

The agents of Eyalet of Algeria (Regency of Algiers) in Istanbul and Izmir during the ottoman period: a study of positions and missions

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Abstract:

This article related to the subjects of Ayala's diplomatic history, the role of representatives in Istanbul and Izmir had proved their positions, they were responsible for hiring and managing the Khan in Istanbul and Izmir, the conclusion of business on behalf of the DEY as well as the defense of the janissaries privileges of Algiers, In addition, they were reporting from the Ottoman Empire to Algeria, on this subject, we adopted the documents from the Ottoman Archives, in both the National Archives in Algiers and the Turkish National Archives in Turkey, these documents traced out the period of Ottoman occupation, that was at the end of the 18th century until the beginning of the 19th century. Representatives performed political and economic tasks under the supervision of the DEY, the Algerian diplomacy was tied to power, the Istanbul and Izmir representatives were a postal link between Istanbul and Izmir and Algiers after imposed a siege on Algiers, the messages were transmitted to Tunis then to Constantine then to Algiers. Both the Algerian archive and the Turkish archive contains many archival documents related to the Ottoman era, especially what relates to Algeria during that period and what concerns us from those correspondence that was between the agents of Algeria In Izmir, Istanbul, and the various men of authority in the Algerian mandate, which made the position of the proxy close to all international events and affairs and enabled it to conduct its interests from afar in various fields.

Keywords : The agents of Algeria, Ayala, Alger, diplomatic, the Ottoman Empire, Istanbul, Izmir, correspondence ; relations

Representatives of the Algerian Province in Izmir during the Late Ottoman Rule: An In-depth Analysis of Roles and Responsibilities

Introduction

In this study, we explore the topic of Algerian representatives in the city of Izmir, where they served as consuls responsible for recruitment operations, executing requests from deys, and conveying news from the Ottoman state to Algeria. This topic

contributes to the history of Algerian diplomacy during the Ottoman period, as revealed through the letters and reports sent by representatives from Izmir to Algeria. These documents (the letters and reports) unveil the representatives' methods in managing the khans (commercial inns) and the nature of the tasks assigned to them. The selected documents play a crucial role in defining the study timeframe, focusing on the latter period of Ottoman rule in Algeria.

The study aims to address the following questions: What tasks do the representatives undertake? What is the nature of the economic deals they conduct for the benefit of the deys? The letters, resembling reports presented by officials, serve as a means of conveying news. What are the transmitted news?

Study Sample: To answer these questions, we relied on the following archival documents:

- **Group 3190 at the National Library in El Hamma:** This collection includes letters from some representatives of the Ottoman province in Izmir, such as the Grand Mufti of Algeria, Khalil Effendi, and other individuals present in the Khan, to the dey and the officials of the province. We extracted 38 letters from this collection as a representative sample for this study. Most of these letters functioned as reports on the conditions of the Khan in Izmir and its needs for new deys. Additionally, the documents included information about commercial deals conducted by the representatives for the benefit of the deys and the efforts of the Algerian deys to maintain commercial privileges in the Ottoman state.
- **Group 1903 at the National Library in El Hamma:** This collection consists of 74 letters addressed to the Ouakil al-Kharadj (Nowadays Ministry of Foreign Affairs), including 12 letters from the Tunisian representative, covering the period from 1239-1245 AH / 1823-1830 CE. These letters include commitments to convey all news coming from Algerian representatives in the High Porte to the Ouakil al-Kharadj. The first document in this collection indicates the absence of news from Istanbul (Group 1903, Document No: 01) and reveals a change in the route of the letters after the French siege of Algiers. The letters began to be directed to Tunis, then to the capital of Bône (Constantine), and finally to Algiers.

1. Representatives of Algeria in Izmir:

In the Ottoman Empire, Algeria appointed representatives in various cities, with the most significant being its representative in Istanbul, commonly known as "Qabu Kakhdassi" or "Qabu Kahie Si" - the representative of the Pasha at the High Porte. Appointed by the Dey of Algeria, their responsibilities included overseeing matters of the province presented at the High Porte, providing necessary clarifications to ministers and officials concerned with these matters (Khalifa Hamash, Relations, 1988, p. 194). Prominent representatives who wrote the letters in our study sample

include Hajj Osman, Hussein bin Hajj Mohammed, Salim Thabit Effendi, Hajj Ahmed Amin Sardar (the private secretary of the authority), Hajj Hafez Ismail Pasha (head of the Khan), the representative Omar, Hajj Mohammed, and the representative Ali. While the documents provided names, they remained silent on the personal details or professional trajectories of these representatives.

Representatives of Algeria did not directly engage with the Ottoman Sultan at the center of the supreme state. Instead, they had intermediaries, with one of the key figures being the minister responsible for foreign relations, maritime affairs (both commercial and military), and a representative known as "Liman Re'isi" in Turkish, who mediated between them and the governors of Algeria (Said Ahmed, *The Role of the Algerian Representative*, 2013, p. 205).

