



ISTANBUL
GELISIM
UNIVERSITY

ATATURK'S PRINCIPLES AND HISTORY OF TURKISH REVOLUTION I

THE REFORMS IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

WEEK 4

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The Reforms in the 17th Century

- Deterioration of Devşirme System and Janissaries
 - The Ottoman Army
- Corruption and Nepotism
 - a growing paralysis of administration throughout the empire, increasing anarchy and misrule, and the fracture of society into discrete and increasingly hostile communities.
- Economic Difficulties
 - Changing old routes resulted in
 - debasing the coinage, sharply increasing taxes, and resorting to confiscations, all of which only worsened the situation.
 - All those depending on salaries found themselves underpaid, resulting in further theft, overtaxation, and corruption.
- Social Unrest
 - Rebellions
- The reforms introduced during the 17th century were too limited in nature and scope, however, to permanently arrest the Ottoman decline.
- The reforms essentially were no more than efforts to restore the inherited system of government and society that had operated successfully in the past.
- Efforts were made to restore the *timar* and tax farm systems as the basis of the administration and army and to limit taxes to the limits imposed by law.
- Provincial revolts were suppressed, peasants were forced back to the land, and cultivation was increased.
- Debased coins were replaced by coins of full value.
- Industry and trade were encouraged, corrupt officials executed, and insubordination driven out.

- Such reforms were sufficient to end the immediate difficulties.
- But they were successful only temporarily because the reformers were allowed to act against only the results of the decay and not its cause, the continued monopoly of the self-interested ruling class.
- As soon as the worst consequences of decay had been alleviated, the old groups resumed power and their old ways.
- Moreover, the reformers did not understand that the Europe now faced by the Ottomans was far more powerful than the entity that the great sultans of the past had defeated; even if the reforms had been more permanently successful, they could not have corrected the increasing Ottoman weakness relative to the powerful nation-states then rising in Europe.
- Such an understanding was to come to the Ottoman reformers only in the 19th century.
- Even in the 17th Century, there were reformation efforts to bring back the glorious days of the 16th Century. However, these reforms were limited to the repetition of Suleiman's laws and to the efforts of few sultans and officials.
- Repressing the revolts, increasing the tax revenues through tax farming, increasing the salaried soldiers and regulating the public finance were the superficial solutions which were applied by Sultans and grand Viziers

Some Definitions:

- **Devşirme**, literally "lifting" or "collecting", also known as the *blood tax* or *tribute in blood*, was chiefly the practice whereby the Ottoman Empire sent military officers to take Christian boys, ages from 8 to 18, from their families in Eastern and Southeastern Europe in order that they will be raised to serve the state. This tax of sons was imposed only on the Christian subjects of the empire. The boys were then converted to Islam with the primary objective of selecting and training the ablest children and teenagers for the military or civil service of the empire, notably into the Janissaries.
- **Timar system** was one in which the projected revenue of a conquered territory was distributed in the form of temporary land grants among the Sipahis (cavalrymen) and other members of the military class including Janissaries and other kuls (slaves) of the sultan. These prebends were given as compensation for annual military service, for which they received no pay. The goals of the system were necessitated by financial, state and expansionist purposes. The financial aims of the system were to relieve pressure from the Ottoman state of paying the army as well as to gain a new source of revenue for the central treasury
- **Janissary**, Turkish **Yeniçeri**, (New Soldier, or Troop), member of an elite corps in the standing army of the Ottoman Empire from the late 14th century to 1826. Highly respected for their military prowess in the 15th and 16th centuries, the Janissaries became a powerful political force within the Ottoman state. The Janissary corps was originally staffed by Christian youths from the Balkan provinces who were converted to Islam on being drafted into the Ottoman service. Subject to strict rules, including celibacy, they were organized into three unequal divisions and commanded by an *ağā*. In the late 16th century, the celibacy rule and other restrictions were relaxed, and by the early 18th century the original method of recruitment was abandoned. The Janissaries frequently engineered palace coups in the 17th and 18th centuries, and in the early 19th century they resisted the adoption of European reforms by the army. Their end came in June 1826 in the so-called Auspicious Incident.
- **Vizier**, originally the chief minister or representative of the Sultans, a high administrative officer. The grand vizier was the absolute representative of the sultan, whose signet ring he kept as an insignia of office. His actual power, however, varied with the vigor of the sultans.

