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RESTORATION OF EDİRNE PALACE IN THE ERA OF AHMED I

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Geographical location is an important factor in determining the political, economical, military, and even cultural objectives and in specifying the policies of each nation or state throughout the historical process. Thus, states tend to determine the strategies and policies to be developed with regard to geographical conditions and positions of their countries.[1]

The expressions, used by the sociologist Tuna for Anatolian cities, are also true for the other Ottoman cities having these features. Moreover, especially geographical factor is doubtlessly very important in the foundation and development process of the cities.

Tuna's description is as follows; "Anatolia, constituting a stage for successful organisations in the relations of its position and the communities living thereon with the environment in every era of the history, has always had a significant place with its urban features. Since Anatolia has become a point of passage and connection with its cities founded by various civilisations thereon, and due to different policies carried out, its cities gained importance according to the places where these connections were knotted. As for the policy in Anatolia, regarding the features of the passage, cities arose in frontier regions rather than points in which environment and connections were organised, and sometimes cities arose which were bound to the control of the passage points."[2]

Edirne was the most important agent in providing the continuity of geographical conditions throughout history. It gains importance due to its location, on the old main road connecting İstanbul, therefore the whole Near East to Europe. Moreover, it is the last big stage of this road before İstanbul. The road, following the Maritsa Valley and coming from Bulgaria, gets narrow in the natural corridor between the Rodop and Istıranca mountains that hinder transportation before reaching the east Thrace plains; and Edirne watches for the east door of this corridor. In addition, valleys that connect near Edirne, help to facilitate connection of the following roads here and this made the city an important intersection in those times. Edirne was also the starting point of river transportation over Maritsa which did not lose its importance until the modern times.

These strategic features of the city always attracted the Ottoman sultans. Before the conquest of the city, Orhan Bey advised his son, Süleyman Pasha, not to neglect Edirne in the *Serdarlık Breatı* (sirdar warrant).[3] The city gained a secure Ottoman city identity after its conquest in 763/1362 by Murad I. It was the capital until the conquest of İstanbul, and continued to be visited by the Ottoman sultans even after İstanbul became the capital. Fatih, Bayezıd II, Yavuz, Kanuni, Selim II, Ahmed I, Murad IV, and İbrahim sometimes visited the city and stayed in Yenisaray in a district which is still known as Sarayiçi. Edirne gained importance in the era of Mehmed the Hunter, his brothers Süleyman and Ahmed, and his son Mustafa II; and Mehmed the Hunter spent much of his lifetime in this city.[4]

Following the conquest of Edirne, Murad I did not like the palace of the Tekfur within the castle and

built a new palace outside the castle, and resided here in 767/1365. A second palace started to be built in Murad II period (854/1450), and it was completed in Mehmed II period after Murad II's death. It is stated in Edirneli Kısbi's eulogy that the construction of the palace had started in 855 and finished in 858. The first palace was called *Saray-ı Atik*, and the latter *Cedid-i Amire*.[5]

Kanuni turned *Saray-ı Atik* into an Enderun school and ordered the practice and instruction of six thousand pages which are called *gılman-ı hassa*; and decorated and enlarged *Saray-ı Cedide* in order to stay before or after war. *Mumuk* place was built near *Saray-ı Cedide* in the Selim period after Kanuni's death. Ahmed I contributed to some restorations and annexes as he visited the palace. In 1021/1612 Ahmed came to Edirne and built a pavilion and mosque on a wall between *İmdiye Kasrı* and *Harem-i Humayun*. After the pavilion was built, Ahmed I watched the feast festivals held in the city. Considerable restoration and enlargement activities took place in Mehmed V period. Restoration was first considered necessary in 1110/ in the eighteenth century.[6] The Riot of 1115 was a turning point for Edirne and no annexes were built during Ahmed II period. None of the sultans visited Edirne between 1130 and 1182; that is why the palace was deserted. The palace was considerably damaged, especially by the earthquake in 1166/1753. Then Hamamizade Yusuf Efendi was appointed the building controller and the palace was restored. The restoration activities continued between 1177 and 1182. Written estimates were arranged for the restoration of the palace after this date between 1201 and 1217; 1222-1225;[7] 1226-1243 until 1263. However, a serious action could not be taken as for the written estimate dated 1243. Almost all blocks and pavilions fell into ruin. After *Bab-ı Ali* notified the city authorities that Sultan Abdülaziz would call on Edirne after his travel to Europe, the restoration of the palace started in 1284 with the initiatives of Vali Hurşid Pasha, but restoration lasted until 1290 when it was learned that the sultan would return by ship. When it was proved true that the Russians would invade Edirne, the arsenal was fired by Vali Cemil Pasha and Müşir Ahmed Eyüb Pasha during the evacuation of the city. After Edirne was conquered again, remaining parts could not be preserved. *Terazi* and *Adalet* pavilions, which were built by Kanuni and which could survive from this fire, were to be collapsed in order to make use of their stones.[8]