1.1. Algerian Representative in the Khan (The Bash Dey):

The appointment of the representative follows a manuscript considered an official endorsement of the representative's status within the authorities of the host country.

This document stipulates the following: "From ancient times, your honorable entity, your commitment to the victorious Oudjak, your friendship, pride, and facilitation, and the growth of the part, and your protection from the ancient Oudjak, and the virtuous protection from all forms of attack with a clear mind. The victorious Oudjak by land and sea, their interruption is based on time and circumstances, and transactions from various forms for our Oudjak from all perspectives for the benefit of the deserving substance. Anything that occurs in the city of Izmir, from its leaders to a specific representative on our behalf, Pasha of Algiers, is appointed and sent to all who progress in their transactions with our Oudjak. The appointment and designation are expected, God willing, upon reaching, as previously informed by Pasha. The issuance of accountability on what is on the balance of the governorate, such as items, funds, and others, delivered by one of his deputies. Henceforth, the attention is directed to the matters of the victorious Oudjak, their peculiarities, and the preparation of their soldiers with continuous vigilance from every form, with maximum effort, assistance, and manifestation. Your Excellency and the rest of the governors of the Ottoman State, as well as other Christian states, keep their strategies in mind. This dispatch is directed to your esteemed self, with a manuscript containing the list of this representative's liberation and the dispatch of the governor with God's grace. It is known, Your Excellency, that you are managing our expenditures in the prescribed manner, with your good effort, as expected and required from your Excellency." (Group 3190, Document No. 159)

Despite not mentioning the representative's name or appointment date in Izmir, the document outlines the powers and duties assigned to him:

- Accountability of the Bash Dey for possessions and funds owed to the beylik.

- Oversight of Odjak (a unit of the Algerian army at the time), recruitment, with a role in guiding political matters, providing information about Algeria, its privileges, and extending invitations to young men emphasizing adventure, jihad, and support for Islam under the banner of Algeria (Aziz Samih Iltir, Ottoman Turks, 1989, p. 133).
- Efforts to safeguard the interests of the province in the supreme state, among Christian countries, and their consuls.
- Management and protection of commercial interests, overseeing related affairs in the cities where they operate.
- Providing possible explanations about the province to ministers and officials concerned in the Ottoman state.

Representatives are obligated to send reports to the Pasha in Algiers, presenting issues related to their duties and news reaching them about events in the Ottoman state, which the Pashas considered of great interest (Khalifa Hamash, High Relations, p. 195).

The documents reveal that some Algerian deys dispatched wheat for sale in Ottoman cities, with Bash Dey tasked with its sale (Group 3190, Document 219, dated 25 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1242 AH / 1827 CE).

The representatives reside in Izmir (the Khan), a two-story building equipped to accommodate volunteers. On its sides, there are warehouses and residences, and inside there is a mosque for prayer. The Algerian flag is hoisted on the Khan, symbolizing its independence and diplomatic immunity. Although the documents in our possession do not provide details about its organization or the number of employees, requests for sending staff are frequent. Khalil Effendi, in Safar 1242 AH/1826 CE, requested the dispatch of 13 deys to supervise the Khan in Izmir (Group 3190, Document 176). "...and it is necessary to send three to five messengers, appoint them on our behalf through this service, and send them obligatorily to our side for departure. Beat the drum and announce their presence on the routes. It is not appropriate for the departure or for your servant Ali, nor for the side of the honorable Khalil Effendi." (Group 3190, Document No. 146). Hussein Pasha in Izmir similarly requested 10 deys, and in another report, he highlighted the negligence of the deys sent from Algeria to oversee Khan affairs. (Group 3190, Document No. 186)

Moreover, there were requests for gifts for the officials of the High Porte, including the governor of Izmir, as a token of appreciation for their services to Algeria (the same document).

Notably, these requests weren't solely related to the province's interests but extended to personal demands. For instance, the Grand Mufti mentioned the death of the Bash Dey's wife in Izmir, emphasizing the need for care to their children (Group 3190, Document 196). Following this, Hussein Pasha sent a letter requesting support

for his children after his wife's death. The responses to these letters are unknown, and we do not know neither if the state treasury had taken responsibility for them (Group 3190, Document 197). Additionally, documents indicate the state's care for Yuldash orphans as a letter to Hussein Pasha, pointed to the existence of Yuldash poor orphans, requesting the disbursement of their salaries.

1.2. Grand Mufti of Algeria in Izmir:

The Grand Mufti is responsible for spiritual and social aspects, addressing grievances and complaints. Although a religious position, his duties overlap with those of the representatives:

- ❖ In the absence of the Bash Dey, the Grand Mufti manages the province or the Khan. This was evident in his letter dated 1236 AH/1821 CE, where he temporarily supervised the Khan in Izmir after the death of Bash Dey until the appointment of a new Bash Dey.
- ❖ The Grand Mufti intervenes in all matters concerning the province, including economic issues. He raised the matter of customs duties (diwan) between Algeria and the Ottoman state. Algerians were exempt from paying taxes on their private belongings while traveling in Ottoman cities. The Mufti's concern involved Algerian traders - Arabs and Turks - conducting business using loans from the Algerian treasury. He sought to exempt Algerian traders from taxes and fees (Ahmed Tawfiq Al-Madani, From Algerian Documents, p. 71).

