

KAY 492 Turkish

Administrative History

Week 8

Public Finance, İlmîyye & Army

Ortaylı, 2007: 223-249



Pop Quiz Questions

1. What are the differences between the Enderun & Medrese systems? (2 pts.)
2. Was the Ottoman Empire financially centralized or decentralized? Why? (1 pt.)
3. What are the duties and responsibilities of the Ottoman kadi? (2pt.s)



Ottoman Government Organization

- Central and Provincial Governments
- Central Government
 1. Sultan and Palace
 2. Divan-ı Hümayun and affiliated bureaus
 3. Vezir- Azam and Bab-ı Ali
 4. Bab-i Fetva and Ilmiyye Organization
 5. Defterdarlık (Treasury) and Finance Organization
 6. Kapıkulu (Centralized Army) and Navy



Public Finance Organization

- East Roman, Abbasi, Iranian and Ilkhanian influence
 - In Ilkhanians, the name of the person who manages the finance is "Defterdar"
- Pre-Bayezid-II public financial organization is not well known.
- As the imperial boundaries expanded, both the number of defterders and their provincial staff increased.
 - Rumelian Defterdar (Since Bayezid II)
 - Anatolian Notebook (Since Bayezid II)
 - Arab-Acem Bookkeeper (After the 16th century conquests)
 - Tuna Yalılar Bookkeeper (Between late 16th & 18th century)
- Baş defterdar=Chief Financial Officer in Divan-ı Hümayun



Public Finance Organization

- Başdefterdar performs treasury functions on behalf of the sultan
- Types of Treasury varieties
 - State Treasury (Bey'tülmal, Hazine-i Humayun)
 - Defterdar is responsible for this treasure
 - Internal Treasury /Reserve Treasury (Enderun Treasury)
 - For war and other unforeseen costs
 - To be replaced after times of need, for war costs and for the salary of the kapıkulu soldiers
- Ceb-i Humayun Hazinesi
 - Sultan's personal allocation
 - Made up of the income of the State of Egypt



Defterdar (Revenue Officer)

- Origin is the ilmiyye class.
 - But it does not have the privilege and safety of the ilmiyye class.
 - Politically he can be killed.
- Duties
 - Determination of budget
 - He himself can not collect and spend income.
 - Giving the report of the states income-expenditure numbers to the Sultanate
 - He can suggest the bidding/tendering of income items such as timar & customs



Officers/Aides of the Basdefterdar

■ Başbaki Kulu

- Regulated taxes (General Directorate of Taxes of Today)

■ Cizye Başbaki kulu

- Officer who collected Christians' cizye tax & arranged bidding of this tax source

■ Veznedar

- Coin printing and detection of market value
 - Ottoman currency "akça": silver coin
 - Silver inflation in the 16th century
 - The Ottoman Mint (Darbhane) was in Istanbul
 - One of the Divan-i Humayun clerks at the beginning was Darbhane Emini

■ Defterdar Khetudasi

- Retention of financial books

■ Defterdar Tezkirecisi

- Reports the amount of money entering the treasure to baş defterdar

■ After the 18th Century, specialization, number of offices & civil servants increased as bidden/tendered income sources increased



Iltizam Procedure and Finance

- Why were the taxes given to my mültezims by tenders (iltizam)?
 - Central government's weakness
 - Desire to earn a certain income
 - European kingdoms have also used the iltizam system to keep their income sources constant and to be able to prepare a budget.
 - As the increase in agricultural product, trade and production in Europe began, the system of iltizam did not bring economic downfall for the citizens.
- From the 18th century onwards, centralized state organizations grew stronger in Europe and the central taxation system took its place.



Was the Ottomans a Financially Centralized State?

- The Ottoman public finance organization was similar to traditional state systems
 - It is not a bureaucratic organization that is compatible with centralist states
- In provinces and provincial units such as sanjak, there were timar/property defterdars.
 - Their task was to collect the state revenues and determine the costs.
 - Their authorities increased with the spread of the iltizam system.



Was the Ottomans a Financially Centralized State?

