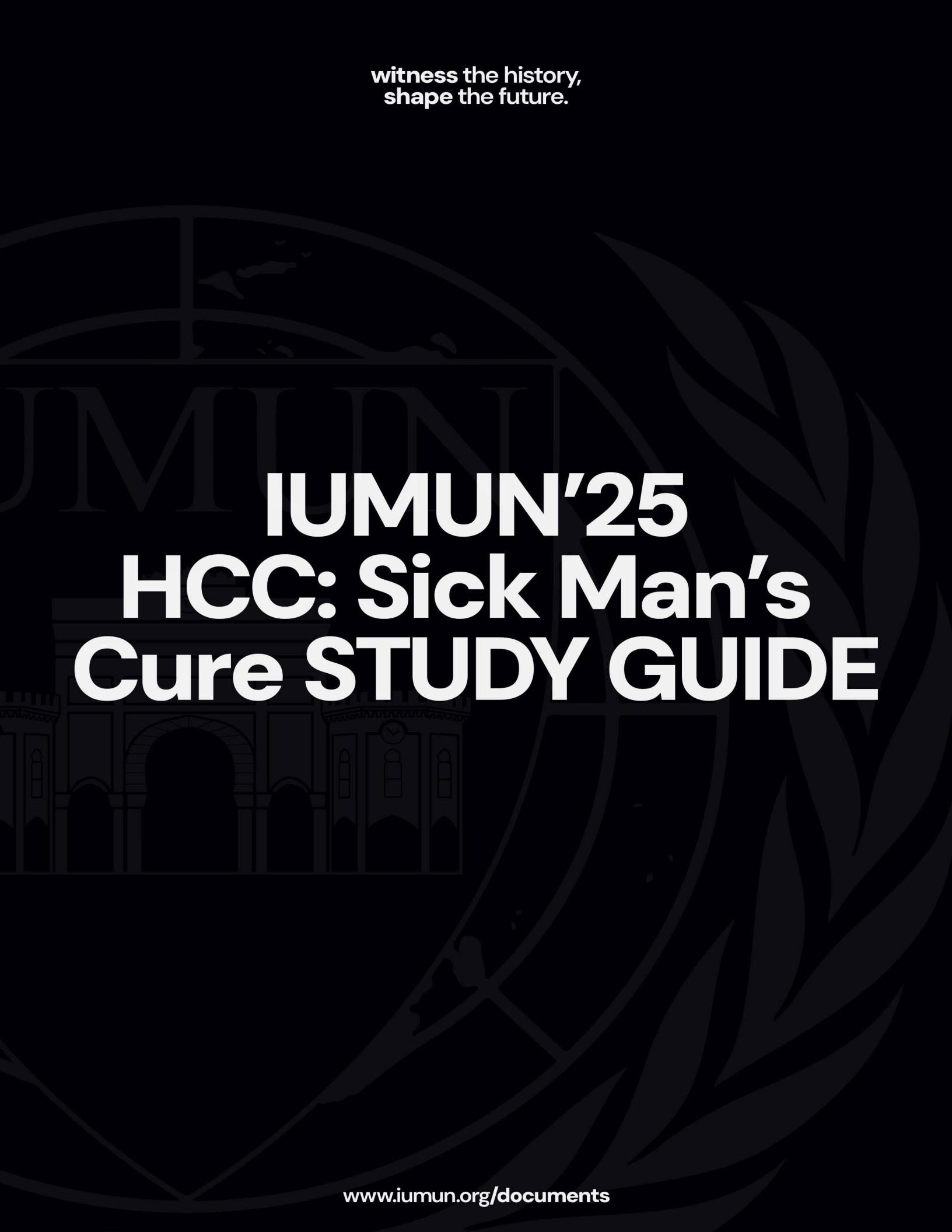


witness the history,  
shape the future.



# **IUMUN'25 HCC: Sick Man's Cure STUDY GUIDE**

## LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY–GENERAL

**Dear Delegates,**

Welcome to the Historical Crisis Committee: Sick Man's Cure at IUMUN 2025.

I am personally thrilled to welcome passionate delegates who are excited to dive into a page–turning moment of history: Tanzimat Era reforms and Ottoman Empire modernization.

This committee invites you to explore how the Ottoman Empire attempted to reform and respond to itself in the midst of complex internal and external crises of the 19th century. The Tanzimat reforms were anything but administrative reforms—popular reactions that set the course of the political, social, and economic orientation of the empire. Your discussions and directives will focus on the successes, failures, and lasting impact of the reforms in modernization and statecraft.

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to Under–Secretary–General Ece Bahar Sekban and Academic Assistant Büşra Koyuncu for their diligent efforts in compiling the study guide. Their work provides a sound foundation for your debates.

