

THE DIPLOMACY MANAGEMENT OF OTTOMAN STATE IN THE 19th CENTURY AND WESTERN STATES

Sedat KANAT*

Geliş:17.10.2018 / Kabul:05.12.2018

Abstract

19th century was like a milestone for the Ottoman foreign policy regarding to its grasping and understanding the importance and effects of diplomacy from that time on. France, England and Russia, especially, had a big share in international policy, in consequence the counted states were the deep impact on the Ottoman Empire's policies which both abroad and interior, whose each of them was protector of one of the Ottoman minorities, France for Catholics, Russia for Orthodoxies, England for Protestant. So, Ottomans directed to the 'balance policy' from 19th century, because of insufficiency of its diplomatic power. Thereby, Ottoman Empire announced the orders and laws which will give please to aforementioned western states for the purpose of provide the balance policy among strong states of that days. But it was not possible to make gratify for western states which they desired the disaster of Ottoman Empire. The Wars of 1877-1878, of 1911 and 1914 were consequence of the Western states' policy that desired of Ottoman's disaster.

Keywords: Balance policy, diplomacy, foreign policy, Ottoman minorities, protector.

Introduction

19th century was changing age for both the world and the Ottomans. Europe was already source of many newnesses in that century. So, its compliance to new world was more easy realise, but did not the Ottoman Empire. In the present study is tried to explain the evolution of diplomacy comprehension in context relation to Ottoman Empire.

For this aim, it is firstly touched on worlds' diplomacy mentality. Subsequently, is handled the status and percipience of Ottoman Empire in the diplomacy area. After that, it is examined the status of western states in the diplomacy area against the Ottoman Empire.

* Dr. Araştırma Görevlisi, Bingöl Üniversitesi Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi Tarih Bölümü, Sedat5825_kanat@yahoo.com.tr.

The Formation Process of Diplomacy Understanding in the World

Diplomacy word explains the management of relationships among countries. If diplomatist is an official whose employment is to speak for one state in another, who usually works in an embassy (Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary 2008). Apart that from, the word have a root in the *diploma* word from the Greek, which meaning *double back*, because of folding format of some documentes in the periods of old Hellenic and Rome (Kodaman-Akçay 2010: 76).

As time goes by, the main aim of diplomacy has been to collect informations about foreign societies and governments. So, primary diplomatists' function is to convey messages among communities in safely (Langhorne 1998: paragraph 1-2). So, it is said that most common diplomacy practise was political. Basic cause of this condition is desire to be avoided from wars or antagonist circumstances (Ghosh n. d.: paragraph 2). Additionally, it is clear that requirement of continuity in the diplomacy as one of most important features of international relations even though it to be changing that basic needs and principles of states' diplomacies with the passing of time (Sönmezoğlu 2004: 1045).

The Diplomacy's Brief Historical Adventure

Greek diplomacy was firstly attached with diplomatists' ability on oratory and tact. At this point most important thing was to deliver the king's message into public. Romans used their military power to realise their purposes more than to use the diplomacy, especially for commercial profits in the its provinces. If the Byzantines was attached importance to diplomacy due to they have not as military power as the West Rome. So, "*diplomacy was institutionalized by the Byzantines*" (Ghosh n. d.: paragraph 5, 8, 13, 14).

In the medieval world there was a diplomacy approach which was forefront of solutions which based on reason and scruple more than sword (Mordtmann 1999: 257-258). Besides, the diplomacy would gained a character which resolves both political or land conflicts with institutionalization of diplomacy in the Nation-states as well as could be cause to improvement or decline for all states that present in diplomatic relations (Ghosh n. d.: paragraph 2).

The Status of Western States on the Diplomacy Area in Frame of Relevances with Ottoman Empire

In the 19th century the western states had plunged a mentality which in direct of benefits of themselves only, and they had courage at all times to take any profits in

the policy area (Çadırcı 1991: 176). France, for instance, had participated to Navarin Raid of 1827 for conserve its profits in the region in spite of it not desire to support the Greece which was a serious commercial rival of France in the Black Sea and Mediterranean (Ortaylı 2005: 79).

