had no intention of cooperating with the Ministry.

3. The third reason is related closely to the second; for at that time, China was in such a state of political disintegration that it was too difficult for the central government to coordinate administratively with the local governments. Both Councils lacked political foundations to develop their projects from the very beginning.

‘Imād al-Dīn Zangī and his Strategy for the Crusaders and Southern Syria:
Politics in the Control over Syria and al-Jazīra

by Nakamura Taeko

The population of Aleppo, which had waged a long war against the Crusaders, began to invite powerful forces from al-Jazīra from 511/1117-18 on. One of the new al-Jazīra rulers, the Artuqīd, governed Aleppo for eight years, but then gave up and returned to al-Jazīra. On the other hand, ‘Imād al-Dīn Zangī, another ruler from al-Jazīra, established a stable regime in Aleppo and advanced southward into Syria to recover territory lost to the Crusaders and obtain Baalbek, which had been under Damascus’ rule. He also freed al-Ruhā (Edessa) from Crusader dominance.

The strategy of these two rulers was completely different. The Artuqīd, on the one hand, conducted a military expedition into Syria with a host of Turkic cavalry recruited from al-Jazīra, in order to conclude profitable agreements with the Crusaders, under which both the Syrian cities and the Crusaders employed a balance of power. However, the large cavalry expedition proved so costly that the Artuqīd decided to withdraw from Aleppo. On the other hand, Zangī refused to adopt a balance of power policy and pursued two separate kinds of military operation. One was the surprise attack by small groups of cavalry in the vicinities of Aleppo to restrain the Crusaders and gain provisional revenue for the city through spoils and ransom, while the other was siege warfare both against the Crusaders and Muslim cities in southern Syria to capture arable land.

After the Artuqīd retreat from Aleppo, Timūrīsh and his cousin Dāwūd each created his own flexible network tying their clan and neighboring tribes in northern al-Jazīra through vassalage and marriage alliances. These two families of the Artuqīd formed the nucleus of a balance of power, in which many clans and tribes kept each other in check. Zangī had noticed the two families having been at odds with each other, so he approached only Timūrīsh to entice him into vassalage through rewards, marriage alliances and sometimes armed threats. Therefore through Timūrīsh, Zangī was able to form another network in northern al-Jazīra in addition to the one in his own southern al-Jazīra, and consequently extended his power.