- In Ottomans, there was a balance sheet, not a budget
 - According to the sources of income, the costs were determined and notified by the administration, but the accounts were closed at the end of the fiscal year
 - Expenditures were not regular
 - Administrators could spend with a broad initiative, looking at traditions and previous applications.
- In these balance sheets, there existed only the central government's income and expenditures
 - Provincial spending could not be seen in the balance sheets
- Feudal system: Financial and administrative autonomy



Revenues Received by the Central Government from the Provinces

1. The income of the sultans' lands (has) spread throughout the country
2. Shar'i taxes sent directly to the center
 - Cizye, ağnam duty (sheep tax)
3. Tekalif-i divaniye
 - Extraordinary circumstances tax
 - The collection was increasingly frequent and thus normalized
4. Fees stated in the provincial statutes



İlmiyye Organization's Functions

1. Education (Tedris)

- Muderrises in the medreses
- Sultan's teachers (Hace-i Sultani)
 - They had great influence on the sultans due to their presence since princedom
 - Example: Fatih and Molla Gurani

2. Ifta (Fetwa duty)

- Mufti (Başkent Mufti = Sheikhulislam)
 - Especially after Suleiman I, their importance has increased.
- Provincial muftis

3. Kaza (Judiciary and Administration) Task

- Kazasker (Head of the Judiciary)
 - It started as a military judge.
- Rumeli and Anatolian Kazaskeri
 - Mudderrises and kadis were administered by the kazasker.



İlmiyye Class

- Getting educated in the medrese was the only way to enter this class.
 - Only people of Turkish and Islamic origin have entered medreses
- Lateral transitions between the professions were possible
 - Between İfta, Tedris, and Kaza professions, i.e. Between being a mufti, a müderris or a kadi.
 - Each task had an equivalent in the other two professions in terms of rank and salary.
- Promotion also meant to be reassigned at the same time.



İlmiyye Class

- Time limits for service
 - 20 months for a kadi, a year for Kazasker
 - For a swiftly-functioning appointment system, compliance with the hierarchical order and time limits was necessary
 - Otherwise, there would be problems such as clogging of the system and the failure of new graduates to find work.
- In practice, the order quickly became dysfunctional
 - The children of the high-ranking elite and the people they associate with rose in the ranks quickly and unfairly.
- There was congestion and bloating in the staff.
 - Madrasa graduates became unemployed



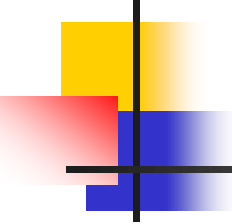
Kazaskers

- They were the real brains and administrators of the Ilmiyye organization.
 - Time limits for service: 1 year.
 - Their incomes came from a fee called "resm-i kısmet«, taken from müderris and kadı appointments.
 - Promotions at the top
 - Anatolian kazasker was promoted as Rumeli kazasker
 - Rumeli Kazasker was promoted as Şeyhülislam
 - Arab-Acem Kazaskership was established for a short time during the reign of Selim I.
- They formed the rich families of the empire.
 - Asset transfer was possible due to exemption from confiscation



Kazaskers-2

- Kazasker served in:
 - Divan-i Humayun,
 - In the Grand Vizier's mansion
 - In their own mansions, as they made decisions regarding lawsuits, assignments and dismissals
- Kazasker's assistants:
 - Tezkireci: Official correspondence
 - Ruznamçeci: Registration, order and registration jobs for assignment
 - Matlabçı: Rank and seniority records
 - Tatbikçi: keeps Kazasker's seals
 - Mektubcu: Responsible for correspondence
 - Kethuda: Responsible for financial and administrative affairs



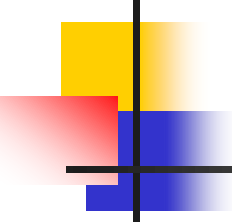
Tedris (Education) & Mderrisses (Medrese Teachers)

- They worked in the medresses where all the members of the İlmıyye class were educated.
- Institution of madrasa/medrese included the primary, secondary & higher education levels.
 - They were mostly established as foundations.
 - There was a six-level hierarchy from the beginning to the highest level.
 - Religious subjects (hadith, fiqh, kelam, tafsir)
 - Mathematics, astronomy, basic sciences and medicine
 - Education depends on the success of the person, not on a certain fixed period.



Tedris & Müderrisses-2

- When the students finished their studies in the medrese
 - they would get a diploma (icazetname) that they could enter the profession with the rank of the mülazim.
- They registered their name in either the Anatolian or the Rumelian Kazasker's book
 - Then they were assigned to a lower-level rank after first a written and then an oral examination.



Kaza (Judiciary and Administration) & Being a Kadi

- Kadis were officers of the Rumelian or Anatolian kazaskers
- Independent of other administrators, directly responsible to the central government
- Kadis had tasks in various areas.
 - Judiciary
 - He was the judge and the chief security officer in towns and cities.
 - Public administration
 - He records sultan's edicts and charters before entering into force.
 - Financial management
 - It supervises and assists with tax collection.
 - Municipal responsibilities
 - Price and quality control, determination of price (narh), inspection of tradesmen vaqfs (foundations), etc.



