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## SEPERATION OF TUNIS REGION FROM THE OTTOMAN STATE

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The relations between the Ottomans and Tunis under the Hafsites began with Oruç Reis. In 1512 Oruç Reis came to Tunis and made an agreement with the Hafsite Sultan Muhammad. Oruç Reis would give the Sultan one fifth of the spoils which he gets in wars against European states in return for his using Tunis ports as basis of operations. In the spring of 1513 Oruç Reis and his brother Hızır Reis hoist sails towards north and captured in Mediterranean two christian ships. The Hafsite Sultan was very happy at his share<sup>1</sup>.

Muhammad died in 932/1526 and his son Hasan succeeded him to the throne<sup>2</sup>. Spain, the most powerful Christian state of the 16 th century, invaded many parts of the North Africa. And it was her intention to make the North Africa another Andalousia, i.e. to christianize it completely and absolutely. And there was only the Ottoman Turks to prevent this action.

Hızır Hayreddin Reis, while returning from Anatolia where he had gone on order of Suleyman the Magnificent, to his seat, Algeria, he made for Binzert, the Tunisian port. He took over the port without any resistance, then entered Tunis, the capital. Hafsite Sultan Hasan, couldn't resist and retreated. Hızır Hayreddin Reis made the khutba on pulpits in the name of the Ottoman Sul-

1 Ahmad b. Abi'd Diyâf, İthâfu Ahli'z Zamân bi Ahbâri Mulûki Tûnis wa Ahdi'l Amân, II, 10.

2 Ibid, II, 11.

tan, the Caliph of the all Muslims and made the coin in the name of Süleyman the Magnificent, thus uniting the region of Tunis to the Islamic State of Ottomans in 936/1529<sup>3</sup>.

But this unity didn't last very long. Charles Quint, the Emperor of Spain and Germany, prepared an army of 20.000 strong, making use of Süleyman the Magnificent's preoccupation in Iran.

The Hafsite Hasan, invited Charles Quint to Tunis. Charles Quint came to Tunis and Hızır Hayreddin engaged in battle against the Emperor. He had only 12.000 men and defeated the Emperor in the beginning. Charles Quint was able to capture Tunis after long lasting battles in 941/1534<sup>4</sup>. Hasan had accepted that the Spaniards would plunder Tunis three days, and they did. Being unable to suppress a rebellion in Kayravan, Hasan went to Spain to get help. His son Ahmad, Emir of Bona, came to Tunis secretly, accepted the bey'at from the notables and became Sultan<sup>5</sup>. When Hasan came with the Spanish fleet, the people engaged in war against him and the Spaniards fiercely. Hasan was overcome and captured<sup>6</sup>. The Spaniards took refuge into the castle which they had built at Halkulwadi, at the entrance of Tunis, and the Spanish fleet sailed off<sup>7</sup>.

The Hafsites were unable to defend Mehdiye against the Genoese who plundered the city and ruined its walls in 957/1550.

On the other hand, Kılıç Ali Paşa, Beglerbegi of Algeria, conquered Tunis in 977/1569<sup>8</sup>. Spanish fleet came with Ahmad. Before landing, when the captain showed a paper that the Spanish Emperor would be partner in ruling Tunis, Ahmad refused. His brother Muhammad accepted that proposal and entered Tunis with the help of Spaniards in 980/1572. The Spaniards committed every kind of oppression and impertinence, they put their horses in Ziotuna Mosque, one of the oldest Muslim temples in North Africa, older even than the Ezher Mosque in Egypt. They hurled the

3 Kâtip Çelebi, *Tuhfatü'l Kibâr fi Asfâri'l Bihâr*, p. 45, İstanbul 1329.

4 Ahmad b. Abi'd Diyâf, *İthâfu Ahli'z Zamân bi Ahbâri Mulûki Tûnis wa Ahd'i'l Amân*, II, 13.

5 Ibid., II, 14.

6 Ibid., II, 15.

7 Ibid., II, 16.

8 Ibid., II, 17.

books of Abdeliyye Library which was in the Ziotuna Mosque to streets and trampled on them<sup>9</sup>.

