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An Ottoman delegate in Paris:Mehmed Galib Efendi

Paris’te Bir Osmanlı Murahhası: Mehmed Galib Efendi

Abstract: Diplomacy is a crucial factor that sustains a state in the international arena. Embassies are the exclusive entities that conduct diplomatic processes overseas in bilateral relations. The Ottoman Empire initiated diplomatic contacts with the principalities and states on its periphery since its inception, albeit not in an institutional manner. The establishment of embassies, driven by political and commercial motivations, commenced with mutual connections with Venice with the conquest of Istanbul, then extending to Poland, Russia, France, Austria, England, and the Netherlands. Under Selim III, a permanent embassy was established in France. This was the initial phase of institutionalisation. Following the reconciliation between the Ottoman Empire and France, and the subsequent development of this process, Galip Efendi assumed the position of extraordinary envoy (ambassador of the Devlet-i Aliyye) in Paris. Galip Efendi's primary difficulty during this period will be to effectively implement a policy of equilibrium in relation to the diplomats of France, Russia, and England. The Ottoman Empire needed to assert itself diplomatically with these states, with which it had engaged in conflict across various regions of the empire. The primary focus of this microhistorical study is to highlight the diplomatic connections of Mehmed Galip Efendi, the Ottoman ambassador to Paris, who significantly contributed to the evolution of Ottoman diplomacy. Alongside archive sources, secondary sources and images are employed to enhance the arguments presented in the text.

Key Words: Ottoman Empire, Embassy, France, Ambassador, Galip Efendi

Öz: Bir devleti uluslararası arenada ayakta tutan parametrelerin başında diplomasi gelmektedir. Devletin ikili ilişkilerde diplomasi sürecini yurtdışında yürüten yegâne kurum da elçiliklerdir. Osmanlı Devleti kuruluş yıllarından itibaren (kurumsal anlamda olmasa da) çeperindeki beylikler ve devletlerle diplomatik ilişkiler kurmuştur. Siyasi ve ekonomik sebeplerle gelişen süreçte İstanbul’un fethinin hemen akabinde Venedik ve daha sonra Lehistan, Rusya, Fransa, Avusturya, İngiltere ve Hollanda ile gelişen karşılıklı ilişkiler sonucunda elçiliklerin ilk adımları atılmıştır. III. Selim ile birlikte ise Fransa’da ikamet elçiliği açılmıştır. Bu durum kurumsallaşmanın ilk adımı olmuştur. Osmanlı Devleti’nin Fransa ile yaklaşması ve sürecin olgunlaşması ile birlikte Galip Efendi fevkalade murahhas (Devlet-i Aliyye murahhası) unvanı ile Paris’te göreve başlamıştır. Galip Efendi’nin bu dönemde zorlanacağı temel konuların başında Fransa, Rusya ve İngiltere’nin diplomatlarına karşı denge politikasını başarı ile yürütmesi olacaktır. Zira Osmanlı’nın, imparatorluğun farklı yerlerinde karşı karşıya geldiği bu devletlerle diplomasi masasında da güçlü olması gerekirdi. Mikro tarih ölçeğinde ele alınan bu çalışmanın temel problematiği ise Osmanlı diplomasisinin gelişmesinde kayda değer bir yer edinen Osmanlı Devleti adına Paris murahhası Mehmed Galip Efendi’nin görevde olduğu süreçteki diplomatik ilişkilerine vurgu yapmaktır. Makalede arşiv kaynaklarının yanı sıra ikincil kaynaklar ve görseller kullanılarak metin içindeki argümanlar zenginleştirilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Osmanlı Devleti, Diplomasi, Elçi, Fransa, Murahhas, Galip Efendi

Extended Abstract

The Ottomans have been in diplomatic relations with the states in their geography since the time they emerged on the stage of history as a principality. As a result of its expanding borders in the process of its transformation from a principality to a state, the Ottomans appointed ambassadors to establish political and economic relations with states such as Genoa, Venice and Milan. These people were called “extraordinary ambassador”. The duties of these acting ambassadors were to conduct peace negotiations, conclude treaties, ensure the establishment of good relations, announce the accession of the new sultan to the throne or congratulate the new king or ruler who ascended to the throne, deliver the sultan’s letter addressed to him, and be present at the coronation and enthronement ceremony. After the conquest of Istanbul, Poland in 1475, Russia in 1497, France in 1525, Austria three years later, England in 1583 and the Netherlands in 1612 opened embassies in the capital of the Ottoman Empire. With Sultan Selim III, the Ottoman