The Historical Crisis Committee offers a unique opportunity where history and diplomacy converge. I hope that you will approach this subject matter with intellectual interest and respect for its complexity.

In the name of the Secretariat, I take the opportunity to welcome you on this exciting mission. I hope that your experience is enriching and enlightening.

Warmly,

**Secretary–General**

**Öykü Taş**

## **LETTER FROM THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**Dear delegates of Historical Crisis Committee: Sick Man's Cure,**

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to this committee of IUMUN'25. As the Under Secretary-General, I am both honored and excited to witness the critical thinking, diplomacy, and historical inquiry you will bring to Sick man's Cure.

In this committee, we will journey back to the early 19th century Ottoman Empire. The empire is grappling with military defeats, financial instability, ethnic tensions, and the rise of nationalist movements. Sultan Mahmud II has recently passed away and left his son with a fragmented empire and the monumental task of modernization.

You, as the delegates will take on the roles of important Ottoman officials and advisors as they try to save the future of the empire. You will be expected to make changes to the Tanzimat Edict and decide on your the new rulings for a new Ottoman. Will your version of the edict seek bold liberal reforms? Or will you prioritize preserving imperial tradition and religious authority?

Finally, I would like to emphasize that respectful collaboration and open-minded debate are at the heart of this committee. I also advise you to read this study guide thoroughly and make your research well.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. I am looking forward to see you all.

Best regards,

**Under-Secretary-General Ece  
Bahar Sekban**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMITTEE.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1. THE EFFECTS OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.....	2
2.2. ALBANIAN REVOLTS OF 1833–1839.....	3
2.3. FIRST EGYPTIAN–OTTOMAN WAR.....	4
2.4. II. MAHMUD REFORMS.....	6
2.4.1. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (MECLIS–I VÜKELA).....	7
2.4.2. SUPREME COURT OF JUDICIAL ORDINANCE (MECLIS–I VÂLÂ–YI AHKÂM–I ADLIYYE).....	8
2.5 THE ROAD LEADING TO THE TANZIMAT EDICT AND TANZIMAT ERA.....	8
<b>3. POSITIONS OF RELEVANT COUNTRIES.....</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1. UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.....	11
3.2. FRENCH EMPIRE.....	12
3.3. RUSSIAN EMPIRE.....	14
3.4. AUSTRIAN EMPIRE.....	16
3.5 KINGDOM OF GREECE.....	17
3.6. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.....	18
3.7. KHEDIVATE OF EGYPT.....	18
<b>4. FURTHER READING AND RESOURCES.....</b>	<b>20</b>

## 1. INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Ottoman Empire that was once a powerful territory, found itself at a critical position in the 19th century. Increasing pressures from European powers, rising nationalism and internal tensions started to challenge the long standing traditions. A new era of reforms became unavoidable. As the Empire struggles to adapt to the rapidly changing political and economic landscape, a new era of reform becomes unavoidable. An order was given to Mustafa Reşid Pasha, the minister for foreign affairs, after Sultan Abdulmecid ascended the throne. The minister was expected to write an edict that would cause a major impact in the Ottoman Empire.

Tanzimat Edict, also known as Gülhane Edict, was issued.

The equity of Muslims and non-Muslims was prioritized in every area and modernizing the Empire's legal, military, and bureaucratic systems was aimed. Yet, the process of reform is far from straightforward. As the Empire gains strength by rebuilding its systems, it faces resistance from conservative factions, ethnic and religious minorities demand greater autonomy, and the military and political elites are divided on the path forward. Furthermore, foreign intervention and the looming threat of European dominance make the need for effective, swift reforms more urgent than ever.

Now, the most prominent of Ottoman reformers are expected to sustain the empire in spite of several bear traps. Pashas, please remember that the reforms and timeline will be controlled by you and you only. It is the moment that you agree for change.

## **2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1. The effects of the French Revolution**

The French Revolution (1789) was one of the most influential events during the times leading up to the Tanzimat Reforms. Between the 17th and 18th centuries France faced a number of social, economic and political issues. The country was going through droughts which affected the quality and the quantity of harvests greatly. Not only were the harvests in danger but also the cattle diseases were becoming widespread. The economy was failing as the money spent by the nobility was increasing each and every day. As the nobility was playing ducks and drakes with money the poor couldn't even find the money to buy bread since the prices of them were escalating. King Louis XVI, last king before the revolution, found the solution for the failing economy in taxing the poor. All these issues held the poor's nose to the grindstone. A great revolution was inevitable.

