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Turkish History from 1703 to 1918

Considering the latest changes taking place in the Balkans, East Europe and the Middle East, and recalling that these areas constituted parts of an Empire about 2 centuries ago, and considering that many of the discussions taking place on various newsgroups regarding the Balkan and East European ethnic groups are from various national viewpoints, it might be of value for readers to see 'a comprehensive Turkish point of view.' It is only comprehensive because it is one historian's view. Other Turkish historians might disagree.

A brief history of the Ottomans is given essentially by summarizing from Yilmaz Oztuna, the Turkish historian. The last two volumes of his 12 volume Turkish History has been summarized. It starts around 1750 AD and ends before WWI. [Stanford Shaw has a volume which covers a similar period and is in many ways more comprehensive if anyone is interested.]

Mr. Oztuna uses the words 'Turkiye' and 'Osmanli' pretty much synonymously. Since the word 'Turkey' was in use in English for many centuries, I did not see any need to write 'Ottoman' constantly and used the word 'Turkiye' just as the author did.

On the last pages of the last volume is the "postscript" of the author. He started writing in 1952 and finished in 1967. Selected paragraphs from it with rough translations follow:

p. 299 "SON SOZ"

".... Bati'da adettir, bizde pek adet olmamistir, bir ilim adami bir kitap yazinca. musveddelerini meslekdaclarina, hatta talebesine verir, okutur, fikirlerini ve tenkitlerini ister. Bu yuzden Bati'da eserler kusursuz olarak ortaya cikar. Ne kadar kudretli olursa olsun ,bir tek insan, bazi sahalarda dar goruslu ve eksik bilgili olmaktan kurtulamaz. Ben de musveddemi tarihçilerder bir kismina okutmak isterdim...ikinci basiminda, suphesiz bana kadar ulasan butun tenkidlerden faydalanmaya calisacagim...

..

Turkiye Tarihi, bir Turk'un eseridir. "Turk gibi dusunerek" bu kitabi yazdim. Zaten butun aksi iddialarina ragmen, hicbir tarihçi milliyet fikrinden kurtulamamistir. Tarihcinin olaylari kendi milleti zaviyesinden degerlendirmesi busbutun mahzurlu degildir.... Ancak dunya tarihi icindeki degerlendirilmelerde, mumkun oldugu kadar milliyet fikrinden ayrılmak, sadece insan oldugumuzu hissetmek icab eder. Bu ikinci degerlendirilmenin tam tarafsiz olarak yapildigi hicbir tarihcinin eserini okumadim. Bu hususda tarih ilminin basarisi, anlasilan gelecek yuzyillarda erisecegimizi umdugumuz merhalelerden birisini teskil edecektir.

Istanbul, 22 Haziran 1967"

Translation:

" LAST WORDS

"It is a custom in the West, although we still haven't picked up this habit, when a person

writes a book, he gives copies to his colleagues and students, and asks for their opinions and comments. Accordingly, the works in the West are often free of faults. No matter how erudite, a single person's knowledge in some areas will be found to be lacking. I too would have preferred to have the draft read by other historians. In the second printing, I will try to accommodate the criticism leveled at this work.

...

Turkiye Tarihi is a work of a Turk. I wrote these volumes 'thinking like a Turk'. In reality, despite claims to the contrary, no historian is able to be completely free of nationalist bias. It is not completely worthless for a historian to write from the perspective of his nation...However, from the perspective of world history, the first thing we should remember, is that we are, above all, human beings. In truth, I have never found any history book which was completely free of bias. It seems that the objective history of the world will be written only in future centuries.

Istanbul, 22 June 1967 "

The history starts here with a summary of the world powers. from Yilmaz Oztuna, Turkiye Tarihi, vol XI, pp. 53-62 for 1750 AD.

In 1750 AD, the world population is estimated at 700 million. The populations are; Asia 447 mil.; Europe 152 mil; Africa 75 mil.; North America 11.7 mil ; South America 11 mil., Oceania 3.14 mil.

In 1800 AD, the world population is 839 million. Asia 541 mil; Europe 188 mil; Africa 76.8 mil; North America 15.9 mil; South America 12.9 mil; Oceania 2.9 mil.

In 1835, the world population reaches one billion.

Figures below are for 1750 AD.

1. Ottoman Turkish Empire: 76 million, 24 million in Europe, 26 million in Asia and 26 million in Africa.

Istanbul 1.4 mil, Cairo 0.58 mil, Adrianople 350,000, Algiers 125,000, Tunis 115,000, Alexandria 93,000, Oran 53,000, Bucharest 85,000, Salonica 75,000, Belgrade 74,000, Sarajevo 50,000, Sofia 50,000.

2. France: Population 22 million. Paris 600,000, Lyons 103,000, Marseilles 101,000, Nantes 99,000.

3. Great Britain: 13 million London 800,000, Dublin 88,000, Glasgow 80,000, Bristol 75,000, Manchester 60,000, Belfast 52,000.

4. China: 180 million

5. Iran: 16.5 million

6. Austria: 26 million Vienna 160,000, Milan 130,000, Hamburg 110,000, Prague 81,000, Brussels 64,000.

7. India (Mogul Empire) 140 million

8. Spanish Empire: 32 million Naples 310,000, Mexico (City ?) 310,000, Madrid 102,000,

Palermo 95,000, Barcelona 55,000, Seville 50,000.

9. Russian Empire: 15 million Moscow 120,000, St. Petersburg 100,000.

10. Afghanistan: 22 million (including Kashmir and West Pakistan).

11. Poland: 15 million Warsaw 58,000, Dresden 50,000.

12. Prussia: 2.4 million Berlin 105,000, Königsberg 54,000.

13. Holland: 7.9 million (including its colonies) Amsterdam 200,000, Rotterdam 56,000.

14. Sweden: 3.5 million (including Finland) Stockholm 79,000.

15. Morocco: 8 million. 16. Venice: 3 million, Venice 170,000

17. Other European Powers: 18. Other Asian Powers: 19. Other African Powers: 20. Oceania: ~3 million.

Ottoman History, by Yilmaz Öztuna, Volume XI.

(Names of places whenever possible is given in English.)

Right after the unsuccessful siege of Vienna 1683, the Turks had gone on the defensive until 1699, the Treaty of Karlowitz. During this period the Ottomans had to fight against the combined powers of Austrian Empire, Russian Empire, Poland, Venice, and some smaller powers. As a result of the peace treaty the Ottomans ceded lands to Austria, Venice, Russia and Poland. In order to keep Austria and Russia from uniting the Turks ceded lands to Poland [despite the noted lack of success of the Poles, except for the combined relief of Vienna in 1683] to keep the Austrian and Russian empires from uniting.

Öztuna's history begins here. Note that this is the beginning of the crumbling of the Ottoman Empire.

Wars with Russia, Venice and Austria (1703-1718)

p. 10. Battle of Pruth (April 9--Nov 20, 1711)

King Karl XII of Sweden loses to Peter the Great of Russia at Poltava. King Karl, along with the Cossack leader Mazepa seeks asylum in Türkiye. The Russian envoy in Türkiye, Tolstoy demands that Turks give them up. Ottoman's reply with an insult. This is the immediate cause of the war. The real causes are different. The real reason for this is the Ottoman intent to take back the lands lost as a result of the peace treaty of Karlowitz. Russia has put its own favorite on the Polish throne and is looking for alliances with Venice and Austria, and is looking for an outlet on the Black Sea. However Turkish diplomacy prevents this alliance.

War starts. Peter has made an error similar to Karl (of Sweden) and has not been able to gather all his forces. Some of his forces are in the Turkish provinces of Romania. His army of 60,000 is outnumbered by the 140,000 strong Turkish army. He also gets caught in a strategically indefensible position. His position is hopeless but because the Janissaries do not show much effort in the attack, the Turkish commander decides on a peace treaty instead of renewing the attacks and trying to annihilate the Russian army. With the peace treaty, Russia gives up the fort of Azov, promises to stay away from the Sea of Azov, promises to destroy all its forts near the Turkish border and pledges not to interfere in Poland and in the Polish Ukraine. However Peter has no intention of carrying out the terms of the treaty.

King Karl of Sweden has already grasped the fact that if Russia is not decisively defeated, in time neither Sweden nor Turkiye will be able to stop Russia and is determined to cause another Russo-Turkish war and refuses to leave Turkiye, where he has sought refuge after the defeat at Poltava. However, the Grand Vizier wants to sign the peace treaty with Russia so that he can take back Morea from the Venetians and then take back the lands from Austria that Turkiye lost as a result of the treaty of Karlowitz. Russia is too far away for Turkiye.

Turco-Venetian War: Morea is retaken from the Venetians very easily because the local Greek population treats the Turkish army as liberators. With the loss of Morea, Venice loses its hold on the Aegean. Austria protests since the Treaty of Karlowitz had involved the Poles, Venetians and Austrians. On April 24, Ali Pasa declares war on Austria. At the Battle of Petervaradin, Prince Eugen defeats the Turkish army. Turkiye loses all of its Hungarian lands. But as a result, Turkiye will enter a long period of peace, in Europe (Austria only ?) known as "Lale Devri" (Tulip Era).

Details Skipped: War with Iran. A revolt by Janissaries (Patrona Ihtilali). Istanbul suffers a large fire and an earthquake.

War with Austria and Russia (1736-1739):

Causes: Russia supported Nadir Shah (Iran) during the Turko-Iran War. Austria and Russia support Augustus III for the Polish throne. France backs Stanislas Leszczyzinski but is unsuccessful. Russia enters Polish territory to give support to Augustus. An independent or a friendly Poland is important for Turkiye i.e. to keep the balance of power. The immediate reason for the war is Russia's reconquest of the Fort of Azov.

The war starts with the Russian army entering the territory of the Crimean Tatars. Turkiye appoints Fetih Girei the new Khan in the Crimea. On October 12, 1736 Girei Khan defeats the Russian Army and drives it out of the Crimea. He follows the army into the Ukraine, and returns with 100,000 prisoners (slaves ?) and hundreds of thousands of cattle and sheep. Seeing the defeat of its ally, Austria enters the war.

The Austrian army enters Bosnia, Serbia and Wallachia. The war goes against Austria and Russia in the beginning. Austrian armies suffer reverses. Belgrade falls into Turkish hands. The Russian navy scuttles itself so as not to fall into Turkish hands. Russian army is defeated along the Dniester. However, in Hotin (Khotin) the Turkish army is defeated by the Russians and Yas (Jassy) is lost. Their drive is stopped at Bender (Bendery?). Because these successes are late in the war, their outcome does not affect the Treaty of Belgrade.

The main terms of the treaty: Belgrade and its environs pass back into Turkish hands. The fort of Azov is to be destroyed and neither Turkiye nor Russia will rebuild it. Russian shipping is not allowed either in the Sea of Azov nor the Black Sea. Russia gives up Khotin and Jassy. The Cossacks will no longer raid Turkish territory and the Crimean Tatars will not raid Russian territory. Peace is signed with Iran during the beginning of this war. Having to fight at three fronts would have been very difficult for the Ottomans. Ottomans are still the most powerful nation. However, as a result of Peter's courageous attempts, Russia (although still weaker than Austria), will come out stronger only a quarter of a century later.

p. 46 War with Iran (1730-1746). Some territories lost to Iran are recovered.

p.64 Istanbul suffers another great fire. 3,851 houses are destroyed. [Recent documents have put most of the blame for the great fires in Istanbul to Russian agents, mostly Bulgarians.]

p. 72 Turco-Russian War: 1768-1774

Causes: Russia starts a propaganda campaign among the Orthodox Christian community in Montenegro and West Georgia. The immediate cause of the war is Poland. Poland has the misfortune to be stuck among three great powers--Austria, Russia and Turkiye. Its independence was important for Turkiye, to keep the balance of power. When Augustus III died, Czarina Catherine entered Poland and made Stanislas Poniatowski the new king. Turkiye protested the Russian interference. However, Turkiye was not ready for war. When the Russian armies defeated the Polish nationalists (patriots), they sought refuge in the city of Balta in Turkiye (Podolia). The Russian army followed them into Turkish territory and killed the Poles along with some of the Turkish population of Balta. Turkiye declared war on Russia. The Grand Vizier who advocated preparing the army and waiting for a couple of years resigned in protest. However, Turkiye could not have overlooked foreign armies entering Turkish territory and killing its inhabitants.

Meanwhile Catherine knew that without defeating Turkiye, annexing Poland would have been impossible and that without an outlet on the Black Sea being a Great European Power would have been just as impossible. The time was ripe. The army was better prepared and the Crimean Tatars' medieval cavalry armed with bows and arrows was no match for Russia. Strategy and tactics had changed. The Ottomans needed to revitalize their army too, however, the Janissaries were sabotaging every effort at modernization and revolting at every opportunity.

The Russian army of 65,000 lays siege to the Fort of Khotin. This fort was of strategic value since its loss would have been tantamount to leaving Poland open to Russian invasion. Its loss would have also left undefended the Turkish territories of Bessarabia, Moldavia and Podolia. The situation inside the fort was tragicomical. The undisciplined Janissary garrison had mutinied against its commander, killing him and replacing him with his assistant. They had even sacked the Turkish population in the fort. This was happening while the Russian army was advancing towards Khotin. The failure of the first Russian assault was due to pure luck and the ineptitude of the Russian army. Meanwhile the Turkish forces being sent towards the Ukraine were idling away because of the ineptitude of their commanders. On September 14, the army pulled back to wait out the winter. When this news reached the Janissaries in Khotin, they deserted. Thus Khotin fell without a shot being fired. [Janissaries by this time have become an undisciplined lot much like the medieval European armies, while the European armies have become much better disciplined and well-led. But the Ottomans can't get rid of the Janissaries because of constant intriguing and revolts.]

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When the war started, Catherine had sent a fleet to the Mediterranean from their ports in the Baltic. The French ambassador in Istanbul had given this information to the Turkish government. However, none of the ministers took any action since none of them believed the Russian navy to be capable of presenting any serious threat. They did not pay any attention to a fleet which would have taken a year to make this trip and they were unconvinced of Russian competence in land or sea warfare.

In February, the fleet reached the Turkish province of Morea. About 70,000 Hellenized Albanians,(called Maynots) rebelled, being led by about 500 Russians that landed in Morea. The rebellion was put down. Meanwhile, as a result of a minor engagement in which they lost one battleship, the Russian fleet, led by British naval officers such as Elphinston, Gregg, and Dugdale sought refuge in Cerigo harbor. Another engagement took place off Sakiz (Chios). Each side lost one battleship. At the end of the day, the Turkish fleet pulled into the harbor at Cheshme. At midnight, two small ships led by Dugdale approached the harbor as the Turkish

admirals were having tea. Although some of the Turkish commanders wanted to sink them the Turkish admiral thought that the ships were deserting and wanted to take them to Istanbul as presents to the Sultan. However, the ships opened fire and the ammunition exploded on one of the Turkish ships destroying most of the fleet. This ingenious attack was the idea of Admiral Elphinston, an Englishman in Russian service. Russian prestige in Europe skyrocketed as a result. Count Orlov was given the title Chesmenskiy by Catherine. However, the real incompetent Turkish admiral managed to blame others and saved his skin.

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The war on land took a different turn for the Turks also. Count Romanzov's 30,000 man army was in Moldavia. Count Panin's 60,000 army was besieging Bender (Bendery). Romanzov was camped at Kartal (Kagul) when Halil Pasha's army reached it. Romanzov was caught between Halil's army and the Crimean Army in the north. It seemed as if another Pruth was about to take place. However, Romanzov, realizing the gravity of the situation ordered a daring attack during the night of July 31, 1770. After 8 hours of artillery bombardment, the Turkish army fell apart. When the sun rose, Halil saw that most of the army was gone, and ordered a retreat. The Russian army contented itself by putting the 50,000 Turkish inhabitants on the north bank of the Danube to the sword. Bender could no longer hold out since there was no hope of delivery. Bender fell on September 27th. Thousands of Turkish civilians were killed by the Russians. Turkish men were seen to kill their own wives and children before getting killed themselves. In 1770 Russians were victorious everywhere. There was nothing to stop them from taking the Crimea.

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During the spring of 1771, Prince Dolgouruky with 90,000 soldiers started the siege of Orkapi (Perekop). They took it on the 24th of June. They had promised the Crimeans independence and there was a sizable population of Crimea who were intent on not fighting against the Russian army. Khan Selim Giray, with his 80,000 army still armed with bows could not have put up much of a defense anyway. Russia now was in control of the Crimea with the exception of a couple of Turkish forts such as Hicapasa (Odessa), Ozu (Oczakov) and Kilburun. Although besieged, the fort of Yerkoyu (Giurgiu) in Wallachia also did not surrender. Mehmed Pasa then tried to push the Russian army out of Romania and Bucharest but the battle of Dumbovitza also ended in defeat. As a result, the Russian army pushed into Dobruja.

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There were no important battles during 1772 as the Russian army had also suffered heavy losses and could not advance further. The war was taking very long and had started to worry the other European powers. Prussia and Britain were supporting Russia and France and Austria were behind Turkiye, however only covertly. Austria was worried over Russian control of Poland, Crimea and Romania. As a result of prodding by Austria and Prussia, peace talks started on the 10th of June. Because of excessive Russian demands, Turkiye refused to sign. The peace conference was moved to Bucharest but the year ended with no treaty.

During 1772, Russia tried to galvanize the Mameluks (in Egypt & Syria) to rise up against Turkiye. The revolt was put down. After taking care of the revolt in Syria and Egypt, Turkiye tried to shore up its position in Europe. Since the fall of Yerkoyu, Romania was totally gone. The Turkish army tried to retake Yerkoyu but failed. As a result, Russians crossed the Danube and tried to take the fort of Ruscuk (Rusjuk) but retreated after being defeated at

Mertin. However, Numan Pasa also was defeated at Babadagi. So Marshall Romanzov started besieging Silistre in Dobruja. Failing, he retreated back to Romania. A couple of months later, Russians tried to take Varna. However, they failed in this undertaking also, and realizing that they would not be able to take Bulgaria, they retreated. However, in the occupied lands in Dobruja and northeast Bulgaria, they destroyed many cities and massacred countless Turkish civilians.

As was written by Hammer, during this era the Ottoman army had lost all its ability to conduct effective warfare. According to Hammer, a 'good' army of 10,000 could have defeated an Ottoman army of 100,000 in field warfare. However, the army was still effective in defense. An army of 10,000 could have easily fended off an attacking army of 100,000.

During 1774, Russians made several attempts to affect the outcome of the peace negotiations. Because of the severe illness of Mehmed Pasa (Grand Vizier), the Turks entered the peace negotiations. The treaty was signed at Kuchuk Kainarji (Kucuk Kaynarca). The main points of the treaty:

The Crimea was to become independent. Russia was to evacuate the Crimea. However, Russians never left and similarly Turks never evacuated Bucak (South Bessarabia) and the Kuban region. The lands between the Bug and Dnieper, and Kerch was to be Russian. Although the land in question was small it was of strategic importance since it gave Russia an outlet to the Black Sea. The lands between the Bug and the Dniester, Ozu (Oczakov) and Odessa was still Turkish. Russia was to evacuate Bessarabia and Romania and leave it in Turkish control. However, Romania was to gain more autonomy. Turkiye was also to extend 'trading rights' (capitulations) to Russia. This would allow Russian commercial ships access to the Mediterranean.

Although the lands lost (aside from the Crimea) were small, this was the one of the worst treaties ever signed by the Ottomans up to that time. With this treaty, Russia (after Britain and France) was to become the most powerful state in the world (i.e. number three). Turkiye, by contrast, fell to fourth place from first. This war showed the inherent weaknesses of the Turkish army which was not fully realized at the time by the Ottomans.

The war was a complete disaster. Turkiye which had gone to war to preserve Polish independence (and hence keep the balance of power in Europe) now was leaving Poland to its fate among its expansionist neighbors (Russia, Prussia and Austria). It was also leaving the Crimea, with its 1.5 million Turkish population to Russia. Of course, Russia could not have swallowed Poland without giving a share to its neighbors. Otherwise, it could have been faced with a Turkish-Swedish-Prussian- Austrian-French alliance. Turkiye was now a state only in the Balkans and had left Eastern Europe. It was a loss of prestige for Sweden and France as well. Poland was even in worse shape since it was left with three powerful neighbors and no strong allies. The presence of Russia in Eastern Europe would also inevitably lead to a Pan- Slavic vs Pan-Germanic standoff. Hammer's history stops here. Cevdet Pasa's history starts with Kuchuk Kainarji.

p. 89 War with Iran (1775-1779).

The Kurdish Zend dynasty had just taken over Iran by overthrowing the Turkish Avshar dynasty. However, it had not fully asserted its authority over all Iran. Kerim Han Zend, thought that a victory over the Ottomans would increase his prestige and help him take over all of Iran. Thus he saw an opportunity when Turkiye came out of the Russian war in weak shape. Basra was captured by Iran and held by Iran until its liberation, three years later. Since the position of the Zend in Iran was critical, hostilities slowly cooled down and the war

ended.

p. 94 War with Austria and Russia (1787--1789)

Turkiye is now trying to build up its forces to retake the Crimea. Russia is busy rebuilding up to completely take the Crimea into its fold. Since both Russia and Turkiye had suffered great losses during the last war, they were being careful not to carelessly get sucked into another war.

The Crimeans had divided into pro-turkish and pro-russian camps. Prince Potemkin annexed the Crimea to Russia. The Crimeans, who had thought that they would be independent, 'revolted'. Potemkin 'crushed' the revolt by killing some 30,000 in a space of a couple of months. Almost all the Crimeans who owned large lands were killed and their lands expropriated. The first Russian settlers started arriving in the Crimea. Hundreds of thousands of Crimeans packed up and piled up on the shores to leave. Half of these died from disease and famine. Some were followed by Russian soldiers and massacred. The others who were able to escape were settled in the Balkans and Anatolia in other Ottoman lands. The 356 year history of the Crimean Khanate came to an end. The Crimea had been a home to Turkish (Turkic) peoples for 15 centuries beginning with the Huns along with Avars, Bulgars, Khazars, Pechenegs, and Kipchaks (Polovtsi).

Unable to intervene militarily, Turkiye recognized the Russian annexation. However, preparations were stepped up to retake it.

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Catherine the Great had made alliances with Austria to attack Turkiye if a war broke out among them. If victorious, Wallachia, Moldavia, Bessarabia, South Podolia and Bukovina would be joined to form a Romanian state under Russian protection. The land between the Dnieper and Dniester and the Aegean islands would go to Russia. Serbia, and Bosnia-Hercegovina would go to Austria. Dalmatia would be taken from Venice and given to Austria. In return, Venice would get the Turkish provinces of Morea, Crete, and Cyprus. In order to convince the other European powers to agree to this Egypt would be given to France, Algeria to Spain, Libya and Tunisia to Great Britain. Syria, Palestine and Lebanon could have also been given to France. In Asia, the Caucasus and West Georgia would go to Russia. If Istanbul were to be taken, the Byzantine Empire was to be resurrected and the Czarina's grandson Grand Duke Constantine would become the Emperor. The Prince had already been taught Greek for this purpose! This new Byzantine Empire (under Russian protection) would consist of Istanbul (capital), Bulgaria, Dobruja, Thrace, Greece, Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro. Turkiye would have been generously(!) given Asia Minor, Iraq, Jordan, Arabia and Yemen. Of course, as soon as possible, Poland would be partitioned off. In hindsight it was obvious that as long as the Ottoman lands were being partitioned these European powers could cooperate but of course, they'd have to fight among themselves for the spoils sooner or later. In short, Russian machinations in Eastern Europe and its pursuit of Pan-Slavism and Pan-Orthodoxy would eventually lead to Pan-Germanism as a defense and to World War I. Of course, there were other reasons for WWI. Soon enough Poland was partitioned in 1795!

In order to put the whole plan into action, the Czarina, in 1787, arrived in the Crimea at the head of a 60,000 man army. Along with Emperor Joseph II (Austria) they passed under an arch with the words "The Road To Byzantium", and started to plan the operations. However, Great Britain and Prussia, announced that they would oppose this 'project' with all their might. And because of the revolt in the Belgian province, Emperor Joseph decided to postpone the war. When Bab-i-Ali [literally the Sublime Porte, the name given to the Turkish

government similar to the name Pentagon for the Defense Department] learned of this 'project, war was declared war on Russia.

The Sultan tried to postpone the war declaration since the army was not yet ready. The modernization of the army was very difficult as long as the Janissaries were still around. However, the Grand Vizier convinced the Sultan to start the war. The last war had not been 'marketed' properly to the populace since they did not want to fight for a far off land like Poland. However the annexation of the Crimea had convinced the Turkish population that Russians were the main enemy of the Ottoman Empire. The loss of the Crimea was a stain on Turkish honor. The year 1787 passed with both Russia and Turkiye making war preparations. On the 9th of February 1788 Austria declared war on Turkiye. The government had counted on Austria staying out of the war because of Prussian pressure and this unexpected development was a big shock. However, it was too late to change things. The Turks had been at peace with Austria for 49 years and this would be the last war with Austria. Sweden was aware that if Turkiye lost, Poland would be gone and she'd be facing Russia all alone, thus she declared war on Russia. However King Gustav's army was ineffective, thus returned with his army to Sweden and tried to enlist Prussia's help against Austria.

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Koca Yusuf Pasa, the Grand Vizier decided to strike against Austria first before wheeling around to fight Russia. Realizing that buying time was important, Emperor Joseph pulled his army north from Belgrade to Karlsburg. The reason for Yusuf Pasa to go so far north was to finish off the Austrian campaign rapidly to avoid having to fight on two fronts. The Austrian army was defeated decisively at Erdel (in Transylvania). The war on the eastern front did not go as well as against Austria. Prince Potemkin sent his 80,000 man army to siege Ozu (Oczakov). On the 17th of December the fort fell. The entire Turkish population of Ozu, 25,000 soldiers and civilians were massacred. Soon afterwards, Hicapasa (Odessa) fell. Thus the entire lands between the Dnieper and the Dniester fell into Russian hands. At around the same time the Russians also took the fort of Hotin in Podolia.

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Sultan Selim III became the new Sultan on April 7, 1789. During 1789-1791, the Austrians made up for their earlier losses. Mustafa Pasa had entered Romania to retake Yas (Jassy) from Russia with a 30,000 man army. On August 1, 1789 the battle had started with General Suvarov's army near Fokshany (near Siret on the Danube). With the sudden arrival of the Austrian army, the balance tipped against the Turkish army and it was defeated. Hasan Pasa tried to send help but was defeated. The Turkish army suffered a serious loss (23,000 dead) during the retreat when the bridge on the river Buzau collapsed. Unable to defend Romania, the Turks retreated beyond the Danube. At the same time General Laudon started his siege of Belgrade. Belgrade was able to withstand the siege only three weeks. The 1789-90 winter ended with the Turkish defeat. The signing of an alliance with Prussia saved Turkiye from even a worse fate. Sweden was already Turkiye's ally. Poland which was living its last years also joined the alliance. Although Prussia did not enter the war, the alliance forced Austria to pull some of its troops to the north, against a possible attack. Thus weakened, the Austrian siege of Yerkoyu (in Romania) ended in defeat. It's clear that at this time, Prussia was in fear of being sandwiched between Russia and Austria, and enlisted Polish help to keep the Turks in Europe so that Eastern and Central Europe would not be taken over either by Russia or by Austria.

By the winter of 1790-91, Austria had expended its last energy and was looking for an honorable peace treaty. Although the Turks agreed to pay Sweden 1 billion akca to press

Russia from the north, they were not able to present a serious threat. Thus Russia captured the forts of Ozu (Oczakov), Kilburun (Kinburn), Odessa, Akkerman and Bender. Although the Russian army suffered a reverse at Ismail (in Bessarabia), it was not serious and within one year it was able to begin afresh. General Suvarov captured Ismail and Isakji. The Russians took revenge for their previous losses of 15,000 dead at Ismail by massacring the 30,000 military and civilian population of Isakji. On July 10, 1791, the Russian forces under Kutuzov also captured Fort Machin. This "One-Eyed Tatar" General Kutuzov would later defeat Napoleon. The problems of defending outlying lands in the steppes were very difficult for Turkiye. It was easier when the Crimean Tatar cavalry was available.

Because of the effect of the French revolution, Austria agreed to a status quo peace agreement with Turkiye. The lands captured from Turkiye would be given back. In addition Hotin would also be returned to the Turks. Because of peace-making efforts of Great Britain and Prussia, Russia (due to the French threat) also was ready for peace. Russia agreed to evacuate Bessarabia and Moldavia. The Black Sea coast between the Bug and the Dniester went to Russia. The freedom given to Bessarabia and South Podolia is due the effect of the French revolution on the European balance of power.

It was now obvious that Turkiye could no longer fight alone against the great powers of Europe and needed allies like the others. In fact, after this date, the main reason the Ottoman Empire did not collapse immediately and lasted into the twentieth century is not due to its own military strength but rather the jealousy, balance of power and rivalry among the European Powers. However, after this war, Turkiye will be confined only to the Balkans and will not enter into the Eastern European picture.

The Beginning of Nizam-i-Cedid (24 Feb 1793)

After the defeats suffered, Sultan Selim started a radical campaign of reform. Reform had become a matter of life and death for the empire, however its necessity was still not understood by all. Aside from the general populace, even most of the administrators and civil servants were against reform. They were still under the mistaken and dangerous impression that the "Turkish civilization was still superior to Europe." The most important part of reform, of course, had to be the military. The Janissaries were unwilling to be trained and disciplined like other soldiers, and unwilling to give up their occupations as merchants. A new and separate army corps was to be created. In the first phase only 12,000 soldiers would have been trained.

Another big problem at this time was the erosion of central government's powers. The governor-generals of the distant provinces of Algeria, Tunisia and Tripolitania (Libya) had become almost autonomous. The Mameluks (Slave Soldiers i.e. Kipchak Turks and Turkified Circassians who had been ruling Egypt before the Ottoman conquest) in Egypt and Baghdad had practically stopped taking orders from the governor-generals. Local groups in other places such as the Azimzadehs in Syria, Cezzar Ahmed Pasa in Lebanon and Palestine, Wahabbites in Nejd (Saudi Arabia), the Zeydis in Yemen, Sharifs in Hijaz (Saudi Arabia) had enormous powers and authority over the local peoples. Similar things were happening in the Balkans and Anatolia. Large cities had powerful 'ayans' (notables), who wielded much clout. Capanoglus in Yozgat, Karaosmanoglus in Manisa, Kozanoglus in Cukurova were such families. In the Balkans, for example, the Janissary- deserter Pazvandoglu had become famous by plundering Romanians in Wallachia and Moldavia. He had collected around himself a force of Janissary deserters. The Janissaries in Istanbul, meanwhile, gave moral support to Pazvandoglu. Pazvandoglu defeated a small force sent against him by Bab-i-Ali and spread his plundering to Sofia, Nish, Rusjuk, Nigbolu, Belgrade and Semendire. This

was a perfect excuse for the Serbian independence movement.

p. 117 Franco-Turkish War (1798-1802)

After the conquest of Venetian lands, France had acquired borders with Turkiye and precautions had been taken against him. However Napoleon, in a move worthy of his military genius, suddenly appeared before Alexandria (Egypt) with 35,000 soldiers, 25,000 sailors and 450 ships. He invaded the city but treated the population very well. In his address to the populace, he told them that the occupation was temporary and that after getting the Mameluks to obey the Sultan he'd leave. He moved toward Cairo, easily defeated the 10,000 mam Mameluk army and the 20,000 man army of Vizier Abubekr Pasa. The army did not commit any atrocities in Cairo either. A few days later Admiral Nelson struck at Alexandria and destroyed Napoleon's fleet. Bab-i-Ali (Ottoman Government) declared war on France. Turkiye became allied with Great Britain and Russia. Bonaparte, then moved toward Palestine, capturing the fort at Gaza. Napoleon upon capturing Jaffa, put 10,000 soldiers and civilians to the sword. His reasons were to scare the population into non-resistance to make the rest of his intended conquests easy. However, at Akka he met with unexpected resistance. Although the Anglo-Turkish fleet had reached Akka and was trying to bombard the French positions, because of the distance the artillery did not have much effect. Surprisingly, Napoleon could not take the fort and returned back to Egypt. He never forgot this lesson and for the rest of his life and never indulged in siege warfare again.

In Egypt, after again defeating the 8,000 men army of Kose Mustafa Pasa, Bonaparte suddenly left Egypt for Paris, leaving his army stranded. The Venetian islands and ports at Epir (Epirus) taken from Napoleon were given to Turkiye. The Ionian Islands (Corfu, Zenta, Cephalonia, Aya Mavri(Hagia Mavri), Cerigo etc) became internally autonomous under Ottoman protection. Eventually, the French forces in Egypt surrendered. During this time period, Turkiye recognized the right of France and Britain to trade in the Black Sea.

It was during this time that the authority of the Ottomans hit their lowest levels in the Arab lands, specifically Yemen, Arabian Peninsula, Kuwait and Egypt. The most dangerous development turned out to be in Egypt but from Kavala (Albania) not from the Mameluks. Mehmed Ali (Mohammad Ali) was from Kavala but his parents had moved here from Konya (Iconium). Mehmed Ali had gone to Egypt as an adventurer of sorts, during the time of troubles (1799) with about 200 'bashibozuks' (literally "Head_Not_Working" ie. irregular volunteers). Taking advantage of the French occupation, he rapidly built up a following in Egypt. He had some of the Mameluk Beys decapitated and had their heads sent to Istanbul. He promised to bring Ottoman control over the Arabian peninsula by defeating the Wahhabites. He was thus made the new governor-general of Egypt by the government who was looking around for competent and loyal people.

p. 125 Serbian Revolt (1806)

Banditry had become rampant in the Balkans. The 'ayans' had been pillaging the countryside for years. 'Nationalism' had spread also into the Ottoman lands and resulted in the revolt by the Serbs. Sultan Selim, to put an end to the 'ayans' and to suppress the rebellion sent a detachment of his 'new army' (Nizam-i Cedid) to the Balkans. The army started towards Adrionople and started to mercilessly clear the areas of the bandits and 'ayans'. However, the detractors of the Nizam-i Cedid complained to the Sultan about the needless killings of Muslims in the Balkans. Selim hesitated and then withdrew the army. Inability to use the army to suppress the Turkish revolt & banditry only fanned the flames of the Serbian revolt. Serbs were being treated like dogs in Belgrade and its environs by the Janissaries and had legitimate complaints. Janissaries had even killed the Commander of Belgrade and had

become a power unto themselves.

p. 126 Start of the Russo-Turkish War (22 December 1806)

The leader of the Serbian revolt was Kara Yorgi (Black George). With Austrian and Russian material & military aid, he captured Belgrade on 13 December 1806 and put the Turks in the city to the sword. To provide support for Kara Yorgi and to capture Bessarabia and South Podolia, Russia also entered the war. General Mihelson with 60,000 men captured Bender, Khotin, Akkerman and Kilye (Kilia). The Turks were able to stop him on the Danube delta. On 22 December 1806 Turkiye declared war on Russia. The Russian attack stalled with another defeat at Silistre (Silistria in Dobruja). To give support to Russia, Great Britain sent its fleet under John Duckworth as a show of force. The fleet (16 ships) passed through the Dardanelles and made it to Istanbul but unable to do anything, left quickly. In 1807, Duckworth landed soldiers at Alexandria but was chased out by Mehmed Ali. This small feat made Mehmed Ali famous in Europe. The main Turkish army moved out to Dobruja on the 24 of April, 1807. The tragedy was that since the Janissaries had refused to fight along with the Nizam-i Cedid, the modern army was still in Istanbul. The Janissaries had once again decided to fight alone against the Russians to whom they had been losing for a while. The government was unable to get its own soldiers to obey. Sure enough, the Janissaries refused to move beyond Silistre. Meanwhile, the Russians, expecting an attack by Napoleon at any time, were unable to send any more forces to the Turkish front. Thus the balance of power on the front forced a peace. If the Nizam-i Cedid, armed with modern weapons, trained and disciplined properly, had been sent to the front, it would have been a good opportunity for victory.

p. Kabakci Revolt (25 May 1807)

Right in the middle of a war with one world power (Russia) and almost at war with another one (Great Britain), and with the internal situation in shambles, another revolt occurred. Nizam-i Cedid had gained many enemies. The Janissaries were the primary antagonists however the [Kabakci] revolt had other far-reaching repercussions besides the military aspect. This was the beginning of a 19 year-long reactionary (irtica) movement. It forced the Sultan to disband the Nizam-i Cedid, just when it could have been useful. Sultan Selim was deposed. If the Sultan had enough nerve to risk civil war and to have the Janissaries destroyed, the Ottomans would have had a good opportunity to catch up to Western Europe. The Industrial Revolution had not yet taken place. Steam power was not yet in widespread use. The gap between Europe and Turkiye was still small enough to be closed with a serious reform effort on the part of the Ottomans. The famous Japanese reform movement would not even start until almost a century later. But the opportunity was missed. The destruction of the Janissaries who had become pests would have to wait.

p.132--140 A brief look at the world powers.

In 1800 AD, the world population is 839 million. Asia 541 mil; Europe 188 mil; Africa 76.8 mil; North America 15.9 mil; South America 12.9 mil; Oceania 2.9 mil.

In 1835, the world population reaches one billion.

The population figures for 1800 AD. (The ranking is in order of [military] power and importance on the world stage. Populations of the largest cities are given.)

1. France: 31 million; Paris 700,000, Lyons 130,000.

2. Great Britain: 78 million (including its colonies); London 1 million, Dublin 110,000.

3. Russia; 22 million; St. Petersburg 230,000, Moscow 210,000.
4. Turkiye: 63 million, Istanbul 1.5 million, Cairo 400,000.
5. China: 280 million
6. Austria: 41 million, Vienna 250,000, Venice 160,000, Hamburg 120,000, Prague 85,000, Dresden 80,000, Pesth 60,000, Munich 55,000, Augsburg 50,000.
7. Spain: 32 million; Madrid 164,000, Mexico 125,000, Barcelona 70,000.
8. Prussia: 9.5 million; Berlin 190,000, Breslau 75,000, Konigsburg 55,000, Danzig 55,000, Warsaw 50,000.
9. Iran: 12.5 million 10. India(The Great Moguls) 22 mil
11. Afghanistan: 13 million
12. USA: 4.3 million; Philadelphia 60,000, Boston 50,000, New York 50,000.
13. Japan: 23 million

p. 141 The Age of Sultan Mahmud (1807-1826)

(Continuing from Kabakci Revolt (janissary revolt)).

When Sultan Selim was deposed Sultan Mustafa had become Sultan. In Ottoman history, without exception, the first thing a new Sultan did upon accession to the throne on account of the forced abdication of the previous Sultan, was to get rid of those who rebelled against the previous Sultan. This was well known. Thus the Janissaries forced Sultan Mustafa to sign a document which guaranteed that the Janissaries would not be punished for the Kabakci Revolt. Thus having gained even more power, the Janissaries continued to dictate their will to the government.

p. 149 Turco-Russian War (1809-1812)

On 25 August 1807, Russia, under pressure from France had signed a peace treaty with Turkiye for 8 months. Neither side seemed to want to resume hostilities after 8 months had elapsed. However, after Napoleon made peace with Russia and Prussia, and hinted that he would not oppose the Russian occupation of Wallachia and Moldavia, the situation changed. On 5 January 1809, Turkiye made a pact with Britain, as a precaution against Russia. Despite this Russia refused to evacuate Wallachia and Moldavia. The Turkish army moved to Silistria and defeated the 60,000 Russian army. Meanwhile the Russian forces captured the Danube delta. In the Caucasus, the Russians were victorious. They advanced as far as Poti (Georgia). During the spring of 1810, Russia with all its might moved into Dobruja and North Bulgaria. The Russian advance was stopped at Varna when the Turkish fleet reached it. After another defeat at Shumnu, the forward inertia of the Russians came to an end. When the news of Emperor Napoleon I. Russian campaign came, the Russians stopped further attempts at conquest. Turks started to besiege the fort of Rusjuk. After 12 days, the Russians surrendered the fort. Since the Ottomans did not trust Napoleon, especially after his surprise attack on Egypt, they made peace with Russia quickly and went to the sidelines to watch the events.

p. 150 Bucharest Peace Treaty (28 May 1812)

Terms of the Treaty: Bessarabia goes to Russia. This was a very important loss for the Turks.

There was a sizable Crimean Turkish [Tatar] population there. And the Turks also constituted the majority of Southern Bujak(Bessarabia). The rest were Romanians and Ukrainians. The Danube delta was still in Turkish hands. The forts at Akkerman, Kilye, Ismail were to become Russian. However, the forts at Kalas, Ibrail, Isakji, and Tulcha still remained in Turkiye. Russia was to evacuate Wallachia, Moldavia and Poti. A new autonomous Serbia was created around Belgrade. It was destined to become independent in 1878.

Details skipped: The empire is getting unglued. Wahhabite revolts in Arabia. More problems with Turkish 'ayans' in Albania and Greece (Epir/Epirus).

p. 155 The Greek Revolt Starts (12 February 1821).

The revolt started in Mora (Morea) under the leadership of Archbishop Germanus of Patras (Petras). About 10,000 Greeks took control of the city and started to besiege the fort. The whole population of Morea followed suit and revolted. Although some Turks escaped to Tripolitze most of the Morean Turks were killed. At least 40-50 thousand Turks lost their lives. Among these were people who had lived there for 400 years. The fort at Tripolitze was taken on 5 October 1821. The 8,000 soldiers and civilians were massacred. The Turkish government, when it realized that Orthodox Patriarch Grigorius was a part of the conspiracy, hanged him at the Fener gate (in Istanbul). His body was displayed to the Istanbul populace for 3 days. All the leaders of the revolt that were caught, including the archbishops of Adrianople, Ceasaria (Kayseri), Tarabya, and Edremit were also hanged. Meanwhile Prince Ipsilanti (Ypsilanti) of Russia had joined the revolt with 3,000 volunteers. He occupied Bucharest and Kalas. The Turkish forces immediately put down the revolt. Some rebels escaped to Austria along with Prince Ypsilanti. The Greeks had miscalculated into thinking that the Orthodox Romanians would join the revolt. On January 13 1822, the rebels announced that they had created a new Greek nation in the Morea, and including Attica, Agriboz (Negroponte?) and the Kiklad (Cyclades) islands. The rebels were in control of most of the Aegean islands. The rebels had also captured Sakiz (Chios) across from Cheshme. Sakiz had a population of 80,000 Greeks and a few thousand Turks. The rebels had laid siege to the fort. After 19 days Ali Pasa landed troops on the island. After a week of fighting, the rebels were defeated. Tens of thousands of Greeks were killed or were sold into slavery. This action had a very negative effect in Europe. Those who had completely ignored the massacres of the Turks in Morea, wrote long articles on the barbarity of the Turks. Famous personalities such as Lord Byron, Victor Hugo and Beethoven, made the Greek independence their cause. It looked like another crusade was in the offing.

p. 157 The last Turkish-Iran War (1821-1823)

The Kacar (Kojar) Turkish dynasty ruling Iran tried to benefit from the troubles besetting the Ottomans. They invaded Eastern Anatolia and Iraq. They captured Bitlis and sieged Baghdad. A peace treaty was signed accepting the status quo.

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The Greek revolt could not be put down by the Janissaries. The governor-general of Egypt, Mehmed Ali had to be called in. Ibrahim Pasa (his son) was given the governorship of Morea. He moved in with 30,000 troops. His troops were exclusively Turkish. Since the 'fellahs' had not seen war for many years and since the Turks did not trust their military abilities, they were not drafted into the army. The rebellion was put down. The success of the modern army of Egypt made it possible for Sultan Mahmud to pursue reform again and to put an end to the Janissaries. Sultan Mahmud had waited 17 years to put an end to them. An army that could not even deal with a small revolt could not have been successful in a war

with Russia which could have erupted again at any moment. Thus Sultan Mahmud started preparations for a 'new army'. Announcements were made for the beginning of a new army of consisting at first of 7,650 soldiers. They started training along the lines of the modern European armies. As soon as word got out, the Janissaries mutinied, as expected. But for the first time in Ottoman history, even women demonstrated in the streets of Istanbul against the Janissaries. Their time had finally come. The mutiny was put down with loyalist soldiers. 6,000 Janissaries were killed, and another 20,000 were arrested and sent to internal exile.

p. 163 Sneak Attack at Navarin (Navarone).

Turkiye was in no condition to fight a war against anyone. The suppression of the Greek revolt has caused ripples across Europe. According to the agreement stemming from the London Protocol (6 July 1827) the most powerful nations on earth, Britain, France and Russia decided to put pressure on Turkiye on behalf of the Greeks. They wanted an internally autonomous Greek state such as Serbia and Romania. On 20 October 1827, a fleet comprised of British, French and Russian ships entered the port of Navarin, where the Turkish fleet was anchored. Since a state of peace prevailed, admiral Tahir Pasa had not taken any precautions. He would not have been able to put up much of a fight against the allied fleet anyway. The allied fleet opened fire without warning. At the end of 3.5 hours, 57 Turkish ships were sunk and 8,000 sailors killed. The liberal European press excoriated the attack as a shameful act. London, Paris and Moscow announced that they had not ordered their fleet to attack. They apologized but refused to pay indemnity. They recalled their ambassadors from Istanbul. Czar Nicholas, at this opportune moment, suggested to the other powers that they carve up the Ottoman Empire among themselves. However both Britain and France who knew that Russia would get the lion's share refused to go along. Nicholas I, then decided to declare war on Turkiye; a nation which had just disbanded its old army, which had not yet had time to prepare a new army and which had a large part of its fleet recently destroyed in a sneak attack.

p. 165 1828-1829 Turco-Russian War

Since there was no army, calls went out for volunteers. Russian forces crossed the Pruth River and entered Turkish territory on 8th of May. They also attacked on the Caucasian front. On the 24th of May, the Turkish army started off towards Pruth from Istanbul. Since the standing army was very small, most of the forces consisted of volunteers i.e. rabble collected from the streets and conscripted into the army. During June, Russians took the Danube delta, Isakji and Ibrail forts. They also captured the fort of Anapa and entered Ahiska (Akhaltsikhe) in the Caucasus. After capturing Romania and Dobruja they entered Bulgaria and captured Varna. Tsar Nicholas I was personally in command of the forces at Varna. The commander of the Varna garrison, Yusuf Pasha, accepted a huge bribe from the Czar, delivered the fort and left to live in Russia. The spring and summer of 1829 also saw military action. On the 19th of August, the Russian forces captured Adrianople. Paskiewicz's forces advanced toward Erzerum in eastern Turkiye. Turkiye sued for peace and asked Britain and France to serve as intermediaries. Realizing that they would be unable to take Istanbul and that all of Europe would be against it anyway, the Czar accepted the peace proposal. Realizing that the Great Powers would not give anything in the Balkans to Russia, the Czar asked for the eastern shores of the Black Sea. When the war had started, France had sent a force to occupy the Turkish province of Morea. Unable to fight against a world power like France, in addition to Russia, Ibrahim Pasa was ordered to evacuate Morea. Morea was given to Greece.

According to the terms of the London Agreement (of 16 November 1828), Britain, France and Russia created an independent Greece. It would have paid 375,000 'gold pieces' to

Turkiye per year and its sovereign (king) was to be selected from European nobility jointly by Turkiye, Britain, France and Russia.

p. 167 Adrianople Treaty (15 September 1829)

The Danube Delta, and the lands between the Kuban River and Batumi would be given to Russia. Ajaria with its capital at Batumi would still remain in Turkish hands. Turkiye would officially recognize that Georgia was under Russian suzerainty. Turkiye would recognize the autonomy of Greece and increase the autonomy of Wallachia, Moldavia and Serbia. Turkiye would pay Russia war reparations of 11,500,000 gold ducats. In return, Russian forces would evacuate Romania, Bulgaria, Kars, Erzerum, and Adrianople. The war reparations were to become a tremendous burden for Turkiye since its economy was already in shambles. It would also make the task of serious reform impossible. As long as the reparations were being paid, Russia would slowly evacuate the said lands. Thus Russia evacuated Romania on 29 January 1834 and Silistre (Silistria) on 8 April 1836. This 5.5 year Russian occupation resulted in the Romanians' dislike of their coreligionist Russians and their turning towards Austria for protection.

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After the war, Sultan Mahmud started a more serious and radical reform in Turkiye. Henceforth all government employees would be required to wear jackets, pants and the fez. Wearing turbans, and shalvars would be forbidden. Names of 'ministries' were changed and reorganized. New roads, bridges and buildings were constructed. Steam driven ships and machines were purchased. Census was taken. New printing presses were purchased. A state newspaper started publications in Turkish, Arabic and French. Western musical instruments began to enter Turkiye. The Civil Service began to learn French. New schools opened. A War Academy and a School of Medicine got their start. The administrative structure of the empire was reorganized.

The populace did not clearly understand the reforms and called the Mahmud, the "Infidel Sultan". Had it not been for the early death of Sultan Mahmud the reforms would have had a bigger effect. As will be seen shortly, besides the internal resistance, the European powers would not give Turkiye a rest to pursue the reforms.

p. 170 French Occupation of Algiers

The immediate (apparent) reason for the occupation was the fact that the Algerian beylerbeyi (governor-general) Huseyin Pasa, struck the French consul with his fan. The real reason was that France had borrowed a large sum of money from Algeria in 1797 and was making excuses not to pay. Because of the insult, France demanded an apology. Swimming in troubles of all sorts, Turkiye ordered the governor to apologize. Huseyin Pasa refused. France blockaded the port of Algiers. Although the blockade continued for three years, Huseyin Pasa refused to yield. The French, thus were forced to send a force of 36,000 soldiers to Algeria. They captured Algiers after a siege of 21 days. Although the Bab-i-Ali sent a fleet to help, they turned back because of French threats. It would have been impossible for Turkiye to defend the Algerian province at this time. France conquered the coastal areas in a few years but it took much longer to subdue the interior. After a few years, the Turkish forces left and returned to Turkiye. Although the French did not really want to expend so much effort conquering Algeria and thought of evacuating it, they decided to stick it out because a retreat would have been a terrible blow to their prestige.

p. 172 The First Phase of the Revolt in Egypt (1831-1833)

Because the governor of Egypt, Mehmed Ali had refused to send soldiers during the Russian War in the Balkans, Sultan Mahmud had decided to get rid of him. Mehmed Ali had been 'reconstructing' Egypt by forced labor, as the pharaohs had done centuries ago. [Modern historians don't agree that the pharaoh's workers were conscripted i.e. that it was forced labor.]

Some 6,000 'fellahs' had escaped from his grip and sought refuge in the Turkish Sayda province (Palestine and Lebanon). Mehmed Ali demanded their return from the governor of Sayda. The governor refused on grounds that they were all 'citizens' of the same empire and could settle anywhere in the empire. Thus incensed, Mehmed Ali sent his son Ibrahim to Sayda with a force of 40,000 soldiers and 23 ships. The revolt had begun. Ibrahim Pasa captured Akka, Damascus, and continued into Anatolia, reaching Konya (Iconium). There was no resistance on the part of the population who were hostile to the "Infidel Sultan" on account of his reforms. With his surprise defeat of an Ottoman army sent against him, he continued along into Kutahya. He had been announcing to the population that his intention was only to become Grand Vizier. However, the Sultan suspected him of trying to depose him. Sultan Mahmud, who suspected France and Britain of encouraging Ibrahim Pasa to split and weaken the Ottoman Empire, decided to scare Britain and France by asking Russia for help.

In truth, France was secretly supporting Mehmed Pasa against Istanbul but Britain was afraid that the Ottoman Empire would fall apart and that much of its lands would pass into Russian hands, and thus supported Turkiye. When the news of the agreement with Russia became known, France and Britain immediately asked Ibrahim Pasa to evacuate Anatolia. Mehmed Ali really had no intention of staying in Anatolia. An agreement was reached on April 8, 1833 in which Mehmed Ali would become the governor of the provinces of Egypt-Sudan, Jiddah (Hijaz and Eritrea), Sayda (Palestine), Lebanon, Damascus and Haleb (Aleppo, Syria), and Adana. It was almost as if the Empire was being divided up between the Ottoman and Kavala dynasties. Sultan Mahmud had no intention of letting this go on very long. He just needed time to put things in order, or so he thought, before he could discipline Mehmed Ali and restore law and order. He, thus signed a treaty with Russia (8 July 1833) in which the agreements were as follows: If Russia were at war, Turkiye would not let enemy shipping pass through the straits. If Turkiye were at war, Russia agreed to send military forces. The agreement was for 8 years (until 1841). Sultan Mahmud had intended during this time to get rid of Mehmed Ali. When the agreement became known in Europe, hell broke loose. Britain and France immediately started to threaten Turkiye but no attention was paid to them.

p. 174 The Second Phase of the Revolt in Egypt(1839)

With the tardiness of the tax payment by Egypt, the expected civil war began anew. Expecting an assault from Istanbul, Ibrahim Pasa had readied an 80,000 man army in Syria and Mehmed Ali had another 40,000 soldiers in Egypt. The Sultan sent an army to Syria which was defeated by Ibrahim Pasa. Thus the second Egyptian crisis began. Sultan Mahmud died before the result of the defeat and was succeeded by Sultan Abdulmecid. Because of internal jealousies, Ahmed Pasa (the Admiral of the fleet), to take revenge on a rival, took the Turkish fleet to Alexandria and surrendered it to Mehmed Ali, the governor of Egypt. His intent was to divide up government of the Empire with Mehmed Ali. If successful the Ottoman Dynasty would have passed into the Kavala Dynasty.

This gift(!) of the fleet which had been rebuilt at great cost after the disaster at Navarin suddenly made Egypt the world's second most powerful naval power after Britain. Clearly, nothing could be done militarily against Egypt by the Ottomans. A diplomatic solution had to

be found.

In summary, During the reign of Mahmud II., the Empire lost Algeria, Bessarabia, the Danube delta, Morea, Attica, Agriboz (Negroponte?) & Kiklad (Cyclades), the Eastern Black Sea shore between Anapa and Poti, the North Caucasus and the last remaining parts of Georgia. Many other lands gained more internal autonomy but still others such as Libya and some Arab lands became more firmly controlled from the center. Most of the 'ayan' movements which had gained strength during the reign of Selim III. were crushed by Mahmud II.

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Summary: Turkey in 1839

During the early phase of Tanzimat (reform), Turkey was living its dangerous years. The institutions established by Fatih (circa 1400 CE) were crumbling by the time of Mahmud II. Mahmud was responsible for establishing new institutions, a new army and a new navy. It was a very clear and unmistakable sign that the West was superior to Turkey. No one had the courage to try to change things until Mahmud II. The glorious past of the Ottomans had become not only a hindrance but a barrier to change.

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Turkey entered a radical renewal program with the announcement of the Gulhane Edict (Gulhane Hatt-i Humayun) by Sultan Mecid (Abdulmecid). This liberal movement had a positive effect in Europe. Since the Great Powers did not want Turkey to obtain military aid from Russia, they tried to settle the 'Egypt problem' by diplomacy. Britain, Russia, Austria and Prussia according to the London Agreement (15 July 1840) gave Mehmed Ali (Egypt) an ultimatum. Egypt was to return the Ottoman fleet and agree to evacuate its forces from Crete, Adana, Syria, Hijaz and Lebanon. If Mehmed Ali refused to comply another ultimatum with even stricter conditions would be made: Egypt would be taken away and joined to the Ottoman Empire. Mehmed Ali refused to yield.

Resid Pasa (Grand Vizier) asked the allies to fulfill their obligations. However, knowing that regaining Egypt would make the Ottomans stronger, Russia and Prussia refused to send soldiers. Only Britain and Austria sent forces. They landed in Beirut on 15 September 1840. The populace of Syria, Lebanon and Palestine also revolted against Mehmed Ali. The allied forces quickly overran the coastal areas and defeated Ibrahim Pasa's army. Since Mehmed Ali yielded to the terms of the allied forces, after this defeat, London allowed him to keep Egypt and Sudan. Britain was afraid of arousing French and Russian displeasure, should Mehmed Ali be defeated decisively. According to the final agreement Mehmed Ali again became governor of Egypt-Sudan but with much more autonomy since the governorship would now pass to his male descendants. It was the first step toward the establishment of an independent Egypt of the Kavalala dynasty. The Egyptian army could not be larger than 18,000 soldiers. Egypt would not be able to purchase any ships from Europe. Thus ended the the most dangerous revolt in all Ottoman history.

After this diplomatic victory, Resid Pasa tried to incite the European Powers, especially Britain against Russia. It didn't take much since there was already intense competition. With Russia and Austria now neighbors Russia's gain would have been Austria's loss. This would eventually lead to the First World War. And Britain and Russia were now in competition in Asia.

Russia, under pressure from these powers, gave up the rights acquired under the earlier

agreement (Hunkar Iskelesi) and signed the Straits Agreement (Bogazlar Anlasmasi--13 July 1841) under which during peace, the 'straits' would be closed to all warships. This put heavy burden on Russia since it would now be forced to keep two fleets (one in the Baltic and one in the Black Sea).

p. 196 Lebanon Problem (1845)

The Catholic Maronites and the Druzes of the Lebanese mountains, who were ancient enemies, got into virtual state of war over a disagreement. France, which had supported Mehmed Ali, and had suffered a blow to its prestige, tried to take advantage of the situation by aiding and inciting the Maronites against the Druze. The local authorities were unable to quell the unrest. To pacify the region, the secretary of Foreign Affairs personally went to Lebanon and created two separate administrative districts for the Maronites and Druzes.

p. 199 The 1848 Revolts and its Effects in Turkey

France had become a land of revolts after 1789. In 1830 another one had occurred. The Great Powers were afraid that the revolts would spread to their own lands. Sure enough, the 1848 revolt had such reverberations. Other than Great Britain all the other European Powers felt its effects. The two vilayets (districts) comprising Turkish Romania also revolted. Czar Nicholas, afraid that the revolt would spread to Russia, sent 60,000 soldiers to [Turkish] Romania. Turkey, protesting the occupation, sent soldiers to occupy Ibrail (1848). The revolt was put down easily since the Romanians were afraid otherwise that the Russian occupation would continue longer. According to a new agreement Turkey and Russia agreed that until the revolt subsided each side would keep 35,000 soldiers in Romania. Meanwhile another problem cropped up. The Hungarians and Poles revolted against the Austrians and the Russians. The Russian suppression Polish revolt was very bloody resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands. The survivors went to Hungary and joined the Hungarian patriots. The Austrian forces were defeated. Vienna sought help from Russia. The Czar, more than willing, sent Paskiewicz, with 200,000 men. The Hungarian uprising was also crushed. As a result, 1,120 Hungarian and Polish patriots fled into Turkish territory and asked for political asylum, which they received. Russia and Austria, threatened Turkey with war and asked for their return. The extradition request was refused by Resid Pasa citing a long history refuge and asylum granting by the Ottomans. When the ultimatum was heard in western Europe, it caused an uproar. When the Czar learned that the crowds in London had carried the Turkish ambassador on their shoulders because of Turkey's refusal to yield, the Czar prudently decided against pressing his case.

p. 203 The World Powers (circa 1850 AD)

Nine powers can be counted as among the great powers at this time. These are (according to rank) Britain, France, Russia, Turkey, China, Austria, Prussia, America and Spain.

Britain has shown the greatest development. Without a doubt, it is the most powerful empire; financially; industrywise, in commerce; the largest military and merchant navies; the best organized; the most democratic and liberal.

Russia's development is mainly through expansion. It has annexed Poland, parts of Sweden, Turkey, and China. Finland, Mongol and other Turkic states have been made 'vassals'. Its aggressive expansion is due mainly to its population growth. Its population has overbred all those which are its neighbors. It is trying desperately to reach the warm water ports of the Mediterranean. But it is as economically backward as Turkiye and its political system is even more absolute. Its military tactics are still those of centuries ago; overcoming the opposition

with mass assaults taking advantage of its population.

France has the most powerful land forces and the second most powerful navy. It is changing regimes and is unstable. Its industry is second most developed after Britain.

Prussia is dependent on its excellent land forces; it has no navy. Turkey has lost much land in the last quarter of a century. It has recovered some since the Tanzimat (reform). Its land forces are third after France and Russia. Its navy is fourth (after Britain, France and Russia). Austria has lost prestige after Metternich. It is thinking of granting equal rights to the Magyars (to be done in 1867). Spain is losing ground. USA is building up rapidly. China is trying to 'close' its doors to the rest of the world but the Western Great Powers are at its 'gates'.

The world population is about 1,137,000,000. The nine great powers have 902 million of this population. The population increases (from 1825 to 1850) are (in millions) ; Britain 119-->259; France 32--> 39; Russia 48-->68; China 320-->380; Austria 30--> 39; Prussia 11--> 17; USA 5-->23; Spain 19--> 23. Turkiye has decreased from 58 million to 54 million. Iran is no longer among the great powers. The USA has 3.2 million black slaves. Russia has tens of millions of serfs (landbound slaves). There's no more slavery in Turkiye.

Some populations of cities in millions: London 2.337; Istanbul 1.4; Paris 1.398; New York 0.991; Manchester 0.569 ; Beijing 1.1; Canton 1.0; Tienchin 0.8; St. Petersburg 0.432; Berlin 0.412; Naples 0.408; Vienna 0.4; Cairo 0.355; Damascus 0.215; Baghdad 0.160 .

From Yilmaz Oztuna, Turkiye Tarihi, vol XII,

p. 7 The Crimean War (1853-1856)

Jerusalem is a city holy to the three semitic religions; Judaism, Christianity and Islam. There was an ages-long competition among Catholics and the Orthodox in Jerusalem.

During this era, this competition has turned practically into a virtual state of war. France supports the Catholics and Russia, the Orthodox. Turkiye is trying to be neutral but Czar Nicholas I. who was [in]famous for his hysterical Turk-hatred, insists that Turkiye favors the Catholics over the Orthodox. Meanwhile, the Tanzimat (reform) leaders' anti-Russian stance was fully known by the Czar. Resid Pasa and Fuad Pasa are especially known for being anti-Russian.

The Czar was also known to harbor will toward these two Pasas for their anti-Russian diplomatic activities. Turkiye had managed to modernize its forces to the degree that it could put up a good defense against Russia. However, it was not capable of defeating Russia in an all-out war because of the tremendous population difference.

Stuck between the two powers (Russia and France), Sultan Mecid announced a decree that the sites holy to Christians are also holy to Muslims thus from that date Muslims would take care of the Christian holy sites. This announcement took both Paris and St. Petersburg by complete surprise. The Czar, angered by this diplomacy, and using for the first time the phrase "Sick Man of Europe" suggested to Great Britain again to divide up Turkiye between them. Britain, afraid of Russia reaching the Mediterranean, contented itself by only making the offer known to the Turkish authorities. Rebuffed the Czar decided to act on his own. Ambassador Menchikov gave an ultimatum to Turkiye to recognize certain rights to the Orthodox community. The ultimatum was rejected by the Bab-i-Ali (Sublime Porte i.e. Turkish Government). Tsar Nicholas, looking for a pretext found the refusal as a great insult and decided on war.

On 3 July 1853, Russia started its invasion of Romania (a 'vilayet' i.e. province of Turkiye) with 35,000 soldiers. The Tsar also didn't forget to announce to the world that this did not mean war but that it would be evacuated as soon as the Turks recognized the 'special rights' to the Orthodox Christians.

Austria and Prussia tried to intercede to prevent war. It seemed that the Tsar was bluffing since he accepted the offer to mediate or else he wanted to try to "prove" that he didn't really want war but that it was caused by the recalcitrant Turks.

Resid Pasa, who knew that this was a good opportunity to have Russia mauled, refused the offer. The Meclis (Parliament) met and decided on war. During this time, both sides had accumulated their forces along the Danube and the Caucasus. Along the Danube facing Prince Gorchakov's 152,000 army was Omer Pasa's 133,000 men army. In the Caucasus, Nadir Pasa had 150,000 under arms facing Muraviev's 160,000 men army. The Danube army was modernized but only some of the Caucasian army had modern weapons. The armies were approximately equivalent, however the reserves of Russia were much more plentiful.

The war started in Europe. Omer Pasa defeated General Dannenberg, southeast of Bucharest. In the Caucasus front, Russians were victorious. On 30 November 1853, Admiral Nahimov attacked and destroyed the 12 ship Turkish fleet anchored at Sinop (on the Black Sea coast). The fleet was completely lost; 2,000 sailors died and 2,500 houses in the city of Sinop sustained heavy damage. It has been said that Resid Pasa pulled off a diplomatic coup by sending a small fleet comprised of old ships to Sinop. According to this theory, this caused Britain and France which had been vacillating, to enter the war. In reality, the destruction of Sinop did cause the liberal European press to wage an anti- Russian campaign, however it's impossible to falsify or confirm such rumors. It has also been rumored that America left its fleet at Pearl Harbor open to attack to force public opinion against Japan.

The Russian attacks on the Danube were unsuccessful again, causing the Russian army to withdraw to Bucharest. Incensed, the Czar appointed Marshall Paskievich in place of Gorchakov. On 27 February 1854, on the request of Resid Pasa, Napoleon III. asked Tsar Nicholas for peace. Not wanting to go to the peace negotiations without having the upper hand in the war, the Tsar not only rejected the offer but made a diplomatic gaffe by announcing that the British and the French were traitors to the Christian cause and assisting infidels against Christians. Extremely angry at this remark, Napoleon approached Britain for opening hostilities against Russia. Fearful of the southern advance of Russia (toward the warm waters ports), but anxious of France's presumed pro-Russian stance, Britain had been indecisive. However, after France's approach, there was no reason for Britain to decline. After the war was over, Napoleon, whose army had suffered heavy losses, openly admitted that he was tricked by Resid Pasa.

On 12 March 1854 Britain, France and Turkiye signed an agreement to become allies for the duration of the war against Russia. The announcement was a big shock for the Czar. He had fallen into the trap. About a century ago, Turkiye had suffered the same shock to find out that Austria had joined Russia against Turkey.

The Tsar tried to finish off the Turkish armies before the arrival of the Franco-British forces, and sent his forces to Dobruja. On 31 March the allied forces landed at Gallipoli. The French forces were commanded by Marshall Leroy de Saint-Arnaud, and the British by Lord Raglan. On 17 April Omer Pasa won another victory at Kalafat. On 22 April the allied fleet bombarded Hocapasa (Odessa) and captured the 13 ships in the harbor. Meanwhile Greece, hoping to profit from Europe's perennial anti-Turkism, and to make short term gains from the

war, started guerilla movements in Thessaly and Epirus, where they constituted less than 50 % of the population. They started raiding Turkish and Albanian villages and killing civilians. However, Britain and France could hardly support such a move against their ally. On 9 March, the Greek ambassador was sent packing and the Turkish ambassador was recalled from Athens. On 5 May French forces landed at Pire(Pireus) and went on to occupy Athens to stop Greece from meddling with the affairs of the Great Powers.

On 15 May, Russian forces started to besiege Silistre (in southern Dobruja). The siege went badly for the Russians and they suffered heavy losses. Marshall Paskievich was wounded and Gorchakov took command. Gorchakov also was wounded. After 41 days, 15,000 dead and 25,000 wounded; 9 generals dead, and two wounded, the forces abandoned the siege. The tired army, in order evade an attack from Omer Pasa's fresh forces, evacuated Wallachia and moved to Moldavia. Around this time 40,000 French and 15,000 British forces landed at Varna. The allies, at Varna, decided to land forces in the Crimea. The first forces consisted of 24,000 French, 22,000 British and 7,000 Turkish soldiers. They were supported by 15 French, 10 British and 9 Turkish warships. However there were 50 other warships and 300 other ships in the Black Sea. Russian forces in the Crimea numbered 40,000 under Menchikov's command. On 20 September at Alma, the Allies defeated the Russian army. The allied forces moved to siege Sevastopol. Sevastopol was being defended by 54,000 Russian troops by October. They had 250 cannons. The allies had 126 land artillery and hundreds of naval cannons for the siege. Both sides continued to build up their forces. Around this time, the allies won the battles at Balaklava and Inkermann. Austria, meanwhile, at the request of the allies occupied Romania. Not wanting to go to war with Austria too, Russia pulled out its troops.

The year 1855 finds the Black and the Azov seas under an allied blockade. Since the Russians forces were still being reinforced at Sevastopol, the fort was holding out. The allied forces had built up to 202,000 (including 55,000 Turkish soldiers). On 2 March Czar Nicholas died and his son Alexander II. took his place. This Turk-hating Tsar (Nicholas) had forced his people to live through very dark times for not much more than his pride and Turk-hatred. His son Alexander II, in contrast, is famous for his liberal and humanist world view.

On 15 March, Sardinia and Turkiye signed a pact against Russia. Sardinia agreed to send 16,000 men to the Crimea. In return Turkiye would grant it trading rights. During this time Resid Pasa resigned to protest the Suez Canal project proposed by France. He had calculated (correctly) that it would spell the end of Turkish rule in Egypt.

Although bombarded by 800 artillery pieces Sevastopol refused to surrender. On 24 March, the Allies occupied Kerch. The Russians, then evacuated Anapa. On 28 June Lord Raglan died. Saint-Arnaud had died earlier. For the first time in its history, Turkiye became a debtor nation by borrowing money from Britain. After this date, there would be more borrowing and in 20 years Turkiye would practically be bankrupt. With the fall of the Malakov fortifications, Gorchakov started to evacuate Sevastopol. On 9 September the allied forces entered one of the best forts of the world. The whole city was in ruins. The siege had lasted 11 months. In this period the allies had rained 1,600,000 shells on the fort. The 1,100 artillery pieces in the fort, no doubt, had fired as many shells on the allied forces. The heavy losses suffered by the Russians at Sevastopol made it impossible for them to continue the war much longer. Meanwhile, the British navy had occupied the (Finnish) Aland islands of Russia and had cut off St. Petersburg from the sea.

The Russians had lost along the Danube to the Turks, in the Crimea to the Allies, and their

only hope was in the Caucasus. The Turkish forces here had lost the initiative. On 15 July Russians had started their siege of Kars. On 6 October, Omer Pasa had defeated the Russian forces at Ingur and was about to enter Kutais (large city in Georgia), when he heard about the critical situation at Kars and started off in that direction. However, before he could get there, the fort surrendered. There was nothing left to eat at the fort. Dogs, even the grass and tree roots had been eaten and there was nothing else. Although the war was practically finished, it took an ultimatum from Austria to bring Russia to the peace table.

During the Crimean War, the first telegraph lines were laid in Turkiye (Istanbul-Adrianople-Varna-Crimea). The first railroad construction (Izmir-Turgutlu) also started at this time. In a short time (1870) telegraph lines in Turkiye were the fifth longest in the world (after America, Britain, Russia and France). The railroads were not so extensive. In 1875, Turkiye was still 9th in the world (after America, Britain, Germany, France, Russia, Austria, Italy, and Spain.)

p. 18 More on Reform (Islahat Hatt-i Humayun) (18 Feb 1856)

The war gave new opportunities for Sultan Mejid announced new decrees on reform. One reason for this was to gain Europe's sympathy and the other was to show that Turkiye was similar to other European powers, even if only superficially. Thus, the decree was criticized by many people including even Resid Pasa, who was a proponent of reform. Some of the effects; The Christian minorities' spiritual leaders would no longer collect money from their 'flocks' but would draw a salary from the government. Since the minorities became completely equal in the eyes of the law, insulting remarks became punishable ("Gavura gavur denmiyecek!"). They would be able to enroll in any school and become civil servants. They would all be able to open schools in their own languages. They would still be able to have their civil suits settled by their religious authorities if they wished. Christians would also be faced with military conscription. However, they could be exempt by paying a fee. Since they would now be liable for the military draft, they would no longer have to pay the Islamic 'protection tax' called jizyah (cizye).

If the truth needs to be told, the minorities were not treated as equals by Muslims and especially by the Turks who considered themselves the 'owners' of the Empire. However, this was not done de jure (legally) but de facto (practically). The 'inheritors' of the Empire, were not able to intellectually accept the 'ruled' as their equals. Despite this, the minorities were still able to reach great positions in the Empire (except Grand Vizier and of course Muslim religious positions). Until 1856, the minorities could not hold any positions besides simple ones such as interpreter and physician. After this date, many Christians (especially Russians and Armenians) held positions of nazir (minister), even foreign minister, ambassador, governor, mustesar (undersecretary), etc.. However, the rules regarding acceptance to military school would never be put into effect and no high ranking Christian officers would be seen in the military.

p. 20 Paris Peace Agreement (30 March 1856)

The terms: Russians to evacuate Kars, the allies to evacuate the Crimea. The Danube delta essentially returns to status quo. The most important part : The Black Sea would be demilitarized. The Russian fleet would be moved to the Baltic. This essentially would leave only the Turkish fleet in the Black Sea since it would be able to move there from the Mediterranean very quickly. Since Russia was also to destroy its shipyards on the Black Sea, it became a very heavy burden for Russia.

p. 22

Resid Pasa was no doubt the best diplomat the Ottoman Empire had. With his death, an era known in Ottoman history as *kaht-i rical* ('adam kitligi'= 'dearth of [competent] men') started. The jealousies and incompetencies of those who followed him started the Empire on the road to its demise. Around this time, the borders of modern Romania essentially started to take shape. A token Romanian army was formed and Romania got more autonomy.

p. 25 Lebanon Again (1860-61)

The Maronites and Druze started fighting again. The local authorities could not stop the fighting. France accused Turkiye of aiding the Druze against the Christian Maronites. According to the French newspapers thousands of Christian Arabs were killed and hundreds of churches and houses were damaged. The spread of the 'revolt' to Damascus turned a local fight into an international incident. The Muslims who were unhappy with the 1856 *Islahat* (reform) Edict also started attacking the Maronites. Along with some Greeks and Armenians, the American and Dutch consuls also got killed during the riots. Ahmed Pasa (Syrian governor) did not intervene militarily. Only the Amir Abdulkadir, who had earlier defended Algeria against the French was able to stop further bloodshed and prevent the sack of the French consulate. For this, he was given a medal by the French government. Fuad Pasa was thus dispatched from Istanbul with special powers to Lebanon to bring control. He had 185 people [Muslims] executed, and distributed 750,000 gold pieces to the Maronites as indemnity. He also had Ahmed Pasa executed which caused great indignation among the Muslim population since he was a hero of the Crimean War. A separate district (*sanjak*) was formed for the Maronites with its own small military and governor to prevent similar incidents. The government was serious about reform.

Death of Sultan (Abdul) Mecid--1861.

Sultan Mecid was responsible for the continuing westernization of the Ottoman Empire. He was fluent in French and tried to bring every modernity into Turkiye. However, much of his efforts bore no fruit. Europe had not 'imported' the modern era which depended to a large degree on technical and scientific advances. It had created it after centuries of hard work. It could not so easily take root in Turkiye under the conditions of that time.

p. 20 Last Years of the Tanzimat (1861-1871)

The revolt in Serbia and Montenegro: Although the revolt was put down, under French and Russian pressure, Turkiye granted more independence to Serbia and Montenegro.

Romania (1864-1866): After the death of Prince Couza the Romanian parliament invited Prince Karl Von Hohenzollern to take the throne. It was against the previous agreements and Turkiye started to intervene however the problems in Crete prevented it. Romania took another step towards independence by being permitted a 30,000 man army.

Egypt: The Egyptian governor got a new name 'khedive' (viceroy)- - one step above governor and a boost towards independence.

Crete: (1866) The new king of Greece (of Danish dynasty) married a female from the Romanov dynasty (Olga) thus obtaining Russian support for Greece. Thus assured of support from Greece, the Greeks in Crete (who comprised a little more than half of the population) started a guerrilla war for independence.

Serbia (1867): More problems resulting in more autonomy for Serbia. Turkiye yielded the Belgrade fort to Serbian control.

p. 36 Sultan Aziz makes a trip to Europe (21 June--7 August 1867)

For the first time an Ottoman Sultan paid an official visit to a foreign country. Since then (until 1950) no Turkish head of state will visit another foreign country. The visit served multiple purposes. Turkiye wanted to explain its policy in the Balkans to the French who had become practically allies of Russia and an enemy of the Turks. The French and the British wanted to use this visit to impress the inhabitants of their colonies most (many) of which were Muslim and looked up to the Sultan (Khalif) as their spiritual guide. Thus the Sultan was capable of creating problems in their colonies.

p. 40 Crete got more independence. The use of Greek in official correspondence was allowed. Quotas (for Turkish and Greek populations) in government offices were established.

More 'Reform' in the Balkans: In an area comprised of north Bulgaria, Southern Serbia and parts of Romania, new reforms were instituted. New buildings, banks, schools constructed. Local elections at various levels instituted. This [successful] experiment would be moved to other areas.

p. 43 Problems with Greece (1868-69)

Turkiye threatens Greece to stop it from supplying Crete with weapons and to stop inciting the population to revolt. The Great Powers gather together (with Turkiye) in Paris and force Greece to comply thus averting war. Napoleon III., about to get into a war with Prussia, is unable to defend Greece's interests more forcefully.

p. 44 Opening of the Suez Canal (19 November 1869)

This canal had been in existence during the time of the Pharaohs for centuries but had gotten filled with sand over time. It was again opened during the time of Khalif Omar in the 7th century by the conqueror of Egypt Amr Ibn As. It had again gotten choked by the time of Harun Al Rashid (the 8th century). Although both Sultan Yavuz and Selim II. thought about opening it again, because of (Selim's) failure to open the Volga-Don canal (circa 1500 CE), it was not attempted. A much wider canal was again opened after more than 10 years of digging by Egyptian labor.

p. 45 London Treaty (13 March 1871)

During the Franco-Prussian War, the latter won a decisive victory. The Prussian King Wilhelm I became the Emperor of Germany comprised of the small independent German states, the most important of which were Bavaria, Saxony, Wurtemberg, Baden, Hessen, Hamburg. Alsace-Lorraine also was taken from France and passed into German hands. Thus the balance of power in Europe and in the world shifted. Germany now became the second most powerful nation on earth. These events also changed Turkiye's foreign policy. Russia benefited from the situation by asking for the right to build shipyards on the Black Sea. Russia was anxious about Turkiye's growing naval power. The Czar suspected that Sultan Aziz would try to regain the Crimea at the first opportunity. Because of continuous buildup, the Turkish navy had become the third most powerful navy after Britain and France and worried Russia. After 57 days of negotiations, Russia was given the right to build shipyards and to have a Black Sea fleet.

p. 50

With the death of Ali Pasa, the reforms practically came to an end. The reactionaries and conservatives took over. There were a batch of incompetent viziers (ministers). Around this

time, a revolt started in Herzegovina. The Serbs were getting aid from both Russia and Austria-Hungary. While this was going on, the Bulgarian revolt started (2 May 1876). The revolt was planned, aided and abetted by Russia. The inhabitants of 55 Bulgarian villages, armed by Russia, raided Turkish villages and killed about 1,000 people. At this time Turks[Muslims?] constituted more than half of Bulgaria. The revolt was put down in 39 days and 4,500 rebels were killed. The news spread to Europe that Turks had killed tens of thousands of Bulgarians and destroyed hundreds of Bulgarian villages. A fearful anti-turkish propaganda campaign enveloped Europe. The lynching of German and French diplomats in Salonica, during the anti-European riots, worsened the situation. The diplomacy of the time was such that whole nations went to war over insults to diplomats; it was based only on prestige and saving face. The Sublime Porte had six persons hanged for the death of the diplomats. Around this time, the reactionaries started their protest against the Sultan and against reforms. Sultan Aziz was deposed and replaced by Sultan Murad V.

It's not clear if Sultan Aziz was murdered or committed suicide. Foul play was suspected. It came, like the great fires of Istanbul, during warfare with Russia again.

p. 84 Turkiye in 1876

Internally, the deposition of Sultan Aziz, his death, the civil strife; and need to depose Sultan Murad after only 3 months; the discussions about whether Mesrutiyet (constitution) would work in an empire which was a mosaic of nations ('milletler mosaiki'), were serious problems. Externally, the inevitable war with Russia loomed large. Some of the nations in the Balkans were swimming in blood, fire, and revolt.

Turkiye was now faced with ever hungrier imperial powers. The gap between Europe and Turkiye was now too large and it would be very difficult, if not impossible to catch up. Actually, Japan had not yet started its reform. However, Turkiye had neither the geographical advantages of Japan nor its national cohesiveness.

Continuous external pressures, and endless wars were draining its energy and making it impossible to institute development plans. In 1871, with the death of Ali Pasa, the Tanzimat (reform) had been dealt a heavy blow. All things pointed towards a dictatorship. Sure enough, it arrived in the person of the next Sultan, Abdul Hamid. Although antidemocratic and reactionary, it did manage to prolong the life of the Ottoman Empire for another thirty years and to provide some measure of tranquility.

p. 96. The revolt in Serbia and Montenegro was continuing along with the one in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Egyptian Khedive had sent forces to be used in the Balkans. On 29 October Osman Pasa defeated the Serbian army commanded by the Russian General Chernayev. As the Turkish army was about to enter Belgrade Russia issued an ultimatum. Unable to risk war with Russia, the Sublime Porte granted Serbia and Montenegro a two month armistice. However, Russia's interference caused alarm in European capitals.

On 23 December 1876, the Tersane Conference opened in Istanbul in which Britain, Germany, Russia, France, Austria-Hungary, Italy and Turkiye were represented. Lord Salisbury, speaking for Britain advised Turkiye to make sacrifices to avert a war. The conference suggested to Turkiye that certain 'reforms' be instituted, essentially giving more autonomy to more peoples. Although Czar Alexander II. did not really want war, the pan-Slavist hawks' anti-Turkish propaganda carried much weight in St. Petersburg and they did not want Russia to lose face. Turkiye, too, had hawkish ministers, especially Midhat Pasa, who wanted to go to war hoping to enlist British support. In order to make a decision on the advice of the 'conference', the Parliament (Meclis) was convened; and voted against the

recommendations of the conference and for war.

p. 102

On 28 February 1877, Serbia made peace with the government. There was to be no change in the status quo. However, Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina revolts still continued. Bulgaria and Crete, where the Orthodox population was about 50% still simmered. On 31 March, Britain, Germany, Russia, France, Austria-Hungary and Italy signed the London Protocol, in which they suggested to Turkiye lighter reforms than previously suggested. In return for some changes in the status quo of some of the Balkan states, these states guaranteed Turkish borders against Russia and Russia itself would be a signatory. Czar Alexander who had a liberal and humanist outlook, and aware that the war would entail many sacrifices for Russia, also did not want war. The reformist Czar was more concerned with development plans inside Russia than war, since he was aware of Russia's backwardness compared to the West.

Unfortunately, St. Petersburg also had its share of hawks. One of the demands of the London Protocol consisted of giving Montenegro two towns from Bosnia-Herzegovina. On 10 April, the Turkish government rejected the terms of the London Protocol. Czar Alexander proposed that only the district of Nikshik(?) be given to Montenegro and promised to avert war on that condition. The Czar was afraid of the hawks in his government, and public opinion, had he lost face in Russia's demands. He was also concerned about Britain entering the war. The easy defeat of Turkish forces was also not guaranteed since, they now had more modern weapons and had shown themselves quite capable during the Crimean War. After the last offer was rejected, war was declared on Turkiye by Russia. It was a foolish move by the hawks in the Turkish government.

p.104 The Great Powers during the Last Quarter of XVIII. Century.

As this era opens, the importance (military and industrial might) of the Great Powers is as follows: Britain, Germany, Russia, France, Turkiye, Austria, China, USA, Italy and Spain. The population increases from 1850 to 1875 are (in millions):

Britain (including its colonies): 259--> 303; Germany 17--> 42; France 39--> 45; Russia 68-->89; Turkiye 54-->64; Austria 39--> 38; China 380--> 430; USA 23-->45; Italy --> 27; Spain 19--> 25;

The largest cities; London 4.0 mil; Paris 2.2 mil; New York 1.9 mil; Beijing 1.65 mil; Istanbul 1.2 mil; Berlin 1.2 mil; Vienna 1.0 mil; Kanton 1.0 mil.

Great Britain is still the world leader in all fields (except land forces) such as navy, commerce, finance, industry, colonies, large cities, democratic regime, etc. Germany has the most powerful land forces in the world and is trying hard to catch up to Britain in other areas. France is having problems in post 1870-71 war with Germany. Russia is almost as foreign to western civilization as Turkiye. Czar Alexander is having great problems bringing about reforms. Since Turkiye still is not defeated (in the 1877-78 Turco-Russian War) it is still among the world powers. Its navy is third (after Britain and France) and its army is fourth (after Germany, Russia and France). Since the slow pace of reform after 1870, Turkiye is falling behind other nations. Germany is powerful after the unification and the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine. Italy has just unified its states. Spain is reeling but is still holding onto its colonies such as the Phillipines and Cuba. China is facing the full force of European Imperialism. Japan is still not counted among the Great Powers. The USA is still recovering from the long Civil War and has freed its slaves.

p. 106 The Face-off on the Danube

The Commander of the Turkish forces Abdi Pasa has 200,000 men. There are other forces around Iskodra, Yenipazar, Bosnia, Greek border, and Crete. The Russian forces are only slightly superior in numbers; 250,000 men and 800 cannons. Its cavalry is superbly trained. The reserves are much bigger than Turkiye's. Looking ahead a little, since Serbia, Romania, and Montenegro are about to enter the war, the situation is actually much worse for Turkiye than seems at a first glance. Romania had a very well armed 50,000 man army. The Serbian army is being commanded by Russian officers.

Strategically, both empires were about equivalent. They occupy large land masses neighboring upon many countries. Thus they are both forced to keep large forces on their borders and cannot afford to send all their forces to the front. It is said that Turkiye had about 700,000 soldiers. However, it was forced to keep large forces against Greece and Iran and in Crete and many of its forces in the Balkans cannot be used since it would give opportunity for revolt. There had to be forces even in lands as far as Yemen and Libya. The communications were even worse than in Russia. Populationwise it was worse off than Russia since it was unable to make [much] use of the Christian minorities in the army. During the 1600's some estimate that only about 10% of the Empire was Turkish (i.e. about 6 million).

In the beginning of the war, Romania asked Turkiye for complete independence, in return for which it would stay neutral. It would have entailed only a little loss of prestige for Turkiye to let it go free. Surprisingly it too was rejected.

p.108

Two months after the declaration of war, Russian forces began to cross the Danube and became successful. The Russian forces crossed the Danube in Wallachia (Zistovi). The ease of the crossing and the lack of Turkish efforts to impede it surprised the world's military analysts. The war was practically lost. If the Russian forces could not be stopped at the Balkan Mts. there would be nothing to stop them from reaching Adrianople. General Gurko, on 19 July occupied the Shipka Pass. This pass was of great strategic importance. This left the Turkish forces split up in the lands between the Danube and the Balkan Mts, and south of the Balkan Mts. These latter forces could reach the others only via the pass. Around this time, Osman Pasa took his forces to Plevne and fortified it. The Russian forces could not have bypassed Plevne and into the southern Balkans. Meanwhile Suleyman Pasa received orders to move his army from Hercegovina to Shipka Pass. The navy was used to transport the army from Antivari (on the Adriatic) to western Thrace from where they boarded trains to Kizanlik (south of Shipka pass). By this time, the Russians had already attacked Plevne once and had been unsuccessful. On 30 July, Russian forces attacked again and were repulsed. Reporters from all over the world starting flocking to Plevne. For months the world discussed the outcome of the battles at Plevne. The defense of Plevne has passed into one of the great heroics of international history.

The battles at Shipka Pass went against the Turks. Suleyman Pasa attacked the pass for 7 days and nights but could not take it. Shipka Pass was for the Russians, what Plevne was for the Turks. On the night of 17 September a surprise assault was launched on Shipka but was again unsuccessful. Without this pass, the Turkish forces north of the mountains would be left to their own fate. Commander Mehmed Ali Pasa during late August, moved into action and won victories at Ayazlar, Karahasan, Kacilova and Ablova. However, the Russian forces were being reinforced and he could neither go the aid of Plevne nor attack Shipka from the north. At Cakirkoy, he was defeated. This was the turning point of the war. Before this

battle, Grand duke Nicholas' situation was critical. His brother Alexander had personally come to Plevne to give moral support to his soldiers. The anarchists at St. Petersburg had started to create havoc.

The situation at Plevne had grown critical for both sides. Czar Alexander put the reserves, his special forces and the Cossacks into action on the assault on 11 September 1877. At this time Turkish forces were busy elsewhere fighting the Serbian and Montenegrin forces. The Czar's plea to Prince Karol of Romania is famous; "Come to our aid.....in Plevne. Christianity is about to lose!" Romanian forces (50,000) were also put into action.

Although bombarded day and night, Plevne refused to surrender. The Turkish civilians at Plevne had also been fighting alongside the army. The assault on 11 September lasted 12 hours but ended unsuccessfully. Russian forces had lost 3 generals, 350 officers, and 15,553 soldiers. By middle of September the Russian losses at Plevne mounted to 50,000. However by this time, Plevne was surrounded on all four sides and could no longer obtain supplies. After the last victory, the Sultan had given the title 'Gazi' to Osman Pasa. Incensed at the title given to a junior officer, the jealous Turkish commanders did nothing to lift the siege of Plevne by sending reinforcements. They were also afraid of taking a chance and losing. On 10 December 1877, Osman Pasa tried to break through the lines since he had run out of food, but was wounded and forced to surrender. The Russian commander Grand Duke Nicholas treated Osman Pasa with courtesy and chivalry. He was sent to Russia but was not treated as a prisoner. He was allowed to freely roam Russian cities. In every city he was welcomed with military honor guards.

After the fall of Plevne, the 150,000 Russo-Romanian army was able to join up with the other forces in the south. Around this time, Serbians took the city of Nish. Montenegrins captured Antivari and Dulcigno. Romanians occupied Vidin, and chased the Turkish army from northwest Bulgaria. And on 2 February, Greece joined the action by sending its forces to occupy Thessaly.

Russian forces were victorious elsewhere. General Radetski (50,000) defeated Veysel Pasa. Veysel Pasa surrendered his 12,000 man army. The other half of the army ran away. Suleyman Pasa, in order to keep his troops intact, choose not to fight against superior Russian forces and retreated to Gumulcine (Komothini ?). The Russian forces swept through Sofia, Kizanlik (south of Shipka), Samakov, Tatarpazarcigi, Cirpan, Yeni Zagra (New Zagra), Tirnova, Filibe and finally one of the largest cities in Europe Adrianople. Eyyub Pasa, in order to save the historic Adrianople from destruction, had decided against defending it. However, since the ammo depot was torched some historic buildings sustained damage, and the entering Russian forces damaged other parts of the city. During January-February, Dimetoka, Uzunkopru, Corlu, Silivri and Catalca also fell to Russian hands. Grand Duke Nicholas set up his headquarters in Yesilkoy (Ayastafanos) on the outskirts of Istanbul. It was a disaster for Turkey but the Russian forces were also on their last legs. Some historians have said that a determined defense of Istanbul could have broken the Russian army but Russia's reserves were countless and it could also rely on help from the little Balkan powers.

p. 117 The Caucasian Front

When the war started there were 90,000 Turkish soldiers in the front. The Russian forces (125,000) were being commanded by general Melikov. Russian forces immediately began to receive re-enforcements. Russian forces under Tergukasov captured Ardahan and Dogubeyazit. Thus encouraged he began toward Kars but was defeated at Halyaz. Melikov was defeated at Zivin. The Czar replaced Melikov with his brother Grand Duke Mikhail. The Russian forces were defeated again at Gedikler (between Kars and Gumru). For this, Muhtar

Pasa received the title 'Gazi'. On 4 October Russians also lost the battle at Yahniler. This battle was won by 34,000 Turks against the 74,000 Russians. After this date, the Russians sent all their reserves to the Caucasian front and the balance of power turned critically against the Turkish forces. The battle of Alacadag became the turning point. The Russian forces overpowered the Turks. Muhtar Pasa could not continue to fight after Ferik Pasa and Rasid Pasa fell prisoner with 6,000 soldiers. He retreated to Erzerum, keeping his forces together. This classic retreat was still being used as an example in European War Academies years later. Soon Kars was taken by the Russian forces. Russian victory was complete on both fronts.

Muhtar Pasa had fame as a mathematician and astronomer. His works were translated into Arabic and French. Muhtar Pasa's military capabilities were extolled by Marshall von Moltke and Emperor Franz Joseph. The great hero of this war was Osman Pasa. He was probably the greatest military commander of XIX. century Turkiye. He brought new defensive tactics into defensive warfare.

This war was one of the greatest calamities Turkiye ever suffered. It was a sign of the impending collapse of the Empire. The collapse started with the Balkan War (1912-13) and ended with the First World War. It ended with the loss of territory that was unmatched by anything since the Treaty of Karlowitz.

But the land loss was not the whole picture. More than one million refugees streamed in from Bulgaria towards Istanbul. They were settled in Rumeli (European Turkiye) and Anatolia. Turks which constituted more than 50% of Bulgaria became a minority. After this date, Turkish refugees became a common sight until the end of the Ottoman Empire. They started leaving the Balkans in droves. The war did not altogether take place as in the chivalry of post Plevne. More than the Turkish army, the civilians suffered. The Russian forces and the Bulgarians subjected the Turkish civilians to unimaginable horrors. Tens of thousands of Turkish civilians were put to the sword. Large cities like Adrianople and Istanbul overflowed with refugees. For months, they slept in mosques and courtyards. For thousands of Turkish families, the wounds of the war are still not forgotten.

p. 121 Adrianople Treaty (31 January 1878)

Sultan Hamid had telegraphed Queen Victoria and asked her to intercede. The Queen then sent a telegram to Czar Alexander and the peace negotiations started. The Russian forces had suffered enormous casualties, had spent their last energy and were not in any condition to continue or to siege Istanbul. Istanbul had been prepared for an extended siege. Besides that, it could have started an international incident.

On 13 February 1878, the Parliament was closed indefinitely and the Mesrutiyet (constitutional monarchy) came to a de facto end. The Mesrutiyet was not suited for an 1878 Turkiye. One of the most important reasons for the problems of the Ottoman Empire was the lack of a 'homeland' for the empire ie. a clear dividing line separating the 'homeland' from its 'colonies'. In 1878 Great Britain had many nations as a part of its empire: India, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and other lands. However, only the representatives of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales constituted the Parliament. Even the English speaking Canada, Australia and New Zealand did not have representatives. And this Great Britain was an example of democracy. In Russia, which was slightly more westernized than Turkiye, even the ethnic Russians did not have the right to vote. Democracy was not yet the needed system for Turkiye.

During the 1st Mesrutiyet, the Turkish-speaking representatives amounted to less than 50%.

It can be seen in the official documents, that some of the Muslim (Arab, Cherkess, Kurdish, Bosnian, Albanian) representatives made strange requests during the parliamentary sessions. Some Greek, Albanian, Arab and Armenian representatives had asked for their languages to be made official languages and some of them asked for independence. Some Greek representatives had even asked that Crete and Thessaly to be gi