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The British Foreign Policy Toward the Ottoman Turkey in the 1880s.

A dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for the Master Degree

Literature and Civilization

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June 2015

Dedication

I pleaurably dedicate my dissertation to my great lovely parents who they raised me and helped me in every step in my life *Houcin & Morzaka*. I would like to thank them for all the love and support they provide me . May Allah bless them

To My dear Brothers: *Abdelwahed, Abdelali, Salim, Badiss, Tarek, and Mohamed*.

To my beloved Sisters: *Naima, Amel, Mounia, and Zina*.

To all the dear members of my Family without and forgetting any one.

To all my dear friends and class-mates with special thanks to my best friend and Sister *Khadidja*.

To Some One very special and close to my Heart, your dream became true.

All the Best Wishes for You.

Acknowledgements

First of all I Thank Allah, the almighty for having given me the patience and courage to complete this modest work. I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor *Zerigui Naima* for her guidance, encouragements, cogent critiques and suggestions, as well as support on various points throughout the process of the work. She really inspired me with her vast knowledge in Ottoman and British history. Without her guidance and support, this dissertation could not be completed.

I am also deeply indebted to Mr. *Kerboua Salim* for devoting his very precious time for helping in my “Research Proposal” and encouraging me to continue my studies in Ottoman history. Special Thanks go to the honorable member of jury Mr. *Hoadjli* and Mr. *Mehiri* who accepted to evaluate and correct this work.

Finally, I would have the honor to address the deepest thanks to the entire teachers of the *Section of English* who helped me throughout my education, and sincere grateful to the *University of Mohamed-Kheidar-Biskra*.

Abstract

This dissertation attempts to investigate in the role of the British foreign policy towards the Ottoman Turkey in the 1880s. Therefore, it will focus on the major reasons behind the Ottoman decline and how this collapse encourages the declaration of the Turkish Republic. Furthermore, it will cover the radical internal conflicts which led to the Ottoman decay, as well as opens the door for the European nations to expand their regional expansion toward the Ottoman territories. The European expansion was mainly demonstrated in this work throughout the successive Turkish defeats in the series of Russo-Turkish wars during the 1880s that led to the rise of European intervention in the Ottoman Empire, and particularly the emergence of the British interventionist foreign policy towards the Empire, which is our main concern.

The method that will be applied in the dissertation should be the historical and analytical methods. In order to figure out the main facts that brought the final collapse of the Ottoman Empire in 1912 this was realized by the declaration of modern Turkish Republic in 1914, even though the European powers united with the Ottomans but it could not prevent its final decline.

المخلص

تعمل هذه المذكرة على التحقيق في دور السياسة الخارجية البريطانية تجاه الدولة العثمانية حيث أنها تركز على الأسباب الأساسية وراء انهيار الدولة العثمانية، وكيف ساهم هذا الانحطاط على التشجيع في الإعلان عن الجمهورية التركية. بناء على ذلك سيتم تغطية الصراعات الداخلية التي أدت إلى الانحدار العثماني كما أنها فتحت الباب للدول الأوروبية لتوسيع أقاليمها باتجاه الأراضي العثمانية. هذا الأخير سيؤكد من خلال الهزائم الروسية التركية التي أدت إلى تدخل الدول الأوروبية في المصالح العثمانية و التي كانت إلي حد بعيد مجسدة في السياسة الخارجية البريطانية تجاه الدولة العثمانية.

المنهجية التي سيتم تطبيقها في هذه المذكرة يجب أن تكون المنهجية التاريخية التحليلية. من اجل معرفة أهم الأحداث التي ساهمت في انهيار الدولة العثمانية في 1912 و التي تأكدت بالإعلان عن الجمهورية التركية في 1914 على الرغم من اتحاد القوه الأوروبية مع العثمانيين إلا أن هذا لم يمنعها في الأخير من الانهيار.

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General Introduction

The Ottoman State was growing under the principality since 1300, as one of the World's greatest power and lasted for 640 years. During the 1800s, the Ottoman Empire was the leading government that ruled much of the Islamic states in the world, since the fifteenth century .Yet, it was noticed that the relationship between Europe and the Ottoman Empire was evolving in slow pace.

Gradually, the Empire started to lose its provinces in North Africa and the Balkans for European powers and the nationalist movements. “The Age of European Imperialism brought further losses of territory until 1914 at the beginning of World War I, the Ottoman Empire consisted only of Turkey, Palestine, Syria, and the Arabian Peninsula. The region controlled by the Ottoman Turks began to lose its vitality for several reasons”.(Pojer 1)

The nature of the diplomatic relationships between the Ottoman Empire and the European powers in the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century have been described as «symbiotic» (Catherwood 1).It was a relationship with mutual benefits and this can particularly to be realized in the British-Ottoman relations during that period.

The Russo-Turkish war (1768-1774) ended in defeat for the Ottomans. The main lands of the Russian expansion were not only in Greece and Balkans, but it included a variety of European territories within the Ottoman Empire. As a result of the war, the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire did not last long. This later led the European powers, namely the British Empire, to consolidate all together in order to safeguard their military, strategic, and commercial interests in the Ottoman provinces.

The British supported in the preservation of the Ottoman Empire mainly to be as their own area of influence. Besides, the British foreign policy, between 1815 and 1885, aimed at maintaining peace in Europe and even pursuing economic policies helping their trade. This goal could only be achieved by balancing between the European powers, as well as taking the responsibility of providing the protection and safety to the Ottoman Empire. This latter, became known as the Turkish republic after its dissolution in 1912. The British pragmatic led to hostility with Russia, the reason for that hostility was the Russian ambitions to expand throughout the Mediterranean Sea in order to make Turkey under its control. That was viewed as an eminent threat to the British tradesmen and economic interests in the area.

Research Problem

The dissertation will attempt to cover some crucial political and economic issues that are considered as basic principles in the British foreign policy towards the Ottoman Empire in the 1880s as knew before. Among those issues was: the British sensitivity toward the Russian ambition in Turkey which led to the break out of two prominent Russo-Turkish wars. Another major concern of this work is to reveal the Russian interest in the Mediterranean basin via Turkey. The analyses of these two issues will be extended by highlighting the core problematic of this dissertation which is: How was the British foreign policy towards the Ottoman Empire, in the 1880s, with regard to the Russian ambition there?

Motives of the Study

The main motives for that research can be classified into two types: academic and personal ones. The history of the British foreign policy and its role in maintaining peace in all over

Europe was a major part in master one syllabus. This latter was the main academic causes that encourages me to investigate in that field of study.

Those lectures directly dealt with the struggles between Russia and the Ottoman Empire and how did the Russian expansion created a competition between Russia and the British crown. However, those issues were not fully discussed because of the factors of time and syllabus. This is why we have chosen to study deeply and carefully the history of that particular nation in order to find out the significant challenges that faced Turkey throughout its long history, and how it still tries to remain one of the powerful states within the new world order. Moreover, Turkey, as one of the great Islamic powers that was in a continuous confrontation with the other European powers, was the subject of several historical documentaries that I have seen.

On the personal level, I was not knowledgeable about the history of the Ottoman Empire only when I read some traditional Ottoman stories and books and watched their documentaries. Thus, I have become curious to know more about this particular stage of the Islamic civilization and its interaction with the European world, mainly Britain and Russia.

The significant of the Research

The importance of such a study is to enable students to go deeper in learning about the history of the Turkish state that was once the greatest Islamic power in the world. Despite the continuous conflicts and wars Turkey had faced, the latter tried to remain powerful. Therefore, the historical study of this state country will help the reader to understand the nature of the Russian-British relations with Turkey and some of the main events that played a pivotal role in

the development of its history particularly in the nineteenth century and that left a great impact that deserved to be investigated.

Limitation of the Study

The Dissertation will be limited in the era of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century which will demonstrate the true nature of the British-Turkish relations that were based on the Russian interests. Yet, the Cold war, the First World War and the role of British foreign policy in Europe will not be discussed, as well as the details of the Russian-Turkish wars. In the late of the eighteenth century and the early nineteenth century, many conjunctures were correlated with the Turkish modern history such as the Eastern question and the Mediterranean interest. However, only the relevant issues to the dissertation's main question will be talked.

Suggested Methodology

Due to the nature of the subject, this work will mainly rely on the historical method. It is a variety of techniques and guidelines by which historians use primary and secondary sources and evidences. This approach is the appropriate one since it could guide such historical study, as well as it would help the researchers to get more knowledge about the historical events and analyses that have been already explored by other historians. Nevertheless, analytical description is the research's second method, even if it is just partially related to this subject, in order to offer valuable insights into the history and the real dynamics that governed the past British-Turkish relations.

Structure of the Study

The major aim of this academic dissertation is to analyze the motives behind the role of the British foreign policy towards the Ottoman Turkey in the 1880s, so that it will contain three main chapters. The first will be about the decline of the Ottoman Empire, and will have three main titles. The first presents the internal deficiencies which led to the weakening of the Ottoman Empire: the economic, political and military ones. The second title will be about the Emergence of the Nationalist Movement and the beginning of the decline era. Consequently, the last one will analyze the result of the previous title which is the final decline of the Ottoman Empire.

The second chapter will cover the major Russo-Turkish wars, but focus largely on the war of the 1768-1774. It will be divided into two main titles. The first will reveal the real relations between the Russians and the Ottoman Turks during the 1700s and 1800s, with a particular emphasis on the Russo-Turkish war of 1768-1774. However, the second title will be about the intervention of the European powers in the empire after the war of 1774. It will also try to detect the true reasons behind the British solidarity with the Ottomans during this period.

Therefore, the third chapter will analyze the role of the British foreign policy in the Ottoman Empire in the 1880s. It will compose three titles. The first one will deal with the results of the British intervention in the Ottoman Empire. The second will tackle the emergence of the political reforms in these crucial sectors: law, army, and education. Finally, the last chapter will conclude with the decline of the Ottoman Empire and the rise of the Turkish republic in 1918.

The Literature Review

Thanks to the remarkable impact that the Ottoman Empire has left on the modern world history for more than six decades, several historians and authors have devoted a huge amount of their works to study the various historical, political, and economic issues of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey. Yet, some of them emphasized solely the importance of the transition era in the making and development of the Turkish state history as being their essential aim of research.

Susan Pojer is one of those ardent researchers who illustrated throughout history how this Ottoman powerful entity degraded from a traditional empire to a modern state. Pojer in her essay *The Decline of the Ottoman Empire & the Birth of Modern Turkey* asserted that, “the age of European Imperialism brought further losses of territory until 1914 at the beginning of the First World War, the Ottoman Empire consisted only Turkey, Palestine, Syria, and Arabian Peninsula”. (1)

Whereas, other prominent authors took the Russo-Turkish war as the main issue of their interesting history books, namely Edwin C. Knuth’s book *The Empire of City*. Throughout the different parts of this book, he managed to demonstrate the crucial role of the British Empire in maintaining peace in the whole of Europe during the 1800s. In addition, he focused on the British peace initiative and revealed that its primary aim was to constrict the Russian expansion and its significant political influence in the Mediterranean Sea basin via Turkey. Edwin C. Knuth clearly stated that, “England to preserve to herself the balance of power in Europe, it is necessary to limit the political expansion of any European state”. (7)

However, this dissertation will attempt to discuss both issues mentioned above in order to discover and understand the role of the British foreign policy in Turkey during that era in particular. Such question cannot be answered unless the two previous stated issues are considerably discussed. This work will be different since it will attempt to reveal a number of political challenges that faced the Modern Turkey and also analyze the major turning points that marked its history, such as the Russo-Turkish wars and the British-Turkish relations during the 1880s.

Chapter One:
The Decline of the Ottoman Empire

Introduction

For many centuries, the Ottoman Empire was the central authority of the Islamic world, thanks to its military might and vast surface. The Ottoman Empire grew as a small state called Anatolian in 1300s. Then, it build its principality and developed as an empire from the medieval era to the modern life by the 1500s, it became the most powerful empire with its large number of territories. North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, parts from Persia , Southeast and Europe, they all fall eventually under the supremacy of the Ottomans.

The nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries, European powers had shown a remarkable interest in the Ottoman Empire, whether in economic, military or politics. The European powers had its own particular interests in Ottoman Empire and in the same time, its specific areas of concern. From time to time those interests across each other.

The Eastern Question was dated back to 1774¹; after the defeat of the Ottomans in the Russo-Turkish war 1768-1774. It was one of the main reasons behind the European interest in the Ottoman Empire.

Throughout the 1700 and 1800, the weak position of the Ottomans led the European powers to name it Sick Man of Europe.² This weakness was the main goal behind the Russian expansion in Balkans. Such expansion did not particularly highlight the interest in Balkans, instead, various problems raised during that time in the late of the eighteenth and the

¹ Eastern Question: term designating the problem of European territory controlled by the decaying Ottoman Empire in the 18th, 19th, and early 20th century. Read more: Eastern Question , Columbia University, 2012. <http://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/history/eastern-question.html#ixzz3SkmEMeOQ>>.

² Sick man of Europe: Europeans named Turkey as Sick man of Europe because of its mixture of failures and weakness. Available at: Henry A, Course. The sick Man of Europe < http://digitalcommons.salve.edu/pell_theses/40>.

beginning of the nineteenth century. This included also the unstable state of the European powers in the Ottoman Empire.

I. The Internal Reasons Behind the Decline of the Ottoman Empire: The Political, Economic, Military Struggles

The Ottoman Empire witnessed a mixture of weakness and strength in the last decades before its final decline 1920s, that was the essential reason behind the European Interests. “The relations of the Great Powers with Ottoman Empire are particularly interesting for the light they throw on the relations of the European with non-European powers in the age of Imperialism”. (Mansel 1)

I. 1. The political Weakness of the Ottoman Empire

The history of any great empire was marked by several struggles that hamper its growth and development. The Ottoman Empire was one of these powers that are still considered as an important Islamic power till nowadays. It was established by the Turks and stand for six hundred years and ended in 1922. However, it was the nation that influenced several European powers. Furthermore, the Ottoman Muslims were ruling the Eastern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the Empire was in a powerful position among the European nations, but various issues started to arise and were affecting the political situation of the Empire among the European world. Which led to the beginning of the breakdown.

The Ottoman system of government was known for the **dynastic system**.³ Therefore,

³ Dynastic system: when the Sultan died his son should be the new Sultan. It’s an obliged system that needs to follow whatever were the consequences. Stanford J.Show, [The Ottoman Empire](#), (the oxford encyclopedia, 2015). See more in <http://www.oxfordislamicstudies.com/article/opr/t236/e0611>.

when the Sultan died his son should be the new Sultan, “but unlike the modern Russia and British states, the Ottoman family used principle of males as potential heirs to the throne. Many dynasties employed a second principal of succession, primogeniture,⁴ by the eldest son to the rule”. (Quataret 91) This system of government brought what called the civil wars, because of the struggles between the sons after the sultan death, and who was the appropriate one who deserves to take his place.

The main difference that distinguishes the Ottoman’s system of government was that the sultan was the one who led his army in the battles, and made it as his primary mission. For instance, the sultan Murat was the last Sultan that led his army into a battle in 1683. Besides, in such system of governing, women played a significant role, so that the Mother Queen during several decades had a strong control over the son, i.e. the new Sultan. Such interference was often the major reason of the corruption among the palace, the reason what led many historians to name it as “The Sultanates of Women” (Chamber 1)

The reign of Suleiman I the magnificent,⁵ was described as a glory age for the Ottomans. Even though there were clear signs of weakness and breakdown that started to appear, and what increased such weakness was the Sultan’s lack of ability and control over the empire. As well as the Islamic principles of ruling, which depend on the Justice and equality and most of that loyalty were vanishing gradually.

⁴ Primogeniture: inheritance by the firstborn, specifically the eldest son.

⁵ Read more in: The Decline of the Ottoman Empire 1566, 1807. Available at: Britannica <www.transanatolie.com/english/Turkey/Ottomans/ejz.pdf > 2015.

The Sultan Suleiman I ruled the Ottoman Empire for the longest period ever which started from 1520s to 1566. With the patronage of the Sultan Suleiman, the Ottoman Empire was living in what called the Golden Age of the Ottoman society's cultural growth.

In the 1500s, Sultan Suleiman said, "The people think of wealth and power as the greatest fate, but in this world a spell of health is the best state, what men call sovereignty is War; worship of God is the highest throne, the happiest of all estate".

Describing the power and the authority of the Sultan, Lord Kinross said that, "Not only was he a great military campaigner, a man of sword, as his father and grandfather had being before him. He was a great legislator standing out in the eyes of his people as a high-mind sovereign and a magnanimous expand of justice".

After a long period of the Sultan Suleiman's reign, he became exhausted from the duties and responsibilities of the Empire, as well as his building and developing of the Ottoman business and foreign affairs. For that reason, he decided to take a rest and realize his different life desires (get married to many wives and enjoy a daily long rest). Therefore, the office minister was build in order to take place as a second high power to the Sultan.

Such minister authority was demonstrated by the right to obtain complete respect. But meanwhile, this position was only temporary for the Sultan remained the real ruler. Besides, the minister was not as fair as the Sultan did with all his subjects of different ethnics and religious back ground. Furthermore, this authority might threaten other prince's positions.

The Sultans who came after Suleiman I, from 1566 to 1789, were less qualified, and lacked ability and incompetent. They ruled only for short period, less than 13 years. Consequently, corruption takes important place at the level of the government and even the palace. Nepotism

for instance, was playing a significant role in the seventeenth century; and was the reason behind hiring so many members of the minister offices even if they were not highly educated or cultivated.⁶

Bribery also played a strong role in increasing the corruption between the government's members, since the Ottoman members of the administration were purchasing offices, i.e. they were not hired by the Minister of the Sultan .Despite of that, they were paying money to buy the office. As a result, the Ottoman Government started losing its credibility and authority among its subject. One of the principles that the officials were working with is they were buying their offices, than they impose more taxes on the citizens to recuperate the money they pay.

All those problems and struggles were the major reason behind the breakup of the Ottoman entity. Though the rulers were trying hard to regain their reputation and avoid any loss of provinces. Since the European powers were showing a strong interest in the Ottoman territories.

I. 2. The Economic Problems behind the Decay of the Ottoman Empire

The master dissertation entitled *The Economic reasons behind the Decline of the Ottoman Empire* by Erkut Duranglu and Guzide Okutucu, deals with the analytical study of the major reasons behind the decline of the Ottoman Empire. It came up with the result that the Ottoman Empire during the seventeenth century engaged in long wars, which shifted the balance of the Empire into a weak situation. Yet, the fragile statue of the Empire was considered as support for the Europe nation. Therefore, the Ottoman Empire decided to relying on the Europeans in

⁶ Read more in: Stanford J Show, *The decline of the Ottoman Empire, 1566-1807* (2014).
<<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/434996/Ottoman-Empire/44387/The-decline-of-the-Ottoman-Empire-1566-1807> >

its economic affairs and trade. Although they were heavily rely on the agriculture as their main source of tax. (14)

The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were a much challenging era for the Ottoman Empire, as it faced various difficulties that began to increase when the Dutch and British decided to close the earliest international routes that were passing through the Middle East. Such decision brought further lost for the Ottoman economy mainly because that was the primary significant route of tradesman, as well as it was a major passage of the agriculture production and raw material for all of its colonies (Anatolia, Hungary and Arabian peninsula).

The European trade relations with the Ottomans were in remarkable progress since the first half of the nineteenth century. It started to increase rapidly since the 1840s and continued so until 1873. Such affaires witnessed notable growth after the Crimean war 1853,⁷ when the Ottoman Empire was considered as a land of opportunities and attracted several European investments and various adventurers. (15)

Erik-Jan Zürcher in his article entitled *The Ottoman Empire 1850-1922* stated that, “the public debt administration was given direct access to a number of important revenue sources of the state, thus further eroding the empire’s financial position, the war of 1877-78 also deprived the Empire from some of its richest provinces in Europe”. (3) Various international conflicts were the reason behind the weak economic system of the Ottoman Empire. The period between 1578 and 1606 was an era of continuous battles between the Ottoman Empire

⁷ Crimean war (October 1853–February 1856): war that took place mainly in the Crimean Peninsula between the Russians and the British, French, and Ottoman Turkish, with support from the army of Sardinia-Piedmont. Read more in : The Crimean war 1835-56.(Encyclopedia.2014)
For further reading, see: <<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/143040/Crimean-War>>.

and the Iranians in East Europe, the same with Austro-Hungarians in the West. Such battles caused the loss of the Ottoman supremacy over the Mediterranean Sea and North Africa.

In the beginning of the seventeenth century, the Ottoman government lost its control over the Black Sea. One of the main reasons behind the decline of the Ottoman sea port was the insecurity of Black sea, which was the most significant economic passage way of trade (Halil Inalcik).

Searching for new route to transport the silk was the aim of the Ottomans during the sixteenth century. Therefore, the Ottoman rulers tried to develop the trade manufacturing by searching for a passage routes to transport the silk from Iran to Europe. Since Anatolia was the only passage of the Iranian silk as well as the European wool until the end of the sixteen century, Britain also was transporting its production through Anatolia to the Middle Asia.⁸

In 1603, the king of Iran Shah Abass stated a new challenging decision for the Ottomans so that he demanded to restrain the silk's sales.⁹ In order to avoid the lack of gold and silver which were offered from the Ottoman trade, he made a decision to sell the production of silk directly to the European markets taking the Indian sea as their trade passage.

The silk trade was the major incomes of the Ottomans, therefore the decision of the Iranian king result in a big loss for the Ottoman trading production. Britain and Holland were controlling the Indian trades after the change to the Atlantic Ocean while Russia started to control the European and the advanced states of the middle Asian routes. Consequently, the

⁸ Read more in: Erik-Jan Zürcher, *The Ottoman Empire 1850-1922 - UNAVOIDABLE FAILURE*. (Leiden University). <<http://www.transanatolie.com/english/turkey/Turks/Ottomans/ejz31.pdf>>.

⁹ Iranian King Shah Abass: (1571-1629) was shah of Iran from 1588 until his death in 1629, when he assumed power by deposing his father, whom he later murdered until his death in 1629. See: David Blow, *The Ruthless King Who Became an Iranian Legend*. 2006.

beginning of the seventeenth century was a marked decay for the Ottoman's power and supremacy since it kept controlling only the Balkans and the Arabian region.

Professor Halil Inalcik in his book entitled *The Economic and Social History of the Ottoman Empire* covered the social life of the Ottomans in the end of the sixteenth century. In that concern, he declared that, "The reasons for the decline of the Ottoman Empire were mainly domestic factor". (51) The Ottomans were counting on their own productions in the matter of basic needs, whereas they were doing the best to balance the proportion between gold and silver in the coins which provided the economic and social stability for the Ottomans. Since the most significant importations of the Ottoman Empire were the Iranian silk, the European wool and the Russian fur.

Another major reason behind the decay of the Ottoman economy was the population growth, since the Ottoman population was steadily increasing during the sixteenth century. It changed to rich a double percentage. For that reason, it was considered as economic problems that threatened the stability of the Empire. Some of the authors and historians laid the blame on the Sultans, since they had a serious lack of economic awareness. Other historians referred to the lack of equality in the Ottoman economy as the main factor that led to their economic deficiency .Where the middle classes interested primarily in their commerce, unlike the Sultans who their first priority was only to gain money.

The waves of the European development started to rise in the beginning of the sixteenth century.¹⁰ It brought with the Industrial Revolution and the goal of searching for global

¹⁰ For further reading see: Firas Alkhatib ,The decline of the Ottoman Empire. 12.10.2012. Available at: <http://lostislamichistory.com/the-decline-of-the-ottoman-empire-part-1/>.

markets for their trades.¹¹ These latter created a negative effect on the Ottoman International position. When the Ottomans were under pressure of the internal social and economic issues with the Sultan's regimes, the Ottoman middle class were looking only for how to get away from the authority of the Sultan, who they were seeing him as a threat for their own commerce and business. They were working hard to unite with other European expanded nations, with regard to the terrible situation that need to be fixed from the base. Nevertheless the Ottoman Empire reached its final decline in the 1800s with terrible loss.

I. 3 The Military Break Down of the Ottoman Empire

The system of the Ottoman government was based on one important law, which gives the Sultan the supreme authority to be the commander in chief of the military army. He ruled the army as he is trusted from God. During several centuries, the Ottoman army was considered as threat to the European powers that effected on the Middle East as well as the European nations. It was dominating the world from the 1300s to the 1700s. With regard to the historical influence of the Ottoman army, the European powers were feared it because of its strong and famous naval. The sixteenth century was a golden era for the Ottoman army since it was spreading control over its numerous territories. And afraid the other European nations even though the strength of the army was about to reduce in the late sixteenth century, but the Ottomans were trying their best to maintain strong enough to avoid the coming rebel from the nations around.

¹¹ Industrial Revolution: Took place from the 18th to 19th centuries, was a period during which predominantly agrarian, rural societies in Europe and America became industrial and urban. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, which began in Britain in the late 1700s, manufacturing was often done in people's homes, using hand tools or basic machines. Britannica.Edu,2012.Available at:
< <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/287086/Industrial-Revolution> >.

The historical study of *The Decline of the Ottoman Empire* which was investigated by Stanford Jay Shaw showed that, “The Ottoman navy was destroyed by the fleet of the Holy league at the battle of Lepanto 1571”. (25) That latter was a battle between the Christian forces and the Ottoman Turks. It was about driving Venice from its Eastern Mediterranean, this battle was under the control of Selim II who invaded Cyprus in the 1571.¹²

The main achievements of the Ottoman army were Tunisia, which was belonging to Spanish Habsburgs, and also Fez that used to belong to the Portuguese in 1578, as well as Crete, that has been taken from Venice in 1669. (Fenani 98-103) That success caused the fear of the European powers and they never dared to colonize any of the empire’s territories or try to attack its army.

The changes of the Ottoman Empire from the 1700s to 1900 came as a result of the economic, social and political instability. Yet, the most crucial factor behind its decline was the military weakness. This latter encouraged the European nations to realize their imperial plans in the empire. The second half of the sixteenth century was so decisive for the Ottoman international reputation since the empire was engaged into two long wars. The first war was with Habsburgs¹³, which lasted nearly two centuries. Yet, the second one was two wars with the Persians, one started in the 1743 till the 1746 between the Ottomans and Afsharid dynasty of Iran,¹⁴ and the second one from the 1831 to 1832 with Qajar Empire.¹⁵

¹² Selim II: was born on 28th May 1524, in Istanbul. He was the son of Suleyman the Magnificent and Hurrem Sultana. Available at: The Ottoman family <<http://www.theottomans.org/english/family/selim2.asp>>.

¹³ Ottoman-Habsburg war : were fought from the 16th through the 18th centuries between the Ottoman Empire and the Habsburg (later Austrian) Empire, which was at times supported by the Holy Roman Empire, Kingdom of Hungary and Habsburg Spain. The wars were dominated by land campaigns in Hungary and Croatia.

¹⁴ Afsharid dynasty of Iran: The Afsharids were members of a native Iranian dynasty of Turkic origin, specifically the Afshar tribe, from Khorasan, who ruled Persia in the 18th century. Available at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afsharid_dynasty .2012

Those two wars were the reason behind the rise of the idea of the decline, and weakness of the Ottoman Empire. Since those wars shake the balance of the social and military system, with regard to the European development that was a weak point for the Ottomans. Who they were struggling in the Internal issues, whether with the Sultan high power or with the economic weakness that were reduced with the time.

II. The Emergence of The Nationalist Movements and the Beginning of the End of the Ottoman Empire

The large numbers of territories were the main reasons of the Ottoman Empire's strength, and the glorious military victories. for instance, in Europe, it spread its control over Greece, Romania, Bosnia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Armenia, Georgia, Albania and Cyprus, as well as it was controlling Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, and Palestine in the Middle East; and Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, and Egypt in North Africa.

¹⁵ Qajar Empire : Dudmân e Qâjâr; also Romanized as Ghajar, Kadjar was a Persianized native Iranian royal family of Turkic origin, which ruled Persia (Iran) from 1785 to 1925.
Read more in: Gokhan Cetinsaya and Stanford J show, The Ottoman Empire 1300-1600. 2015 <<http://www.oxfordislamicstudies.com/article/opr/t236/e0611>>



Figure 01: Ottoman territories acquired between 1481 and 1683. Available in: ‘*The Ottoman Empire 1299-1923*. (p02)

It was the strongest Empire that controlled almost all Asia and parts of Africa could stand for almost 750 years. But with time, it started to get weaker, and lose its strong ideologies that were spreading over the Ottoman territories. That latter were based on the Islam and ruling with the principles of Quran and Sunah. Therefore, the weakness of the Sultans and the economic impairment which were challenged with the military deterioration were the results of the breakdown of the Ottoman governmental system. (Show 3)

The end of the eighteenth century brought further losses that played a significant role in the decline of the Ottoman Empire. In addition to the previous stated internal defects within the Ottoman system, the main factor behind the weakness of the empire was the emergence of the

nationalist movements. This latter led to the division of the strongest Islamic power, and exposed the empire to foreign invasions, mainly by the European powers; Russia and Britain.

In addition to the two exhaustive wars with the Persians and Austrians, the nationalist movement started to spread in their ideology among the Ottoman subjects¹⁶. Therefore, several provinces decided to break up with the Ottoman principality, that contained non-Muslims and non-Turks, who they were seeking their complete independence and self-government. Russians supported the rise of Christian minorities in the Ottoman Empire, and helped them to replace the rule of Ottomans by their own rule in order to break down the entity of the Empire which was once considered as a threat for the European powers.

The nationalist movements started with the Greeks revolution in 1821-1832, and followed by the Siberia and Bulgaria in the late of the nineteenth century. Later, they continued to Macedonia and the Armenians in Anatolia. The 1800s were almost the period of separations, since the idea of self-independence spread over most of the Ottoman territories, and each one of it was seeking for its own independence and religious freedom. Such ideas were strongly supported by the European powers and especially Russia, which played a remarkable role in encouraging these nations to ask for their own dependence and their own ruling system.¹⁷

The idea of revolution enlarged to reach almost of the Ottoman provinces, and became a total threat for the Ottoman position in the European nations. Consequently, the empire lost its control over its provinces in Balkan. Furthermore, the waves of the nationalist movement kept

¹⁶ Nationalist Movements: it is a political ideology that invades an individual identity, national identity. See in: Stanford J Show, The Ottoman Empire: Historical Empire. (2014) <www.Britanica.com/EBchecked/topic/40411/Kemal-Ataturk/24781/The-Nationalist-Movement-and-the-war-of-Independence>.

¹⁷ Read more in: Firas Alkhateeb, The Arab revolution, 2014. <<http://lostislamichistory.com/the-decline-of-the-ottoman-empire-part-3-nationalism/>>.

in rising to cover almost all the African territories, where the Italians seized Libya from the Ottomans in the 1912.¹⁸ Then, the British power invaded Egypt and Sudan in 1882, but they kept being part of the Ottoman Empire until 1914. In the other side, the French forces also took the chance to occupied Algeria in 1830, then Tunisia in 1881. As a result the British and the France forces did not late to take the chance to break down the Ottoman strength, believing that such occupation would provide them the allies they need. In the same time will offer them the economic and military powers that help to develop their nations over the world.

The Turks and Arabs since 1517 were still related to the Ottoman Empire, living under the hegemony of the Ottoman reign. With a mixture of cultures and various different beliefs, thus they were effect with the period of the nationalist movement the same as the Empire did.

The leaders of the Turkish state in the Ottoman Empire tried to find a suitable solution for those movements, in order to keep them save and integrated. Therefore, the Sultan Abdulhamid II declared a solution that avoid the Turkish state from being separated or divided, when he asked for an Islamic solidarity among all the members of the Ottoman society , and to fight for their identity rather than then the separating movement.¹⁹

Mesut Uyar and Edward. J. Erickson analyzed in their book *A Military History of the Ottomans* that, “Young Turks,²⁰ believed that the Ottoman Empire is completely Turkish state,

¹⁸ Read more in: The Nationalist movements, updated 2-Sep-2014. Available at: <<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/514064/Russo-Turkish-wars> >.

¹⁹ Sultan Abdulhamid II: was the last of the Ottoman sultans who had any real power. He was overthrown in 1909 by a group known as the Young Turks. Available at :< <http://lostislamichistory.com/the-last-great-caliph-abdulhamid-ii/>>

²⁰ Young Turks; members of the Ottoman society whom were progressive, this term came to signify any groups or individuals inside organizations who are possessive and seek for prominences and power .1889-1906.

For more readings, see

<http://www.academia.edu/4983151/The_Ottoman_Empire_Its_Rise_Decline_and_Collapse>.

so that the 1800s were a period for the Turkish to encourage their identity over the Ottomans and to highlight the idea of the Nationalist pride". (176)

Whereas, Mr.Sukru Hanioglu described the young Turks in his book *The young Turks in Opposition* and stated that," Many modern Turkish citizen glorify the young Turks as a group that commence the process of freedom in Turkish state, due to such believes the Turkish initiated to promote themselves over the Ottoman and started to present their identity over the Ottomans seeking for a self-sufficiency i.e. they do not depend on the Ottomans, in the same time they have the right to rise their Turkish state". (01)

As a result to the Turkish separation movement, the Arab leader adopted the idea of the Arabic nationalism and attempted to spread it over the Arab nations. In order to rise their identity the same as the Turkish did. World War one was dated in 1914, when the Ottoman Empire was all about to decline and was portioning throughout the time, in addition, it lost control over almost of its allies. Some of these nations took their own independence and others were under the control of European powers. Therefore, the Ottoman Empire kept only some Turkish lands in Anatolia which named in the present Syria, Iraq, Palestine and Saudi Arabia. There was nothing left for the Ottoman government only to ask for help from the European powers, or to be under their protection. Consequently, it became in the side of Germans and Austrians against the Russians and British.²¹

The Turkish nationalist movement destroyed the balance of the Ottoman Empire, and opened the door for the European threat; since the Ottoman army was mostly made with Turks. As a result to the Arabian and Turkish nationalist movement, the British Empire took

²¹ Nationalist movements offered in : Firas Alkhatib, [The decline of the Ottoman Empire: the nationalism](http://lostislamichistory.com/the-decline-of-the-ottoman-empire-part-3-nationalism/). 2012.
< <http://lostislamichistory.com/the-decline-of-the-ottoman-empire-part-3-nationalism/>>.

the chance to break down the Ottoman inheritance. Therefore, the British started an arrangement to destroy the Ottoman unity; this latter was based on help from the independent provinces. For that reason, it started to tender an incredible ruling chance for the Arabic governor of Makah Sheriff Hussin,²² and requested for his support and to be in the side of Britain against the Ottomans. In order to gave him his own Arab kingdom.

Subsequently in the 1914-1918, the Arabs stood against the Ottomans with the British encouragement. Therefore, the Arab revolt against the Ottomans helped the British Empire to defeat Iraq, Palestine and Syria. As a result to the World War one,²³ the Ottoman Empire was invaded by the European powers with help from the Arab nationalist.

As a result, Mustafa Ataturk the leader of the Turkish society took the opportunity to declare the Turkish state over the Ottoman Empire in the 1900s.²⁴ In the other side, the Britain did not provide what promised for the Arabs. And took the step to separate them in order not to firm together and create another strong empire. Hence, the British decision affirmed to divide the Arabs between Britain and France, and that latter would be illustrated by the separation between the Arabic nations with drawing borders in the Arabic map in order to break down their solidarity into separated weak states. The first separated stated were

²² Sherif Hussin | Grand Sharif Hussein bin Ali, born in 1853, was destined from birth to lead his people. King Hussein ruled Mecca, Medina and the Hejaz. Available at: <http://www.pbs.org/lawrenceofarabia/players/hussein.html>.

²³World War one: the late of 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist in Serajevo, Bosnia. An escalation of threats and mobilization orders followed the incident by mid-August to the outbreak of the World War one, which pitted Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire against Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy and Japan.

Read more in: www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/world-war-i-history.2010-04-01

²⁴ Mustafa Kemal Atatürk: also named Kamel Father of Turks, Mustafa Pasha, born in 1881 and died in 1938, was the soldier, statesman, and reformer. He was the first Turkish president.

Transjordan, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Palestine, and creating a new Jewish state named Israel.



Figure 02: The division of the Ottoman provinces between France and Britain. Available at: <<http://lostislamichistory.com/the-decline-of-the-ottoman-empire-part-3-nationalism/>>.

III. The Fall of the Ottoman Empire

The Ottoman Empire was one of powerful Islamic nations; it survived for six hundred years and was the central influence of the Arabic Islamic history. Furthermore, it contained several parts from Africa as well as some of the European nations. Historians and authors over the world provided their time and effort to investigate the main reasons behind the fall of this great empire. The majority of outcomes were hold responsibility in the disorder of the Ottoman government as well as the lack of experience and education of the sultanates. As well

as, other findings proclaimed that the internal problems are the reason behind the breakdown of the solidarity between the Ottoman Empire and its provinces.

John Callahan examined the historical facts behind the fall of the Ottoman Empire in his dissertation *The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Rise of the Republic of Turkey* where he stated that, “The rise and fall of the Empire, primarily focusing on the last century of the Empire, from 1800-1920, where central point is that the Empire was too full of religious and political contradictions that weaken the Empire”. (03)

Durangu and Okutucu stated that, “Most of the problems faced were not only related with domestic reasons but also global for most of the time by their nature. Developments around the empire created a turbulent environment and Ottomans could not catch up with the new situation emerged”.²⁵(82)

Conclusion:

This chapter discussed the reasons behind the decline of the Ottoman Empire .It has been argued that the rise of the Ottoman Empire took place in the fifteenth and the sixteenth century, when the strength of the Empire was demonstrated by its powerful military success, as well as its large number of territories. Therefore, the empire was considered as a threat for all the European powers since it was spreading its control all over European provinces, Middle East, Africa and Asia. However, such large number of allies brought the military safety for the Ottoman Empire and prevented it from any European occupation.

²⁵Economic Reasons behind the Decline of the Ottoman Empire by Erkut Duranoglu and guzide Okutucu. Academic dissertation 2012. Available at: <http://brage.bibsys.no/xmlui/bitstream/handle/11250/168463/Duranoglu%20og%20Okutucu.pdf?sequence=1> >.

The glory age of the Ottoman Empire did not last for long. Unfortunately the Empire entered in continues failures whether internal or international ones. Such failures brought with the beginning of the Ottomans decay in the 1912. As a result of the breakdown, the Ottoman provinces took a decision to separate and go through in the national movement, looking for their own government and independence.

However, the history of the Ottoman Empire was ruined by several wars with Russia, since Russian interests were considered as a big threat for them, and brought further loss for the Ottomans and almost brought its end. Whereas Russia was interested in the Mediterranean Sea and the Black sea in order to develop its control and to spread its power over the Eastern nations. That attempt was based via the Ottoman Empire, which led to the various international conflicts that needed to be highlighted.

Chapter Two

The Russo-Turkish wars 1768-1774

Introduction

The history of Russia and Turkey witnessed various unfinished wars that started from the seventeenth century until the nineteenth. The relations between those two nations were exemplified by the geographical competitions, and the long series of wars and defeats. The Russian sensitivity towards the Ottoman Turks started during the era of the Ottoman Empire, when the Turks engaged in several wars with Russia; they were still under the sovereignty of the Empire. That conflict continued even after the decline of the Ottoman Empire and the declaration of the Modern Turkish state.

The diplomatic relations between Turkey and Russia started before five hundred years, the competition between both nation increased rapidly, especially after the decline of the Ottoman Empire. The most significant factors that can describe such conflicts were the economic, geographical and the ideologies of both nations, which led to the emergence of several wars. As a result, the wars with the Russians played a significant role in the weakening of the Ottoman Empire.²⁶

During the end of the seventeenth century and the beginning of the eighteenth, the Ottoman Empire spread its control over the Balkans, Anatolia and the Middle East. Such large number of territories created a remarkable threat for the European powers especially Russia. Therefore, the aim of establishing a great powerful Empire was the main reason behind the Russian interest in Turkey, whereas Russia was seeking for free routes to the seas in order to gain wealth and power, as well as economic developments.

²⁶ The relation between Russia and Turkey detailed in: Anil Gurtune, Turkish-Russo relation in the post soviet era. January 2006. Available at: <<http://etd.lib.metu.edu.tr/upload/12607080/index.pdf>>.

The Academic thesis that entitled *The Turkish-Russian relations in the past soviet era* by Anil Gurtuna stated that, “An important characteristic of the relations between Russia and Turkey in the First half of the eighteenth century was the establishment of the temporary alliances in the wars against each others. The Russian aim was to reach the warm sea, whereas the Ottoman Empire aimed to protect its territorial integrity throughout the alliances”. (17)

I. The Russo-Turkish Relations During the 1700-1800

The nature of the Russian Turkish relations were characterized by a continued competition and conflicts, which led to a long series of wars. This latter, come as a result to the goal of owning vast regional expansion, and large number of provinces for both. The Russian interest in the Black sea and the Mediterranean Sea was to search for sea routes to develop its economic position, as well as to create a large powerful empire. Anil Gurtuna stated that, “The Russian desire was to reach warm seas that the control of the Turkish straits and hegemony in the Black sea has been at the core relations between Ottoman Empire and the Russian Empire”. (15)

Until the late of the seventeenth century, Russia remained avoiding any direct wars with the Ottoman Turks; because of the strength of the empire at that time. But the weakness of the Ottoman Empire started to appear, even though the empire did the best to hide its weakness. Yet, the European world became confirmed about the fragile situation of the Ottoman Empire.²⁷ Whereas, Russia was getting more powerful rapidly therefore it seized the opportunity to expand its authority over the Black sea and the Balkans, regardless of the fact that these areas were under the Ottoman supremacy.

²⁷ Read more in: Kacem boukarra.Marsh, *The Russo-Ottoman relations 1700s*. <<http://ency.kacemb.com/%D8%A7%D9>>. 2013

The eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries were a critical and eruptive era as it marked the beginning of the Ottoman Empire's decline; its first priority was to defend its territories and ensure security for its subjects, as well as to avoid any kind of European colonization.²⁸ The hostile relation between the Russians and the Turks never ended. It lasted for decades and caused serious human casualties and territorial losses.

Peter the Great,²⁹ was a well known emperor for his widespread reforms in an attempt to establish a powerful empire. He worked intensively to realize the Russian dream to expand their control over the Black sea. Peter the Great with the help of Catherin the queen of Russia,³⁰ waged terrible wars against the Ottoman Turks, by which Peter the Great forced the Ottomans to withdraw from almost all of the old area that is known now as Ukraine. In parallel, the armies of Catherin the Queen invaded Crimea and followed the South lands in order to establish Russian colonies. Furthermore, they forced the Ottoman Turks to allow the Russian commercial vessels to sail in the Black sea.³¹

Russia took the advantage of the Ottoman weakness and claimed its leadership as the official protector of the Christian people, who they were living in the Ottoman Empire. Russia's pretext was that those non-Muslims subjects were paying expensively for their religious freedom. This decision ended with another tragic conflict between the two empires which was the Crimean war, in the mid-nineteenth century.

²⁸ Read more in: Zvi Magen and Gallia Lindenstrauss. Russian-Turkish relations: contemporary dilemmas of past Empires. 2013. Available at: <http://www.inss.org.il/uploadImages/systemFiles/adkan16_2ENG5_Magen-Lindenstrauss.pdf>.

²⁹ Peter the Great: Peter the Great (1672-1725), was a Russian czar in the late 17th century, who is best known for his extensive reforms in an attempt to establish Russia as a great nation.

³⁰ Catherine the Queen: Catherine II (1729-1796), was empress of Russia, and led her country into the political and cultural life of Europe, carrying on the work begun by Peter the Great. Available at: <<http://www.biography.com/people/catherine-ii-9241622>>.

³¹ Read more in: Zvi Magen and Gallia Lindenstrauss, Russian-Turkish Relations: Contemporary Dilemmas of Past Empires, p61. July 2006. Available at: <http://www.inss.org.il/uploadImages/systemFiles/adkan16_2ENG5_Magen-Lindenstrauss.pdf>.

I. 1. The Russo-Turkish Wars during the 1700s and 1800s

Spreading hegemony over the Black sea and the Mediterranean Sea led to series of wars between the Ottomans and the Russians, along the 1700s and 1800. Starting with the war of 1676-1681,³² it was waged by the Russians against the Turks and fought in Ukraine, in the Dnieper river of Russia. But this war had catastrophic consequences, which pushed the Russians to waged another war in the 1687-1689, in order to invade the Crimea. However, this war was another failure and brought several losses for both sides, and led to a third war which took place in 1695-1696.

The Russian tsar Peter and his great powerful army succeeded in attacking the Ottomans and captured the fortress of Azov.³³ This war encouraged the Ottomans to wage another opposite war against the Russian armies in 1710, when Peter the great tried to liberate the Balkans from the control of the Ottomans. He was seeking for gaining the control over the Balkans in order to be under the Russian hegemony. That war ended in defeat for the Russian in the Prut River in the 1711, Peter the great was forced to take back the Azov to the Ottomans.

The disaster wars did not end yet; whereas another war started again in 1735. Russia fought the Ottoman Turks with help from the Austrians. This war was in the side of Russia, since it finally succeeded to invade the Turkish-held Moldavia. Unfortunately the Austrian alliances were defeated in that war, which led to the both sides to sign the treaty of Belgrade.³⁴

³² The Russo Turkish wars Available at: <<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/514064/Russo-Turkish-wars>>.27-04-2014

³³ Russian Tsar: the word tsar means the emperor of Russian; this name was used until the end of 1914.

³⁴Treaty of Belgrade: On September 18th 1739 near Belgrade Russia and the Ottoman Empire concluded a Peace Treaty of Belgrade, which brought to an end the Russo-Turkish War 1735-1739.

Consequently, The Belgrade treaty was signed in 1739, it came after the war of the year 1735. As a result of the Russian aims to reach the warm sea which crossed with the Ottomans policies in protection the territorial integrity towards its provinces, the establishment of temporary alliances against each others were the strategy that followed by both nations. That was the competitive nature of the diplomatic relation between Russians and Ottoman Turks. Those wars were only a continuation to the Russian struggles with the Ottoman invasion of the European territories, as well as the control over the vassals.

The Russian interests did not focus only on searching for sea ports and trade straits; it increased its expansion towards the Balkans and the Caucasus. Russia took the advantage of the nationalist movements that were opposing the Ottoman Empire, and were one of the main reasons behind the breakdown of the Ottoman Empire. Consequently, The Russian Turkish wars were complicated with the desire of the other European powers to prevent Russia from being powerful and large. Since France and Britain joined together with the Ottoman Empire to fight against Russia.

I. 2. The Russian-Turkish war 1768-1774

Regardless of the several wars between Russia and the Ottoman Turks the war of 1768-1774 took the lion's share of the historical studies. This war demonstrated clearly the role of the European powers and the reasons behind their support to the Ottomans against the Russians. It revealed also the Russian determination to gain free access to the Black sea area. Such attempt raised the Russian goal towards the Eastern expansion.

In his dissertation of the *Turkish-Russian relation in the past Soviet Era*, Anil Gurtuna analyzed the Turkish Russian relations and highlighted the core problem between both

nations. He confirm that, “In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the foreign policy of Russian Empire concerning the Ottoman Empire favored the collapse or at least weakening the Ottoman Empire to create an environment in which Russians could control the Bosphorus, the sea of Marmara and Dardanelles since the aim was to reach seas was beginning from the second half of the eighteenth century until the World War One”. (16)

During the reign era of Catherine the Queen and Peter the Great in 1700s, the aim of the Russian was focusing on the empire development and to determinate its powerful position among the other European nations. Russia concentrated on attacking the strength of the Turks; therefore it sustained waging wars against the Turks and tried to expand its territories over the Turkish regions. The enemy relations between Russia and Turkey reached the top in the 1770s, where the Russian discovered that the only way to devastate the Ottoman powerful position is to reach the Black sea, and work on the process of controlling the Turkish straits.

Peter the Great was working hard to find the weak points that can break the military strength of the Ottoman Turks, thus he planned to occupy Poland in order to reach the Mediterranean Sea. This decision was one of the main reasons behind the declaration of the 1768-1774 war; when the Ottoman government commanded Catherine the Great to withdraw from being interfering in the internal affairs of Poland. Yet, Russia actually did not respond to that demand, in contrary Russia was seeking for any available chance to weaken the Ottoman Turks.³⁵

Virginia H. Akson in her historical book *The Ottoman wars 1700-1870*, which covers the Ottoman Turks wars during the 1700-1870s stated that, “Much like the Hubsburg version, the

³⁵ The article of: the absolutism: France, England and Russia in 1600 and 1700 p14 Available at: http://campuses.fortbendis.com/campuses/documents/Teacher/2012%5Cteacher_20120127_1603.pdf.

first half of the Romanov eighteenth century passed in the consolidation of the borders. Both the Habsburg and the Romanovs participated in the breakup of Poland one of the reasons behind the Ottoman declaration of the war against Russia in 1768, which was certainly the fear of Russian eventually occupation Poland and west Ukraine". (87) Therefore, Russia did not late to take any occasion to wage wars against the Ottomans even though it signed several peace treaties.

Before 1740, the Ottoman Turks lived in long period of peace. But with the 1768, the Ottoman government sought that it need to strength its political position among the European powers, so that it declared another war against the Russians in order to protect its territories (Moldavia, Walachia and Crimea) which were threatened by the Russian interest.

The signs of the Ottoman weakness were appear to the European world, this latter encouraged Russia to engage in wars and knowing well that the Ottomans are no longer threatened the European powers. The Russian armies of Catherine the Great could successfully defeat the Ottomans and gain the control over Moldavia, Walachia and Crimea. As well as destroyed the Ottoman fleets in Chemise after the Russian fleet sailed from the Baltic towards the Mediterranean Sea in 1774.³⁶ As a result of the war, the treaty of Kaynarca 1773,³⁷ gave the independence of the Tatar in Crimea, when the Ottoman Turks waived for the first time on one of its Muslim territories to European nation.

³⁶Historical article Ottoman Political Writing, 1768–1808, by Virginia H. Aksan, 23-04-2009. Read more in: <<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=5192984&fileId=S0020743800058049>>.

³⁷Treaty of Kaynaca : Küçük Kaynarca also spelled Kuchuk Kainarji, (July 21, 1774), was signed at the conclusion of the Russo-Turkish War of 1768–74 at Küçük Kaynarca, in Bulgaria, ending undisputed Ottoman control of the Black Sea and providing a diplomatic basis for future Russian intervention in internal affairs of the Ottoman Empire. See in : Encyclopedia Britannica 2015.<<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/324324/Treaty-of-Kucuk-Kaynarca>>.

This treaty was also named the treaty of Kuchuk in 1774; it brought catastrophic consequences for the Ottomans since they were forced to concede on the regions that bordered Crimea. In the other side, Russia gained the freedom of trade as well as the right to navigate in the Ottoman Empire. In addition, it takes the responsibility to defend on the rights of Christian Orthodox there. Russia did not sufficed with this achievements, it attacks the Ottomans once again in the 1787-1792 hoping for the largest control over the Black sea and the Ottoman territories.

I. 3. The Sick Man of Europe

In the 1880s, the weakness of the Ottoman Empire became obvious and cannot be hide any more. Despite of the various efforts that were made by the Ottoman Turks, the effects of the Ottomans had collapsed. This weak status made it the main goal of all the European powers especially for the Russians; because they were trying to take control over the Ottoman territories since ever. Even though, the Ottoman Turks succeeded in some of the wars against the Russians, but all in all Russia always won, and gain its needs from the Ottomans. The Russians take every possible chance to destroy the Ottoman Empire, or at list what remained after the waves of the nationalist movements.

The decline of the Ottoman Empire and the rise of the nationalist movements encouraged the European interests in the empire. Since the European powers raised the attempt towards the separated Ottoman territories. In the 1853, Tsar Nicolas of Russia named the Ottomans as The Sick Man of Europe³⁸. The problem from the view point of the European diplomacy was

³⁸ Tsar Nicolas of Russia: Nicholas II was the last tsar of Russia under Romanov rule. His poor handling of Bloody Sunday and Russia's role in World War I led to his abdication and execution.

<<http://www.biography.com/people/nicholas-ii-21032713>>. 2001.2.28.

how to dispose of the Empire in such a manner that no one power could gain an advantage at the expense of the others and upset the political balance of Europe.³⁹

In the university article *The sick Man and his Medicine: Public Health Reform in the Ottoman Empire and Egypt* by Layla J.Kasakal and Peter Barton proclaimed that, “when the Russian Tsar Nicolas I described the Ottomans in 1853 as Sick man of Europe, he was giving voice to the reigning diplomatic assumption of the impending fall of a once great powerful empire”. (02)

Scholars and historians remain calling the Ottoman Empire as the sick man of Europe, even after its final decline in the 1918. The political position of the empire was not stable at that time; even though the empire proclaimed its final declaration, it kept trying to revival.⁴⁰

Historians explained the name of the sick man as it refer to the Ottoman position, while the empire was facing the final decline, the young Turks were trying to flourish and develop Turkey over the ashes of the Ottomans, culturally and economically as well. “That cultural flourishing and the Young Turks’ reform-inspired revolt in 1908 were not enough to save the empire after the First World War”. (Kasakal 01)

II. The intervention of the European powers after the Russo-Turkish war 1768-1774

The war of the 1768-1774, flourished the case of the Eastern Question and the Mediterranean Sea. Russia was in warfare with the Ottomans in order to gain a position over the Mediterranean Sea as well as the Black sea.

³⁹ The article available in: The Ottoman history 1800-1900 by The Ottomans.Org. 2013 <<http://www.theottomans.org/english/history/history1800.asp>>.

⁴⁰ Read more in: The Ottoman Empire by saylor.org 11-11-2015. <<http://www.saylor.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/HIST103-5.3.2-Ottoman-FINAL.pdf>>.

The Eastern Question was dated in the 1774,⁴¹ was considered as one of the essential reason behind the intervention of the European powers in the affairs of the Ottomans. The Russian interests in the Eastern regions and the Mediterranean Sea was unfavorable for the other European powers. Such interest was a threat for the British and France in specific, it could devastate their economic and military affairs in the Eastern, and Russia could also develop its interest to reach Asia and Persia.

After the defeat of the Ottoman Turks against the Russians, the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire attained the Zenith. Such break down unified the European Powers strongly in order to keep and save their military and economic business in the Ottoman territories, where Russia were benefiting the most from the decline of the Ottoman Empire.

The Eastern regions were under the hegemony of the Ottoman Empire. As a result for the breakdown that faced the empire and the various defeats against the Russians, several Eastern territories declared nationalist movements against the Ottoman Empire to gain their dependence as well as its own supremacy. As we already analyzed in the first chapter, France and Britain supported those nationalist movements in order to break up the entity of the Ottomans, therefore, they forced them to be under their control. France and Britain spread control over several nations which separated from the Ottoman Empire for instance, India, Syria, Lebanon and African territories.

The historical journal article "*The Great Britain and the Eastern Question*" by J.Holland Rose, analyzed the reaction of the British supremacy against the Russian interest in the

⁴¹Read more in: J Holland Rose, Britain and the Eastern Question 1922. Available at: <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/29738495.pdf>>.04.12.2014

Eastern Question, and stated that, “Pitt the younger, ⁴²sought to induce the British parliament to intervene in their favor, his aim bring a set bounds to the Russian ambition which began to threaten the lands approach India”. She also proclaimed that, “In this attempt he failed (younger Pitt), parliament taking no interest in the maintenance of Turkish authority or the balance of powers in the East”. (308)

In addition, the British foreign policies were working to prevent the Russian widespread expansion over the East regions. Therefore, the widespread of the Russians towards the East created international military relations between the Turks and the European powers, which were standing against the Russian Expansion. Russia depended on a smart ideology to affect the Ottomans from the bottom, when it proclaimed itself as a defender of the Christian orthodox who were living in the Ottoman Empire and were paying for their religious freedom.

This ideology helped in the separation of several nations from the empire. Whereas Britain and France at that time were supporting those nations to stand against the Ottomans, in order the gain their own governmental independence. These political affairs changed after the 1774, when the case of the Eastern Question had a remarkable affect on the situation of the Ottomans as well as on the British and the French.

Leslie Rogne Schumacher studied and analyzed in her dissertation *The Eastern Question and the British Imperialism, “1885-1878”*, the reasons behind the international relationships between the Turks and the British, which took place after the 1774. She proclaimed that, “the Eastern Question has historically been used to name a set of wars and International diplomatic

⁴² William Pitt the younger: Pitt the Younger was British prime minister during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars and helped to define and strengthen the office of the prime minister, 1783-1806. Available at: < http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/pitt_the_younger.shtml >.

events related to the decline and breakup of the Ottoman Empire, especially from the last quarter of the eighteenth century”. (01)

Schumacher also stated that, “Such relation was the importance of the Ottoman Empire in providing a bulwark for the protection of relation’s Mediterranean and Indian routes, especially against the perceived expansionism of the Russia that as the Ottoman power contracted it became increasingly common in Britain to associate any matter that related to the Ottoman Empire with its effects on the statue of the Eastern Question, force that hunted British diplomats and other officials”. (01)

The British relations with the Ottomans improved only for the Eastern Question emergence. Britain and France helped the Ottomans to stand against the Russian, hoping to save their military and economic affairs in the Eastern region. In order to prevent the Russian interests from getting larger, Britain, France and Sardinia stand with the Ottoman and finally defeated the Russians in the 1853-1856.⁴³

Conclusion

This chapter covers the defeats of the Ottomans against the Russia, where Russia did not late to take any chance to break up the solidarity of the Ottomans. Whether with political strategies or religious ones, since that latter helped the increase of the separation movements.

The Diplomatic relations between the Ottoman Turks and the British before the Russian-Turkish war 1768-1774, were based on conflicts and oppositions. Since Britain was supporting the waves of nationalist movements that spread in the Ottoman Empire; by sustaining the

⁴³ Read more in: The Russo-Turkish wars, Info space 1988. <<http://history.howstuffworks.com/asian-history/russo-turkish-wars.htm>>may 29th, 2015.

separated nations which break up with the Ottoman Empire, and promised them with the total governmental freedom if they help Britain and stand against their Ottoman brothers.

The Eastern Question unified the European powers and the Ottoman Turks, in order to defeat the Russian expansion which became a dangerous threat for the British economic and military affairs. As a result to the various wars that waged between the Turks and the Russian, the British sensitivity towards Russia amplified for several reasons like: the trade in the Mediterranean Sea, the Russian interest in the Indian routes.

The historical academic lecture *Principles of British Foreign Policy 1815-1868* by Majie Bloy which tackled about the aim of the British foreign Policy in maintaining the peace and integrity over the European powers, stated that, “Britain sensitivity over the Eastern Question increased in the nineteenth century because India became more important, especially for the cotton goods”. (03)

The British foreign policy in 1815-1885, was based on the principle of keeping peace in all over the European nations by stating policies that help the development of the trade’s exchanging. The Russian expansion towards the East, and the interest in the Ottoman territories were contrasting these policies. What led the British to help Ottomans to waged war against the Russians in 1850s, and this latter ended with the defeat of the Russians.

Scholars and Historians whom studied the affairs of the Ottoman Empire and the Modern Turkey such as Halil Inalcik, Suzan Pojer and Elizabeth Woemely, named the Ottoman Empire as Great Islamic Empire In the fifteenth and sixteenth century; with the years of 1700s this name changed to be the Ottomans Turks and after the 1774 it became only Turks. This

changing in names came as a result to the period of glory and the beginning of decline which the Ottoman Empire faced.

Chapter Three

**The British Foreign Policy towards the
Ottoman Empire in the 1880s**

Introduction

The repercussions of the Eastern Question continued to widespread. It negatively affected the Ottoman Empire as well as the European powers. After the Russo-Turkish war of the 1768-1774, the Ottoman Empire faced uncontrollable fall downs, which were marked by the Russian expansion throughout the Ottoman alliances, and the attempt to control the Mediterranean Sea and the Black sea. As a result, the European powers particularly Britain stand as an alliance to the Ottomans in order to maintain its economic and political interests.

Unlike the European powers, Britain was more concerned to restrain the Russian expansion. Therefore, Britain has intensified its efforts to weaken the Russian force in every way. The alliance with the Ottomans was the most challenging step that the British took, although in the past they sought to destroy the Ottoman Empire.

The sick man of Europe, was the new devised name which accurately described the Ottoman critical position among the European powers.

The British policy towards the Ottomans primarily aimed to aid them to restore their status in order to defeat the Russians. “The Crimean war was so far, as concerned the British people, as well-amount effort to set Turkey on her feet again”. (Holland 308)

I. The Interference of the British Foreign policy After the War 1768-1774

The Russian expansion towards the Ottoman territories during the 1800s was the main motive behind the British alliance with the Ottoman Empire. As a result to the defeat of the

Ottomans in the war of 1768-1774,⁴⁴ Russians became more powerful and posed a big threat to the European powers, especially Britain.

The purpose behind the Russian expansion towards the Middle East was looking for large regional expansion. Furthermore, Russia believed that the control over the East nations will develop its strength among the European nations. So that, after the Ottomans' defeat by the Russians in 1774, the Ottomans were convinced that there is no possibility to achieve further victory against Russia. Therefore, the Ottoman government became certain that it need military and political development and assistance.⁴⁵

I. 1. The Ottoman- British Alliance during The Crimean War 1853-1856

The dilemma of the Eastern Question increased the fear of the British Empire. It was obvious that Russia can extend its regional expansion throughout the Ottoman Empire. And this may result in the latter's final decline, as well as, it may affect the British affaires and business in the Ottoman Empire. The common interests of Britain and the Ottoman Empire led to the coalition against Russia, in the hope of stopping these expansions and protect their affairs.⁴⁶

The Russian emperor Nicolas I continued his further expansions over the Ottoman territories. This was the major motive behind the British-Ottoman alliances. This latter was

⁴⁴ The Russo-Turkish war (1768-1774): was decisive conflict that brought southern Ukraine, Crimean and the North Caucasus within the orbit of the Russian Empire. The Ottoman 'losses were diplomatic in nature seeing its full decline as a threat to Christian Europe. Besides it marked the beginning of the Eastern Question that led to the end of the Ottoman Empire in the 20th century. See (Clonel Peter knoxn The great Crimean war 1853-1856 the forgotten war. Available at: <http://www.petentour.com/pdfs/great-crimean-war-1853-1856.pdf> >.

⁴⁵ Acadimic dissertation tited: Leslie Rogne Schumacher A "Lasting Solution": The Eastern Question and British Imperialism, 1875-1878.

⁴⁶ Colonial Peter, Knox, The Great Crimean War 1853-56(The siege of Kars,) Available at: <http://www.petentour.com/pdfs/great-crimean-war-1853-1856.pdf>>. Accessed in January 22, 2015.

coincided with the emergence of the Crimean war.⁴⁷ After the Russo-Turkish war of 1774, the issue of the Eastern Question escalates the threat of the Russian power over the European nations. However, the weak position of the Ottomans required sustenance from the British forces, mainly to fight the Russians in the coming wars.

The diplomatic relation between Britain and the Ottoman Empire in the 1850s were under the principles of saving their affairs and defeating the Russian expansionism. Yet, the Ottomans needed the support of the British Empire in order to gain strength and avoid the final decline. On the other hand, Britain attempted to help the Ottomans only to prevent the Russian large expansion over the Ottoman territories. Such principle was clearly realized with the decision of launching Crimean war in the 1853.

The Crimean war, which lasted from 1853 till 1856, was fought in the Crimean Peninsula between the one hands Russia and the Ottoman Empire, Britain and France on the other. The major cause of the war was the Russian desire to be the protector of the Orthodox population in the Ottoman states, which left terrible effects on the Ottoman society⁴⁸. Furthermore, the Russian expansion over the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea raised the British sensitivity towards the Russians.

I. 1.1 The Causes of Crimean War

The beginning of the Crimean War was when Britain and France forced Russia to leave the Ottoman territories in the 1850s in order to protect the Ottoman trades in the Black Sea.

⁴⁷ The Crimean war (1853-1856): also known as the Eastern war, it was fought in Crimea between Russia and a group of nations, including Great Britain, France and the Ottoman Empire, the causes of the conflict were the inherent in the unsolved Eastern Question. For further reading check: Christopher Sailus, "The Crimean War" Available at: <<http://study.com/academy/lesson/the-crimean-war-summary-causes-effects.html>>.

⁴⁸ More information: Karazin kalvic, The Crimean war by (National University 2013). Available at: <http://www.academia.edu/4141635/Crimean_War_1>.

Consequently, Britain and France demanded Russia to send fleets towards the Black Sea and provide the needed secure to the Ottoman ports in these states. When Russia did not concede to their demands the Ottoman Empire in addition to Great Britain and France waged in war against Russia in the 1853.⁴⁹

I. 1. 2. The Treaty of Paris and its Major Out comes

This bloody conflict lasted two years, and ended with the Ottoman victory which was achieved due to the British and French help. As a result, Russia signed a peace treaty in Paris in 1856⁵⁰. This treaty which marked the end of the Crimean war was signed by Russia and group of countries mainly France, Britain, the Ottoman Empire and Sardinia. The treaty of Paris embodied the defeat of the Russians, since it asserted the independence of the Ottoman territories, and forced the Russian troops to withdraw from Bessarabia in Moldavia, which restored under the Ottoman sovereignty.

The outcomes of the treaty of Paris were not in favor for Russia. It was forced to demilitarize and stop its military operations in the Black Sea. Therefore, both Russian and the Ottoman Empire were not allowed to have any military vassals in the Black Sea. (Sailus)

The treaty of Paris confirmed the victory of the Ottomans against the Russians when the Ottomans believed that they will not gain any victory in front of the Russians. In fact, such victory could not be realized without the Ottoman's French and the British alliances.⁵¹

⁴⁹ Read more in: The Crimean War by Christopher Sailus. Available at: <<http://study.com/academy/lesson/the-crimean-war-summary-causes-effects.html>>.

⁵⁰ Treaty of Paris detailed in: Treat of Paris, Encyclopeda Britannica 2015. Available at: <<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/443787/Treaty-of-Paris>> Christopher Sailus, The Crimean war: summary, causes and Effects. Britannica2003 Available at: <<http://study.com/academy/lesson/the-crimean-war-summary-causes-effects.html>>. Accessed in, November 12, 2014.

I. 2. The Motives Behind the British Interference in the Ottoman Empire

The British-Ottoman relations during the 1850s were described as “cooperative Relationship”. (Robinson 6) Under the principle of maintaining the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, Britain continuously sought to limit the ambitions of the Russian expansion. The 1850s were significantly by building a strong British-Ottoman alliance against Russia. This relationship came as a result to the Russian attempt to extend its territories towards the Indian path throughout the Black Sea.⁵²

Furthermore, Russia did not only defeat the Ottomans in the 1774 war, but also exceeded to Ottoman territories looking for regional development. Therefore, the British Empire stood in the side of the Ottomans in order to stop the Russian ambitions which would threaten the British interests in the Ottoman Empire. Accordingly, “defending on the Ottoman Empire, safe guard its position in the Mediterranean Sea, and protect the British commerce in the Black Sea was the main motives behind the British interference in the Ottoman. Britain and France had dominated the Mediterranean commerce; the Black Sea trade was compensating this loss for the Ottoman Empire”. (Ozer 124)

Since the beginning, the Russian expansion towards the Mediterranean and the Black Sea was considered as an imminent danger for the Ottoman provinces. For that reason, the Ottomans responded to prevent such expansion, but they failed. Eventually, the Russian threat did not affect only the Ottomans, but also undermined the British interests, namely, trade and commerce in the Mediterranean Sea.

⁵² The domination of the Ottoman foreign relations 1850-1900 (Mr. Charrington, 2015). Provide in: <https://jpewinfield.wordpress.com/2014/05/06/the-domination-of-ottoman-foreign-relations-1850-1900/>.

“The Russians had been attempting to pave a path through the Caucasus to India via a warm port on the Black Sea. Therefore, when the Russian under Tsar Nicholas I encroached on Ottoman territory, the British and the French formed an alliance with the Turks to defend the Ottoman Empire and retain it as a neutral buffer zone between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian subcontinent”.⁵³

II. The Main Dynamics of the British Foreign Policy

The term of foreign policy refers to the nature of the relationship between two nations.

“Such relationship focuses on the process of exchanging trades or cultural delegates, so if two nations related together for mutual political, economic and cultural benefits; their relations is under the banner of foreign policy”.(Oyshola 1)

The British foreign policy towards Europe was world based on the ideology of maintaining the peace Among the European powers. (Bloy 2) Thought, no single power has the right to dominate another power, no matter what were the motives.

II. 1 The Political Dynamics

During many centuries the European powers were in struggle, looking for further advantages and trade markets. Therefore, various wars were waged which shook the balance of the European world on several occasions. The struggles between Russia and the Ottoman Empire should be highlighted, as well as the effects of the long series of wars between both nations, which led to the interference of the British foreign policy in the

⁵³ Read more in: The domination of the Ottoman foreign relations, 1850-1900. Available at : <https://jpewinfield.wordpress.com/2014/05/06/the-domination-of-ottoman-foreign-relations-1850-1900/>. Accessed in 06 may 2014.

Ottoman Affairs.

The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries witnessed the beginning of the Ottoman collapse which was at the heart of the Eastern Question.⁵⁴ Yet, the European nations believed that such issue could ruin the European stability, and open the door for further expansions. In fact, these fears realized as soon as the Russian attempted to expand its empire over the Ottoman territories. Therefore, Britain became convinced that the breakdown of the sick Man of Europe would not be in its favor, on the contrary, it would be more destructive.

The Russian goals for attacking the Ottomans were under the aim of gaining control over the Mediterranean Sea, which also in its turn will threaten the British trade and could result in catastrophic losses. As a result, Britain supported the Ottoman position against the Russian along the 1850s, particularly during the Crimean War 1853-1856, in order to prevent Russia from destroying the Ottoman Empire. Since such supremacy could provide more strength for Russia which would raise British concerns. Hence, the British-Ottoman war against Russia ended in a necessary victory imposed severe restrictions over the Russian expansion in the Treaty of Paris.

Stefan George in his thesis *The role of the British foreign policy towards the European nations* proclaimed that, "the official principle of the British foreign policy in the 1800s was to preserve the sovereignty independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire" (22)

⁵⁴ The article provides in: What principles governed British foreign and imperial policies from 1856 to 1902. Marked teachers. <<http://www.markedbyteachers.com/as-and-a-level/history/what-principles-governed-foreign-and-imperial-policies-from-1856-1902.html>>.

II 2 The Economic Dynamics

One of the major economic principles of the British foreign policy was to put an end to the threat of the Russian domination over the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Sea.

Russia attempted to control the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian routes, and such goal could be achieved only with the defeat of the Ottomans.

The contradictory position of Britain against Russia came as a result to the Russians 'plans to spread leadership over the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian routes. Therefore, for protecting its trade and commerce Britain under the principle of maintaining the balance over the European world stand with the Ottomans against the Russian power.⁵⁵

The economic position of the British Empire was threatened by the Russian rapid territorial advancement and large expansionism. Consequently, the main principles of the British foreign policy were to maintain peace all over the European continent, as well as protect and promote the free trade in order to develop its commerce.⁵⁶

II. 3 The Main Interests of the British Foreign Policy in the Ottoman Empire

In the 1850s, Britain has clearly identified its position towards the Ottoman Empire by standing with the Ottomans against the Russians. Thus, the main motives behind the British alliance was not only to maintain peace between the Ottoman Empire and Russian, but it was also for safeguard its privilege and gains in the Ottoman Empire. Yavus Tugen interested in

⁵⁵ : Marji Bloy, The British foreign policy in the 1815-1885. Available at :<<http://www.victorianweb.org/history/forpol/principle.html> >. Access in 2014.may24th

⁵⁶ Read more: What principles governed foreign and imperial policies from 1856-1902. Marked by teachers, 2013. Available at: <<http://www.markedbyteachers.com/as-and-a-level/history/what-principles-governed-foreign-and-imperial-policies-from-1856-1902.html> >.

the history and politics of the Ottoman Empire, he proclaimed in his academic lesson *The Eastern Question and the interest of great powers on the Ottoman Empire* that, “Britain’s interests in the Ottoman in the final decades of its existence were concentrated primarily in Mesopotamia and Persian Gulf concerned to maintain the British supremacy”. (03)

The major reason behind raising the British interest in the Ottoman Empire was the Ottoman geostrategic position between Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf since the major sources of British strength was its commerce and supremacy over the trade routes. For that reason, the British alliance with the Ottomans against the Russia was requisite for protecting the British economic interests in the Ottoman Empire. Moreover, the military might and political status of Britain among the European powers were mainly achieved due to its naval supremacy, as well as its commercial strength.

In addition, to uphold its supremacy over the trade routes particularly the Indian route, Britain sought that the Russian expansion over the Ottoman territories would threaten its economic and political interests there. Therefore, the Russian large regional expansionism developed its political and economic strength among the European nations, which may diminish the British existence in the area and led to the final decline of the Ottomans.⁵⁷ Accordingly, the diplomacy and mutual benefit have defined the nature of the British-Ottoman relations. Yet, the success of Britain in the nineteenth century was also a result to its substantial interference in the Ottoman Middle East’s provinces. All these arguments,

⁵⁷ The academic article provided in : Yavus Tugen, Acadimic.edu .Available at : http://www.academia.edu/9429016/THE_EASTERN_QUESTION_AND_INTERESTS_OF_GREAT_POWER_S_ON_THE_OTTOMAN_EMPIRE >April 15th. 2015.

explained the real reasons behind the British alliance with the Ottomans in this particular era.

Yet, Russia was looking after the Ottoman territories to enlarge its regional expansion and gain supremacy over the trade route. For that reason, the Crimean war 1853-56 was the result of the British-Ottoman military cooperation against Russia; that latter ends with the Russian defeat. The main threats of Britain were the Russian control over the trade routes particularly in the Mediterranean Sea, Black sea and the Indian routes. Furthermore, Russia success in defeating the Ottomans and bring their final decay.

The Russian threat result the first time cooperation between the British Christians and The Ottoman Muslims in one war against another Christian nation (Russia). This cooperation ends with the Russian defeat and limited the Russian large expansion.⁵⁸

III. The Outcomes of the British Foreign Policy Toward the Ottoman Empire

The long history of the Ottoman Empire showed how it was once one of the great super powers. It was controlling much of the Middle East, South Africa and Eastern Europe. Therefore, the continuous defeats that faced the Empire in the 1800s, except the Crimean war, confirmed the weaken position of the Ottomans among the European nations. Like any other Empire, the Ottoman Empire tried to prevent its final decline and redevelop itself over again, thinking that it could follow the European waves of military and economic developments.

In fact that, the intervention of the British foreign policy played an interesting role to prevent the decline of Ottoman Empire for a few years. Actually, such cooperation was a

⁵⁸ For Further reading , see: Leighton and the Middle East, online article in titled *Britain relation with the Middle East in the 1800's*. (The Leighton house.2002). Available at: <<http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/leightonarabhall/empires4.html> >.

contrivance to protect the British interests and Commercial concerns in the Ottoman territories. Therefore, it is obvious that it was not really for helping the Ottomans to stand in their foots again, and save their position among the European powers. The Ottoman government became certain that it was one way or another controlled by the European powers, to serve their own concerns without taking into account the current situation of the Ottomans.

As a result, the intervention of the British foreign policy in the Ottoman Empire provide only a temporary peace with the Russian, but did not help the Empire to rebuild itself and improve its situation. For the reason that, if the Ottoman rebuild itself again and back to its strong position this will create another threat for the European powers.⁵⁹

III 1. The Emergence of the Political Reforms (Army, Education and Law)

The signs of the Ottoman collapse increased and became so clear during the nineteenth century. It was a result to several internal and international factors. Ahmed Fuad Fanani stated that, “the failure in various military campaigns of the Ottoman Empire, encouraged the Sultans to reforms their government and society. Like any other great Empire, the Ottoman Empire tried to reverse the decline by concerted effort of Westernization”. (105)

In order to prevent the final decline and being attacked form the European nations, the Ottoman Sultans decided to take any chance to protect its self and rebuild its position among the European nations. In fact that, the Ottoman government tried to develop itself and follow the European waves of development. Therefore, the Ottoman government stated several reforms that may improve the Ottomans situation, these reforms were in the level of

⁵⁹ Read more in the Ottoman history that provided in : The History of the Ottoman Empire 1800-1900 by Ottoman History.Org. Available at: <http://www.theottomans.org/english/history/history1800_5.asp> .2002

army, law and education.⁶⁰

During the nineteenth century, the Ottoman Empire attempt to follow the European regimes by starting to modernize and westernize itself. This latter was accomplished by the declaration of several reforms that may face the danger of the European interventions. The academic article *Reforms in the Ottoman Empire during the 19th century* by Antonella Grieco , investigated in the major aims behind the Ottoman’ reforms and proclaimed that, “ in fact that, during the 1800, in the wake of European modernization , the Sultans MahmudII (1809-1839),⁶¹ and Abdulmajid(1839-1861) and Abdulaziz(1861-1876),⁶² they used the reforms to restore peace in the Empire and avert the threat of foreign interventions in the Ottoman territories”.

III. 1.1 The Army Reforms

Consequently, these reforms come after the Crimean war 1853-56, it focused on the military side where the Sultan Mahmud decided to annex the French army system. Therefore, the Ottoman government decided to establish a military schools that based its principles and strategies on the French army system. Moreover, encourage the Ottomans to take this school in consideration as an important step toward the modernization process .

⁶⁰ Read more in : Anatonella Grieco, *Reforms in the Ottoman empire during the nineteenth century* . (Academia, 2015). Available at:

<http://www.academia.edu/7267491/Reforms_in_the_Ottoman_Empire_during_the_Nineteenth_Century>.

⁶¹ Sultan Mahmud II: The Ottoman sultan Mahmud II (1785-1839) attempted to hold together and rebuild the empire by administrative reforms, but interior instability and foreign wars proved obstacles too great to overcome. Available at: <<http://biography.yourdictionary.com/mahmud-i>> .

⁶² Sultan Abdulaziz: is the son of the Sultan Mahmud, Ottoman sultan (1861–76) who continued the westernizing reforms that had been initiated by his predecessors until 1871, after which his reign took an absolutist turn. Read more in : <<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/916/Abdulaziz>> .

Sultan Abdulmajid: Ottoman sultan (1839–61), son and successor of Mahmud II to the throne of the Ottoman Empire. Read more: <[Abd al-Majid http://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/people/abd-al-majid.html#ixzz3ZIVu5Vt](http://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/people/abd-al-majid.html#ixzz3ZIVu5Vt)>.2012.

III 1.2 The Education Reforms

Another Western strategy was taking by the Ottomans under the aim of modernization was on the level of education. The Ottoman government decided to focus on improving the level of education because it believed that it would rebuild the Empire from the ashes. Hence, it adopted the European system of education and their regimes in schooling as well as in clothing. The westernization did not end here; it was also on the level of newspapers were they followed the European form of newspapers.

III. 1.3 Law Reforms

These reforms were supported by the birth of new political group that attempted to made fundamental changes on the level of justice, they named themselves the New Ottomans. They were looking after realizing the justice among the Ottoman society and attack the unfair governmental systems. Furthermore, they were working under the principle of ‘father land’; where they were supporting the constitutional liberty and loyalty to the Empire.⁶³

Elite Kedarries in his academic article *Politics in the Middle East* writes that, “the Ottoman Reforms were the result of the British influence in the Ottoman politics and the beginning of the process of Westernization for the Empire”.

This period of reforms were also known as an era of Tanzimat, it was dated from 1839 until 1876.⁶⁴ Thus, the Ottoman Empire was about to reorganize the government system, society and administration. The Ottoman Sultans was hoping that these reforms will rebuild the

⁶³ For more information : by Antonella Grieco, Reforms in the Ottoman Empire during the nineteenth century.

⁶⁴ The Tamzimat: the name refers to a period of modernizing reforms instituted under the Ottoman Empire from 1839 to 1876.

strength of the Empire, and revert to its past position among the great powers. But these Tanzimat reforms did not bring the results that the Sultans hoped, it did not reorganize the Ottoman situation or improve it once again. It was only a temporary period before the final collapse of the longest Empire. *The Tanzimat : Secular Reforms in the Ottoman Empire 1839-1876* by Ishtiaq Hussain shed light on the basics of the Ottoman reforms and stated that, “Although the Tanzimat reforms never quite produced the results the later Sultans had hoped for, they did improve various aspects of the empire such as the education system and the status of non-Muslims”. (15)

The fact the Ottoman Empire was facing a challenging situations that was marked by several reforms and political parties, which sought for a bottom solution to avoid the final collapse of the Empire. However, the Empire lost control over almost of its key sectors. Therefore, the final declaration of Turkish Republic became so near, especially after the emergence of separation movements within the empire.

III. 2 The Declaration of the Turkish Republic 1914

With regard to the previous mentioned reasons of the Ottoman weakness, the Russian interests in the Ottoman Empire was also a major factor behind the dissolution of the Empire. The attempt of the Ottoman Sultans to restore the empire and improve its situation was doomed to failure.

The radical reasons that caused the Ottoman final decline were of two natures: internal ones, mainly military, economic and political; and external factors. Particularly, these internal reasons led to the rise of the nationalist movements. One of the major objectives of these

nationalist movements was realized within the declaration of the Turkish Republic in 1914.

Eventually, the Ottoman Empire's weakness and its territorial losses beside its series of conflicts with the European powers ,especially Russia, led to the emergence of the Turkish nationalist movements. This latter aimed at creating a separated state.

The Turkish movements which took place in 1890s were led by the Young Turks. It started to arise during the 1908 and 1918. After gaining more power with time, it replaced the old Ottoman ideologies that were stated by the Sultan Abedlhamid II.

The Young Turks main objectives were marked by constitutional reforms and demands for parliamentary acts. Also, another aim of these movements came as an Islamic reaction to the weakness of the Empire, which were caused by the failures of the Sultanate's regime. Therefore, the period of the Turks nationalist movements marked the final end of the Ottoman Empire.⁶⁵

The Young Turks benefited from the Ottoman breakdown to declare their revolution against the Sultan Abdulhamid. Furthermore, they were fighting for their liberal ideas and believe, and did the best to spread it over the Empire and standed oppose to the Sultan's autocracy. Another major aim of the young Turks revolution was the declaration of the Turkish republic that based on their own self governing not on the dictatorship of the Ottoman government. In fact, those ideologies took place in the last ten years and led finally to the dissolution of the empire.

During World War I period, the Ottoman Empire witnessed serious defeats in its territories and almost ended its control over them. Subsequently, the rebellion of the Young Turks

⁶⁵ Read more in: The rise of Young Turks. Available at: http://jeffchard.weebly.com/uploads/3/1/4/2/31424255/reading_the_rise_of_the_young_turks.pdf. 2015

showed the need for the declaration of modern Turkey, which established for itself a liberal government. By the year of 1918, the Young Turks revolution spread in all over the Empire, and presented a strong hope for the Ottomans, who were still suffering from several social and political problems. Consequently, they represented and reintroduced the constitutional reforms where based mainly on the principles of equality and provided better educational system and proper life social conditions for the Ottoman society. That latter were still under corruption of the old regime of the Sultans. Several historical facts sustained the decline, including the Russian interest and the nationalist movements, particularly the Young Turks. This latter's main goal was to revive the Turkish republic, and Ottoman glory.⁶⁶

“The Ottoman Empire rise, decline and collapse” by Ahmed Fuad Fanani, covered general historical facts and the achievements of the young Turks as well as their process to glorify Turkey, where he stated that, “the young Turks dominated the Ottoman politics from 1912 at 1918; as a result the modernization program which was initiated by them became successful. Due to their political group, they were able to call for the first Turkish parliament in Turkey November 1918”. (106-07)

With regard to the nationalist movements and the long series of conflicts with Russia, the empire was facing a short civil war between the Turkish nationalists and the Ottoman government. That war ended with the declaration of the Turkish Republic 1918 and 1919. Moreover, the Turks were forming their own government as an independent entity from any allies' occupation. They withdrew the Greeks and the Europeans from Turkey in 1918, and formed a government under the leadership of Mustafa Ataturk. The 1919 officially

⁶⁶The young Turks in opposition by Sutku Hanioglu 1995.Oxford University.USA.Pdf

witnessed the birth of Turkish state and marked the end of the Sultanate era by the year of 1923.⁶⁷

As a result, the first Turkish elections were held in 1920, in which the Turkish citizens voted for Mustafa Kemal Atatürk to become their first president of the modern state. The Turkish society supported the principle of human rights and people's sovereignty. They were given the rights to vote, to build an economic proper strategies, and provide the required material for the development of their military sources.

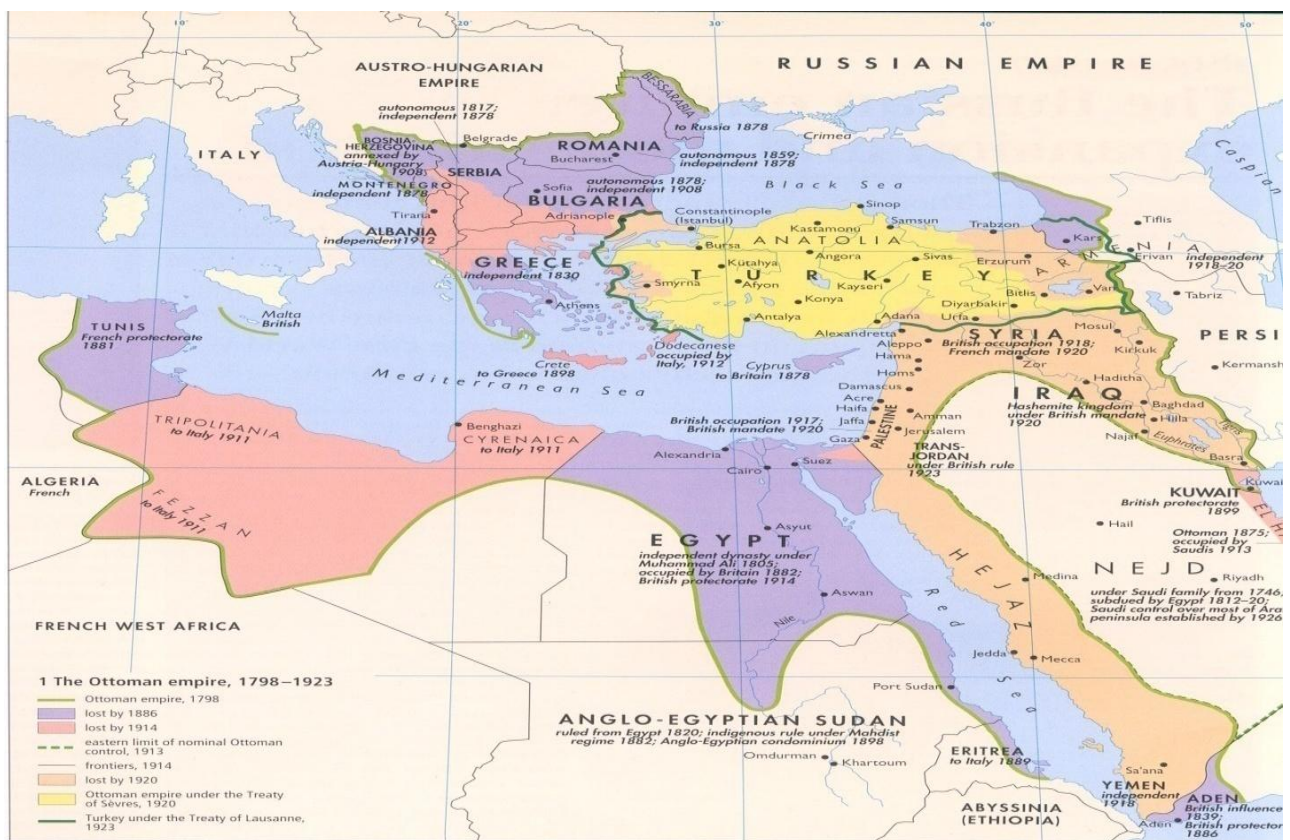


Figure 03, The Ottoman Empire, 1798-1923. Available at European's declining powers. By western civilization II guide. <<http://faculty.nwacc.edu/abrown/WesternCiv/Ottoman.jpg>>.

⁶⁷ Read more in: Jihn collahan, *The fall of the Ottoman Empire and the rise of Modern Turkey*. 2014. Available at: <<http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/course/meas8010>>.

Conclusion

Various factors played a significant role in the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. Its strong position among the European world during the sixteenth century started to vanish by the beginning of the eighteenth century as a result of its internal defects and breakdowns.

Furthermore, the continuous defeats of the Ottomans by Russia accelerated the weakness of the Empire. Accordingly, the war of 1768-1774, ended with terrible loss for the Ottomans, for those reasons great powers particularly Britain and France, stand as an ally to the Ottomans against Russia in the Crimean war 1853-56. These European states were seeking to safeguard their interests in the Ottoman territories, which were under the Russian threat.

The last Ottoman Sultans tried hard to save the Empire and prevent its final decay by stating and reorganizing structures of the government known as reforms. These reforms were proposed to improve three key sectors: army, education and law. The sultans believed that these reforms would rebuild the strong position of the Ottoman Empire among the European powers. "The reforms that proclaimed during the Tanzimat period were, contrary to the expectations of the Sultans, triggered by oppositions of the state". (Grieco 2)

The failure of the Sultan's reforms in improving the situation of the empire was mainly due to the lack of transparency, because the ruling elite did not reflect their people's aspiration in their reforms. However, the most positive result of these reforms was the birth of political parties which represented the opposition front to the old regime of the Sultans. Yet, these political groups laid the blame of the empire's collapse on the disorganization of the Ottoman government and its corrupted system.

The young Turks seized the opportunity of the collapse of the Empire to wage separation movements against the Ottomans, hoping to gain their own Turkish Republic state. Moreover, this new government demanded to work freely and without any hegemony, even from the part of the Sultanates. Consequently, they succeeded in realizing this objective, when they finally declared the establishment of the Turkish republic in the 1912, with Mustafa kamel Ataturk as a first Turkish president. (Pojer 1)

General Conclusion

The period starting from the late of eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries were a crucial and eruptive sequence in the Ottoman history. The increase of the internal problems in the Ottoman society with regard to the incompetency of the Sultanate, was one of the major reasons behind the decline of the empire. This latter opened the door for the European powers to reveal its interest in the Ottoman territories. During the sixteenth century, the Ottoman society was living in a powerful, wealthy, and peaceful era under the reign of Suleiman the magnificent. Yet, this prosperity did not last for a long time.

Consequently, the signs of the empire's collapse started to appear to the European powers; while the Ottoman government could not contain it any more. It was a response to the uncultivated Sultans and ministers who encouraged the spread of corruption among the Ottoman ministers and officers. Meanwhile, Russia was working on the process of developing its strength and looking for regional expansions. Therefore, it waged several wars against the Ottomans hoping to bring down their final defeat and achieve control over the Mediterranean Sea and the Black sea.

The Russian interests were the main motive behind the intervention of the European powers, particularly Britain. This intervention sought primarily to resolve the Russo-Ottoman conflicts and reduce the Russian expansion, especially after the Ottoman defeat in the Russo-Turkish war of 1768-1774.

The intervention of Britain and France in the Ottoman affaires was substantially embodied

in the Crimean war 1853-56, when the Ottomans for the first time won a victory against the Russian with the help of the other European powers. In addition, the principles of the British foreign policy in the 1815-1885 were based on achieving the balance between the major European powers, as well as to free the trade routes.

But these principles did not save the Ottoman Empire from its final collapse. As a result, the British foreign policy towards the Ottoman Empire was under the principle of helping the Ottomans to defeat the Russian. However, the interference of Britain in the Ottoman Empire was only to protect its interests in the Ottoman Empire which were under the Russian threat.

The major strength of the British Empire was its flourishing commerce in the Middle East, since the British Empire was heavily depending on trade to develop its economy and spread its domination over the European continent. Therefore, the Crimean war ended with benefits for the Ottomans, and the intervention of the British power provided a temporary peaceful period with the Russians. But that latter did not prevent the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, and the signs of the final decline became so near.

As a result, the Ottoman sultans believed that if they follow the European governmental structures they may prevent the decline. Hence, they launched a series of reforms which were mainly at the level of army, law and education. These reforms were largely influenced by the European principles. Yet, the outcomes of reforms were not as the Sultans expected. Instead, it opened the door for the creation of new active political groups, who started working against the old sultanate regime.

The Young Turks was one of these nationalist groups who opposed the ruling of the Ottoman Sultans, demanding the establishment of a modern Turkish state. Therefore, they

supported the nationalist movement by asking for a separation state that no more under the hegemony of the Ottoman Sultans. This nationalist movement of the Young Turks finally succeeded and achieved its goal. The declaration of the Turkish republic in the 1914 was the final substantial defeat of the Ottoman Empire.

As a result, the British foreign policy was not as idealistic as it appeared to be towards the Ottoman Empire. Although it continuously claimed its alliance and support for the Ottomans, Britain did not reflect these idealistic principles into concrete actions which may save the Ottoman Empire from the decline. Whereas, the problems of the Ottomans reached the zenith, and finally led to the decline of the Ottoman Empire in 1912 and the rise of the Turkish Republic in 1914.

Indeed, the new modern Turkish state flourished from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire, but did the European powers continue to perceive it as a Sick Man of Europe? Or did they change their perspective towards the young Turkish republic?

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