This revolution promoted the idea of a state which served its own people instead of serving the rich. Nationalism was born. Another thing the French Revolution birthed was a declaration which affected the future of human rights greatly: Declaration of the Rights of Man (1789). The main idea of this declaration was freedom and equality. The idea of having basic human rights and nationalism in this context charmed lots and lots of crowds back then.

The themes of the French Revolution and Declaration of Human Rights were getting popular all around Europe. Empires were threatened and they were left with two choices: either to go along and cooperate with these ideas or to fight against them. The Ottoman Empire which consisted of many nations and new rebel nationalists

decided to go along with the Declaration of the Rights of Man and new-born idea nationalism. The Tanzimat Decree was crafted by diplomats who saw what was happening in Europe and had an idea how to cooperate with these new reforms. The Tanzimat Decree and The Declaration of the Rights of Man have a lot of common themes as the decree was mostly inspired by the declaration. The Ottoman Empire was determined to not make the same mistakes they did during the Age of Discovery.

## **2.2. Albanian Revolts of 1833–1839**

Starting from the 18th century the central authority of the Ottoman Empire was weakening. Less central authority meant smaller authorities gaining power both on the center and the public. Most of the small authorities far away from the center were planning on gaining more power. One of those authorities was the Albanian beys and agas who were in Albania away from where the Ottoman Empire was dominant.

The Ottoman Empire started controlling Albania in the middle of the 14th century. Some Albanian principalities became vassals of the Ottomans. The Ottoman Empire let the authorities maintain their power on some conditions such as paying tributes and sending soldiers when needed. Most resisted. The Ottomans overcame these resistances since at the time they had power to do so. However after the 17th century the Ottoman Empire was becoming weaker and weaker as the days were passing by. As they were getting weaker, they decided to work through some reforms all over their land. It was easy to enforce these reforms in Istanbul but when it came to further land it became harder. The reforms were not suitable for further lands and they didn't respond to the problems they had. In Albania the people were suffering in every way and when Ottomans came up with reforms that didn't help them, the people got aggressive. This meant everything was perfect for beys and agas who were waiting

to regain their authority. They pioneered revolts all around Albania against Ottoman Porte.

Despite their weakness the Ottoman army was able to suppress these revolts using both diplomacy and military force. Most of the beys and agas that revolted and had local power were ended and Ottomans regained some of their power and authority in Albanian regions. The Ottoman Empire also continued implementing reforms in those areas.

### **2.3. First Egyptian–Ottoman War**

Another region the Ottoman Empire had control over but a very weak control of was Egypt. As always a weak central authority encourages someone to take over. In Egypt Mehmet Ali Pasha took control. He cleaned most of Egypt from the Mamluks and became the main power of Egypt. While he was gaining power the Ottomans became aware of him. While fearing him they appointed him as the pasha of Salonika and Kavala. He introduced reforms to Egypt in all areas from military to economy. Mehmet Ali Pasha was determined to transform Egypt into a strong state. However, he didn't stop there. After the Navarino incident, he feared Greece would become independent and took steps to prevent this. He negotiated with European countries and worked on new equipment for a potential war.

In 1828 the Ottoman–Russian war took place and as the Ottomans were weak they asked for Egypt's help. However, Mehmet Ali Pasha did not cooperate due to his reasons. Of course, this touched Mahmud II's, Ottoman sultan at that time, nerves. This meant new plans getting crafted for his death. Mehmet Ali Pasha knew what Mahmud could do to him so he put his plans to work which was to conquer Syria. Thanks to his luck and mind everything went well and he occupied Syria in 1832. This



resulted in him being declared an outlaw by Mahmud. As his authority in Egypt was in danger he didn't stop in Syria but continued forward. His son Ibrahim Pasha's army was unstoppable. The Ottoman army which was old and still irregular was an easy prey for Ibrahim Pasha's modern Egyptian army. As they were getting closer to Istanbul the Ottoman Empire found the cure in European states and asked for their help. This internal problem transformed into an international one as Ottomans were not even capable of stopping their governors. As losing Istanbul and the straits to a stronger power than the Ottomans was a big threat to the Europeans, they all tried to take the matter into their own hands to satisfy their interests.

Desperate times call for desperate measures. Russians were the Ottoman Empire's best choice. The Hünkâr İskelesi Treaty was signed between the two. Russia agreed to send aid on land and sea if the Ottoman Empire needed any. However, there was a secret article. According to this article in case of an attack on Russia, the Ottomans had to close the passage to any warships. France and Great Britain found out about this article quickly and they stated that they would not be acknowledging this article. While the Ottomans were dealing with these, Mehmet Ali Pasha was looking for ways to gain more power and land. However, Great Britain didn't want a second war so they signed an agreement with the Ottomans which France also signed later on.

