

tanda Varma. It was held at Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple every six years, and thousands of Malayala Brahmins were invited there to recite Vedas. Also at the Temple, the *Arattu* festival was held twice a year, in which the Maharaja played an important role. In addition, the Travancore rulers performed a ritual relating to the goddess *Bhagavati*, who was supposed to rule "minor divinities and demons".

These rituals were indispensable for the state, which attempted to maintain and reinforce the Hindu-state ideology. They were therefore continued in the nineteenth century by spending huge sums of revenue.

#### Group Violence in Baghdad during the Later Abbasid Period: Their Relations to the Political Power

by Kazuhiro SHIMIZU

In the later Abbasid period, we saw many popular riots in Baghdad. These riots must be studied in the light of the historical change of political and social systems in this period, namely the formation of a ruling system based upon military strength in the medieval Islamic history. And to that end, we must investigate and re-evaluate the mutual relation between popular movements and the political power, as in Amir al-Umara', which was based on the military ruling system.

As is typically shown in a relationship between Ibn Shirzad, who seized power in Baghdad in the early 9th century A.D. and gangsters of Ibn Hamdi, the famous robber, that those in power authorized groups of violence, like these gangsters, Ayyarun and Dhu ar. And to authorize them they took every means; for example, registration to the army, distribution and official recognition to hold arms, offers to protect and the repentance by force: Tawba. By these means, they had been able to integrate these groups into their public mechanism of domination, and utilize them as military forces in time of emergency, personal forces for intrigues or assassinations, or official forces for the confiscations.

On the other hand, these groups of violence had a desire for authorization to use their power openly. It was the desire for protection from the political power or influential persons, the desire for justification of their

acts of violence, and sometimes the desire for military registrations, which offer them a means of livelihood and a stage to appeal their abilities. As in these groups, there were those who had been dispossessed of their chances for registration to the army, because of the change of the official military systems, and were eager to be recognized by the power. These groups satisfied their desires, when they offered their power to the authority and acted as cheap suppliers of militaristic forces. But these authorizations offered them a freehand to escalate their pillages and destructions, which lead Baghdad to fall into ruins.

#### Early Settlers (Ahl al-Balad) in the Eighth Century of al-Andalus and Ifrīqiya: Analysis of the "Fīhr" family

by Kentarō SATŌ

Rule of the Umayyad of Córdoba over al-Andalus was not so efficient except for the southern regions, as semi-independent local powers existed in the other regions. We should examine the character of such local powers formed through the 8th century after the conquest of al-Andalus. A major part of the local powers consisted of early settlers (ahl al-Balad) who had taken part in the conquest of al-Andalus and settled there.

"Fīhr" family was one of the Quraysh nobles (wujūh) among the early settlers. Major stem of this family was descendants of 'Uqba b. Nāfi' (d. 683), who had conquered North Africa and built Qayrawān, the capital city of North Africa. But they had intimate relationships with other stems of Quraysh nobles through marriage.

As "Fīhr" family was the descendants of conquerors of Ifrīqiya and al-Andalus, they received allotment of boots in the shape of goods, captives and land estates (ḍiyā'), which were their economic foundation. The captives would be their mawālī and formed the private military force for the "Fīhr" family. The most characteristic advantage for this family, however, was their noble lineage to their heroic ancestor 'Uqba b. Nāfi'.

Such advantages let the family behave as representative of the early