# Chapter 5
# Public Administration Education in Turkey:
## A Historical Perspective

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## ABSTRACT

*There were public administration schools in Turkish administrative history. For example, in Seljuks Empire times, this school was called Nizamiye Madrasah, and administrators were trained there. Another example is the professional executive class in the Ottoman Empire, and they were educated in Enderun, a unique public administration school in Sultan's Palace. In the 19th century, Turkish public administration was influenced by the Western model, and Mekteb-i Mülkiye was established in 1859. The school moved to Ankara in 1935 and was named Faculty of Political Sciences. In 1952, the Public Administration Institute of Turkey and the Middle East and the first public administration department were established with the support of the USA. Within this framework, the chapter first summarizes the historical development of public administration education in Turkey, together with institutional development. Therefore, these institutions' historical roles were examined, and the interaction between the US scholars and universities was also searched.*

## INTRODUCTION

The first examples of public education schools can be searched in the traditional Islamic school's madrasah. Madrasah is not a fully organized university or university of that age. There were courses of theology and law, language and literature, and philosophy and physical sciences here. Nizamiye Madrasah built by *Nizam al-Mulk* on the order of Alparslan in the Seljuks Empire in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. The first mudarris

(professor) was Imam Al-Haramayn al-Cuwayni, the first teacher of Ghazali, one of the most popular Turkish philosophers. The Nizamiyeh Madrasas has been the model for Greek classics' lessons and its scholarships for the universities of Oxford, Cambridge (1284), and Cologne. In addition to the madrasah's financial and scientific autonomy, the students' demands played a role in determining student numbers. There were more than 300 students in Ghazali's lecture ring (classroom). Cuwayni had 400 students. The training of the Baghdad Nezamiyeh brightly continued until the arrival of Hulagu in Baghdad. Hulagu, who captured Baghdad in 1258, had made the city loot before and burned it all over again (Ocak, 2017).

The Enderun, which was established Fatih Sultan Mehmet (Mehmed the Conqueror) to supply qualified staff to "higher administrative and military levels," that there are "*pashas, head of doormen (kapıcıbaşı), heads of the treasury (hasnadar), and other dignitaries of the palace*" among them with the say of Tavernier (2014: 72), also became a school that trains not only politicians but also craftsmen. For educating as a knowledgeable and well-known statesman, they were tried to get a good education from the beginning. Therefore, Enderun is an essential school after the madrasah in Ottoman educational life. Additionally, according to Uşaklıgil, the Enderun is in the format of *Dar Al-Funun* (university) for his time (Uşaklıgil, 2012: 218).

The school is a unique and memorable educational institution. In addition to the Qur'an Karim, religious sciences, mathematics, astronomy, history, foreign language, and literature have also been included in the program. This enriched education content is the most distinctive feature of the Enderun from the madrasa teaching. The Enderun also has a wealthy library in this context. Nizamettin Nazif likens the Enderun to the British Eton College. (Baykal, 1953, pp. 48-49). In its historical process, the Enderun faced difficulties acquiring human resources in parallel with the deterioration of the *devshirme* system since the end of the 16th century. However, it was established for "*discovering and educating the talented young people for advanced services in the State*" (Akkutay, 1984: 63). Furthermore, the space resulting in the *de facto* expiration of the Enderun School wanted to be filled with the Mülkiye School (Faculty of Political Sciences), which was established to train high-level bureaucrats and local authorities *who had a European education*. Finally, it is seen that the school was closed during the Constitutional Monarchy Period II (1 July 1909) (Köktaş, 2000, p. 720).

In the process of Tanzimat, the westerners who presented their 'Westernization' prescription to the 'sick man' and the statesmen who turned their eyes to the West met in a common point: a neutral public administration. According to Abadan-Unat, it was determined that France's education institution educates administrators with the Conseil d'etat established in the 1850s as a model, '*Mektebi Mülkiyei Şahane*' started its activities under these thoughts in Istanbul in 1859. The school moved to Ankara in 1935, and in 1950, it was turned into an autonomous structure where; "*political science covered with an autonomous identity, taking into account the examples in the U.S.*" The school's name, which began its education in 1859, was "*Mekteb-i Fünun-u Mülkiyye*" at the time, and it meant high administration (Ali Seydi, n.d., p. 132; Bektaş, 2021, p. 586). However, both *the Mülkiye School* and *Public Administration Institute of Turkey and the Middle East (TODAIE)*[1] have not been able to replace with the Enderun School; by the word of Serif Mardin, the *"restoration of the traditional elite education"* (Mardin, 1991, pp. 278-284).

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