Mehmet Ali Pasha realized that the Ottoman was gaining power and Europeans were ready to help the Ottoman Empire. Therefore he declared his independence from the Ottoman Empire. Mahmud was expecting this so he sent his army to Syria. However, they made some strategic mistakes as they didn't listen to any of the advice Prussian advisors were giving and took a long time to attack. The Ottomans lost greatly. They had no other chance but to ask Mehmet Ali Pasha for peace. They granted a hereditary paşalık of Egypt. However it was not enough for Mehmet Ali Pasha and he

requested Egypt, Syria, Adana, and Maraş. The Europeans didn't want the Ottomans to agree to Pasha's requests. However, France took a different stance and stood with Pasha and this strained the relationship between them and Great Britain. Russia, Austria, Prussia, and Great Britain signed the Convention of London and the Ottoman Empire agreed to this convention. The pasaliks of southern Syria and Acre were given to Mehmet Ali Pasha and his family. Mehmet Ali Pasha trusted France and didn't accept the terms. Therefore the Ottoman Empire took all of its titles and took action. In the end, Mehmet Ali Pasha was forced to accept the right of inheritance of the paşalık only in Egypt.

#### **2.4. II. Mahmud Reforms**

With the accession of Mahmud II to the throne, the reaya was equated with the entire population and became tebaa. This tiny looking change of a word meant everything for the non-Muslim folks living in the Ottoman lands. The Sultan wanted a unified state governed from Istanbul, where all Christian subjects obeyed him and remained under his complete authority and sought to achieve that through equality. After wanting to bring that new, European perspective to the military; Sultan Mahmud made changes in the clothings and training of the Janissary corps. Yet, this act was not well-received by the corps which led to a great rebellion, or Vaka-i Hayriye to be more specific, and eliminated the Janissaries in 1826 not only in Istanbul but all provinces, never to be mentioned again. Even the hats took their share from the ongoing modernizing movements after any type of turban was banned and wearing tarboosh became obligated.

In 1831, a population census, for males only, was conducted to determine the state's human and financial resources which ended up recording 8 million Muslims and 4

million Christians. This indicated that a remarkable amount of the folk was constituted by non-Muslims revealing a stronger reason for reforms.

The first daily Ottoman newspaper, named *Takvim-i Vekayi*, was published and newspapers, imperial edicts, calendars were all written in four different languages: Arabic, Greek, Armenian, and French. This led to the proliferation of the French language throughout the Ottoman Empire to the point where French almost became like a second language. Sultan II. Mahmud's sons, Abdulmecid and Abdulaziz, began to receive private French lessons. Ambassadors were also sent abroad; especially to Paris, London, and Vienna; to observe and follow new developments. Churches were built, Europeans were invited to celebrations in Istanbul. Thus, a magnificent acceleration occurred in the Ottoman Empire's Westernization process.

The reforms did not stop here, the Sultan was determined to smell the Western air in the Ottoman lands and Mustafa Reşid Pasha was going to stand by him. Pasha tried to implement the French model; the eighteen provinces in Anatolia were reduced to only four. Provincial administrative councils were established, and their members were elected. Hence, the Ottoman people experienced elections for the first time.

#### 2.4.1. Council of Ministers (Meclis-i Vükela)

The Council of Ministers (Meclis-i Vükelâ) was formed as a result of certain regulations in the central administration and ministries. The Council gathered under the leadership of the Grand Vizier to discuss major affairs of state and to ensure coordination among the ministries in matters of enforcement. In its early stages, the council operated without a formal regulation defining its procedures. Each minister was responsible for the affairs within his respective ministry.

The council would deliberate on proposals and issues it deemed necessary, as well

as on drafts prepared by lower administrative councils, make the required revisions, and then submit them to the Sultan for approval through the Grand Vizier. Decisions in the council were taken by voting and at the end of the voting process, the majority's opinion would determine the direction of the decision. However, at times, the decision of the majority could be overridden by any member's voice if it is powerful enough.

#### 2.4.2. Supreme Court of Judicial Ordinance (Meclis-i Vâlâ-yı Ahkâm-ı Adliyye)

The Meclis-i Vâlâ-yı Ahkâm-ı Adliyye was the supreme legislative and judicial body established on 24 March 1838 by II. Mahmud. The court consisted of 5 members and took place in the Gülhane Kasrı. The court was responsible for drafting new laws on the new reforms and also reforming the legal system of the Ottoman Empire. Sometimes the court also acted as a supreme appeals court for important legal and administrative cases.

