

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 Ifriqiya: Analysis of the "Fihr" family

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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.

"Fihr" 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 "Fihr" family was the descendants of conquerors of Ifriqiya 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 "Fihr" 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

settlers. Confronted with difficulties, for example, death of a governor in battle, the Berber revolt or the emergence of Syrian Junds, early settlers got together under the guidance of the "Fihri" family. That led to the establishment of a semi-independent regime of "Fihri" family in the middle of the 8th century by Yūsuf b. 'Abd al-Raḥmān in al-Andalus and 'Abd al-Raḥmān b. Ḥabīb in Ifrīqiya.

However, we should not ignore the existence of other noble families among the early settlers. Many revolts against the "Fihri" regime by nobles of early settlers indicate it. More or less, other noble families played the same role as that of "Fihri" family.

Foundation of the Umayyad of Córdoba was a source of difficulty for the early settlers. This new dynasty relied on Syrian Junds and their mawālī and threatened the fruits of conquest of the early settlers. Confronted with such difficulties, early settlers revolted under the guidance of wujūh, including the "Fihri" family. Their revolt continued through the reign of 'Abd al-Raḥmān I. This situation would be a subject for the Umayyad of Córdoba to deal with in the 9th century.