2. Duties of the Province's Representatives in High Porte:

Reading the letters, we can extract the tasks that the representatives carried out in the cities of Anatolia, especially in the city of Izmir where the Khan is located, as we mentioned before. The most important tasks they performed include:

2.1. Recruitment of Volunteers:

Recruitment was authorized by the High Porte upon the request of Algerian deys. This authorization was sent to the governor of Izmir and other Anatolian cities, as well as to scholars in those cities. The High Porte could stop the arrival of recruits in Algeria if it wished to exert pressure on the provinces, compelling them to comply with issued orders (Khalifa Hamache, "Kashaf Al-Watha'iq," p. 15). Detailed information about recruitment operations and the challenges faced by Algerians in the recruitment field during the latter part of Ottoman rule can be extracted from these documents. This is noted in the following document: "...Thus, quickly and secretly issuing...Haj Ahmed, the representative of the Mansur Papers." (Group 3190, Document 123, dated 25 Muharram 1240 AH)

The difficulty included the transportation of recruits, especially during periods of war with France and England. Ship captains refused to transport anything related to the province, including recruits, in times of conflict. This is evident in a document where a response from the captain indicated reluctance due to political tensions.

The document states: "Submitting our request, the commanders of the Kenouai respond... He stated four months ago that he received a letter from Qurna informing him that there is a dispute between Algeria and England, and due to this, they are not providing them with a ship as previously warned. However, now that reconciliation has taken place, no written agreement has appeared, and your involvement in this payment with the Kenouai will not happen unless you send to the French Consul in Algeria to provide you with a written document. Hafiz Ismail Bash Dey, Algeria, Izmir." (Group 3190, Document 125)

Regarding the rental value of the ships, it varies based on the size. Bash Dey of Algeria rented an English ship for transporting volunteers to Algeria, stating: "Its cost... is 2200 Riyals... and other expenses are restricted by a notice wrapped inside the package." (Group 3190, Document 389)

However, the representatives faced problems even after the ship rental process. For example: "We rented a French ship for the journey to your destination. Therefore, this current offer for transportation is 105 people from Yildash Lar, as stated in the liberation of the mentioned soldiers... The total is 115 people from Yildash Lar, and another five from Atiq Yildash Lar. Be aware, the agreement between us in the lease contract fifteen days... until the complete descent of the soldiers is achieved with determination... Since the descent of the troops, sixteen and seventeen days have passed in the harbor... Whenever we talk to him about the travel, he responds that they have not received permission from the seniors and, according to the time and situation, if the travel of the English and the French were respected, we would never wait for others. Now the necessity arises from this hindrance issued, and the harm and injustice occur from this part... I advise your Excellency to speak to our consul... and instruct him to prepare a written document for your consuls... " (Group 3190, Document 153)

Reading the document, we observe that the recruitment operations are no longer limited to new young soldiers but also include the ranks of veteran Janissaries, known as Atiq al-Jund (lit. Old soldiers), after the enactment of the new conscription law in the Ottoman Empire. It emphasized the desire to transfer the new soldiers on French and English ships, and the political circumstances of the international relations in the Mediterranean during the 18th century influenced the use of foreign ships in Algeria's trade with Europe and even the eastern part of the Arab World. The document mentions the use of ships of various nationalities, including French, English, and Dutch, for various purposes such as trade, religious purposes (transporting pilgrims), and even political purposes like delivering gifts to the High Porte. This practice ensured the safety of the gifts and the delegation carrying them from the enemies of the Province in the Mediterranean, especially the Knights of St. John. The choice of the state to handle the gift's transportation to Istanbul was considered a significant honor for that state. (Hamash Khalifa, Relations, 1988, p. 157)

2.2. Economic Tasks:

The study sample addresses some of the economic tasks that the representatives and the mufti were assigned, including:

2.2.1. Commercial Contracts on Behalf of the Dey:

Some Algerian governors sent wheat for sale in the Ottoman Empire. However, difficulties were encountered in selling the wheat sent to Izmir, including a decrease in prices (10 piasters per kilogram) and part of the wheat being spoiled. The abundance of wheat in the city further led to a decline in prices. This is exemplified in a document from 1242 AH/1827 CE, which describes the challenges faced in selling the wheat (Group 3190, Document 219).

