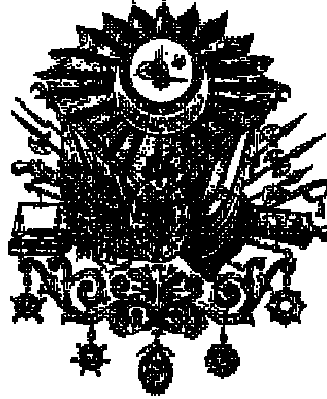


Biography of Sultan Abdul Hameed II

And The Fall of the Islamic Khilafah

Sultan Abdul Hameed II



The Logo of the Ottoman State



Sultan Abdul Hameed II was born on Wednesday, the 21st of September 1842. His full name is Abdul Hameed Khan, II Bin Abdul Majeed Khan. He was the son of Sultan Abdul Majeed (from his second wife.) His mother died when he was seven. Abdul Hameed spoke Turkish, Arabic and Persian and he studied several books in literature and poetry. When his father Abdul Majeed died, his uncle, Abdul Aziz became the Khalifa. Abdul Aziz did last long in power. He was forced out of power and then assassinated by the political enemies of the Ottomans. His successor was Sultan Murad, the son of Sultan Abdul Aziz, but he was also removed from power after a short period because he was not fit for office.

On the 31st of August, 1876 (1293 H) Sultan Abdul Hameed was given the Khilafaship, the people pledged allegiance and loyalty to him. He was at that time aged 34. Abdul Hameed realized, as he explains in his diary that at the time of the assassination of his uncle, and the constant change in leadership was some sort of a conspiracy against the Islamic state.

Abdul Hameed had a character historians looked deeply into. He was given the leadership of a huge state that was in a tense and critical situation. He spent more than thirty years full of interior and exterior conspiracies, wars, revolutions, events and constant changes. Abdul Hameed himself expressed these feelings in his writings and poetry. Here is a sample of his handwritten poetry, which was taken from the book "My Father Abdul Hameed," written by his daughter Aisha.

الله ترا عینہ عیدانم و تیر
با تیرینا انکه نیستن ما نیندگر گستر
الله درین واقعه دستم کیرد
الله قلمه زمانه بقرآنم رسر

The poetry translates:

My lord I know you are the Dear One (Al-Aziz). And no one but you is the Dear One. You are the One, and nothing else. My God, take my hand in these hard times. My God be my helper in this critical hour.

(عبدالحمد)

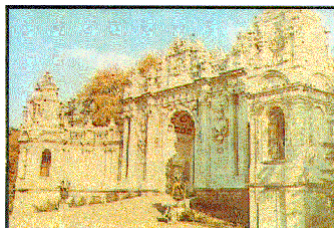
The first trouble Abdul Hameed ran into was Midhat Pasha. Midhat Pasha was secretly involved in the removal of Abdul Hameed's uncle. When Abdul Hameed came into power he assigned Midhat Pasha as The Head of The Ministers council because Midhat was very popular at that time and Abdul Hameed needed any kind of insurance to stay in power. Midhat Pasha was a good governor but he was opinionated. Midhat Pasha was supported by a strong stream in the Shura council (parliament). With the help of these people he was successful in passing the resolutions to go into war against Russia. Abdul Hameed could not stop that stream. Had he tried to he would have probably been removed from office. Still the stream wanted to blame him for all the losses that resulted from these miscalculated wars. Abdul Hameed did not want any wars at that time. The Islamic state was too exhausted to engage in warfare. Abdul Hameed was able to use the differences between him and Midhat Pasha to decrease Midhat's popularity. He finally was able to break lose from his chains and he exiled him to Europe.

The people and politicians welcomed that move greatly.

Afterwards, Abdul Hameed turned to the foreign enemies of the Islamic Ottoman State. He was able to somehow predict the Communist Revolution in Russia, and that it will make Russia stronger and therefore more and more dangerous. At that time, the Balkan parts of the state faced two dangers, Russia and Austria. Abdul Hameed tried to awaken the Balkans and make them realize the coming danger. He came close to an agreement with the Balkans, but when the agreement was in the final stages, four Balkan states made a separate agreement and excluded the Ottoman state. Western and Russian influence was the reason for that change.