Thus Tunis became a very dangerous christian stronghold between Ottoman provinces of Trablus and Algeria in North Africa. The triangle of Malta-Sicily-Tunis had a great strategical importance and seperated Algeria from the Ottoman State. So, it was necessary for Ottomans to break this triangle at whatever cost for the sake of future of Islam in North Africa. Ottoman Sultan Solim the Seccdnd sent a fleet under Sinan Paşa and Kiliç Ali Paşa, and they conquered Tunis in 981/1573<sup>10</sup>. Thus being removed from North Africa, Spain colonized the South America and latinized it.

### TUNIS UNDER OTTOMAN RULE

Sinan Paşa left in Tunis 4.000 janissaries before he returned to Istanbul<sup>11</sup>. There was a bölükbaşı at the head of every 100 janissaries. The bölükbaşıs were member of the Diwân, local administration. The general governor was Beglerbegi. Sinan Paşa appointed Haydar Paşa as the first Beglerbegi of Tunis<sup>12</sup>. Tunis was given so to speak, independence as far as the internal affairs were concerned, just as the other western provinces (Garb Ocakları, i.e., Algeria and Trablusgarb) of the Ottoman State, on account of distance. There was a Beg of estates (in Arabic: Amîrul Awtân) whose duty was to collect tax. The first Beg was Ramazan who had took part in the conquest of Tunis. There was a Kadiasker (military judge). The first Kadiasker was Hüseyin Efendi<sup>13</sup>. Sinan Paşa did not impose any tax on Tunis to be paid to Istanbul.

9 Ibid., II, 18.

10 Kutbu'ddîn Muhammad b. Ahmad al Makkî, al Barku'l Yamânî fi'l Fathil Usmânî, 227 b - 229 b, Tunis, Ahmadiyya Library, 4984.

11 Ibn Abî Dînâr, Abû Abd'illâh Muhammad b. Abî'l Kâsim ar Ru'aynî al Kayrawânî, al Mûnis fi Ahbâri Ifrikiyya wa Tûnis, p. 179, Tunis 1350.

12 Husayn Hôca, Başâiru Ahli'l İymân bi Futûhâti Âli Usmân, Zayl, p. 3, Tunis 1326/1908.

13 Husayn Hôca, Başâir, Zayl, p. 3; İthâf, II, 27.

This order continued for 18 years. The Beglerbegi appointed by Istanbul, governed Tunis. In the meantime the bölükbaşı used to treat janissaries badly. Janissaries made a surprise attack while the bölükbaşı were assembled at Diwân and killed them, in Zilhicca 999/October 1591<sup>14</sup>. The influence of Beglerbegi had been diminished. Thus, the actual sovereignty passed to the hands of Dayıs, janissaries with personal influence and strength. I only mention here how the Dayıs emerged in Tunis, pointing out to the fact in a detailed separate article in Turkish and Arabic<sup>15</sup>.

The first Dayı to emerge was Rodoslu İbrâhîm. He could only remain three years as Dayı. He went to Mecca as pilgrim and didn't return to Tunis, but went to Rhodes where he settled<sup>16</sup>. The second Dayı was Mûsa. The third Dayı was Osman Dayı. This Dayı was the first real sovereign of the country. He was very brave and good natured. He was the first Dayı who was able to leave the capital to collect tax, which was the custom of the country since the Hafsites.

Osman Dayı died in 1019/1610<sup>17</sup>. I must point out that Osman Dayı's sovereignty was an actual sovereignty. The official sovereign was Paşa, Beglerbegi of Tunis. The next dayı was, Yusuf Dayı. During his sovereignty the rank of Paşa bestowed by Istanbul upon Murad, Beg of Awtân (districts) in 1041/1631<sup>18</sup>. It was custom that the Beg would collect the tax. It was important, because, the Beg would go to nomads of the country with some units of soldiers, and this fact gave him a position of an actual sovereign to some extent. And now that Murad Beg had the rank of the official sovereign too, put him in a very important situation. It led in course of time, transition of power from Dayıs to Begs. This topic was studied in another article<sup>19</sup>.