Fetwa/Sheikh ul-Islam

- SheikhuIslam appoints muftis for kazas and sanjaks
 - He also acts like a legal counselor for the government and the judiciary
- The fetwa is aimed at solving the problems of the Muslims.
 - Answers questions regarding general law (war and peace proclamation, vizier execution, etc.) and questions about private law
- The assistants of Şeyhülislam
 - Fetva emini: prepared fatwas for him
 - Kethuda: conduct political, financial and administrative affairs
 - Telhisçi: conducts legal-religious matters between SheikhuIslam and the government
 - Mektubcu: Manages correspondence
 - Kassam-i umumi: dealing with inheritance problems



Kadiship/Kaza

- Kadis were appointed to the administrative units, that is, kazas & sanjaks
 - There were stages of promotion in both kazas & sanjaks
 - They were promoted from being a kaza kadi to a sanjak kadi
 - Last stage was the Istanbul kadiship and finally kazaskership
- Each period of duty can not exceed 20 months
 - To avoid clogging the system of promotion
 - Not to be intimate with the local families
- When their time of duty expired, kadis returned to Istanbul and waited for a new appointment



Kadıship/Kaza

- The kadi mansion was at the same time a court and legal document storage.
 - Kadis appointed regents (naip) to faraway small towns and villages.
 - Over time, regents caused irregularity in justice and corruption.
- The kadis were supervised by the mehayid kadis, who were chosen and appointed by Divan-ı Hümayun.



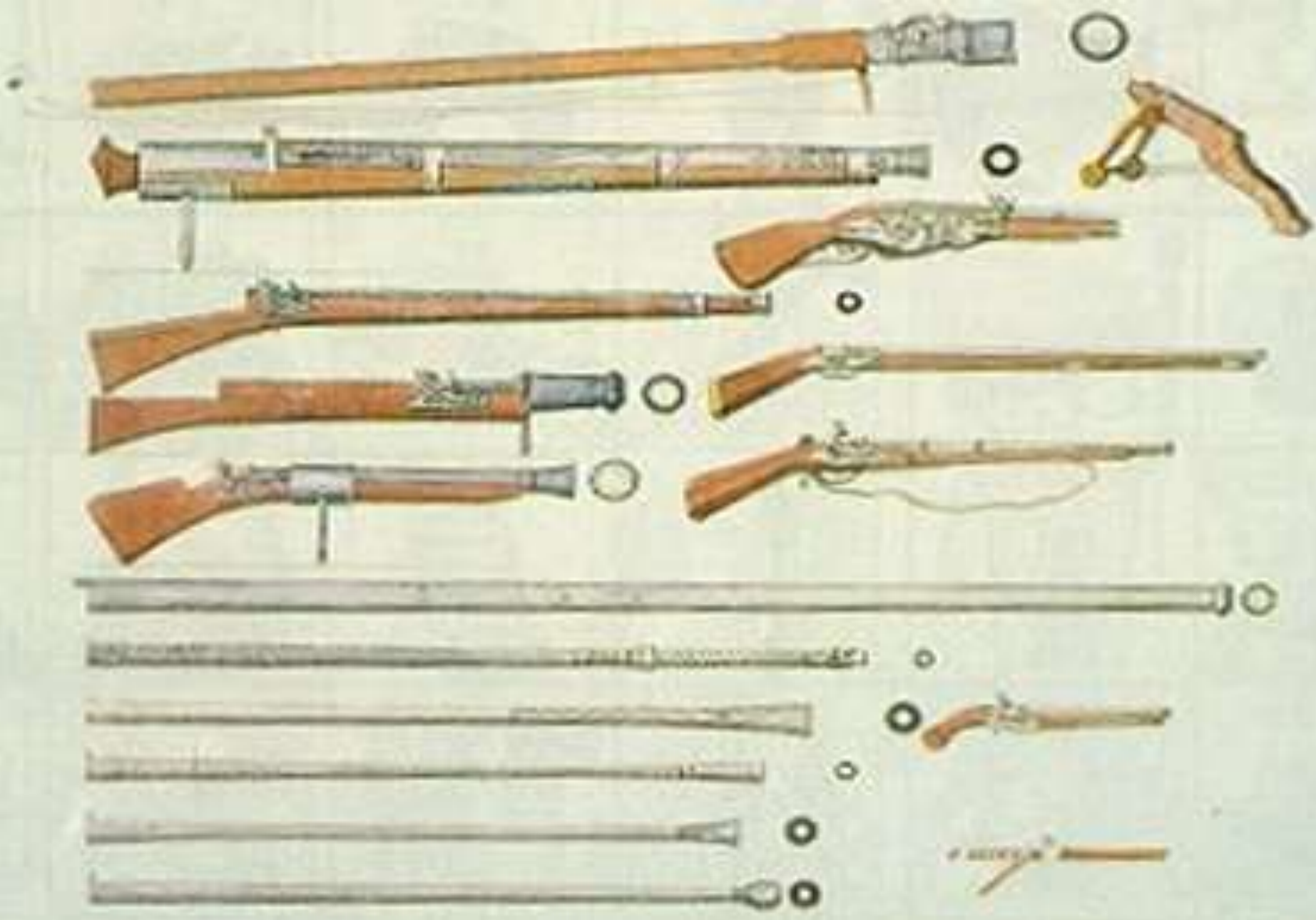
Army

- At the beginning, the real power of the Ottoman army was the horsemen from the tribal order.
 - In addition, there were volunteer footsoldiers from the farmers, they were Turkish.
- In later periods, elements of the Army were:
 1. Provincial Army
 - Anatolian and Rumelian timarli army
 2. Kapıkulu (fixed location, professional) Army (Janissaries)
 3. Auxiliary forces from privileged provinces



Army

- The Ottoman army was the first permanent regular army in Europe.
 - It is not an army of armored shields & swords, but one of firearms (rifles & cannons)
- Over time, it has become one of the major centers of political power.
 - It has become a vehicle for power struggles.
 - It has removed the sultans from their thrones.



OTTOMAN RIFLES



Devshirme System

- Actively used from the time of Bayezid I (14th century) to the end of the 17th century.
 - It is a system taken/transferred from Mamluks.
 - The original system of using war prisoners and purchased prisoners was made more systematic by the Ottomans in terms of selection and training of soldiers
- The Ottoman used
 - War prisoners & Purchased prisoners
 - Children taken as hostage from the countries subject to Ottomans
 - The children, gathered from certain regions, were recruited by commissions of credible people and headed by a devshirme emini



Devshirme System

- Originally, Christians were chosen, but Muslim children from Bosnia & Albania were also taken.
- Who could not be redeemed/chosen?
 - Children under 8 years (Had to be between 8-18 years old)
 - Children of rich families, sons and daughters
 - City servants, monastery students and trade guild members



Devshirme System

- An average of 3000 people per year were being collected in the 16th century
- The most intelligent and skillful ones sent to the Palace School (Enderun)
 - To be educated as high-level military and civilian bureaucrats
- Remnants were sent to villages in Anatolia & Rumelia for learning language, religion & culture
 - Then they were to join the Janissary legions



Janissaries

- They could not get married before a certain age.
- Promotions were merit-based
- From the end of the 16th century Anatolian and Rumeli people and Turks were also included/collected
- Locations of duty
 - Close to the palace in Istanbul
 - As a police officer at Istanbul district police stations
 - In the garrisons of various castles and cities of the empire
 - In the sultan's lands (has) around Istanbul and Edirne

Decline in the Army



- Reasons for military decline

1. Deterioration of the timar system

- The provincial army got smaller and ineffective.

2. Difficulties in defending boundaries

- Imperialist paradox

3. Shortage of money

- Silver lost value due to inflation caused by the abundance of American silver
- Inability to pay the salaries of the expanding kapıkulu army caused uprisings

4. Loss of technological superiority in military terms

- In 1826, the janissary army was abolished.



Ottoman Navy/Maritime System

- After Suleiman I, a strong naval force was formed in the Mediterranean.
 - Open sea navy and river navy (on Danube and Euphrates)
 - Especially, it is supported by piracy activities originating from Algeria and Tunisia.
 - In technical development, Ottomans have benefited from the maritime nations of the Mediterranean.
 - During the 16th century, sea superiority was achieved in the Eastern Mediterranean.



Ottoman Navy/Maritime System

- The greatest maritime chief: Kapdan-i Derya
 - Joined the divan in the rank of vizier.
 - The 12 Aegean Islands and Cyprus was his area of control in the form of 11 sanjaks
- With the 1571 Inebahtı naval defeat, the Ottoman navy lost its competitive power.
- During the 19th century, especially during the period of Abdulaziz, the rehabilitation of the navy became one of the major reasons of external borrowing.