In this study, restoration of *Saray-ı Ceddi-i Amire* in era of Ahmed I, which was restored many times, will be discussed. This restoration took place between 1022 and 1023/ 1613-1614. All expenses regarding the restoration were registered day by day. The book numbered 1014 in *Maliyeden Müdevver* classification in the Ottoman Archives consists of the restoration accounts above-mentioned.

Restoration was held under the supervision of Mustafa Agha, the Roumelian *kıbtiyan beyi* and Edirne *harc-ı hassa* controller, who was of *Dergah-ı Ali Müteferrikas* (police departments), discharged from the office of Vize *sancak beyliği* (sanjak governorship). The restoration was financed from *Hazine-i Amire*, from some farm-out revenues, from *cizye* (poll tax on non-Muslims), *ziyade-i cizye* (surplus poll-tax), and *adte-i ağnam* (tax on livestock) revenues.

Restoration and construction in 1022 involved the construction of a new wall with approximately one thousand and hundred *ziraa*, and two big doors, an adorned door-keeper room near it, an *ahur* with two-sided halls and with approximately sixty *ziraa* and twenty *ziraa* width, a *matbah* and a room with a half-timbered ceiling, running taps on two sides, rooms with fire-places across the Darussade door, a hall near it, restoration of three rooms with two half-timbered ceilings, two rooms for aghas under the palace, a room across the Darussade door, a small pavilion inside, restoration of all rooms, a room for *Bostancıbaşı* (commander of the sultan's bodyguards) within the garden, restoration of the *kapu agha*'s room, a room for *Ziüliflü baltacıs* (halberdire), and a *hamam* near it.

Purchased wood, two *kantars* of lead and other expenses, other than the materials required for İstanbul.

The total amount allocated to restoration and construction is 3,485,361 *akçe*. Payment was done between 6 *Şevval* 1022 and 4 *Safer* 1023.

The amount of the payments and payment fields in résumé account register are as follows:

472,866 *akçe* for materials such as basket, quarry and *kiifegi* stones; and restoration and material required for *enderun* and *birunun*. As for the detailed records, 386,839 *akçe* was paid for buildings and quarry stones, and stones were carried with carts for 29 weeks. The price of cart building stones was calculated as 16 *akçe*, and price of cart quarry stones, 20 *akçe*. 5770 *kiifegi* stones were used, therefore 80,238 *akçe* was allocated for both stones and driver wages.

When the sultan came to Edirne, it was a severe winter and firewood was scarce. That is why, firewood was provided from adjacent areas and 630,556 *akçe* was allocated for this.

Two hundred *kantar*s of lead were provided from Selanik to be used for restoration and construction of the palace. The total amount was 570,000 *akçe*, 285 *akçe* for one *kantar*.

37,840 *akçe* for lime and plaster used for the decoration of he palace.

159,440 *akçe* for saddle felt, and felt carpet for *Divan-ı Humayun*, and drapery curtains, *kirpas*, and etc. necessary for the sultan's boat.