14 Ibn Abî Dînâr, al Mûnis p. 179; İthâf, II, 28.

15 Dr. M. Maksudođlu, Tunusta Dayıların Ortaya Çıkışı, A.Ü. İlâhiyât Fakültesi Dergisi (Review of the Faculty of Theology, Ankara University) XIV, pp. 189 - 202 (Turkish) and pp. 203 - 219 (Arabic), Ankara 1967.

16 Ibn Abî Dînâr, al Mûnis, p. 179; İthâf, II, 28.

17 Ibn Abî Dînâr, al Mûnis, p. 183; Tunis 1350.

18 al Mûnis, p. 187; İthâf, II, 34.

19 Dr. M. Maksudođlu, Tunus'ta Hâkimiyetin Dayılardan Beylere Geçişi, A.Ü.İ.F. Dergisi, XV, pp. 173-186, Ankara 1968.

Murad Beg was the founder of the Muradite Dynasty (1631 - 1702) in Tunis. Ibrâhim Şerîf took over by consent of Istanbul in 1702. He became Dayı, Beg and Paşa of Tunis<sup>20</sup>. Paşa İbrâhim Şerîf Dayı Beg was captured in a battle against Algerians in 1705<sup>21</sup>. Alarmed at the possibility of an Algerian assault on Tunis without a Beg responsible for the province, the notables made Huseyn, son of Alî Turkî Beg of Tunis, and he became the founder of the second dynasty in Tunis under Ottomans<sup>22</sup>.

### THE HUSEYNITE DYNASTY (1705-1881)

#### 1 — Huseyn Beg, son of Alî Turkî (1705-1740)

Huseyn Beg defended Tunis against Algerians. Having no sons in the beginning, he made his nephew Ali responsible for collecting tax when Ali was 17 years old<sup>23</sup>. On the other hand, there was Muhammad, son of Mustafa a close friend of İbrâhim Şerîf, who went to al Hicaz met the Tunisian pilgrims and important persons there, and then met C â n ı m H ô c a , the Captain of the Ottoman Fleet. Muhammed came to Tunis in the Ottoman Fleet in 1715. Cânım Hôca sent word to Huseyn Beg to resign from his post for Muhammad. Huseyn Beg gathered the notables, Paşa and the members of Dîwân, and told them: «I didn't want to become Beg. You insisted and I accepted. Now, you decide». They decided unanimously to resist Kaptan Paşa. If he wouldn't go away, they would bombard the Ottoman ships. Kaptan Paşa went away<sup>24</sup>. This event is very important. Huseyn Beg had every right from his point of view. He was reluctant, and accepted to become Beg under very difficult circumstances. He was successful in establishing order in the province. Now, wanting him to resign was contrary to nature. The notables were right in their conduct too; the Central Government in Istanbul couldn't appreciate the circumstances in that distant province. Personality of the sove-

20 Muhammad as Sarraj (vizier), al Hulal, II, 110 a, Ahmadiyya 4968.

21 Ibid., II, 120 a; Başâir, Zayl, p. 16.

22 al Hulal, III, 2 b, İthaf, II, 84.

23 İthaf, II, 98.

24 al Hulal, III, 63 b; İthaf, I 99.

reign was very important for stability and internal order in Tunis. And the Ottoman State was right; the Ottomans conquered the country in the 16th century from Spaniards, the strongest crusader state of Europe. The Khutba on pulpits of mosques in Tunis and the coin were in the name of Ottoman Sultan, being tokens of his sovereignty. The Ottoman State was right in asking that the sovereign in Tunis should be appointed from Istanbul, the person should be decided on in Istanbul, not in Tunis. The Ottoman State had given Tunis internal independence, just from the beginning, on account of distance, but, it was an Ottoman province after all. Kaptan Paşa went away and did well, avoided an internal conflict. Because, in case of appointing a Paşa, not desired in Tunis, would cause upheavals.

