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HUNGARIAN PEOPLE 'S ATTITUDES TO GROF ANDRASSY GYULA
BEFORE-DURING-AFTER BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA WAS
ANNEXED BY THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN MONARCHY

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There have been relations that were amicable and based on mutual trust and cooperation between Turks and Hungarians. In the establishment of relations between two nations, their struggle and support of each other during different times had positive impacts towards achieving freedom and independence. Sultans in Ottoman Empire recognized the struggle of those Hungarian leaders who fought for their freedom and independence and got huge welcome in Ottoman lands. In addition to that, there was general increase in the sentiments of both Ottomans and Hungarian public opinions and Ottomans not only recognized their struggle for the freedom but also gave them material and spiritual aids for the their battle for the independence to Hungarians through history.

In the aftermath of French revolution in the year of 1789, nationalist movements affected all states, which consisted of more than one nation. Especially the Ottoman Empire and Austrian Empire were among those affected by the French revolution. When it comes to the mid of 19th century Western nations had big change socially and economically. Among the most important were 1830 revolution that emerged with socio-liberalist demands and 1848 revolution that overweight demands of nationalism, decisions which were taken in Vienna congress in the year of 1815 caused an 1848 revolution to break out. Nations, which were under the imperialists' regimes, began to struggle their own independence. The Ottoman Empire was damaged further due to rebellion of Balkan nations that resulted independence of few Balkan countries. After the Habsburg dynasty occupied Hungarian kingdom, Hungarians made an attempt to establish their own country few times. After Imre Thököly, Ilona Zrinyi and Rakoczi Ferenc lost freedom wars which they carried out against Austrians, they led their life in the Ottoman Empire taking sanctuary. Hungarians under the leaders were Lajos Kossuth, István Széchenyi, Sándor Petőfi, Józef Bem, the most respected national heroes in Hungarian history went into struggle of freedom war against Austrians. Revolution was started on 15th March in 1848 in Buda and Pest and people protested against Austrian regime.

Hungarians under the leadership of Kossuth Lajos and Lajos Batthyány declared their autonomy. Then Austrian soldiers oppressed civil war that emerged Hungarians uprisings. Austrian regime came up against big uprising in Vienna that recognized Hungarian autonomy in the beginning. Afterwards Austrian Emperor tried not to express recognition of Hungarian autonomy. This situation caused to break out another civil war in Austrian Empire.¹

When Austrian regime had difficulties in breaking the resistance of rebellion of Hungarian freedom, Austrian King asked support for Russian Tsar Nicholas I. Russian Empire and he supported considering his interests because he was afraid of uprising being spread towards Russia. Hungarians were defeated in the civil wars and had to face huge lost. Later Hungarian got the support from Polish under the command of Bém Jozef. Hungarian did not receive the support as they were expecting from the Polish alliance against Austrian regime. Russia sent military support to Austrian army, which changed the course of the war happening between Hungarian and Habsburg regime. Hungarian with the alliance of Polish army fought against Austrian and Russian armies with bravery but due to lack of strategic strength Hungarians had to face the defeat. After the war, thousands of Hungarian-Polish alliance army under the leadership Kossuth Lajos and Bem Joseph took refuge to Ottoman Empire. Austrian-Russian alliance demanded refugees of army under the alliance of Hungarian-Austrian from Ottoman Empire after the war but Ottoman refused. Hungarian-Polish alliance got some privileges from Ottoman Empire and they did not give up their desire of independence from Austrian regime. Abdulmecid who was Ottoman Sultan stated “My right of guardianship which was protected by my ancestors with great sacrifices for 600 years is being wanted to be removed. I shed fifty Ottoman soldiers’ bloods but I never send them back and I protect even one Hungarian.” Ottomans attitude against Russia and Austria were welcomed gladly in all Western countries. Ottoman Empire gained sympathy from university students in particular. They made protests in favour of Ottomans in different part of Europe’s various capital cities. Ottomans accepted Kossuth Lajos as a King of all Hungarians who took refuge and were settled in Kutahya city. After some time Kossuth Lajos travelled to London where he made very important speech in British House of Commons. He stated that “My ownership of present life and liberty are owing to Turks who protected my friends and me despite of Russian and Austrian oppressions and threats during refuge in Ottoman Empire.”² In addition to that, Hungarian origin pianist Franz Liszt was honoured to give a concert in Ottoman

¹ Aydin, Y., 2009. *Historical period about Turkish and Hungarian relations*, Istanbul: TBMM Department of National palaces Publication, p.15.

