

Chapter 8

Globalization in the Ottoman Empire: An Evaluation Through the Naval Institutions and International Trade Policies

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this chapter is to examine how globalization has played a decisive role in the Ottoman Empire and how it created reform through international trade policies and institutions. The first part will examine the concept of globalization and the integration of the Ottoman Empire into the West, the fundamentals of the Ottoman mentality and the effects of globalization on the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century. The second part will examine how globalization played a decisive role in the Ottoman Empire, the 19th century Ottoman economy, Ottoman international trade, and Ottoman external loans. The third part examines the institutionalization and modernization of the Ottoman Empire, reforms in naval affairs during the reign of Abdul Hamid II, and the organization of the navy. The fourth part will examine the institutional relations in the Ottoman Empire after globalization. Institutions will be examined in terms of how they were restructured or how new ones were created to adapt to a new world order.

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INTRODUCTION

The 19th century is a different era for Ottoman society and its economy than the previous periods. Although important changes were made in the traditional Ottoman order, the basic features of the 17th and 18th centuries were preserved. While the power of the central state decreased in the Ottoman Empire, the efficiency of the Ayans began to increase. The ayan provided economic support by collecting taxes on behalf of the state, not by reorganizing production or transforming production relations. There were both struggles and cooperation between the central state and the ayan. From the 1820s onwards the Ottoman Empire was faced with the military, political and economic power of the West. After the Industrial Revolution, the new economy in the era of globalization carried out its economic activities within a new world order. The increasing independence of the ayan in the Ottoman hinterlands, and, on the other hand, the increased power of the West, led the Ottoman Empire to reform its social and economic structures and strengthen the power of the central state in many areas. In the face of these developments, radical changes were made to the economic structure of Ottoman society and different institutions were created from the 18th century onwards. The origins of the societal and economic changes in the social structure of Turkey in the 20th century is to be found in the 19th century, and this came about through changes in the structure of the state as a whole (Pamuk, 2002).

The Industrial Revolution began in the UK and then developed in other countries in Western Europe, transforming their economies through the production of a substantial amount of goods manufactured at a low cost. By the second half of the 19th century, European countries were searching for new markets for their products and looking for inexpensive and abundant sources of raw materials. After the Industrial Revolution, the commercial and economic bonds between the industrialized countries were strengthened, while the trade in products and agricultural goods between Western European countries and developing countries expanded. By the end of the 19th century, technological developments had also caused an increase in maritime trade worldwide (Pamuk, 2017).

BACKGROUND

In this article the concept of ‘globalization’ refers to the ‘First Wave of Globalization’, which, according to the World Bank, occurred between 1870 and 1914. The main factors in globalization were the general global situation and the changes and expansion

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