Huseyn Beg's first wife was daughter of Osman Dayı. She didn't bear a child. Huseyn Beg married a Genoese captive girl who became a Muslim, and she bore Mehmed, Ali, Mahmûd and Mustafa<sup>25</sup>. When his son Mehmed came of age, Huseyn Beg decided to make him responsible for collecting tax. To remove his nephew Ali from that post, Huseyn Beg wrote to Istanbul and requested that Paşa of Tunis should be his nephew Ali, in 1137/1725<sup>26</sup>. Istanbul accepted and Huseyn Beg proclaimed his nephew Ali's being Paşa (Beglerbegi) of Tunis. This fact didn't please Ali Beg. Because, the Beglerbegi was just a symbol and had no actual power. Thus, he waited for a convenient time, and fled from Tunis, gathered nomads and finally seized the power with help of Algerians in 1148/1735<sup>27</sup>.

## 2 — Ali Paşa, son of Mehmed, son of Ali Turki 1735 - 1756

Ali Paşa, left Dayı Hacı Ali in his post in the beginning. Later, in 1152/1739 appointed Kâhya of Kasaba Mahmûd, as Dayı<sup>28</sup>.

At the Tabarka peninsula, near the Algerian frontier, some people from Genoese used to get coral from sea by permission of Ottoman Sultan and used to pay a fixed amount of money to Tu-

25 Muhammad Sagır b. Yûsuf, al Maşra'u'l Malakî, 6 b.

26 Ibid., 7 a.

27 al Maşra', 81 b; İthaf, II, 117.

28 İthaf, II, 118.

nis and Algeria. Beg of Tunis, Ali Paşa, sent ships and an army under his son Yunus Beg to Tabarka, and captured the 900 genocse there in 1153/1741<sup>29</sup>. Then, Yunus Beg, captured the village of Tamkert whose inhabitants were french, and delivered them to the French Consul in Tunis<sup>30</sup>. Thus, Tunis was on the brink of war against France. On account of British Fleet's presence in Toulon at that time, France was compelled to make peace with Tunis, so that she would be able to struggle with Britain<sup>31</sup>. It is apparent that Ottoman province of Tunis was in a position in the middle of eighteenth century to engage in battle againts France.

### 3 — Mehmed Beg, son of Huseyn Beg 1756 - 1759

Huseyn Beg's two sons, Mehmed and Ali, came with the Algerian army and took over Tunis in 1756. Mehmed became Beg of Tunis and Ali was his loyal helper<sup>32</sup>. The contemporary source's author Muhammed as Sagîr, narrates all the events in detail. Mehmed Beg became ill and died in 1172/1759, and his brother Ali succeded him<sup>33</sup>.

### 4 — Ali Beg, son of Huseyn Beg 1759 - 1777

Ali Beg left the officials in their posts. The Ottoman State had sent rank of Paşa to Mehmed Beg, but he had died before the envoy arrived at Tunis. Ali Beg became Paşa of Tunis instead<sup>34</sup>. Vizier Hammuda b. Abd al Azîz who lived all the affairs, states that the two brothers were on good terms. So, it was natural that Ali Beg became Paşa, instead of his late brother.

Ali Beg made his son Hammuda deputy, and wrote to Istanbul begging fermân for his son Hammuda. When fermân came,

29 al Maşra', 83 a; İthaf, II, 124.

30 al Maşra', 83 b; İthaf, II, 125.

31 İthaf, II, 126.

32 al Maşra', 135 b.

33 al Maşra', 138 a.

34 Hammûda b. Abd al Azîz (Vizier), al Kitâbu'l Bâşî, I. 4 a, Ahmadiyah Library, 6553, Tunis.



all the officials swore allegiance to Hammuda Beg on 1 Muharram 1191/9 February 1777<sup>35</sup>.

