

## THE POLITICS OF RELIGION IN ZAK'ARID ARMENIA

During the last decade of the twelfth century until the coming of the Mongols, the Armenian generals, Zak'arē and Iwanē Zak'arian/Mxargrdzeli, established their rule over a large portion of the former Armenian Bagratuni kingdom. Although they were subject to the Georgian crown, during the first decade of the thirteenth century, they accumulated a great degree of autonomous power with regard to Armenian affairs. The territory they governed was home to a diverse population that included Armenian Apostolic Christians, Armenian and Georgian Chalcedonians, and Muslims. Zak'arē himself remained a member of the Armenian Apostolic confession while his younger brother Iwanē converted to Georgian Chalcedonism. In this paper I shall discuss the failed siege of Xlat' of 1209 during which Iwanē Zak'arian was captured. He was subsequently ransomed by his brother, the *amirspasalar* Zak'arē. As part of the ransom for his freedom, Iwanē's daughter was given in marriage to the Ayyubid ruler of Xlat', al-Malik al-Awḥad. The incident is reported in the thirteenth-century history of Kirakos Ganjakec'i as well as in several Arabic sources. This paper will examine the differing perspectives on this incident that have not been previously considered in conjunction with each other.

Sergio La Porta, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem