

Abstract:

The social status and prosperity were factors in the emergence of concubines in Abbasid society. The palaces of the Caliphs in the late Abbasid period were filled with many concubines of various origins. Some of them enjoyed qualities that made them esteemed within the Abbasid palaces, which prompted the Abbasid Caliphs to acquire many concubines.

The women of the Abbasid court, especially the wives of the Caliphs and their mothers, enjoyed significant influence at all stages of the Abbasid caliphate on the political, economic, and social fronts.

From a political standpoint, women in the early Abbasid era had significant influences in interviewing in governance matters, such as Al-Khayzuran, the mother of Al-Hadi, and Zubaida, the mother of Al-Amin. However, in the early Abbasid period and later, their roles were sometimes weak, tried to the weakness of the Caliphs and their diminished authority, which had become merely nominal. Due to this weakness, non-Arab women of various origins were allowed to intervene in governance matters.

Their role also emerged and developed in the economic and social aspects. In the economic aspect, they possessed immense wealth, which helped in the development of clothing and adornments during the Abbasid era, in addition to other factors that contribute to the increase of their wealth and money, such as monopolies, confiscation, and bribery.

On the social side, their role in the development of religious architecture, which was the focus of interest for women and the mothers of Abbasid Caliphs, emerged prominently, such as building mosques, spending on them, and caring for their restoration and maintenance. Additionally, they were concerned with public service and social welfare, such as caring for pilgrimage routes and supporting the needy and the poor.