

1971, pp. 37-38; idem, 1991, p. 378; Alkan, pp. 111-14).

Read the rest of this article online at
<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/medhat-pasha>.

Medhat was also one of the few Ottoman officials who seemed to have cared for the oppressed Nosayris during his governorship in Syria. For instance, in the petitions presented to the Sublime Porte, he mentioned the Nosayris and the measure to be taken in order to pacify them peacefully (Medhat Pasha, 1908; Gedikli, pp. 169-89). Unlike governors before him who had used military force to pacify the Nosayris, he summoned their leaders, notables and sheikhs from all over Syria and promised them that they would be treated with justice like other subjects of the Empire and that he would help to put an end to their harsh living conditions. He established schools in their areas and began building roads so their isolation would come to an end (Tawil, pp. 454-59; Moosa, pp. 278-79). His project did not materialize, however; Sultan ʿAbd-al-Hamid II removed him as governor, fearing that Medhat was trying to create an autonomous Syria with himself as the ruler.

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