² Ibid, p.181.

capital city. He sympathized Abdulmecid who received with open arms all Hungarians in particular to Kossuth Lajos. Relations between Ottomans and Hungarians were based on mutual understanding and support during different periods in 18th and 19th century.³ After the French revolution Hungarians struggled for sake of their independence against Austrians because of the rise in nationalism which became one of the strong factors to gain the independence from the monarchs. On the other hand, Ottomans gave unconditional support to Hungarians during the independence wars against Austrians; this support of Ottomans to Hungarian further strengthened the relations. Even after the death of Sultan Abdulmecid relations among Ottomans and Hungarian remained strong.⁴

Abdulhamid II who ascended the throne in Ottoman under most critical period, because of critical situations Ottoman Empire was experiencing; he has to face different challenges. Ottoman Empire was ruling and spread to three continents, had to manage properly different nation groups that had various religions, languages, belonging to different cultures and traditions. Abdulhamid II was also facing different challenges related to minorities who were struggling from their independence and he also have to manage the economics and political issues in the Empire and at the same time he has to deal with the strategy of divide and rule by western nations. In this way, the situation of Ottoman Empire was under bad economic and political situations and there was huge corruption that resulted in the civil wars in Balkan Peninsula. This led Ottoman Empire to war in the years of 1877–1878 that was generally known as “Ottoman-Russian battle” (in Turkish 93 harp). Abdulhamid II concluded that instability in the Ottoman Empire actually caused by the imbalance foreign policy of the Empire that could not manage to bring the stability in the regions, which were under Ottoman Empire Administration.⁵

The beginning of 19th Century, Ottoman Empire has to face its downfall due to different factors. One of the important factors, which caused the downfall of Ottoman Empire, was the element of nationalism and nationalists’ movement in different parts where Ottomans Empire was spread. French revolution and its nationalism had been considered as the motivational event for the nationalism. The events like Greece in 1829, Serbia in 1878 and Bulgaria in 1908 gained their independence those were once under the administration of Ottoman Empire. Nationalism also affected the minority non-Muslim in particular in Ottoman Empire. Non-

³ Ayvazoglu, B., 2008. Ottomans, Hungarians and Franz Liszt. *Zaman Newspaper*, Istanbul.

⁴ Aydin, Y., 2009. *Historical period about Turkish and Hungarian relations*, Istanbul: TBMM Department of National palaces Publication) p.182.

⁵ Bahadiroglu, Y., 2009. *Abdul Hamid-II Han*. Nesil publishing, pp.470–471

Muslims minorities then started different nationalist movements to fight for their independence against Ottoman Empire especially in Balkans. In this regards, the expansion policy of Austro-Hungarian monarchy towards Balkans increased which also affected Ottoman Empire. At the same time, Russian Empire also aggravated the Slavic nations against Ottoman Empire for carrying out Pan-Slavism policy that also weakened Ottoman Empire in the region.⁶

Abdulhamid II used different strategies to prevent the dissolution of Ottoman Empire, one include sending Young Turks mostly those Turkish youth and the scholars to study in Western nations. This strategy of Sultan Abdulhamid II was to train and gain knowledge about the strategies to prevent downfall of Ottoman Empire. He also wanted to learn new ways and technological developments in western nations in order to adopt in Ottoman Empire. Ottoman Empire tried to protect its power and existence in Balkans because there was already power struggle between Russian Empire and Austro-Hungarian monarchy in Balkan Peninsula. Ottoman Empire was also struggling with balance of power and also strengthens their relations with powerful nation in Western nations.

The Treaty of Berlin was the final act of the Congress of Berlin (13 June–13 July 1878), by which the United Kingdom, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and the Ottoman Empire under Sultan Abdulhamid II revised the Treaty of San Stefano signed on 3 March the same year.⁷ Through this treaty the nations who signed the treaty recognized the independence of few Balkan countries that include Serbia, Romania, Montenegro and Bulgaria. At the end of battle Russian empire obtained prerogatives on Slavic nations as a consequence Russian empire had to interfere in the internal affairs of Ottomans. Russians provoking Slavic nations against Ottomans and Austro-Hungarian monarchy trying to annex Bosnia increased tension the relations between Ottomans and Russians, Austrians on the other hand it caused Hungarians to get close to Ottomans.⁸ There were series of demonstrations in favour of Ottoman Empire in 1877-78 Ottoman- Russian war.

According to treaty Russian Empire will be able to support Slavic nations in Ottoman Empire that means Russians had a right to interfere in Ottoman's internal affairs. At the end of the treaty Russians became more powerful in Balkans and Caucasus but British Empire, France,

⁶ Buergenthal, T.,2002. *International Human Rights in a Nutshell*, West Publishing Company, p.7.

⁷ Hertslet, E., 1891. *Treaty between Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, for the Settlement of the Affairs of the East, signed at Berlin, 13th July 1878.*

⁸ Nazir, B., 2010. Ottoman And Hungarian Amity In The Period Of The Second Abdul Hamid, *Türkiyat research institute magazine*, number: 43. Erzurum: Atatürk University, p.309.

Austro-Hungarian monarchs and Prussia did not favour the consequence of San Stefano treaty. The Chancellor Bismarck of Germany asked to re-consider the structure of the treaty because the consequences of the existing treaty of San Stefano were not in favour of Germany. At the first draft of treaty was threatening Britain's interest in Middle East. In addition to that, Andrassy Gyula who was foreign minister of Austro-Hungarian monarchy and the first prime minister of Hungarian kingdom also got displeased of terms of treaty. After two days of the treaty was authorized, he clarified that Russian Empire had no right to interfere in the issues that concerned all Western nations. When treaty was ratified Bosnia-Herzegovina was given to Austro-Hungarian monarch. Vienna part of Austrian-Hungarian monarch was content for this decision but Hungarians were worried about expansion of policies of Monarch in the Balkans.⁹ József Kerekesházy mentioned who was historian in Budapest "San Stefanos and Berlin treaties gave a chance to pay back to Andrassy Gyula who was sent as an envoy of Kossuth Lajos to Istanbul at one time".¹⁰

Vienna government started to annex politically Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of their territory. Andrassy Gyula wanted Ottomans to approve the annex of Bosnia-Herzegovina because it was important for his duties to Vienna government. On the other hand, opposition parties in Hungarian Parliament were concerned and having good relations with Ottoman leader related to annex of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They were confronting with Austrians to invade Bosnia without Ottomans consent. Hungarian government were seeking the approval of Ottoman side to accept the consequence of Berlin congress or treaty. Ottoman knew that Austrian would annex Bosnia-Herzegovina so they decide to protect Bosnian Muslims and their rights during the invasion. Despite of all Ottoman's diplomacy Bosnia-Herzegovina was finally invaded in the year of 1878.¹¹ Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy faced the resistance of Muslims from Bosnia unexpectedly and due to that civil war was broken out. Austro-Hungarian monarchy sent army that consisted of 200 thousand men. Army fighting against rebellions in Bosnia increased the tension more. Hungarian public opinion supported absolutely integrity of Ottoman Empire during the civil war in Bosnia. Ottoman support to Bosnian Muslims made invasion less popular in favour of Austrian-Hungarian. Rather Hungarians supported Ottomans position during the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Hungarians in favour of Ottomans in Budapest protested the decision that was taken in Berlin congress. On 30 September 1878, there were almost eight thousands people gathered in the support of

⁹ Colak, M., 2011. Gyula Andrassy and Ottoman-Hungarian Relationships Based on Hungarian Sources (1875-1878), *History research magazine*, July/2011. Izmir: Ege University, History Department, p.59.