### 2.5 The Road Leading to the Tanzimat Edict and Tanzimat Era

The Tanzimat Edict of 1839 also known as the Gülhane Hatt-ı Şerifi was a turning point in Ottoman history. To protect the "almighty" Ottoman Empire from both the internal conflicts and pressures and extreme European pressure, the Ottomans took the step to modernize and reform the state. The Tanzimat was a big and extremely needed step by the Ottoman Empire. However the road leading up to this was extremely long and Tanzimat was the result of many accumulated problems.

By the end of the 18th century the Ottomans faced many defeats. This many defeats was new for a state controlling territories in 3 continents. Military was not in good condition. The janissaries transformed into a corrupt force composed of power-

hungry, self-serving and disruptive. They also turned into a dead-end-like structure. They resisted modernization and modern military training strictly and refused to adopt new tactics/weapons. They frequently staged rebellions and even killed whoever tried to stop them. They were major obstacles to progress. The Ottoman army was extremely outdated and the chain of command was in a way ruined as it was now working with bribery and favoritism. They also lacked discipline. A modern, professional and centralized army was very much needed.

Another internal problem was ayan and iltizam problem. Ayans were powerful provincial elites who gained power through the Ottoman Empire's decentralization. They were in control of local administration and collection of taxes. Iltizam system was the taxation system where mültezims collected tax for the state but kept a part of the said tax. Many mültezim was also ayan. These systems caused a very expected thing: loss of central control. Many ayan were undermining the Sultan's authority. Through the iltizam system mültezims were exploiting poor peasants living on the Ottoman soil to maximize their profit. Both systems either needed better regulations or complete abolitions.

As many more internal issues were playing a part on the road leading up to Tanzimat, there were also many external issues.

The Ottomans were not only losing on the battlefields but also on the negotiation table which showed both the Ottomans and Europeans the Ottomans were losing their diplomatic skills greatly. Most of the peace terms the Ottomans signed during the second half of 18th century were one-sided, favoring whoever the other side was, and humiliating. Treaties like the Treaty of Küçük Kaynarca, Treaty of Bucharest and Treaty of Adrianople weakened Ottomans control on one of the biggest groups living on the Ottoman soil: The Christians. This meant the Ottomans were losing control on

directing internal conflicts and were vulnerable to foreign intervention. Also the Ottomans were left alone. Any help coming from a powerful state was calculated to favor themselves. For example most requested capitulations which deeply weakened the Ottoman economy.

The Ottoman Empire was losing its prestige. The magnificent, golden era was gone and there was no one to truly help the Ottomans.

### 3. POSITIONS OF RELEVANT COUNTRIES

#### 3.1. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland

Although the 19th century was not the best period for some countries like the Ottoman Empire, it was one of the most prosperous and powerful eras for Britain. The Industrial Revolution which began in the late 18th century, had started to bear fruit. The Industrial Revolution brought rapid urbanization, technological innovation and, obviously, a thriving economy. However the industries were requiring more and more raw materials as they were getting complex. Thus British imperialism was reaching another level during the 19th century. An important colony of the British Empire was India, *the jewel in the crown*. India had many raw materials from spices to cotton. India offered not only the valuable raw materials but also held an extremely strategic location as it had an important coastline on Britain's imperial trade routes. However, along the route to India stood the Ottoman Empire, a once-powerful, but still strategically important power of the 19th century. Great Britain was not seeing the Ottomans as a threat. What was scaring them was the Russians. Thus they, France and Great Britain, sided with the Ottomans against Russia during the Crimean War and showed themselves as Ottomans allies.

Britain was not only "helping" the Ottoman Empire through military but also economically. They encouraged the Ottomans to reform their ideologies and economical plans on Britain's liberal ideology and sought to open Ottoman markets to British goods. They also requested more reforms for Christians and Jews's conditions under "liberalism" and "humanitarianism". Thus the British effect on Tanzimat edict was extremely visible. Even the statesman who drafted and recited the edict, Mustafa Reşit Paşa, was glancingly affected by the British. Paşa served as

the ambassador of Paris and London. His ideas were heavily influenced by European thought.

While the reforms were approved by the British for now, they later proved they weren't enough neither for the British nor the Ottoman Empire.

### **3.2. French Empire**

The French Empire welcomed the 19th century after a dramatic revolution: The French Revolution. With the revolution the French abolished Ancien Régime. After the abolishment of Ancien Régime its place was taken by the First French Republic. The French Revolution also birthed a significant man: Napoléon Bonaparte.