The Reforms in the 18th Century

- The failure of these reforms burst out at the end of the 17th Century marked by the signature of Karlovitz Treaty which had incurable effects on the Empire.
- After the defeat against Austria in 1718, Ottoman Empire witnessed the Tulip Era when Europeans became the model for new reforms.
- The number of envoys to Europe was increased and their mission was extended to involve inspecting the European industry, military and economy.
- In accordance with the reports of the Ottoman envoys in Europe, Western-style manufacturing was introduced in Ottoman Empire in this Era and a fabric factory was established in İstanbul and in Salonika being in today's Greece.
- More importantly, the first publication house was established by İbrahim Müteferrika.
- The Tulip Era ended with a revolt headed by a Janissary Patrona Halil and Ahmed III was forced to leave the throne.

Tulip Era



Ahmed III ruled a period referred to as the *Tulip Era*.

- The Tulip Period (1718-1730) = first borrowing of European art and culture
- Great creative flourish
- Tulip= symbol of beauty and perfection
- Also known as the Turkish Renaissance



Ottoman Empire accepted that Europe was more advanced than itself in lots of fields such as military, science, art and education after territorial losses. And decided to begin to orient itself towards Europe.

Tulip Period Reforms

- 1- Temporary envoys were sent in major capitals of Europe such as Paris, London and Vienna.
- 2- Ibrahim Müteferrika established the first Ottoman printing press.
- 3- First smallpox vaccine was performed.
- 4- First fire brigade called «tulumbacılar» which consist of some janissaries was formed.
- 5- A fabric factory was founded, and ceramic workshops was opened.

Siege of Vienna,
(July 17 – Sept. 12, 1683),
expedition by the Turks
against the Habsburg
Holy Roman emperor
Leopold I that resulted in
their defeat by a
combined force led
by John III Sobieski of
Poland. The siege
marked the beginning of
the end of Turkish
domination in eastern
Europe.



Battle of Vienna, 12 September 1683

Treaty of Karlowitz (1699)

The Treaty of Karlowitz was signed on 26 January 1699, concluding the Austro-Ottoman War of 1683–97 in which the Ottoman side had been defeated at the Battle of Zenta. It marks the end of Ottoman control in much of Central Europe, with their first major territorial losses after centuries of expansion, and established the Habsburg Monarchy as the dominant power in Central and southeast Europe.



The Reforms in the 18th Century

Mahmud I continued reforms and hired Comte Bonnevale (Humbaracı (Bombardier) Ahmed Pasha) to rehabilitate and transform the Ottoman Army.

Abdulhamid I hired another foreign expert, Baron de Tott who established modern military schools and enforced the Straits with fortresses.

The Reforms in this century focused on the rehabilitation of the traditional Ottoman institutions but the success of the reforms was very limited.

In 1789, Selim III ascended the throne and his tenure stood as the first era of the fundamental reforms to transform the empire with new institutions.

His reforms were named as Nizam-ı Cedid (New Order) and included establishment of a new treasury and army, opening permanent embassies in European capitals and the liberalisation in the trade.

Selim III faced with the same fate of the Tulip Era and died at the revolt of Kabakçı Mustafa. His death gave way to Mahmud II to reach the throne, whose tenure fundamentally changed the Empire.