### 5 — Hammuda Paşa Beg 1777 - 1813

He was educated perfectly, well versed in Islamic jurisprudence and history<sup>36</sup>. When France occupied Egypt in 1213/1798 Ottoman State informed all the muslim regions that the safety of arrival to Kâ'be was in danger. Tunis supported Ottoman State. Upon France's withdrawal from Egypt in 1802, signed peace treaty with France again<sup>37</sup>.

Hammuda Beg was on good terms with Ottomans who represented the Islamic Unity.

### 6 — Osman Beg, son of Ali Beg, son of Huseyn Beg 1813 - 1814

When Hammuda Paşa died in 1813 at Bardo, Beg's family gathered. Vizier Yusuf told that 'heir of the sovereign should be his brother' and he swore allegiance to Osman Beg, son of Ali Beg and the others followed him in doing so<sup>38</sup>.

On the other hand Mahmûd, son of Mehmed Beg, was the eldest of the family. One night, made away with Osman Beg 1230/1814<sup>39</sup>.

### 7 — Mahmûd Beg, son of Mehmed Beg 1814 - 1824

Mahmûd Beg wrote to Istanbul that, being the eldest it was his right to become Beg of Tunis when Hammuda Beg died. But Osman Beg took over and he was hostile to Mahmud and his sons, so Mahmud made away with Osman, and the people of Tunis

35 İthaf, II, 78; Muhammad as Sunûsî, Musâmarâtuz Zarîf bi Husni't Ta'rif, p. 35, Tunis 1296.

36 Musâmarât, p. 35.

37 İthâf, III, 33.

38 İthâf, III, 91.

39 İthaf, III, 97.

wanted his becoming Beg of Tunis<sup>40</sup>. Ottoman State, appointed Mahmûd, Beg of Tunis, thought of asking a yearly tribute, but gave up the idea, because She didn't get tax from Algeria which was also on the same situation with Tunis<sup>41</sup>.

When Greeks rioted in 1821 Ottoman State asked for military help from her vassals. Mahmud Beg sent a fleet to help Ottomans under Morali Ahmed Reis and all the people of Tunis called in all the mosques for the victory of Ottoman Sultan.

Mahmud Beg died in 1824 and his son Huseyn succeeded him<sup>42</sup>.

### 8 — Huseyn Beg, son of Mahmûd Beg 1824 - 1835

Huseyn Beg sent to Istanbul for his becoming Beg, upon his father's death, along with a Turkish mahzar signed by the distinguished people, begging ferman for him<sup>43</sup>. When ferman came from Istanbul, it caused great joy in Tunis<sup>44</sup>.

In 1830 Algiers became on the brink of war with France because of a jew named Bu Cenah. France wrote to Huseyn Beg of Tunis that if he helped Algeria through land, Tunis would be at war with France too. Ottoman State sent Tahir Paşa to remove Dayı of Algeria and to save Algeria from French occupation. French fleet was near port of Algeria. Tahir Paşa came to Tunis, informed Beg that he wanted to go to Algeria through Tunis. Huseyn Beg feared and didn't allow Tahir Paşa to land, so he returned to Istanbul. Huseyn Beg sent an envoy to Istanbul to apologise. The envoy turned with assurance that Ottoman State didn't intend to nunish Tunis<sup>45</sup>. Huseyn Beg formed a Nizamî Army after Ottoman Army, he recruited sons of the soldiers to new Nizamî Army<sup>46</sup>.

40 Ottoman Archives, H.H. 22558 E.

41 Ottoman Archives, H.H. 48761.

42 İthaf, III, 153.

43 Ottoman Archives, H.H. 27144.

44 İthaf, III, 156.

45 İthaf, III, 179.

46 İthaf, III, 193.