2.2.2. Importation of Apricots and Dried Fruits:

The Algerian deys imported various types of goods, including apricots and dried fruits, from cities under the High Porte's jurisdiction. This trade is detailed in the following table:

Table 1: Quantities of raisins exported from the Ottoman State

| Raisins type | Seedless raisins | Premium raisins | Black raisins |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Quantity / quintals | 12 | 05 | 10 |
| Quantity / pounds | 34 | 66 | 29 |
| Price / piasters | 740 | 273 | 153 |

Source: Group 3190, Document 395, the National Library in El Hamma

We add 64 piasters to the value of 10 barrels for storing raisins. The document suggests that 2000 piasters, representing the right to cut and a value of 312 piasters for dark grapevines, are attached to the raisins. Additionally, there is mention of 220 piasters for sugar (Group 3190, Document 395, National Library, El Hamma).

Raisins are considered one of the most important gifts for deys. For instance: "...A gift, a token of appreciation sent by one of the fortunate individuals, a generous amount of one quintal (100 kilograms) of black raisins from the renowned vineyards of Izmir, dispatched by the one dedicated to your service." (Group 3190, Document No. 157). Alongside dried fruits, Algeria also imports Turkish sweets, as detailed in the following table:

Table 2: Quantities of sweets exported from the Ottoman State

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Type | Sweets | Halwaji Halva | Halwaji sweets |
| Quantity | 14 boxes | 30 boxes / 262 units | 23 boxes / 58 units |
| Price / piasters | / | 393 | 153 |

Source: Group 3190, Document 395, the National Library in El Hamma

These sweets are directed towards Ottoman authority representatives in the province. Turkish sweets held significance during this period, often gifted to deys, as seen in a 1825 document where Muhammad Katib Zada sends a gift consisting of various sweets (Group 3190, Document 160).

Algeria imports various types of fish, as illustrated in the following table:

Table 3: Fish exported from the Ottoman State

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|--------|
| Type | Sardine | Whales | Caviar |
| Quantity | 46 boxes | 19 boxes | / |
| Price / piasters | 2600 | 550 | 820 |

Source: Group 3190, Document 395, the National Library in El Hamma

These fish come from the Crimea and the northern Black Sea regions. This trade has created an economic entity that produces and exports substantial quantities of meats and fish, particularly salted fish and whale eggs (caviar) (Khalil Inalcik: Economic and Social History, Vol. 1, p. 399).

2-2. Preservation of Commercial Privileges for the Janissary:

During the Ottoman era, the Algerian authorities worked to retain the privilege related to the Odjak of Algiers and their exploitation. They utilized licenses granted to them, customs exemptions from the Ottoman Sultan, and engaged in indirect commercial activities. They issued licenses to specific traders, encouraging them to engage in foreign trade through a "speculation company." Three categories were eligible for licenses to leave Algeria with goods considered essential and exempt from customs duties in Ottoman territories:

1. **Janissary Traders:** Departing from Algeria for trade.
2. **Janissary Maintaining Kinship:** Departing with familial ties.
3. **Third Category:** Departing from Algeria for pilgrimage and visiting holy sites.

All these categories shared a common feature: collecting all the money from the province's treasury for trading and acquiring necessary goods. The traders, distinct from soldiers, were individuals documented as Odjak and relied upon in trade. Their role involved acquiring goods such as clothes, silk fabrics, and spices not readily available in Algeria and in high demand during that period. These traders exploited exemptions to smuggle goods, adding others' merchandise to their duty-free cargo (Ahmad Tawfiq Al-Madani, 1980, p. 88-89).

Granting licenses to a specific group of traders led to monopolies, creating significant obstacles for Algerian merchants and contributing to the decline of foreign trade. Algerian Odjak did not pay customs duties and taxes on their belongings when traveling in Ottoman ports, except for coffee. The exemption of Algerians from customs fees for their goods led to disputes between Algerians and customs officials. Dey of Algeria had to file complaints about violations against their citizens at the Ottoman High Porte (Khalifa Hamache, Kashaf Al-Watha'iq, Numidia, 2012, p. 16).

However, the issue of customs (diwan) involves Algerian traders conducting their business through loans obtained from the Algerian treasury. Through this system, Algerian traders avoided paying taxes and fees. Several factors influenced Algeria's demand to retain the exemption privilege in Ottoman state ports, mainly:

- The absence of commercial companies in Algeria during that period, similar to those in Tunis and Tripoli, handling foreign trade, securing necessary needs simultaneously for Odjak and residents. (Ahmad Tawfiq Al-Madani, 1980, p. 71).
- Imported goods considered necessities, owned by Odjak as financiers of traders receiving customs facilitations, exempting them from fees like other regular traders.
- The prestigious status and global fame of Algerian Odjak led the Ottoman state to treat them exceptionally, exempting them from customs fees for their necessary funds, distinct from general trade, resulting in a monopoly (Ahmad Tawfiq Al-Madani, 1980, p. 71).
- Increased restrictions on Janissary regarding trade activities due to their exclusion from privileges they enjoyed before marrying Algerian women, compelling them to engage in trade to boost their income (Mohamed Amin, Observations on the Policy of Marginalization, p. 27).