Empire sent “resident ambassadors” to European centers. The first embassy in this sense was opened in London and Yusuf Ağâh Efendi, known as the Clerk of the Galleons, was appointed as the first permanent ambassador to London on July 23, 1793. In 1797, Seyyid Ali Efendi from Morali was sent to Paris, the capital of France, Ali Aziz Efendi from Crete to Berlin and İbrahim Atıf Efendi to Vienna as resident ambassador. In this study, which examines the diplomatic relations of the Ottoman Empire, we come across Mehmed Galip Efendi, who was the clerk of the council of muhâkeleme (secretary of the deliberation council) in the *Treaty of Jassy* (Yaş) with the Russians in the capital of the state within the framework of the above narratives, and then held some civil servant positions such as serhalifelik, cebeci clerkship and ametçi, as the architect of the bilateral relations of the state in the field of diplomacy in France. Especially at the end of the process that started with Napoleon’s invasion of Egypt, Mehmed Galip Efendi was sent to Paris as an extraordinary envoy during the diplomatic attacks between France and the Ottoman Empire. Galip Efendi appeared before Napoleon Bonaparte at the Tuileries Palace, where he was invited, and was presented by the French Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Talleyrand as the “Ambassador of the Ottoman Empire”. The most significant aspect of the subject pattern discussed in this study is that one of the main challenges Galip Efendi after taking office in Paris would be to successfully carry out the balance policy against the diplomats of France, Russia and Britain. Because the Ottoman Empire needed to maintain a strong diplomatic presence at the negotiation table with these states, with whom it had confronted in different parts of the empire, especially in Egypt. In this sense, the return of a victorious state on the field with a loss at the table could have been the end of its career. The Ottoman Empire did not intend to break its friendship with the British in Alexandria and the Russians in Algiers-i Seb’a and did not wish to lose France. Galib Efendi had to get the treaty to be signed accepted not only by the French side but also by the British and Russian diplomats. Because both sides saw themselves as the guarantors of the treaty. Mehmed Galib Efendi also had to deal with the Amiens Peace Treaty of 1802 between France and Britain. Ultimately, Galib Efendi’s arduous diplomatic efforts in Paris and his collaboration with other states culminated in the successful signing of an eight- article treaty with France on June 12, 1802, followed by the signing the Paris Peace Treaty on June 25. Accordingly, while the second article of the treaty was about French merchants traveling freely under the French flags, this provision was expanded in the treaty and included in two articles (Articles 2 and 3: In the second article, the covenant and condition between the Republic of France and the Ottoman, which had been in force between the two parties and which had confirmed and confirmed all kinds of mutuality, was renewed in its entirety even this time. Therefore, the observance of the condition contained in the ancient treaty, which has been revoked, is also valid for the francophone countries in accordance with the interests of the other nations. Validity of the French flag in the Black Sea, and the French merchant ships flying the French flag in the Black Sea shall be allowed to sail without any interference, and the benefits that are valid for the French by the Ottoman in accordance with the provisions of the law shall be valid for the subjects and merchant ships of the Republic of France in the Republic of France as well as in the Republic of France. The Ottoman side will accept the treaty signed between France and England in Amiens on March 26, 1802). Thus, France had achieved its goal of reaching the Black Sea from the beginning and Bonaparte had achieved a great success by regaining commercial privileges in order to relieve the French economy, which had collapsed as a result of the wars France had fought. Another important issue, which was forgotten in the Treaty and considered to be important, was the appointment of a consul to protect the rights of the French who would engage in commercial activities in the Black Sea. A French merchant who would trade in the Black Sea would have no authority to turn to in case of problems with the state or anyone else. The appointment of a consul was added to the third article of the Treaty of Paris. Within a few months, on 21 September 1802, France established a general consulate in Sinop, followed by subordinate commissariats in Trabzon and Ereğli. In recognition of his success in Paris, Galip Efendi was promoted to the position of *grand tezkireci* by being given the position of *ganem mucatıcı* (ganem mukatacılığı). Thus, Mehmed Galib Efendi was promoted to the second rank of state officials.

