

## HISTORY OF GERMAN MILITARY MISSIONS IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN THE 19TH CENTURY

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### **Abstract**

The article analyzes the historical development, objectives, and consequences of German military missions in the Ottoman Empire during the nineteenth century. Special attention is given to the political, military, and strategic cooperation between Germany and the Ottoman Empire, which aimed to modernize the Ottoman military system. The study examines the activities of German officers who served as advisors, trainers, and organizers within the Ottoman army. It also explores how these missions influenced the transformation of the Ottoman military structure, military education, and administrative reforms. The research shows that German military missions played a crucial role in strengthening bilateral relations and laid the groundwork for the strategic alliance between the Ottoman Empire and Germany at the beginning of the twentieth century.

### **Keywords**

Ottoman Empire, Germany, military missions, military reforms, modernization, Ottoman army, German advisors

### **Аннотация**

В статье рассматривается история немецких военных миссий в Османской империи в XIX веке. Основное внимание уделяется военно-политическому сотрудничеству между Германией и Османской империей, направленному на модернизацию османской армии. Анализируется деятельность немецких военных специалистов, их участие в военной реформе, подготовке офицерских кадров и организации военной системы. В исследовании также рассматривается влияние немецких военных миссий на развитие османской армии и формирование стратегического сотрудничества между двумя государствами.

### **Ключевые слова**

Османская империя, Германия, военные миссии, военные реформы, модернизация армии, немецкие советники

## **Annotatsiya**

Mazkur maqolada XIX asrda Germaniya tomonidan Usmoniylar imperiyasiga yuborilgan harbiy missiyalar tarixi tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda ikki davlat o'rtasidagi harbiy-siyosiy hamkorlik, Usmoniylar armiyasini modernizatsiya qilish jarayonida nemis harbiy mutaxassislarining o'rni va faoliyati yoritiladi. Shuningdek, nemis harbiy maslahatchilarining harbiy ta'lim tizimi, strategiya va harbiy boshqaruvni rivojlantirishdagi hissasi o'rganiladi.

## **Kalit so'zlar**

Usmoniylar imperiyasi, Germaniya, harbiy missiyalar, harbiy islohotlar, modernizatsiya, nemis maslahatchilari

## **Introduction**

The nineteenth century was a period of profound transformation for the Ottoman Empire. Facing internal political instability, military defeats, and increasing pressure from European powers, the Ottoman government initiated a series of reforms aimed at modernizing its state institutions. Among the most important reforms were those directed toward the modernization of the military system.

During this period, the Ottoman Empire sought assistance from European countries to reorganize and modernize its army. While France and Britain initially played an important role in military reforms, Germany gradually became the most influential foreign partner in Ottoman military affairs. German military missions were invited to the Ottoman Empire to train officers, reorganize military structures, and introduce modern military technologies and strategies.

The cooperation between Germany and the Ottoman Empire was not only military but also political and strategic. For Germany, involvement in Ottoman military reforms represented an opportunity to expand its political influence in the Near East. For the Ottoman Empire, German expertise provided valuable support in strengthening its army and defending its territorial integrity.

This article aims to examine the historical development, objectives, and impact of German military missions in the Ottoman Empire during the nineteenth century.

## **Analysis**

The need for military reform in the Ottoman Empire became especially urgent after a series of military defeats in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The Ottoman army, which had once been one of the strongest military forces in the world, was increasingly unable to compete with modern European

armies. The Ottoman government therefore began to invite foreign military experts to assist in the reorganization of its armed forces. Initially, French military advisors played a leading role in reform efforts. However, political changes in Europe and the growing influence of Prussia led to the increasing involvement of German military officers in Ottoman military reforms. German officers were considered highly disciplined and technically skilled, particularly because of Prussia's reputation for military efficiency. As a result, the Ottoman government began to view Germany as a reliable partner in the modernization of its military system.

### **The First German Military Missions**

One of the earliest and most influential German military figures in the Ottoman Empire was Helmuth von Moltke, who served as a military advisor in the 1830s. Moltke provided strategic recommendations for reorganizing the Ottoman army and improving military command structures. German officers who followed Moltke worked closely with Ottoman authorities to develop modern training systems, military academies, and organizational structures. They introduced European military doctrines and helped improve artillery, engineering units, and logistical systems. These early missions laid the foundation for long-term military cooperation between the Ottoman Empire and Germany.

German military advisors played an important role in the reform of Ottoman military education. They helped establish modern military schools and academies where Ottoman officers could receive systematic training in strategy, tactics, and military science. The modernization of military education was essential for the development of a professional officer corps. German instructors introduced new teaching methods, military manuals, and training programs that significantly improved the quality of military education in the Ottoman Empire.

As a result, a new generation of Ottoman officers emerged who were familiar with modern European military practices. The presence of German military missions also had important political consequences. German influence in the Ottoman Empire increased significantly during the late nineteenth century, particularly during the reign of Sultan Abdulhamid II. Germany sought to strengthen its political and economic presence in the region, while the Ottoman Empire viewed Germany as a counterbalance to British and Russian influence. This growing cooperation eventually led to a closer strategic partnership between the two states, which would later become evident during the First World War.

### **Conclusion**

German military missions played a significant role in the modernization of the Ottoman army during the nineteenth century. German officers contributed to the reorganization of military structures, the development of modern training systems,

and the establishment of professional military education. The cooperation between Germany and the Ottoman Empire was mutually beneficial. While the Ottoman Empire gained valuable military expertise and support in its reform efforts, Germany expanded its political and strategic influence in the Near East. Ultimately, the German military missions helped transform the Ottoman military system and laid the groundwork for a strong alliance between the two states in the early twentieth century. Their legacy remains an important chapter in the history of Ottoman military modernization and international military cooperation.

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