The Mufti intervened in economic issues concerning the province, such as customs issues between Algeria and the Ottoman state. Khalil Effendi, the Mufti of Algeria, in a letter to Hussein Pasha in 1829, mentioned solutions to some trade issues. Where he writes and says: "...At this moment, the merchants pay the customs duties, taxes, and other expenses required to send their goods to Algeria, and they have profits at a rate of 33%. The presenter is exempted from the duties and taxes, and

further, I am in charge of the incomplete goods, three-fifths of which are still owed for various items..." (Group 3190, Document No. 294.)

2-3. Requesting Assistance in Military Industries:

Despite achieving some independence from the Ottoman state, the province did not hesitate to seek assistance. In this context, there are requests from the dey, such as the use of a skilled engineer from the Algerian Odjak to be sent to the port of Khane for the manufacture of cannons (Group 3190, Document 137, dated 13 Shawwal 1240 AH / 1825 CE). Another letter mentions the dispatch of Mahmoud Effendi, an engineer in military industry, to Algeria (Group 3190, Document 138, dated 17 Shawwal 1240 AH / 1825 CE). Additionally, the representative of the authority in Algeria did not hesitate to request equipment for building the military industry. And from that, we find "...the amount of 20000 in wages, your dispatch, and in accordance with the current situation, learning and understanding the laws of the artillery..." (Group 3190, Document 143).

2-4. Resolution of the Province-related Issues Addressed at the High Porte:

In this regard, a letter from Khalil Effendi informs the dey that the French consul residing in the Ottoman state presented a report to the Ottoman High Porte regarding the declaration of war between Algeria and France. The Ottoman state considered it necessary to obtain a detailed explanation from the Dar Al-Saadah to investigate the matter further (Group 3190, Document 230).

3- Communications Between Representatives and the Province:

3-1- Methods of Conveying News to Algeria:

Concerning the methods adopted for conveying news from the Ottoman state to Algeria, we find:

- **Algerian Merchants:** One notable individual among them is Ali ben Almufti, who carried most of the messages to the Dey. The letters refer to him, such as: "... committed to us at all times, prayers of goodness by the path of perseverance, supported by the emergence of the truth of friendship... On the occasion of its appearance, the flavor of the victorious jihad in Algeria from its merchants. Ali ben Almufti carried it in the month tied to your service to settle some specific matters, advancing and sending it to the highest authorities to complete the necessary arrangement. With determination, we present news through the aforementioned, showing sincerity and truth in his union. Yes, it is a means of association, thus..." (Group 3190, Document 177).

This merchant carried news and goods, as indicated in the following letter: "The one who advanced before the date of the arrival of Haj Ali ben Almufti, your servant, and in his hand are things as shown. He walked by your orders." (Group 3190,

Document 196). However, there is not much information available about this personality.

- **Consuls of States:** This type is not found abundantly, but it is present in some letters, relied upon after the French siege of Algeria. Ali ben Almufti sends a letter containing news about the officials of the Ottoman state to the Ouakil of Kharadj and the messages that reached him from Captain Pasha, both old and new: "...Ali informs that messengers came from Captain Pasha, the new one, to your side via Malta... This is to inform you, my lord, that we sent offices from Captain Pasha, both old and new, to you through Malta," (Group 1903, Document 33).

3-2- Nature of Conveyed News:

After identifying the conveyors of news from the Ottoman state to Algeria, we move on to understanding the nature and importance of the conveyed news to the province. Indeed, news during that period served as a means for countries to influence relations. So, what is the nature of the conveyed news?

- **News about Assignments in the Ottoman State:** Representatives focus on news about the Ottoman state and its officials. For instance, a letter from "Suleiman Thabit," the representative of Algeria to the High Porte, " ...the year, the year two and forty, on the twelfth of Rajab, the honorable who was the captain of Dardanelles lost and Mohamed Pasha Effendi his transfer to Bouaaz Black Sea as a governor for the Anatolian side, with the condition of directing and favoring the Anatolian Province, which was previously in Anatolia and Fendam, and to Sey Dardanelles, the possessor of Azat Mohamed Pasha Effendi also, to join the Province of Algiers to the captaincy of Dardanelles, directing and favoring, and the captain of Dardanelles referred to, Azat Mohamed Pasha Effendi, has worked on all the signs perfectly and prepared the complete equipped arsenal without missing anything. It includes the Diwan of the military arsenal. It is maintained and established for the will of Sayyida, and its duty is to the side of the Mediterranean, where the ships of the High Porte are tied to a route of men, the armed arsenal of Bouarara of the High Gate. Tahir Pasha, may his presence be dignified, with a high rank, has passed by the orders and favors of the High Porte. With this news, the information and the record of highlighting the specificity and truthfulness... and the sender to him through an envoy to the State of Decision, and God willing, at the time of comparing the knowledge of your state with directives towards us, may your pleasing authority be delighted." (Group 3190, Document 177)

Reading the letters, it appears that the representatives are sending news of changes in personnel to confirm the preparation of gifts sent by the provinces to the officials in the Ottoman state.