### 9 — Mustafa Beg, son of Mahmud Beg 1835 - 1837

When Huseyn Beg died in 1835, his brother Mustafa succeeded him. He sent to Istanbul for his becoming Beg officially and lawfully<sup>47</sup>.

Ottoman State sent ferman to Mustafa Beg, in the meantime wanted a yearly tribute. Mustafa Beg would accept it but his son Ahmad told him that he shouldn't, because it would make easier for Ottomans to change Beg whenever they liked and this would be the end of Huseynite dynasty in Tunis. So, they decided not to pay tribute and wrote to Istanbul apologising that the nomads in the country wouldn't accept to pay tribute, resembling cizye, the tax collected from the christians and jews<sup>48</sup>. Tahir Paşa came with fleet to Trablus to establish there law and order. Mustafa Beg wrote to Istanbul stating that he was a loyal servant to the Ottoman Sultan<sup>49</sup>.

### 10 — Ahmad Beg, son of Mustafa Beg 1837 - 1855

When Mustafa Beg died in 1827 his son Ahmad succeeded him. He sent Mustafa Pehlivan to Istanbul with the documents that the people wanted his becoming Beg<sup>50</sup>. Mustafa Pehlivan returned with Riyâle Osman to Tunis, he brought sword, guns and horses to Ahmad Beg. Riyâle Osman informed Ahmad Beg orally that the State asked for a yearly tribute from Tunis just to show that it was an Ottoman Province. But Ahmad Beg didn't accept, saying that the soldiers needed barraes, arms, etc., and the nomads of the country wouldn't accept it<sup>52</sup>. Ahmad Beg didn't want to pay tribute wich would mean proclamation of Tunis, being an Ottoman Province. On the other hand, her didn't want either to be seen in a defiant position. So, he sent a venerable person, İbrâhîm ar Riyâhî, to Istanbul to apologise, and he sent

47 İthaf, III, 198.

48 İthaf, III, 200,

49 Ottoman Archives, H.H. 22749.

50 İthaf, IV, 11, 12.

51 İthaf, IV, 17.

52 İthaf, IV, 18.

with him an arabic letter. Ottoman State did not insist on tribute for the time being<sup>53</sup>.

When Ottoman Sultan Mahmud the Second died in 1839 and Abdulmecid succeeded him to the throne, Ahmad Beg changed the khutbas in mosques to the name of the new sultan<sup>54</sup>.

In 1839 Ahmad Beg accepted the Belgian consul in Tunis<sup>55</sup> as if Tunis was an independent state.

When a consul of Austria came to Tunis in 1845 with a document from the consul of Austria in Istanbul, Ahmad Beg didn't accept him, and feared from the Ottoman State. He sent Köşk Mehmed with gifts to Istanbul. Ottoman State, seeing that Ahmad Beg fears very much, assured him that he would remain Beg of Tunis during his life, and informed him that the State didn't insist on the tribute<sup>56</sup>.

Ahmad Beg consulted British and French consuls in Tunis on the matter. The British were in favour of Ottomans against France. Ahmad Beg wrote to Istanbul and said that between the Ottomans and his family there were strong ties and his family was loyal to Ottomans<sup>57</sup>.

Ahmad Beg went to France in November 1846 and Ottoman State protested it<sup>58</sup>. Ahmad Beg wanted to visit Britain too, but when he learned that he would be met there only along with the Ottoman ambassador to London, he cancelled his trip and apologized to Britain<sup>59</sup>. Britain wouldn't like France's taking over Tunis and getting larger in the North Africa, so, supported Ottoman policy towards Tunis.

Nevertheless, Ahmad Beg sent 14.000 troops to support Ottoman State in Crimean War, and the Sultan thanked him<sup>60</sup>. Ahmad Beg died in 1855<sup>61</sup>.

53 İthaf, IV, 25.

54 İthaf, IV, 33.

55 İthaf, IV, 34.

56 İthaf, IV, 84.

57 İthaf, IV, 85.

58 Lutfî Tarihi, VIII, 70.

59 İthaf, IV, 112.

