

The Collapse of the Sasanian Power in Fārs/Persis^{*}

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The exact dates for the early Islamic conquest of cities and districts of Iran, the Near East, Eastern Mediterranean, and North Africa are difficult to ascertain. The reason for this difficulty is the contradictory nature of Arabic and Persian *futūh* texts and other literary sources in regard to the dates when a district or city was taken. Another major reason for this confusion as to the exact date of the conquest is that there were so many local uprisings that Muslim historians themselves were at a loss regarding the terminal date of the conquest. Consequently an author or several authors supply several or different dates for conquests which tend to confuse the history of the early Arab Muslim control in the seventh century CE. This confusion can be demonstrated by looking at the accounts of the conquest of Fārs by three important Muslim historians: al-Ṭabarī dealing with universal history, Balādhurī dealing with conquests, and Ibn Balḫī dealing with local history. **All these authors and others supply different dates and at times different**

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