The west world which reached the pinnacle of its power in the 19th century was realising its impositions on Ottoman Empire through medium of in order of suggestion, intervention and pressure (Tunaya 2010: 33). On the other hand, there were those who said the Ottomans have not place in Europe through advantage of their strong position in the policy realm (Miller 1913: 362).

It had been suggested various remedies for problems of Ottoman State. Amidst these suggestions it had propose the equality principle by France, fateful end which would come behind of spontaneous development by England, gained formality of federal structure which existed defacto in Ottoman territories by Russia. As for Austria, it was following the *wait and see policy* (Tunaya 2010: 33).¹

England kept up its holder of balance policy which will can be approved as perpetuation of the Ottomans' protect against Russia which had the Panislawism idea. On the other hand, it had established the infrastructure that socio-economic and diplomatic of its policy by means of Decree of 1856. But this policy which to protect the Ottomans was reversed to Ottoman Empire with Treaty of Berlin in 1878 (Gencer 2014: 130).² Foreign policy of England against the Ottoman Empire had been directed to maintain certain ties which it would bring various interests more than to grasp and explain of the state's mechanism through partners who some diplomatist and members of Ottoman Empire' minorities. This approach was reverse of that it have been making in the India (Genç 2010: 75, 139). What is more, mentioned treaty (Berlin) for Europe states offered for a widely rights or privileges to could imposition their demands against nations which seen as untouchable, against future of people, against frontiers of states which in the

¹ *"In the fateful end most wisely measure which in the front of a structure that be in of danger of collapse was never to touch it"* (Yerasimos 2007: II, 228). The greatest paradox of France was that it was both the protector of Catholics in the Ottoman Empire and the defender of secularity, as two opposite stands of its diplomacy (Koloğlu 2004: 46).

² In fact, not only England but also many Europe countries had comprehended how important of Ottoman Empire's carry on (Quataert 2005: 56). The principles of balance which Ottoman Empire had been included and established in the Europe was stability and legitimacy instead of punishment and revenge since Vienna Congress of 1815. Vengeance of Germany in the following years was only be able to extinguished with a demolition, as a result of deviated from these principles (Sander 2012: 177).

Ottoman world (Quataert 2005: 59). Following of the treaty those was set about to experienced more rapidly and deep than once,

...the decadence of a civilization in the Rumelia; converting of houses which from filled with happiness into blood lake; emulating of woman teacher of rural areas to queen, and of gangs which mountain thug to kingship and statesmanship; dragging of Russian's pressure us from suffocation to another suffocation; more sobbing of all grooves of the Empire than iron door of castle of old times...(Karakoç 1996: 8).

With disturbing of profits of Russia thanks to Treaty of Berlin in 1878 and with increase of displeasure of aforementioned western states' publics to administrators emerged a new scheme. According to the project Ottomans' lands was will be shared among their themselves, as "*hush-money*" for England the Cyprus and Egypt, for France the Tunis (Özyüksel 2004: 5-7). From now on 'Eastern Qetion' will become into condition "*compromises store*" of Germany in the period of Bismark, for be able to carry on its status which promoter of Europe (Karal 2011: VIII, 169).

The Status of Ottoman Empire in the Diplomacy Area in Frame of Relevances with Western States

While all these happens Ottomans Empire was trying to manner according to real-political. The Ottomans' main worry was for irredantic policy of Russia more than economic supremacy of England (Karal 2011: VII, 175, Yerasimos 2007: II, 86).

Apart that from, the Ottoman Empire had become into status of fragile since "*sliding of classic lines of wars of made with West towards unexpected areas after attack of Napoléon to Egypt*". Furthermore, the occupation of Egypt brought about to acquire the governance in favor of Mehmet Ali Pasha who will engage the Ottomans more than ten years (Gencer 2014: 115, 152, 206). Besides all these, some intellectuals of Ottomans started off to thrive towards their race brothers which have been speaking the Turkish (Davison 2004: 19). On the other hand, the rival of western states for hegemony composed a real-political area of diplomacy in favor of Ottomans which once strong. Conditions of international relations was proposing to the Empire at the selection point the any imperialist powers which it will can recline upon. Main aim, now, it was held which the Empire had obtained (Özyüksel 2004: 5-7).