Abdul Hameed realized that the conspiracy to destroy the Ottoman state was bigger than anyone thought. It was both interior and exterior. He thought he got rid of Midhat Pasha and his likes for good, but he was faced with Awni Pasha, head Of the Ministers Council (Alsadr Alazam) and one of the leaders of the army. Later Abdul Hameed discovered that Awni Pasha took money and presents from the English, and his role in the removal of Abdul Aziz (Abdul Hameed's uncle) was exposed to Abdul Hameed. Awni Pasha pushed the Ottoman state into the wars of Bosnia against the will of Abdul Hameed. Abdul Hameed knew that if the war took place Russia, England, Austria- Hungary, Serbia, Montenegro, Italy and France will all attack the Ottoman state and make sure Bosnia is snatched. Awni misinformed Abdul Hameed about the size of the Ottoman army in Bosnia. He claimed to have 200,000 soldiers ready. However, Abdul Hameed checked with other generals of the army and discovered he had only 30,000 soldiers, faced by more than 300,000 soldiers. The people at that time loved Awni and Abdul Hameed couldn't remove him from office because that would endanger the interior stability of the state. The western powers, realizing that they had outnumbered the Ottomans attacked under the cover of four Balkan states (Romania, Montenegro, Serbia, Austria-Hungary). As a result, Bosnia and Greece were lost and separated from the Ottoman state. Abdul Hameed exposed Awni and his mistakes afterwards and got rid of him.

The public accepted this move. The court found him guilty of the charges of conspiracy against the Ottoman state and aiding foreign powers, such as England.



Yeildz Palace, the government headquarters of the Ottoman Islamic Khilafa

The fall of the sick man of Europe appeared to be eminent. Everyone wanted a part of it and that doesn't exclude the Jews. In 1901 the Jewish banker Mizray Qrasow and two other Jewish influential leaders came to visit Abdul Hameed, they offered to give him:

- 1) **Paying ALL the debts of the Ottoman state**
- 2) **Building the Navy of the Ottoman state**
- 3) **35 Million Golden Leeras, without interest to support the prosperity of the Ottoman state**

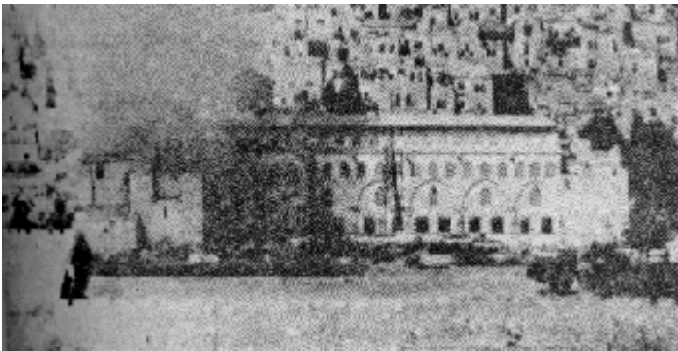
In Exchange for:

- 1) Allowing Jews to visit Palestine anytime they please, and to stay as long as they want "to visit the holy sites."
- 2) Allowing the Jews to build settlements where they live, and they wanted them to be located near Jerusalem.

Abdul Hameed refused to even meet them, he sent his answer to them through Tahsin Pasha, and the answer was:

"Tell those impolite Jews that the debts of the Ottoman state are not a shame, France has debts and that doesn't effect it. Jerusalem became a part of the Islamic land when Omar Bin Al-Khattab took the city and I am not going to carry the historical shame of selling the holy lands to the Jews and betraying the responsibility and trust of my people. May the Jews keep their money; the Ottoman's will not hide in castles built with the money of the enemies of Islam."

He also told them to leave and never come back to meet him again. With the Jews and Zionists in the game the set was complete, and the play of the end of the Ottoman state was about to start. The Jewish money was an important asset to finance the destruction of the Ottoman state to build the Zionist state in Palestine, the state that Jews wanted so badly they were willing to risk anything for.



Al-Aqsa Mosque burning after the Zionist Hands got hold of it

The Jews did not give up on Abdul Hameed, later in the same year, 1901, the founder of the Zionist movement, Theodor Hertzil, visited Istanbul and tried to meet Abdul Hameed. Abdul Hameed refused to meet him and he told his Head of The Ministers Council:

"Advise Dr. Herzil not to take any further steps in his project. I can not give away a handful of the soil of this land for it is not my own, it is for all the Islamic Nation. The Islamic Nation that fought Jihad for the sake of this land and they have watered it with their blood. The Jews may keep their money and millions. If the Islamic Khilafah State is one day destroyed then they will be able to take Palestine without a price! But while I am alive, I would rather push a sword into my body than see the land of Palestine cut and given away from the Islamic State. This is something that will not be, I will not start cutting our bodies while we are alive."

After this, the Jews turned to the British to turn their dreams into reality.

The British and French were ready to finish the Ottoman State; still the word "**Jihad**" was powerful enough to make all Europe tremble. Europe still feared the Sick Man of Europe. The British decided to use its most important foreign policy, divide and conquer. It supported new groups like Young Turkey and Young Arabia. When Young Turkey became strong in the Ottoman state, Britain did not need to do anything anymore, Young Turks did the rest, they started a national and prejudice stream within the Turkish citizens of the Islamic State. In


response, Arabs, Armenians, Kurds and other races developed their own national brand. People started feeling a part of their race not a part of the state, and that was the beginning of the end of the Islamic state. Later in WWI, Arabs collaborated with the British and French and revolted against the Ottoman State. They were betrayed by the British and French and later invaded.