Napoleon was one of the most influential and controversial figures in world history. During the French Revolutionary Wars he achieved great things. According to most, his greatest success was the Italian Campaign. Napoleon defeated Austrian and Piedmontese forces which resulted in ending Austrian dominance in northern Italy and then Austria withdrew from the war. Belgium and most of northern Italy was now under the control of France. Napoleon then ended the French Directory in 1799 and announced himself as the First Consul. In 1804 he crowned himself as the Emperor while launching the First French Empire. However, as all great figures fall in some way, Napoleon also faced his decline and eventual downfall. After the failed invasion of Russia in 1812, many more defeats followed and he was forced to abdicate. He later returned but was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo, which marked his final downfall. He was then exiled to the island of Saint Helena.



As a well known fact Napoléon and his great rise/fall affected Europe and closeby states greatly. The Ottoman Empire which was fragile at that time also was in connection with and affected by Napoléon. Also according to his own memoir when he was a young artillery officer he was about to be employed by the Ottomans as an army reformer. So it can be seen that they had a connection since the beginning of Napoléon's career. However the Ottomans first encountered the "almighty" Napoléon during his Egyptian Campaign. The French invasion of the Middle East triggered a great response from both the British and the Ottomans. The Ottoman forces -with the help of the British navy- were successful against the Napoléon forces and this marked one of Napoléon's first major losses.

The Ottoman Empire was not only affected by Napoléon but also the French Revolution/Empire as most of the European states. As said before, the French Revolution birthed/popularized many ideas such as nationalism, republicanism, modern concepts of civil rights, egalitarian society, secularization of the state, all of which challenged the traditional structures of monarchy and empires which were multicultural. At that time the Ottoman Empire was composed of many ethnicities and religions. However the Ottomans did not look deep into the French Revolution as the Ottoman diplomats of that time commented on it as a "temporary madness" and French domestic problem. As seen later this was a great mistake as the Ottomans had territories in 3 continents which made it a multicultural empire. Thus "nationalism" affected the Ottoman Empire greatly. With the effect of nationalism, many Balkan territories that were under the Ottomans started to ask for their independence. Thus the Ottoman politicians took the matter into their hands and crafted the Tanzimat edict. Tanzimat edict was written in a reformer way which roots itself to traditional monarchy instead of a revolutionary way. The edict projected the idea of protecting the people's right without including the idea of "public

participation to the governance". Thus the Tanzimat edict which was crafted to stay away from the effects of ideology of French Revolution was a regulatory document.

### **3.3. Russian Empire**

In the beginning of the 19th century the Russian Empire was one of the largest and greatest empires in the world. As a well known fact Russian had great, ambitious, enlightened absolutists like Peter the Great and Catherine the Great. These enlightened absolutists reformed the Russian Empire as an enormous autocratic empire in the 19th century. Thus as many empires were struggling the Russian Empire was rising and they pursued great expansionist policies.

The Russians projected themselves as "The Protector of Orthodox Christianity". This role granted the Russian Empire the justification they needed for their expansion especially in the Balkans and eastern Mediterranean. As a well known fact the Ottomans had most of the land in the Balkans and eastern Mediterranean. Russia's expansion policy was a direct threat to the sovereignty of the Ottoman Empire. As the Ottoman Empire, the "sick man", was already declining and losing the power they had day-by-day, the Russians saw it as a chance to take things one step further. They were expanding their influence on the Balkans and territory around the Black Sea.

Many Russo-Turkish wars took place during the 18th and 19th centuries. The Russians wanted to establish a warm water port on the Black Sea and at that time the area around the Black Sea belonged to the Ottoman Empire. The first major Russo-Turkish war took place after the Ottomans requested Catherine the Great to not interfere in Poland's internal affairs. Then the Russians went on and occupied Moldavia and

Wallachia, captured key fortresses in Crimea, captured ports and fortresses through the northern coast of the Black Sea and had some great naval victories (Battle of Çeşme). After this the Ottomans had no choice but to ask for peace and “peace” was given by the Treaty of Küçük Kaynarca in 1774. The Treaty of Küçük Kaynarca resulted in the independence of the Crimean khanate (even though Crimea was announced independent, it was under great Russian influence), many ports and fortresses were left to the Russian control which resulted in Russians reaching the warm waters, Russia gained the privilege of passing through the Turkish straits and gained some commercial privileges. However the most important result of it was that the Russians gained the official protector of the Orthodox on the Ottoman land. This meant that Russia could easily interfere with the Ottoman Empire's internal affairs. After this the peace was not reached and wars continued between the Russian Empire and the Ottoman Empire. In the beginning of the 19th century Russia had secured the entire northern coast of the Black Sea. Then starting from 1821 the Ottoman Empire faced the Greek War of independence. Many European powers, especially Russia, Britain and France stood with the Greeks. In 1827 the Great Powers, Russia, France and Britain, forced the Ottomans to sign the Treaty of London which granted the Greeks autonomy. As an expected result the Ottomans refused to sign the treaty and the Russians declared war on the Ottomans in 1828 in the name of the protector of the Orthodox Christians. The Ottomans lost many territories in eastern Anatolia and the Balkans and were now extremely weak in those lands. In 1829 the Russians reached Adrianople which bordered Constantinople. The Ottomans once again had no choice but to ask for peace. The Treaty of Adrianople was signed between the two parties in 1829. The treaty consisted of Russia gaining the Danube territory and the eastern Black Sea coast, the Ottoman Empire recognizing Greek autonomy. Also Serbia, Moldavia and Wallachia gained Russian-protected autonomy (stayed under the control of the Ottoman Empire).