60 İthaf, IV, 162.

61 İthaf, IV, 166; Mucâmarât, p. 55.

### 11 — Abû Abdillâh Muhammed Beg 1855 - 1859

He is son of Ahmad Beg's uncle Huseyn Beg. He was appointed by Istanbul officially in September 1855<sup>62</sup>.

He proclaimed *A h d u l e m â n* a sort of European law under French and British pressure<sup>63</sup>. The French consul in Tunis advised Beg to get water to the capital from Zagwân. This project would ruin finance of the country as vizier Ahmed b. Abi'd Diyâf who saw the events and recorded them in his valuable book *Îthaf*, states openly<sup>64</sup>.

Muhammed Beg died in September 1859<sup>65</sup>.

### 12 — Mehmed Sâdik Beg 1859 - 1881

Sâdik Beg is brother of Mehmed Beg. He took allegiance on 23 September 1859<sup>66</sup>.

In 1860 Sâdik Beg went to Algeria and met Napoleon III there.

Sâdik Beg signed an agreement with Britain on 10 October 1863 to the fact that the British citizens who lived in Tunis would be able to buy estates in Tunis<sup>67</sup>. The French, of course, didn't like it<sup>68</sup>.

Sâdik Beg levied new taxes which caused upheavals in the country. In Sfax and in Susa, the people hoisted Ottoman flag and called the Ottoman Sultan for help<sup>69</sup>. The French consul came to Sâdik Beg and asked him officially to cancel the constitution saying that «the former French consul wanted you to proclaim the constitution, but he was wrong, and I do want you to cancel it»<sup>70</sup>.

The French consul asked Sâdik Beg to change top officials too, but Sâdik Beg refused. Because, it would lead to such a si-

62 *Îthaf*, IV, 190.

63 *Îthaf*, IV, 240.

64 *Îthaf*, IV, 264.

65 *Îthaf*, IV, 265.

66 *Îthaf*, V, 13.

67 *Îthaf*, V, 100.

68 *Îthaf*, V, 105.

69 *Îthaf*, V, 146.

70 *Îthaf*, V, 150.

tuation that Beg would appoint, in course of time, only whom the French consul would accept. In return, any official who would like to keep his post, would try to please the French consul.

The Ottoman State supported Sâdik Beg to save Tunis from French occupation<sup>71</sup>. On the other hand, the international situation was in favour of France to occupy Tunis. Bismarck had told the French envoy in Berlin conference in 1878 that France could occupy Tunis<sup>72</sup>. The British Foreign Minister Salisbury had informed the French that Britain wouldn't object French occupation of Tunis<sup>73</sup>. Because, Britain had settled in Cyprus, wanted to occupy Egypt, so she didn't like to oppose France. Germany would like France getting larger out of Europe and disperse troops here and there. Finally, Russia, would support every effort to cause making the Ottoman State weaker<sup>74</sup>.

France exploited Vizier Mustafa whom she promised reign of Tunis after Sâdik Beg. And Mustafa wanted French protection of Tunis, but Sâdik Beg refused.

And, when the tribe of Krumir on the Algerian border crossed the border to Algeria, France sent troops and occupied Tunis in May 1881<sup>75</sup>. Ottoman State protested, but France distorted the historical facts and stated that she entered Tunis only to establish law and order<sup>76</sup>.

In conclusion, it is seen openly that Tunis was occupied by France in 1881, but the foundations of seperation from Ottoman State were laid down by Ahmad Beg.

71 İthaf, VI, 29.

72 Ord. Prof. Dr. Enver Ziya Karal, Osmanlı Tarihi, VIII, 78.

73 Muhammad Bayram, Safwatu'l İ'tibâr, III, 132.

74 Muhammad Bayram, Ibid., III, 133.

75 Arthur Pellegrinc, Histoire de la Tunisie, p. 176, Paris 1941.

76 Muhammad Bayram, Safwatu'l İ'tibâr, III, 124.