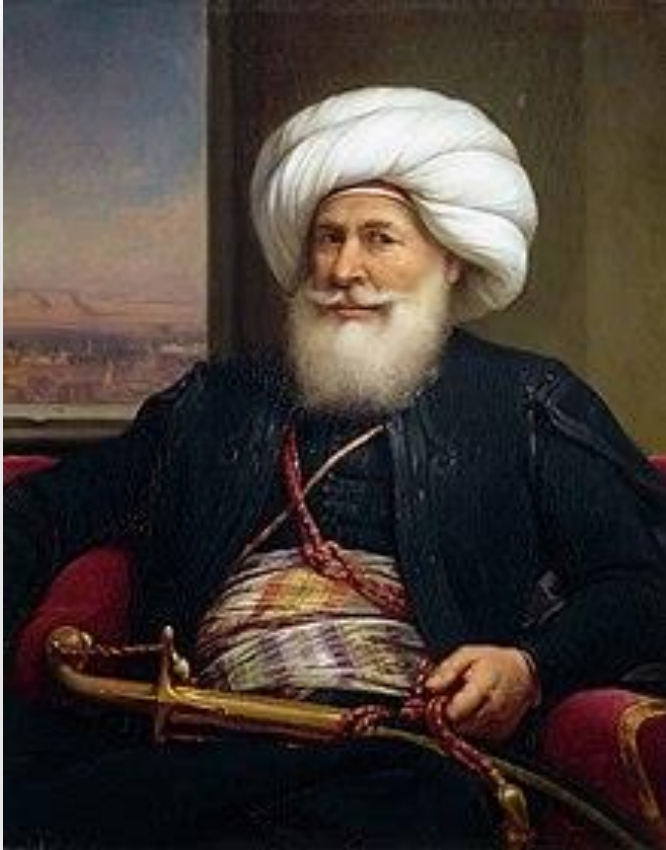


- Reforms began in the late 1700s with Sultan Selim III
- Wanted to reorganize and update the army
- Wanted to draw on European advisors and techniques
- Result = opposition from *ulama* (Muslim religious scholars) and the Janissaries
 - Believed these reforms would threaten their power and that they conflicted with Islam
 - Selim III = overthrown and murdered in 1807

Reforms at the Beginning of the 19th Century)

- Mahmud II accepted the signature of Charter of Alliance (Sened-i İttifak) between the Grand Vizier and the local rulers (Ayans), which fortified central authority.
 - Charter of Alliance was assessed one of the steps towards the constitutionalisation.
- After the assuring the support of the local rulers, the Sultan increased his efforts for applying reforms.
- The tax system and the foundational revenues were centralized, and different supreme councils were established to conduct administrative, legal and military affairs.
- Medicine, administrative schools were established, and European style clothing was obliged to the soldiers and civil servants.
- In 1826, Sultan attained the abolishment of the Janissary Army and formed a better atmosphere for the reforms (The Auspicious Incident).
- He established the first mail delivery system and the first and official Turkish newspaper Takvim-i Vekayi was started to be published.
- The Ministries and a Prime Ministry were formed to regulate the state affairs.

- The tenure of Mahmud II stood out not only with reforms but also the revolt of Mehmed Ali Pasha who was the reformist governor of Egypt.
- The victories of Mehmed Ali against the Ottoman Forces and invasion of Syria and Kutahya alerted the Ottoman Government and they resorted to Russia at the beginning.
- Russia provided the necessary support after the signature of Hunkar İskelesi Treaty (1833) which involved the free pass through the Straits.
- However, Great Britain and France opposed this treaty and this triggered the Matter of Straits.
- In 1838, the Ottomans demanded the support of Britain against Mehmet Ali again had to sign the Baltalimanı Treaty which gradually converted the Empire into an open market for European colonialism.
- This treaty prevented the development of local manufacturers and confined the Ottoman peoples to the import materials.



- Greek ethnic nationalists, helped by Russia, gain independence in 1832.
- More regions gain autonomy or are lost
- Algeria taken by France in 1830.
- Muhammad Ali of Egypt took Syria, moved on Istanbul itself.
- Empire survives 1830s due to British diplomacy to maintain balance of power.

Mehmet Ali Pasha became governor of Egypt and Sudan with the Ottomans' temporary approval. Though not a modern nationalist, he is regarded as the founder of modern Egypt because of the dramatic reforms in the military, economic and cultural spheres that he instituted.