As it can be seen, the Russian Empire had a great effect on the Ottoman Empire through every perspective. Thus the Tanzimat Edict was also under the influence of the Russian Empire. After many defeats against the Russians, the Ottomans realized they needed to modernize the military, administration and economy to protect what's left from their sovereignty. The Russians also used "The Protector of the Orthodox Christians" many times to interfere with Ottomans' internal affairs. To block this, on the Tanzimat Edict they created a more inclusive legal framework. Thus the Tanzimat Edict can also be a way to block Russians both diplomatically and militarily.

### **3.4. Austrian Empire**

The Austrian Empire at that time was a newly formed empire. The empire was formed in 1804 by Francis II as a response to Napoléon's declaration of the First French Empire. The Austrian Empire was also a multi-ethnic monarchy like the Ottoman Empire. Thus the new ideas born from the French Revolution also scared the ruling elites of the Austrian Empire, the Habsburgs.

As the French ideologies were threatening Austria's imperial unity, they took their steps cautiously but also extremely strategically by restructuring internally and protecting the balance externally. In 1809 Klemens von Metternich was appointed as the Austrian Foreign Minister, later Chancellor of State. The Austrian Empire ,thanks to Napoléon's fall Congress of Vienna took place where Metternich was one of the most significant figures. He believed that stability through Europe can only be reached by the monarchical legitimacy and the suppression of revolutionary ideas. To block ideas like nationalism and liberalism he implemented strict censorship. His system ,called the Metternich System, became popular amongst the other multi-ethnic states.

The Austrian Empire shared a long history with the Ottomans. As it can be seen they also had the same issues after the French Revolution. Thus the Ottoman Empire, which was weaker and strategically in a worse position than the Austrian Empire, studied the Austrians carefully. The Ottomans took the Metternich System and crafted it in a way that it can be useful for the Ottoman Empire.

Austrians did not take a direct and active role like France or Britain through the Ottoman Empire's modernization process; however they supported the Tanzimat reforms indirectly. A stable Ottoman Empire in the Balkans meant a buffer against the Russians. Even though the Austrian Empire was not in favor of other modernizations, they were in support of Ottoman's modernization as it was strategically better for the Austrians.

### **3.5 Kingdom of Greece**

The Kingdom of Greece was a new born state while the Ottomans were trying to save their 500-years-sovereignty. It was founded in 1830 after a long war of independence against the Ottomans. As it was backed by many powerful European states such as Britain, France and Russia, it won which made the Kingdom of Greece the first successful national separation.

The separation of Greece sent a powerful message to the different ethnic groups throughout the Ottoman Empire: nationalist revolts can be successful. The Ottoman Empire's legitimacy was challenged. The best thing the Ottomans could do to save themselves was to reform.

### **3.6. United States of America**

The United States of America ,after gaining its independence in the late 18th century, started to industrialize and solidify its place. As the American economy was growing,they started to look for commercial routes and as the other strong European countries they looked toward the Mediterranean and the Middle East which were under the control of the Ottomans.

The beginning of the United States of America's and the Ottoman's diplomatic ties were in 1830 with the signing of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation. The Americans wanted to secure their trading rights and merchants passing through the Ottoman waters.

The American ideology of liberalism and humanitarianism served as a non-direct affect on the Tanzimat Edict.

### **3.7. Khedivate of Egypt**

During the 19th century Egypt under Muhammad Ali Pasha was changed into a powerful territory. Although it was still under the Sultan, Muhammad Ali Pasha was able to do much for Egypt. He modernized the army, economy, administration and education through the region.

As Muhammad Ali Pasha was modernizing Egypt many Ottoman diplomats and the Sultan himself became aware of the situation. Egypt was becoming a threat to the Ottomans and their authority. Thus the Tanzimat Edict was in a way a response to this, it can be said that the Ottomans tried to catch up with Egypt. The

modernization of Egypt also risked The Ottoman Empire's sovereignty. Muhammad Ali Pasha after reforming "his" land demanded hereditary rule over Egypt and requested many more land that was close to Egypt. This resulted in a European-intervened crisis as the Ottomans were not even able to protect themselves from their own governors. Although Pasha was pushed back into his land he gained dynastic control over Egypt. With this Egypt was formed into the Khedivate of Egypt.

