

الخلافة العباسية والحملة الصليبية المضادة *

THE ABBASID CALIPHATE AND THE COUNTER – CRUSADE

The Abbasid Caliphate on the eve and during the days of the Crusade:

Long before the Crusaders appeared in Syria, the powerful Abbasid Caliphate was reduced to a very weak institution. The political power which the early Caliphs enjoyed had passed into the hands of the military leaders. The only thing that was left to the Caliph was the spiritual authority. The Caliphate was reduced to institution with the Caliph as its head.

Early in the second half of the eleventh century (1055 A.D.), the Seljuks took over the power from the Buwayhids and established the Sultanate; the Sultans became the actual rulers. The Caliphs were very weak. They were the puppets of the Sultans. Whenever a strong Caliph came to the throne and tried to establish his power, very quickly he would be dethroned by the Sultans. Such was the fate of the Al-Mustarshid (512/1113 – 529/1134) and his son Al-Rashid (529/1134 – 530/1135). Both of them were dethroned. The first was killed after his defeat in an open battle with the Sultan. The second was obliged to leave Baghdad after being besieged by the army of the Sultan. Sultan Mas'ud's excuse for fighting the Caliph was that the Caliph had opposed the will of the Sultan. The Sultan claimed his right to appoint whoever he pleases to the Caliphal throne

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* بحث أعده المؤلف أثناء دراسته في الجامعة الأمريكية ببيروت، (بالإنجليزية، لم ينشر)

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Excellent paper. There is not much criticism, but it
does not seem to have been criticized, since you are not comparing
sources for specific controversial points.