¹⁰ Ibid, pp.58-59.

¹¹ Ibid.

Ottomans in Budapest against the Austrian-Hungarian. At the same time, this sympathy of Hungarian towards Bosnian Muslims and protests in support of Ottomans resulted in the happiness among Turkish people.¹² After the annex Andrassy manipulated the situation to gain Bosnians confidence. He did not want to damage absolutely the relation between two nations.

According to Andrassy Gyula, he stated, "Invasion of Bosnia helped World war to break out", great-power states were aiming to prevent expansion of the Pan-Slavism in Balkans but they got unexpectedly reaction in Bosnia. Hungarian government leader's Andrassy Gyula who was assigned to Austro-Hungarian duties as a joint foreign minister, who followed the policy that can prevent Russian Empire to become strong in Balkans. The Policy that was followed by Andrassy caused Hungarians to ally with Ottomans against Russians. Hungarians always took sides with Ottomans who did not leave themselves alone in the year of 1848. After he had signed alliance agreement with Germans. He resigned by reason of Hungarian public opinion's harsh reaction in the year of 1879.¹³

In the aftermath of Andrassy term relations between two nations strengthened more as well. Especially political and student committees which went to Istanbul in the time of Andrassy fulfilled cultural and economic bridge between two countries. University students visiting Ottoman Empire gave them a chance to be close acquainted with Ottomans. Students who visited Ottoman Empire made propaganda in favour of Ottoman that caused unrest in Balkans by means of press and newspapers. Abdulkerim Pasha earning the success against Serbians was welcomed gratefully by Hungarian public opinion. Vasarnapi Ujsag published articles in the different newspapers praised Ottoman pashas (pasha means diplomats in Turkish). It was said about Abdulkerim Pasha in one of the articles. "Although he is old he shares all his sorrow with his soldiers, lives in the tent, eats meal with his soldiers, endure the problem with them." Hungarian students in favour held the Great demonstrations for Ottoman for wounded soldiers at Ottoman-Russian war. Some Hungarian young students shared their concerns to join Ottomans and they sought permission from Babiali (Ottoman council in Istanbul) against Serbians. This event of students from Hungarian Monarchy and their willingness to join

¹² Colak, M., 2011. Gyula Andrassy and Ottoman-Hungarian Relationships Based on Hungarian Sources (1875-1878), *History research magazine*, July/2011. Izmir: Ege University, History Department, p.59.

¹³ Ibid, p.61

Ottoman army to fight against Serbian were surprized to many Western nations and they did not expect that Hungarian and Ottoman could have that much strong relationships.¹⁴

The relationships among Hungarian and Ottoman Empire got further stronger when in 1878, Abdulhamid II sent Turkish committee under the leadership Sheikh Suleiman Effendi to visit Hungarians Kingdom. This visit attracted great attention. Vienna government did not take kindly to Ottoman committee that is reason they created difficulties in order that they would not come so that relationship among two sides get stronger. Pest Sehrabandi report mentioned that Ottoman Committee was greeted with great honour to Hungarian Kingdom and that created more attention particularly the Austrian Kingdom. Abdulhamid II returned back Ottomans took 36 Books, which were part of the Hungarian assets, in the year 1526. Amicable relations between Ottomans and Hungarians continued expanding in different fields.¹⁵ The political, economic and cultural relations between Ottoman Empire and Hungary were already strong before Abdulhamid II. Especially the committees mutually visited both states in the period of Abdulhamid II. These committees developed the relations between two states.

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¹⁴ Nazir, B., 2010. Ottoman And Hungarian Amity In The Period Of The Second Abdul Hamid, *Türkiyat research institute magazine*, number: 43. Erzurum: Atatürk University, p.310.

¹⁵ Ibid, pp.311–315



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