Abdul Hamid did not forget the development of his state; he built many institutions and services to the public like Hamed market, Alazm palace in Damascus. He also built many mosques, public bathes, markets and hospitals in Cairo, Damascus, Sana, Baghdad and the rest of the Islamic cities. He also worked on the development of the educational system. The Ottomans tried to imitate the European educational system but they failed, except in two areas, Medicine and Military. The Ottoman army was not as weak as people today think it was. The Ottoman artillery was the strongest in the world. The Ottoman Navy was very well organized and was ranked the world's third most powerful fleet after the English and French. Many industries such as weapons manufacturing, weaving and Sugar appeared. The road system was updated, and seaports were expanded. Many new newsprints were established and before the first world war Egypt, Iraq and Great Syria had more than 1300 newspapers and magazines.

For a little time it appeared like the Sick Man of Europe will finally stand up, but the western allies were determined to destroy the Islamic Unity at any cost. The non-Muslim minorities in the Ottoman state were used by the West to create trouble and instability, especially the Christian citizens of the state. The western states always interfered in the Ottoman domestic policy under the excuse of "protecting the Christian minorities." The west also launched a campaign of Christian preaching in the Islamic world by building Christian schools and churches. The target was snatching Muslims away from Islam and spreading un-Islamic social habits and ideas. Many newsprints were also established for the same reason, to poison the minds of the Muslims and spread destructive ideas and misconceptions between them. The west also wanted to make the Ottoman state busy and for that it used the minorities again. The west encouraged the Armenians and financed their revolution against the Ottoman state. England helped the Druze and France helped the Maronites in Lebanon and they both engaged in a big battle that was solved by the interference of the Ottoman army. More troubles between Muslims and Christians took place, and at some time the Muslim population of Damascus was about to wipe the Christian population of the city. The Ottoman army interfered in the last moments and prevented a massacre from taking place. That era was a constant battle between the conspiracies of the west and the defense of Abdul Hameed and the rest of the faithful Muslims.

It is important to mention that the debts of the Ottoman state, when Abdul Hameed came to power, were 2,528 Million Ottoman golden Leeras. When he was removed from power they were only 106 Million Leeras, which means he cut the debt to about 1/20 of its original value.

The Young Turks, who came after Abdul Hameed, raised it back by 1300%! Such an achievement of Abdul Hameed would give the impression that he could not spend on development, but that is untrue. Abdul Hameed established fax lines between Yemen, Hijaz, Great Syria, Iraq and Turkey. Then he connected it to the fax lines of Iran and India. He managed to earn back the cost of the project within only two years because of the extensive use of these lines by the Hujjaj (the people who go to Mecca to do the pilgrimage).



The Signature of Abdul Hameed

Abdul Hameed realized that the only hope for Muslims is a form of a strong Islamic Unity. Abdul Hameed was able to see that the West will try to separate the Islamic state and then deal with each part separately. The only way to prevent that is through Islamic Unity. Abdul Hameed decided to present the Ottoman Khilafaship as a leadership to the Islamic World. Abdul Hameed was able to touch and affect the Muslims of India and Pakistan and he caused many troubles to the British in these areas. Similar results were established with the Muslims of Russia and the southern USSR republics. Abdul Hameed also used these Muslims to pressure Russia. At this

time, Abdul Hameed mentions in his diary that he feels the walls falling on him, and that he feels he is alone and he can not fight the enemies of the Islamic Nation alone. He later started an alliance with Germany, but that too seemed to be insufficient, because the Germans wanted a part of the Ottoman state as well. Sultan Abdul Hameed felt at that time that the big war is very close. And it was obvious that the remains of the Ottoman state, was what the fighting factions would fight for.

Abdul Hameed needed something big, something strong, something to awaken the feelings of the Islamic unity in the hearts of the Muslims all around the Islamic world. Abdul Hameed searched and searched and finally decided to establish the Hijaz rail road (1900). The rail road ran from Damascus to Madina, and from Aqaba to Maan, the line symbolized the Islamic Unity, all the Muslims who used to do the pilgrimage felt that the Ottoman Khalifa was trying to bring them closer, with a new rail road system and one of the most sophisticated fax systems. Muslim started getting the feeling of gratitude and appreciation to the Ottoman State. The rail road paid for its expenses in a couple of years and it functioned as an important tool to connect the parts of the Islamic state, it also was to be used as a fast line to transport and deploy military units. Abdul Hameed also launched a campaign to spread the idea of Islamic Unity and Islamic support in southern Russia, India, Pakistan and Africa. He started inviting many Muslim scholars from Indonesia, Africa and India to the Ottoman state, and he established a program to build mosques and Islamic Institutions all around the Islamic world.