- **News about Janissary in the High Porte:** There are reports of uprisings among the Janissary in Istanbul, the continued preparation of a regular army supervised by Hassan Pasha, and the High Porte allowing the recruitment of volunteers in the Algerian army. The difficulties in recruitment due to the establishment of the new system in the Ottoman state are also highlighted. The Hajj Khalil says, "...I informed you in a letter with a ship's cargo, which is of great importance. The liberation of the soldiers is beneficial. Now, during this period, Saqiz, Al-Madli, and Al-Bughaz have received the liberation benefits, and now they have been given their discharge. A new group of Muhammadan soldiers from Al-Mansura, with its expressions, arrangement, and clarification in this regard. ...and others, among them the famous soldiers' discharges, and the permission to take from them the Mansour Oudjak, is currently being collected with us, numbering about fifty individuals." (Group 3190, Document Number 196)
- **News about the Ottoman State Wars:** Through the documents, information about the wars of the Ottoman State during that period can be obtained. For instance, there is information about the Greek War that erupted in 1821, providing insights into major events. Additionally, there are reports on the Russian War and its impact on the Ottoman State. For example, there is a letter from Khalil, the Mufti of Algeria, to Hussein Pasha in 1244 AH/1828 CE, informing him about:
 - ✓ The removal of the Captain of Dardanelles and the Grand Vizier from their positions due to their failure to repel the Russian attack.
 - ✓ The Russian Emperor capturing members of the Ottoman embassy.
 - ✓ The Russian fleet besieging the Bosphorus and preventing the arrival of supply ships to Istanbul.
 - ✓ Military preparations in the Ottoman State. (Group 3190, Document 239 and Document Number) (Group 3190, Document 196).
- **Special News about the Appointment of Representatives for the Provinces:** A letter from Khalil Effendi, dated in 1828, mentions the appointment of Ahmed Pasha as the representative for Algiers in Izmir, emphasizing the rights of their merchants and addressing concerns raised by merchants in Istanbul regarding the route to Tunis (Group 3190, Document 239).
- **News about the Khan in Izmir:** Detailed reports are presented by representatives and the mufti on the affairs and conditions of the Khan, including the depletion of funds, sending gifts to the Grand Vizier and other state officials to seek their assistance in the province's affairs, the arrival of gifts to the Khan's governorship, and the delivery of messages and gifts from Hussein Pasha in Algeria to their correspondents in Istanbul. There is also

mention of an Algerian envoy in Istanbul (Group 3190, Documents 176, 196, and 201).

4. Communication Methods Between Representatives and Authority in the Province After the French Siege:

After the French siege of Algeria, the arrival of news from the Ottoman state continued. Documents shed light on the methods of conveying news. Initially directed straight to the Dey of Algiers, it later shifted to the representative in Tunis. According to Abdeldjalil Tamimi, Algeria had representatives or consuls in various countries, such as Muhammad, the representative in Thessaloniki; the judge Khalil in Izmir; Hajj Muhammad Aga and Hajj Moustapha Karmous in Alexandria; and multiple representatives in Tunis, including Muhammad bin Ahmed, Kaid Ali Khodja, and Hajj Omar Muhammad (Abeldjalil Tamimi, Tunis, 1983, p 28)

The Tunisian representative, Hajj Amar, forwards communications to Algiers, as indicated by Ahmed Pasha in his letter to Hussein Dey: "...Your representative in Tunis, Hajj Amar, directed letters to us with his notifications, dated on this day. Among them, letters were addressed to your esteemed person... The mentioned representative informed us in his letter that he sent it to Tunis with Mustafa Rais, who had with him 29 individuals..." (Group 1642, Document 03).

The Tunisian representative conveys the news to the Ouakil of Al-Kharaj, stating in the letter dated 23 Ramadan 1244 AH/1829 CE that the news has not reached him from Istanbul. He assures to send all the news received from various places (Group 1903, Document 01). In another letter, Hajj Amar informs Ibrahim, the Ouakil of Al-Kharaj, about the arrival of ships from Genoa and Livorno to Tunis. He reports on the outbreak of war between Russia and the Ottoman State and the English intervention to expel the Russian ships besieging Istanbul (Group 1903, Document 07).

As for the Deputy Representative of Algeria in Tunis, Mustafa bin Saber, he informs the Ouakil of Al-Kharaj about the arrival of a warship from Izmir to Tunis, carrying volunteers for Algeria. However, French ships intercepted it and forced it to return to Tunis (Group 1903, Document Number 54).