141,464 *akçe* for *revgan-ı bezir*, *revgan-ı şem*, bricks, tiles, thread and bags.

924,038 *akçe* for various amounts of unprocessed wood, timber, raw iron, gunpowder, and forgeman expenses.

Detailed registers of the employed personnel and craftsmen are in a different section of the book pages between 61 and 119. Detailed analysis of the employers is arranged weekly from on the basis of Monday to Monday. In this section, the names of the employers, how many days they worked, their daily wages, and total amount of their weekly wages are stated. In addition, their positions in restoration of the palace, Davud Bey *ahuru* or wall construction were registered.

The inventory of the daily wages and total assets of the employed craftsmen and other personnel is as follows:

Craft field	Total Daily Wage	Cart	Total (*Akçe*)
Neccar	13,895		314,048
Lağâmân	458		9,474
Meqâkkân	10,186		126,147
Sengtraşân	354		9,410
Nakkaş	1,381		26,809
Kaldırımcı	95		2,100
Ârân (?)	915		18,736
Su Yolcusu	319		5,739
Mezbelekeşan		45	135
Cart price		6,319	20,895
Mücellid (?)			370
Allowance	1,692		16,870

The personnel whose craft field are stated above worked for 37 weeks, between 10 *Rebiulahir* 1022 and 16 *Zilhicce* 1022. As can be seen from the table, the majority of craftsmen are *neccar* (carpenter) and *maşekkân*. The meaning of the term *maşekkân* is not well known. However, it may be considered as a person who carries stone, sand, etc. and serves in other fields.

If we look at the wages of these craftsmen, we see that daily wage of *neccar*s is usually 20, 24 or 25 *akçe*. They work at a maximum of 6 days in a week. It is not known if craftsmen and employers were given food. However, allowance amounting to 10 *akçe* daily was allocated for *mutemed*s and *gılman-ı acemiyan*; no wages were assessed for these fields. Indeed, it is not possible to pay the *gılman-ı acemiyan*, and we can say that the *mutemed*s get *ulufe* (soldier's pay). Daily wages of these craftsmen, as we learn as *lağâmân*, are 16, 24, and 25 *akçe*; 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 *akçe* for *maşekkân*; 25 *akçe* for *sengtraş*; 20, 24 *akçe* for *su yolcusu*; 20, 24, 25 *akçe* for *nakkaş*, and 22 *akçe* for *kaldırımcı*. *Mezbelekeşan* carries the cart for 3 *akçe*; and the ones who carry wood, lime, and sand for 3 *akçe*.

We can observe that there is a decrease in wages by the end of the work. For example, at the beginning of the work *neccar*s are paid 24 or 25 *akçe* but this amount decreases to 0 *akçe* by the end of the work. The above-mentioned figures regarding the wage give us the general amounts. However, we see can some other figures.

The total amount paid only for equipment and personnel required for restoration and construction is

2,700,045 *akçe*, and total payment of wages is 554,045 *akçe*. That is to say, payment of wages is 20.5% of total expenses.

The total payment of wages under export title on the résumé account register is 554,045 *akçe*; however, as for the calculation we have drawn from the detailed inventory registers is 550,733. The difference is 3312 *akçe*. The details of payment of wages on résumé register are as follows:

326, 680 *akçe* for Davud Bey *ahırs* in the palace, and *neccar* and *sengtraş* employed in bakery.

7,394 *akçe* for *lağâmân*.

129,757 *akçe* for *meşakkân*.

5,515 *açke* for *su yolcusu*.

23,805 *akçe* for *nakkaş*.

The amount paid for the carts which transport wood, timber, sand, and tile is 29,830 *akçe*.

The amount paid for *neccar, su yolcusu, lağımcı,* and *hassa-ı neccars* coming from İstanbul is 13,694 *akçe*.

The amount paid for allowance of *hassa mutemeds* and *gılman-ı acemiyan*- total 292 persons- is 17,370 *akçe*.

Extra 4,916 *akçe*.

The book also includes the detailed inventory accounts of some restoration and construction done in 1023. Restoration and construction were supervised by the same person. Construction and restorations are as follows:

Two rooms for agha of Darussade in the new palace, restoration of the pavements from Bab-ı Humayun to girls' palace and from Saraçhane to the mosque built by Sultan Selim, the late, in Edirne, restoration of the fountains in the palace, wood warehouse and two rooms near it, restoration of walls of *baltacıs*' rooms, and *matbah-ı amire*, camel stables in Ahur village in Ada provice of Edirne, restoration of straw warehouse in Edirne and Croation bridge.

These expenses were financed in the same way. Mustafa Agha got a receipt of 672,305 *akçe* from these sources. The expenses are as follows:

Various purchases under the *müibayaat* title;

The amount paid for stone, lime, brick; brick dust mortar, tile, and raw iron required for the palace is 194,191 *akçe*. Detailed inventory and paid amount is as follows; 74,437 *akçe* for unprocessed wood and firewood. 27,202 *akçe* for lime, brick dust mortar, brick, tile and nails. 92,552 *akçe* for stones.

The amount paid for lime, brick and raw iron required for mosques and camel stables in Ahur village is 104,825 *akçe*. Detailed inventory of paid amount for this equipment is as follows: 63,272 *akçe* for various dimensions of timber. 19,713 akçe for tile, brick and lime. 21,840 *akçe* for 52 kantars of raw iron purchased to be used for nail making.

4369 *akçe* for various amounts of unprocessed timber, columns, tile etc. for restoration of *Miri* warehouses.

3,581 *akçe* for allowance of stewards for cows in the palace and grass cart bought for cows.

75,000 *akçe* for firewood.

Payment of wages under export title is 292,211 *akçe*. These are;

122,767 *akçe* for *neccar*, *meşakkan*, *lağaman* working in the construction of the room for Darussade agha and allowance *mutemeds*.

169, 444 *akçe* for *neccar*, *meşakkan* and *mutemed* employed for restoration of camel stables and Croatian bridge.

CONCLUSION:

We may see all the details of a restoration which was made nearly four centuries ago through the Ottoman archives. A developed accounting technique, together with state's earnestness necessitated the detailed fixing and registration of state revenues and expenditures. There are many other references that bring several subjects to light, except for the ones above-mentioned. It is obvious that, despite several studies on Ottoman economic, military and political history, archives on subjects such as supply and preparation of these materials are neglected. However, there are hundreds of construction and restoration documents on document collections in Ottoman Archive. If these documents are examined by scientists having construction and architecture formation, many neglected or unnoticed subjects will be enlightened.

1 Those who consider physical environment as the only factor in social changes, believe that the whole social life depends on the geographical factors. Ratzel considers geography virtually as a destiny. See Mustafa Erkal, *Sosyoloji (Toplum Bilim)*, 3rd ed., (İstanbul, 1987), p. 211.

2 Korkut Tuna, *Şehirlerin Ortaya Çıkışı ve Yaygınlaşması Üzerine Sosyolojik Bir Deneme*, (İstanbul, 1987), p. 164.

3 M. Tayyib Gökbilgin, "Edirne", v. 4, *İA*, pp. 107, 110.

4 İ. Hakkı Uzunçarşılı, *Osmanlı Devletinin Saray Teşkilatı*, 2nd ed., (Ankara: TTK Yay., 1984), p. 11.

5 Gökbilgin, op. cit, pp. 116, 117.

6 For written estimate dated 25 Z 1110, see BOA, Cevdet Dahiliye, no. 3124.

7 Written estimate dated 7 Şaban 1225 is related to restoration of middle palace. Estimated price is 55,196,484 guruş. See, BOA, *Maliyeden Müdevver*, no. 7403.

8 Rifat Osman, *Edirne Sarayı*, Süheyl Ünver (ed.), (Ankara: TTK Yay., 1989), pp. 28-9, 41-5; Gökbilgin, op. cit, pp. 117-9.