As from 19th century Ottoman State began to better grasp that the reforms to be seen as an entire in necessity which must be moved into other areas of

administration which outside of military area, also. Over and above, a section of ministry of foreign affairs which identified with *Reisülküttap* (head of clerks) had started coming to the fore for diplomatic contacts with big powers of that days. State's office of clerks will reach "*culmination of its in the reforms' period*" as a whole (Findley 1994: 53, idem 2011a: 89). These clerks of foreign affairs will exhibit a difference, playing a role like representative of external world in eyes of the Ottomans more than to introduce their country to external world, in the another way from its outside colleagues (Findley 2011b: 12).

Whatever happens, the maneuvers which the Empire should be to carry out in the 19th century neither it made a representative of west colonialism in the east nor ended its presence as an state, in the different way from other states which in the Turkish history. Moreover, the Ottoman Empire was able to continue to be a significant pillar of western balances (Eğribel-Özcan 2012: 44-45). While it have been making all these, at the same time, it was losing its previous power and *world policy*, also (Eğribel 2012: 61-67).

Conclusion

To be utilized of diplomacy on behalf of resolved of various problems had became into before many years. Destructive aspect of the human nature was proposing a rightly argument for diplomacy. Size of diplomacy and tasks spectrum of diplomatists extended with modern state mentality because of relations among states running on the ground of institutional, from now on.

Different civilizations in near of the Ottoman Empire, like the Romans and the Greeks, used diplomacy in a way which they will be benefit, of course in the traditions, needs and situations of them itself. The Romans did not value diplomacy as much as the Greeks due to they was highly strong in the military field. So, it was realized the institutionalized of diplomacy by Byzantines. Besides, diplomacy which in the Medieval was generally a wise way more than remorseless way of sword, according to some at least.

Western states took always position in terms of their benefits in diplomacy area against Ottomans. With 19th century strong states of west started to enforce the Ottoman State for modifications under the name of innovation. Advices of western states was differented among them. But the aim of each of these advices was to provide the advantages to mentioned western states, to break up of Ottoman for Russia, to sustain the *holder of balance policy* for England, to protection itself interests in the Black Sea and Mediterranean for France etc.

As from 19th century Ottoman State began to better grasp that the reforms to be seen as an entire in necessity which must be moved into other areas of administration which outside of military area, also. Besides, Over and above, a section of ministry of foreign affairs which identified with *Reisülküttap* (head of clerks) started coming to the fore for diplomatic contacts with big powers of that days. State's office of clerks will reach "*culmination of its in the reforms' period*", as an whole. The Ottoman State became into the more fragile condition because of changing of country's battle boundaries in result of Napoléon's Egypt invasion, on the other side. Furthermore, Mehmet Ali Pasha gained the chance of Egypt government almost throughout ten years. This situation was a factor which quite impacting on reforms at the point of reforms' application speed.

As a result, the efforts which Ottoman Empire's put forth for can to make adapt to period did provide for it sustaining that being the one of important pillars of western balance even though it was losing its previous power and *world policy*.

