

Abstract

When sultan Abd Al – Azeez (1861 – 1876) came to power , a change in the position of the Ottoman Empire occurred . He was a statesman , an executive and a politician as well . In spite of the difficult circumstances , he tried to awaken an aged state that was about to die out . Also , he tried to stop the decline of the state through maintaining the reforms , confronting the separatists and solving the problem of foreign debts . But , it was not that easy for him to do all that because of the bad situation he found himself in . For example , his antecedents had already borrowed 15000000 sterlings which he should pay back . Those debts overburdened the treasury . Moreover , the requirements of the many military expeditions necessitated borrowing from European banks with high interests . This , again , overburdened the treasury of the state , hurted the reputation of the country in the foreign circles and increased the decline . It worths mentioning that the Sultan himself was extravagant .

Studying the era of Sultan Abd Al – Azeez is important to understand the circumstances that caused disturbance inside the country in the 1860S and 1870S ; which in turn ended the reforms , invoked the internal conflicts and resulted finally in deposing the sultan . As a conclusion , his era was a halfway between the reform movement and the era of Sultan Abd Al – Hameed , the second who suspended the reforms and returned to totalitarianism .

The study is made of an introduction , four chapters and a conclusion . Chapter one reviews the situation in the Ottoman Empire before Sultan Abd Al – Azeez . An investigation is made of the reforms in the era of his brother Sultan Abd Al – Majeed (1839 – 1861) which were embodied in Shareef Kolkhana and Hamayon charts . These two charts were taken as an excuse by the Europeans to intervene in the affairs of the Ottoman Empire to protect the Christians and the interests of the big powers of Britain , Germany , France and Russia . Before him , the state was very weak and decayed especially after the Crimean war (1853 – 1856) . That war started during the era of his brother Sultan Abd Al – Majeed , the first as a result of the heavy loans from the European banks with high interests .

Chapter two discusses the most important internal and external events during the era of Sultan Abd Al – Azeez , starting with a brief biography of him and how he was crowned , the revolutions in the different parts of the Balkan peninsula like those in the Serb , the

Black Mountain , Bughdan , Aflaq and Crete Island , his journey to Egypt and Europe , the concessions he gave to Egypt concerning heredity of the crown , and opening Suez Canal to navigation in 1869 .

Chapter three is devoted to study the policy and the works of the Sultan during his rule especially in the military (army and navy) aspects in addition to the attention he paid to the economic , administrative , judicial , educational and cultural aspects .

Chapter four discusses policy of Sultan Abd Al – Azeez after 1871 and the circumstances that led to his deposing including the severe financial crises , bankruptcy of the treasury in 1874 – 1875 , the rebellion in Bosnia and Hersk in 1875 – 1876 , and the revolution for independence in Bulgaria in 1876 . The chapter also tackled the role of Medhat Pasha and the new Ottomans to depose Sultan Abd Al – Azeez . Finally , the chapter sheds light on his death in 1876 .