In a document dated 24 Dhu al-Qa'dah 1242 H, Ali bin Almufti, mentioned earlier, carried messages from representatives and the mufti in Izmir to Algeria. He sent a letter to Ibrahim, the representative of Khuraj, via Livorno, informing him of the arrival of an Ottoman envoy to Algeria through Malta and the sending of messages from the Kapudan Pasha to Algeria via the consul of the Netherlands in Malta. He provided information about changes in officials in Istanbul and the war between the Ottoman state and Greek ships (Group 1903, Document 33).

Additionally, Khalil Effendi, a representative of the High Porte, sent a report to Algeria after facing harassment from French ships. He withdrew to the port of

Tunis, where he wrote: "We did not miss your service by the minute, and immediately the news flies to your side through the path of Alexandria, or Tunis, or through the Corniche (Livorno) without shortcomings and delays." He informed about the French completing their condemned preparations, sending about two hundred ships to trade... Mohammed Ali Pasha gathered his soldiers towards Tripoli, and this news is true and repeated..." (Group 3190, Document 353).

To inform you, yesterday, a ship arrived from Marseille... and investigated the news... Let your Excellency know that the French has been completed with their unfortunate deeds. Approximately 200 ships, including merchant vessels, were completed. Be informed that His Excellency Muhammad Ali Pasha... gathered his troops for the road to Tripoli, and this news is accurate and confirmed. As I have previously mentioned in the report, these incidents were reported to you by your servant and representative, Hajj Amar. Also, let it be known that one day in this region, the French were sent to speak with Hussein Pasha regarding the matter of Algeria. They discussed this until they reached the mountains of Algeria. Be informed, your Excellency, that in my observations of the French's actions when they landed in Béjaïa, Cherchell, and Sidi Fredj, they focused on these three places for construction, opening eyes with kindness through defeat and destruction, Amen..." (Group 3190, Document Number 353).

Conclusion and Study Findings

From our study on the topic of the representatives of the Algerian province in Izmir and an exploration of their roles and responsibilities, we have arrived at several key findings, including:

1. The presence of representatives in the city of Izmir signifies Algerian diplomacy with specific tasks and functions carried out on behalf of the High Porte. These representatives received orders from the Dey in Algiers and were responsible for handling commercial contracts in his name.
2. The Algerian authority worked on establishing a communication network from the central representation in the Ottoman state to the provincial representation. The convey of news typically began with a letter or report written by the mufti or representative in Izmir and then delivered by Hajj Ali bin Almufti to the province. Documents reveal that the mufti, in particular, intervened in favor of the province in economic matters such as customs issues.
3. The mufti was held accountable by the ministers of the High Porte, as evidenced by the documents. If the news reached Algeria through letters and reports, the Ottoman state gathered information from the accountability, and its ministers wrote reports to the Sultan through the representatives of the provinces.

4. The documents highlight the direct connection between representatives, the mufti, and the Dey. However, after the French siege, the direction of news shifted to Tunis and then to the Bey of Constantine, and finally to the representative of Khuraj. Reports directed to the latter are notably more accurate, especially regarding news of the French campaign on Algeria.

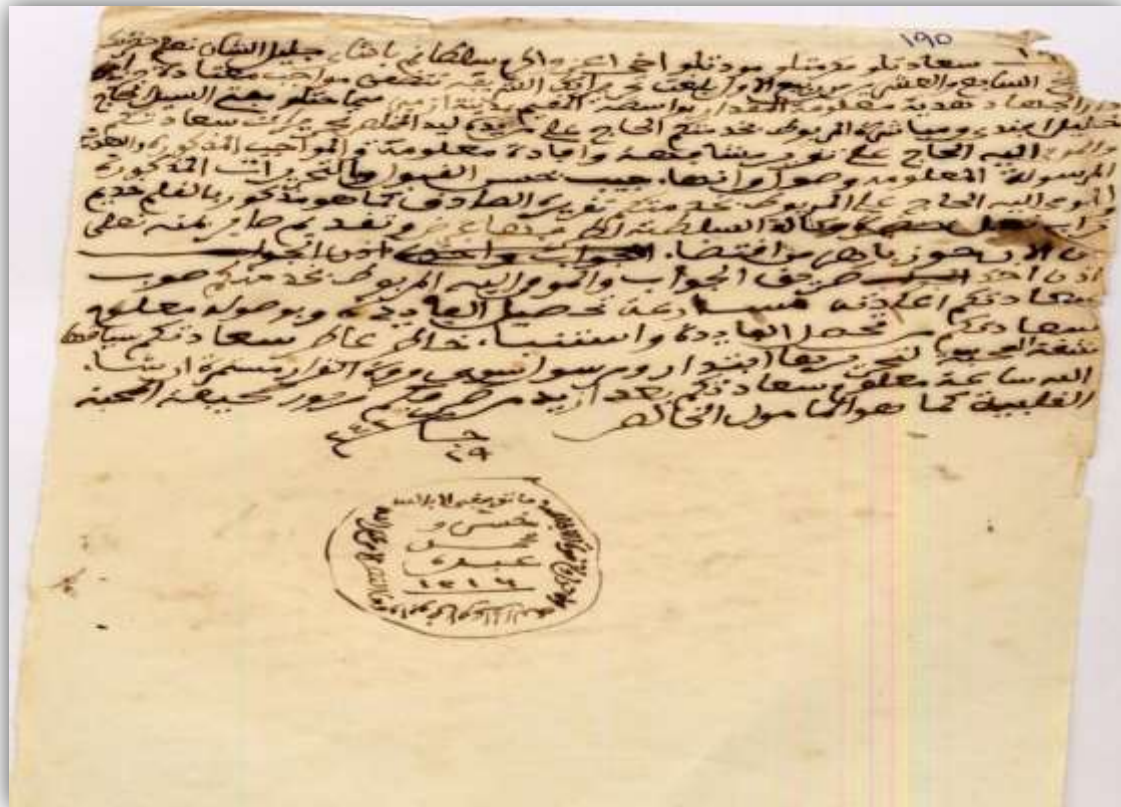
In summary, the representatives of Algeria in the Ottoman state served as a crucial postal link, ensuring the arrival of news to the province. Their role was particularly significant in conveying information about wars involving the Ottoman state in the Mediterranean, affecting navigation, such as the war against Greece.