The Tanzimat Period (1839-1876)

- Mahmud II passed away leaving the throne to his son Abdulmajid in 1839.
- Young Sultan and his Grand Vizier Mustafa Reshid Pasha declared the Edict of Gulhane (Tanzimat Fermanı) which included:
 - Security of life
 - Forming the public courts
 - Private ownership of assets
 - Proper taxation
- The Edict of Gulhane was followed with administrative reforms such as the formation of first teacher schools, modern academy and high schools, establishment of local assemblies with the participation of minorities, formation of councils which were the State Council and the Court of Cassation.
- The Tanzimat and the European Concert after the Napoleonic Wars can be said to have postponed the collapse of the Empire.
- But the effects of the nationalism on the Empire could not be expelled.
- Nationalistic Revolts started in 1804 with the Serbian Revolution and spread rapidly to all Balkan Peninsula.
- Serbs obtained their autonomy after this revolt but the Greeks achieved their independence in 1821.
- Even though, European states guaranteed the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire after the Crimean War, Ottomans face nationalistic revolts by the Albanians, Bulgarians and Romanians.



Mahmud II after his clothing reform in 1826. He often described as "Peter the Great of Turkey. The reforms he instituted were characterized by political and social changes, which would eventually lead to the birth of the modern Turkish Republic. Mahmud's reign was also marked by nationalist uprisings in Ottoman-ruled Serbia and Greece, leading to significant loss of territory for the Empire following the emergence of an independent Greek state



Mahmud's son Abdulmejid in his youth, in 1840. Abdulmejid's biggest achievement was the announcement and application of the Tanzimat (*reorganization*) reforms which were prepared by his father and effectively started the modernization of the Ottoman Empire in 1839

- Tanzimat Reforms in 1839
 - Rose Garden Edict, three basic principles.
 - Guarantee of life, honor, and property regardless of religion.
 - Replace tax farmers with more equitable tax system.
 - Create military conscription system.
- Essentially a form of Enlightenment reform inspired by Americans and French.



Mustafa Reshid Pasha
Principal architect of **Tanzimat**,
Edict of Gülhane (*The Ottoman Imperial Edict of
Reorganization, proclaimed on 3 November 1839*)

- The Imperial Reform of Edict in 1856 (Islahat) was the decree to grant new rights to minorities.
- The compulsory military service and compulsory education was started in the Tanzimat Period.
- The most important reform was in the legal issues and involved the reorganization of Commerce Code, Land Code, Civil and Criminal Code, establishment of modern courts under the name of Nizamiye Mahkemeleri.
- Moreover, Telegraph networks, railway lines were constructed.
- With this Edict, non-muslims could become civil servants, could become soldiers and could send representatives to higher courts.



Mehmed Emin Âli Pasha
the principal architect of the Islâhat Fermânı
(Edict of 1856).

Crimean War (1853-1856) and Edict of 1856

- Napoleon III claimed to be the protector of Christian holy spaces in Palestine.
 - Russia opposed claim
 - Ottoman's had recognized the Tsars as protector in 1774.
- Britain, Ottomans, and France fight Russia in the
- Russia loses and forced to recognize sovereignty of Ottomans.
 - Crimean War followed by more Tanzimat reforms: aimed at citizens' rights and laws.
 - Fortunate Edict of 1856 specified rights of
 - Education
 - Employment
 - justice.
 - New law courts established to deal with commercial, maritime, criminal law, based on European models
 - Muslim law codified, and family law remained followed religious lines
(Muslim, Christian, or Jewish).
- Military conscription extended to Christians and Jews as well as Muslims.
- Secular school system created, but underfunded and education remains with religious institutions.
- No money for tax collectors or land registry, and tax farmers continue to collect and pocket tax money.

The First Constitutional Era (1876-1878)

- The failure of the Ottoman reforms ended up with the promulgation of the first Constitution of the Ottoman History.
- Ottoman intellectuals who were called as Young Ottomans were of the opinion that the introduction of constitution would solve the problems of the Empire and enable them to develop and transform the country.
- Pioneered by Midhat Pasha, Mustafa Fazıl Pasha, Namık Kemal, Ali Suavi and İbrahim Şinasi, Young Ottomans deposed Abdulaziz and enthroned Abdulhamid II upon his promise to promulgate the Constitution.
- Sultan signed the Constitution on December 13, 1876 and the Ottoman Deputies assembled on December 23, 1876.