References

- Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2008). Edinburg: Cambridge University Press.
- Çadırcı, M. (1991). *Tanzimat Döneminde Anadolu Kentlerinin Sosyal ve Ekonomik Yapıları*. Ankara: TTK Basımevi.
- Davison, R. H. (2004). *Kısa Türkiye Tarihi*. Ankara: Babil Yayınları.
- Eğribel E.-Özcan U. (2012). Türkiye'de Batıcılışmanın Serüveni: Modernleşme-Küreselleşme Gerilimi İçinde İki Tanzimat Değerlendirmesi. *Türkiye'de Modernleşme, Batılılaşma Yerine Küreselleşmenin İkamesi* in (pp. 43-50). E. Eğribel-U. Özcan (Ed.). İstanbul: Doğu Kitabevi.
- Eğribel E. (2012). Küre-Muhafazakârlaşma ve Anti-Komünizmin Aldığı Biçim: Modernleşme Serüveninin Suçlanması ve Osmanlı-Türk Kimliğinin Mahkûm Edilmesi. *Türkiye'de Modernleşme, Batılılaşma Yerine Küreselleşmenin İkamesi* in (pp. 61-67). E. Eğribel-U. Özcan (Ed.). İstanbul: Doğu Kitabevi.
- Findley, C. V. (1994). *Osmanlı Devleti'nde Bürokratik Reform, Bâbiâlî (1789-1922)*. İstanbul: İz Yayınları.
- (2011a). *Modern Türkiye Tarihi, İslâm, Milliyetçilik ve Modernlik*. İstanbul: Timaş Yayınları.

- (2011b). *Kalemiyeden Mülkiyeye Osmanlı Memurlarının Toplumsal Tarihi*. İstanbul: Tarih Vakfı Yurt Yayınları.
- Gencer, B. (2014). *İslâm'da Modernleşme (1839-1939)*. Ankara: Doğubati Yayınları.
- Genç, E. S. (2010). *19. Yüzyıl İstanbul'u, Bir İngiliz Seyyahın İzlenimleri*. İstanbul: Doğu Kitabevi.
- Ghosh, K. A. (no date). The Evolution of Diplomacy: From Classical to Modern. Accessed from Academia.edu. (Date of access: 16.10.2018).
- Karakoç, S. (1996). *Mehmed Akif (7. Baskı)*. İstanbul: Diriliş Yayınları.
- Karal, E. Z. (2011). *Büyük Osmanlı Tarihi V-IX*. Ankara: TTK Basımevi.
- Kodaman, T.-Akçay, E. Y. (2010). Kuruluştan Yıkılışa Kadar Osmanlı Diplomasi Tarihi ve Türkiye'ye Bıraktığı Miras. *SDÜ Fen Edebiyat Fakültesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi*, Issue: 22, pp. 75-92.
- Koloğlu, O. (2004). *Abdülhamit ve Masonlar (5. Baskı)*. İstanbul: Pozitif Yayınları.
- Langhorne, R. (1998). History and the Evolution of Diplomacy. in *Modern Diplomacy*. J. Kurbalija (Ed.). Accessed from Academia.edu. (Date of access: 16.10.2018).
- Miller, W. (1913). *The Ottoman Empire (1801-1913)*. By G. W. Prothero (Ed.). London: B.A. Litt. D. Cambridge at the University Press.
- Mordtmann A. D. (1999). *İstanbul ve Yeni Osmanlılar*. İstanbul: Pera Yayıncılık ve Kitapçılık.
- Ortaylı, İ. (2005). *İmparatorluğun En Uzun Yüzyılı*. İstanbul: Alkım Yayınları.
- Özyüksel, M. (2004). Abdülhamit Dönemi Dış İlişkileri. *Türk Dış Politikasının Analizi* içinde (pp. 5-34). (Der. Faruk Sönmezoğlu). İstanbul: Der Yayınları.
- Quataert, D. (2005). *The Ottoman Empire (1700-1922)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sönmezoğlu, F. (2004). Türkiye Cumhuriyeti'nin Dış Politikasında Süreklilik ve Değişim. *Türk Dış Politikasının Analizi* in (pp. 1045-1051). (Der. Faruk Sönmezoğlu). İstanbul: Der Yayınları.
- Tunaya, T. Z. (2010). *Türkiye'nin Siyasi Hayatında Batılılaşma Hareketleri*. İstanbul: İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi Yayınları.

*Sedat Kanat - The Diplomacy Management of Ottoman State In The 19th Century
And Western States*

Yerasimos, S. (2007). *Az gelişmişlik Sürecinde Türkiye, Tanzimattan 1. Dünya Savaşı'na*. İstanbul: Belge Yayınları.