#### 4. FURTHER READING AND RESOURCES

Kenton, W. (2025, February 17). *Egalitarianism: definition, ideas, and types*. Investopedia.

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/e/egalitarianism.asp#:~:text=In%20an%20egalitarian%20society%2C%20all,access%20to%20income%20and%20wealth.>

İnce, Y. (2017). II. Mahmud Devri Reformlarının Tebaa Tarafından Algılanışı. <https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/401766>

Demir, A. (2005). Islahatçı-Yenilikçi Padişah Sultan II. Mahmud Dönemi. <https://www.mevzuatdergisi.com/2005/04a/05.htm>

Swansea University. (2024). *The Long and Short Reasons for Why Revolution Broke out in France in 1789* – Swansea University. [Www.swansea.ac.uk; Swansea University. https://www.swansea.ac.uk/history/history-study-guides/the-long-and-short-reasons-for-why-revolution-broke-out-in-france-in-1789/](https://www.swansea.ac.uk/history/history-study-guides/the-long-and-short-reasons-for-why-revolution-broke-out-in-france-in-1789/)

Élysée. (2022, December 14). *The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*. Elysee.fr; Élysée. <https://www.elysee.fr/en/french-presidency/the-declaration-of-the-rights-of-man-and-of-the-citizen>

Özdemir, Y. & Çiydem, E., & Aktaş, E. (2014). Background of Tanzimat Edict. *Kastamonu Education Journal*, 22(1), 321–338.

Shabani, Z. (2021). Arnavut Tarihçiliğinde Arnavut Topraklarında Tanzimat Reformlarının Uygulanması. 6. Uluslararası Öğrencilik Sempozyumu, 2021.



Kocaoğlu, M. (1995). Kavalalı Mehmet Paşa İsyanı (1831-1841). OTAM(Ankara, 195–210.  
[https://doi.org/10.1501/otam\\_00000000243](https://doi.org/10.1501/otam_00000000243)

Cicektakan, Nazim Can (2014) *Great Britain and the Ottoman Empire: British Discourses on the 'Ottomans', 1860-1878*. PhD thesis, University of Essex.

Yunusova, Aziza and Shamsiddinova, Makhfirat (2024) *A Glimpse Into 19th-Century Britain: Socio-Political, Economic, And Cultural Transformations*. American Journal of Open University Education, 1 (8). pp. 73–76. ISSN 2997–3899

*Life in Britain in the 19th century*. (n.d.). Spartacus Educational.  
<https://spartacus-educational.com/U3Ahistory21.htm>

Brown, R. W., & Lee, S. J. (1985). Aspects of European History 1789–1980. The History Teacher, 18(3), 441. <https://doi.org/10.2307/493063>

Connelly, J. (2023). Was the Habsburg Empire an Empire? *Austrian History Yearbook*, 54, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0067237823000395>

Kodaman, B. (2007). Osmanlı Devleti'nin Yükseliş ve Çöküş Sebeplerine Genel Bakış. *Süleyman Demirel Üniversitesi Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi*, 2007(16), 1–24. <https://app.trdizin.gov.tr/makale/TORJd01EZzQ/osmanli-devleti-nin-yukselis-ve-cokus-sebeplerine-genel-bakis>

Emiroğlu, H. (2007). FRANSIZ DEVRİMİNİN OSMANLI DEVLETİ ÜZERİNE ETKİSİ ve SONUÇLARI. *Muhafazakar Düşünce Dergisi*, 3(12), 117–146.  
<https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/1187583>

Aksan, V. H. (2012). Russo-Turkish Wars (pre-1878). In G. Martel (Ed.), The Encyclopedia of War. Blackwell Publishing Ltd. <https://tinyurl.com/3zd3f3xm>

Özdemir, Y., Çiydem, E., & Aktaş, E. (2014). TANZİMAT FERMANI'NIN ARKA PLANI. *Kastamonu Üniversitesi Kastamonu Eğitim Dergisi*, 22(1), 321–338. <https://arastirmax.com/en/system/files/dergiler/118845/makaleler/22/1/arastirmax-tanzimat-fermaninin-arka-planı.pdf>

TANZİMAT FERMANI Ansiklopediler – TÜBİTAK. (n.d.). [https://ansiklopedi.tubitak.gov.tr/ansiklopedi/tanzimat\\_fermani](https://ansiklopedi.tubitak.gov.tr/ansiklopedi/tanzimat_fermani)