In accordance with an agreement made with the Young Ottomans, he promulgated the first Ottoman constitution of 1876, which was a sign of progressive thinking that marked his early rule. Later, however, he noticed citing disagreements with the Parliament, suspended both the short-lived constitution and Parliament in 1878 and accomplished highly effective power and control.

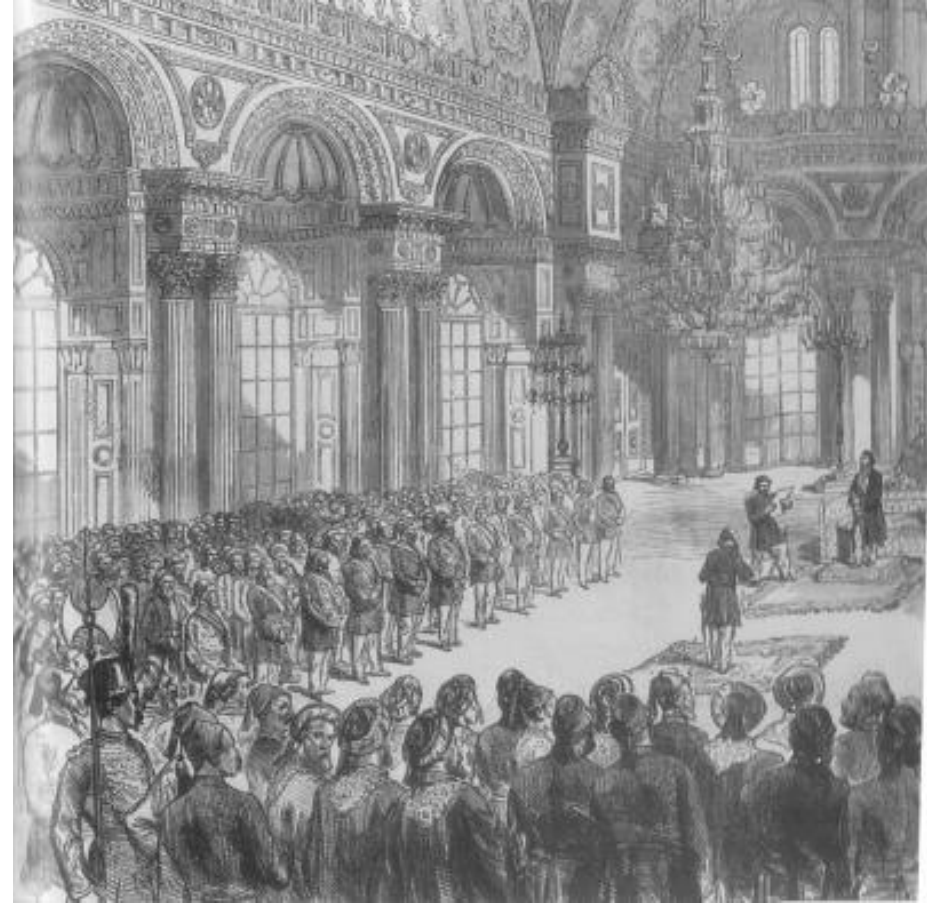
Young Ottomans



Namık Kemal (1840–1888, left) and İbrahim Şinasi (1826–1871, middle) and Mithat Pasha (right), three of the most prominent members of the Young Ottomans published and printed reformist newspapers and other works in support of constitutionality and democracy in the Ottoman Empire. Although they were repeatedly exiled by the Sultan for their efforts, their work culminated in the (albeit short-lived) adoption of the constitution of 1876 and the First Constitutional Era in the Empire.



The first page of Ottoman constitution of 1876



1877, Ceremony convene

Decline of The Ottoman Empire

