empire.

This book is absolutely critical in understanding the history and development of the Baha’i movement in Iran and beyond. The editors have put together an excellent annotated of the sources including many primary and archival materials. In addition, their extensive research gives detailed accounts of roles, places, correspondences and backgrounds of those involved with the movement. They further elucidate important issues concerned with Russian Orientalism and places, correspondences and backgrounds of those involved with the movement. Thus offering a fascinating glimpse into the perspective of one of the players of the ‘Great Game’ of diplomacy and power in the region. The editors present the complete texts in annotated translations as well as biographical notes on the personalities represented in the volume. Offering unique insights into the history of the Bab’s and Baha’is in Iran, and events including the landmark Ashgabat murder trial. These documents furthermore shed light on the formulation of Tsarist policy toward Baha’is within the complex and delicate context of Russo-Iranian relations in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, thus offering a fascinating glimpse into the perspective of one of the players of the ‘Great Game’ of diplomacy and power in the region. The editors present the complete texts in annotated translations as well as biographical notes on the personalities represented in the volume. Offering unique insights into the history of the Bab’s and Baha’is in Iran, and events including the landmark Ashgabat murder trial. These documents furthermore shed light on the formulation of Tsarist policy toward Baha’is within the complex and delicate context of Russo-Iranian relations in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, thus offering a fascinating glimpse into the perspective of one of the players of the ‘Great Game’ of diplomacy and power in the region.