A sample of the great Ottoman Arabic Art

The western teeth reacted quickly and encouraged the Bay of Tunisia to revolt against the Ottoman state in 1877 and so he did. In 1881 France occupied Tunisia, in 1882 Britain occupied Egypt. Later the Netherlands invaded Indonesia, Russia invaded central Asia, Britain expanded deeper into India and Sudan... it appeared like the west was about to crush the Islamic World.

Finally, on Tuesday the 27th of April 1909, the 240 members of the Ottoman senate agreed under the pressure of the National Young Turks to remove Abdul Hameed from power. Senator Sheikh Hamdi Afandi Mali wrote the Fatwa of the removal. The Ottoman Senate approved it. Here is the translation of that Fatwa:

"If the Imam of the Muslims took the important religious issues from the legislative books and collected those books, wasted the money of the state and engaged in agreements that contradicted the Islamic Law, killed, arrested, exiled the people for no reason, then promised not to do it again and still did it to harm the conditions of Muslims all around the Islamic world then this leader is to be removed from office. If his removal will bring better conditions than his staying, then he has the choice of resigning or being removed from office."

The Sheikh Of Islam Mohammad Dia' Aldin Afandi

The Fatwa is very strange and any person can see that the conditions set in it do not fit Abdul Hameed's deeds and actions. Afterwards the Head Of The Ministers Council, Tawfiq Pasha was called to tell Abdul Hameed about the decision. He refused to do so. So they sent him a group of four people: Aref Hikmat, Aram Afandi (Armenian), As'ad Tobatani and Emanuel Qrasow (Jewish). As they entered his office, they found him standing

calmly, Aref Hikmat read the Fatwa to him, then As'ad Tobatani came forward and said ***"The nation has removed you from your office."***, Abdul Hameed became angry and said ***"The nation has removed me from my office, that is okay ... but why did you bring the Jew to the Quarters of the Khilafa?"*** and he pointed to Qrasow. Obviously that was the point of payback, Abdul Hameed rejected selling Palestine to the Jews, and now they showed him that they were a part of his removal. A challenge in the face of Abdul Hameed and the face of the Islamic Nation.



A rare picture showing Abdul Hameed and the four people when he was told he was removed from office.

After Abdul Hameed's removal from office many writers started attacking him and his person, one of these people was John Haslib, his book "The Red Sultan" became very famous, and was translated into many languages such as Arabic and Turkish. A Turkish book titled "iki me vrin perde arkasi - yazan : nafiz tansu" by Ararat Yayinevi was also a part of hateful propaganda that draws the Ottoman state sinking deeper and deeper only to be saved by the Young Turks who removed Abdul Hameed. Another one is by the famous Arab Christian writer Georgy Zaydan in his book "Stories of The Islamic History - The Ottoman revolution". These books are nothing but a bunch of lies written by people who hate Islam and Muslims deeply. It presents Sultan Abdul Hameed as a man sunk into pleasures of life such as women and alcohol, and a vicious merciless tyrant towards his political enemies and his people. These lies did not stand because the truth always prevails.



Some of the books against Abdul Hameed

Finally, after Abdul Hameed came a bunch of weak leaders. They couldn't maintain the state and they lost their powers easily. As Sultan Abdul Hameed predicted, WWI took place and the Ottoman state was divided. Arabs revolted in Hijaz with the help of the British and French, who later on betrayed them and put them under occupation, and gave Islamic Palestine to the Jews. If only they had listened to Abdul Hameed.

The National Young Turks got power and Mustafa Kemal Ataturk canceled the Islamic Khilafa in 1924. That was the end of a united leadership for Muslims for 1300 years. The West had succeeded fully.

Today Muslims started to wake up from the ashes of the Arab-Israeli war of 1967, from the ashes of the Bosnian war, the Chechnya war; the Kashmir wars. Muslims are starting to realize that they will not stand unless they are united and attached to the bond of Islam. Muslims are starting to return to Islam and the West is alarmed again, after several years of Turkish Athan the mosques of Istanbul returned to declare "Allah Akbar" in clear Arabic; a sign of the coming back of a great civilization.

We kindly ask the Muslim reader to read Al-Fatiha on the soul of Sultan Abdul Hameed and the Muslims who dedicated their lives for the well being of Islam and the whole Islamic Nation. We hope we have been able to present you with something that will make you see things more clearly and strengthen your belief in the Islamic Dream and remove any misunderstandings or misconceptions if you have had any. Unite to the bond of Islam, may God bless the Islamic Nation and have mercy on the soul of Sultan Abdul Hameed and the rest of the sincere Muslims.

The Sun May Have Set, But It Will, God Willing, Rise Again



This section was a contribution of brother Hakan Doganer, many thanks to him.

Further reading: www.ummah.net/sultan/donmeh