

Abstract

Dhafar occupied the eastern part the coasts of Arabian Peninsula, in which the geographical Environment put this in isolation because it is surrounded by sand deserts on one side, and by the Arabian Sea in another side, in spite of all that, it could not be away from the events take place in the south corner of Eastern and Western of Arabian Peninsula, Oman and Yemen. This is due to two factors which made it center point of the neighboring Powers , first of which that Mighty God give Dhafar land a production of Frankincence which was the main motive of the events and the economies of the province since old time and till modern time , the second factor , the province located at International line of International Trade from south of Asia towards Mediterranean Sea.

Given these two factors , the Province become very important as far as its location concerns , and that is the main reason made us to choose the study of administrational, economic and social history of the province (678 A.H/ 1279 A.C) , and we choose the administrational aspect because the province had never witnessed any independent State because it was the center point of the great powers particularly the neighbor ones which settled in Yemen which empowered the province from time to time, and they are weak, the province witnesses local stable administration that reference did not tell too much about it , after Islam era , the province remained as a part of the Islamic Arab countries in Yemen and often some local Walis {governors} (they belong to the province by name only) appear to govern Sanaa , so that our focus was on administrational factor but not the political one beside the social and economic aspects , as for our research stopped at this period (678 A.H/1279 A.C) was because the province was under the direct administration of the Islamic State which sent its military force there and occupied the province .

The research was divided into four chapters, in the first one, we deal with the historical geography of the province of Dhafar as far as the name, the location, territories, cities and districts of Dhafar concerns, because the historical geography is the land that all social, economic and administrational activities set up on.

As for the second chapter, it deals with the Administration of Dhafar at year of (678 A.H/ 1279 A.C) which contains three sub-researches , on first one , we focused on the administrational history of the province since ancient time till the above mentioned year, and the second sub-research was dedicated to the Islamic land of Dhafar , and the third sub-research, it pursued the administrational developments during the period of the research , it is worth to mentioned that the information in this side was very little and if there is any resources available, it rarely disclose any information of event take place in Yemen or Oman.

The third chapter, was dedicated to study the economic situation of Dhafar , and the chapter divided to two main sub-researches , the first one deals with Agriculture ; the most important of which is the Frankincence which was the artery of the province economy and account for its fame in which we talks in details about the description of its tree and its plantation in addition to its animal wealth specially Horses and fishes , and the second sub- research dealt with the Trade and the marine & land routes and markets of the Frankincence as it is the artery of the trade of the province.

The Forth chapter was dedicated to study the social conditions, in its sub-research, we talked about the population and some tales mentioned by the Arab storytellers about the first population who inhabit the area, and then we mentioned to the most important Arabian tribes inhibited in the province such as AL-Azd , Humair , Kinda, and Mahra and group of AL-Manjawi and Biasira , and the second sub-research talked about the religion since Islamic era and spread of AL-Abadhi doctrine in some parts of the province in addition to other religions such as Judaism and Christianity which their existence are very limited in the province , as well as we dedicated the last sub-research to talk about language and social drawings that distinguished the population of the area.

The thesis contained some appendixes such as maps of the province and south of Arabian Peninsula and International trader's routes.

Writing this thesis was required to refer to various resources, and the first problem facing the researcher in writing about the history of the province is lack of resources deal with subject directly as the major attention was on Oman and Yemen , as for Dhafar ,it was accidently been mentioned , therefore the sources of the thesis were varied.