Comments

1. **The High Porte:** The term refers to the seat of the government in the capital of the Ottoman Empire (Istanbul). Initially, it referred to the Sultan's court, and later it came to denote the headquarters of the Grand Vizier, ministries, and official Ottoman establishments (Lakhel Abdelhafid, 2003, p 33)
2. **Volunteer Expenses:** Volunteers' costs for accommodation and living were covered by the diwans (administrative offices). Volunteers typically did not bear expenses during their stay at the khans (inns). Before departing for Algeria, their details were registered in the ledgers, including full names, hometowns, and old professions (Ali Khelassi, 2013, p 262)
3. **Qarateel:** A basket made from reed or palm fronds (Al-Shuayhid Abdullah bin Muhammad, Beirut, 2006, p 51)
4. **Dried and Sealed Fish Eggs (Caviar):** Consumed mainly with alcoholic beverages, especially distilled ones (Burjam Reda, Libya, 2010, p 521)
5. **Mudarabah Company:** A partnership where one party provides capital, and the other provides effort and work for shared profits, according to the agreement.
6. **Suleiman Thabit Effendi** is the representative of Oudjak Mansur, Algeria Dar al-Jihad, described as "the engineer of the Khan, the third Khwaja al-Azab, Mahmoud Effendi for your town." (Group 3190, Document Number 137).

Appendices

Appendix 01: Letter from Khosrew Pasha to the Dey of Algiers, informing him of receiving a gift from the mufti.



the dearest and most honorable, Sultan Pasha Jalil, I convey to you on the 28th of Rabi' al-Awwal that... the noble letter includes customary duties of Algeria Dar al-Jihad, a known gift, the amount of which is delivered by the resident of Izmir, Mr. Khalil Effendi, and the one directly associated with your service, Hajj Ali Meridah, to the one who fulfills the emancipations of your excellency and the Lord to whom belongs the Hajj Ali... And a report on the sincerity of his deliverance. The news, the duties mentioned, the sent gift, and the information about its arrival have been accepted with good grace, and the mentioned emancipations and the Lord to whom Hajj Ali is directly associated with your service has reported them truthfully as mentioned with the servant of the land... The province of the authority to its side presented... So, it took the path of the response and the one who is bound to your service moved towards you from collecting the due and inquiring sincerely about your matter. May your happiness continue, wishes sent to you out of the sincere affection for its liberation from the start of its mission and its sender... The decision is ongoing, God willing, and the time of your happiness is known... As is expected."

Beylik as it was in your era. The clear Sharif released this high decree, merely strengthening its writing, enabling authority and power, and providing a means to gain the honor and pride from our side. Gifting you a robe, and a turban, deserving of joy, a luxurious attire. Mustafa Aga, our treasurer, hands over to you, with your Excellency's permission, a dispatch and order, as long as your Excellency's emirate is an additional substance from others... a bounty for you. You have achieved the world and the hereafter through success and the acquisition of approval from the High Porte. Attracting the prayers of goodness, a response coupled with utilization, a query, and a suggestion. Guarding your hearts, considering the list of general materials, the liberation of outgoing materials, God willing. I am honored to reach the Maghreb Oudjak, whether by your emirate or through the Algerian government, day and night, as you establish the clear religion in yourselves and your souls. A decree for the steadfast and the conquerors, daydash laar, the great, the small, the son of the great... and the qeftan because it is a messenger for all your affairs. Limited in seeking to fulfill your needs and your zeal for the Oudjak, a duty on your conscience in taking and giving... As you know at that time, detailing and explaining your instructions according to their work and movement. Also, with your permission, explaining the clear services..."

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