Introduction

Upon its inception as a border principality, the Ottoman Empire initiated diplomatic contacts with the surrounding principalities and states for political and economic objectives. As the state's frontiers expanded and its influence grew, ambassadors were dispatched to forge diplomatic and commercial ties with Italian city-states such as Genoa, Venice, and Milan. In 1408, the Venetians proactively signed a peace contract with Emir Süleyman and Çelebi Mehmed for the first time. In accordance with bilateral ties, both Venetians and Genoese dispatched ambassadors to the Ottoman Empire at various intervals.¹ Since the Ottomans ascended as a state, they dispatched their envoys, initially designated as sergeants and then as extraordinary

¹ Ahmet Yüksel, *II. Mahmud Devrinde Osmanlı İstihbaratı*, Kitap Yayınevi, 2. Basım, İstanbul 2017, p. 173.; Mehmet İpşirli, “Elçi”, *Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi (DİA)*, V/11, Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı (TDV) Yayınları, İstanbul 1995, p. (İpşirli, 1995)3-4Yüksel (2013); Musa Kılıç, “İlk İkamet Elçilerinin Halefleri Rum Maslahatgüzarlar (1800-1821)”, *Tarih Araştırmaları Dergisi*, V.38, Issue/65, Ankara 2019, p. 252.(Kilic, 2019)

ambassadors, to foreign nations on a temporary basis (ad hoc).² The responsibilities of the aforementioned extraordinary ambassadors include conducting peace negotiations, formulating treaties, fostering amicable relations, announcing the enthronement of the newly ascended sultan, congratulating the new king or ruler upon their accession to the throne, delivering the sultan's correspondence, and attending the coronation and enthronement ceremony. Subsequently, they fulfil their mission and return to the country.³ The inaugural permanent embassy in the city was established by Venice the year after the conquest, succeeded by Poland in 1475, Russia in 1497, France in 1525, Austria in 1528, England in 1583, and the Netherlands in 1612.⁴ The Ottoman Empire, conversely, did not maintain a resident embassy in the capitals of European nations until the late eighteenth century. Selim III resolved to dispatch "residence envoys" to European capitals to closely monitor developments in Europe following the unsuccessful wars and significant setbacks.⁵ The primary challenge Selim III faced in this endeavour was determining which state's capital should host the first embassy. The inaugural resident embassy was planned for France, where amicable relations have long been cultivated. Nevertheless, the revolution that erupted in France in 1789 altered the state order. Following the revolution, a new administration was instituted in France, and a resident ambassador was dispatched to Istanbul.⁶ Consequently, the Ottomans abandoned their plans to establish a diplomatic mission in France, both to avoid confrontation with European governments and due to their failure to recognise the newly formed French government. Rather than France, he opted to locate his embassy home in London, the capital of England, where he subsequently met others later than anticipated.⁷ Yusuf Ağâh Efendi,⁸ recognised as the Clerk of the Galleons, was designated as the inaugural permanent ambassador to London on July 23, 1793.⁹ Subsequent to London, efforts were made to create new embassy residences in several European capitals. In 1797, Seyyid Ali Efendi was dispatched to Paris, the capital of France, Ali Aziz Efendi to Berlin, and İbrahim Atıf Efendi to Vienna as resident ambassadors.¹⁰ Moralı Seyyid Ali Efendi, appointed as the inaugural resident ambassador to France during Sultan Selim III's reign, authored two distinct volumes documenting his experiences at this period.¹¹ The Paris Treatise encompasses his views and the historical account of France during his time in Paris Risalesi in 1797.¹²

1. Mehmed Said Galib Efendi's Life Before the Embassy

Information and facts regarding Mehmed Said Galib Efendi's life prior to his public service are exceedingly limited. The actual date of birth of Said Galib Efendi, the son of Seyyid Ahmed Efendi, the Chief of the Grand Vizier Letter Office, is unknown. İsmail Hakkı Uzunçarşılı, in his

² M. Alaaddin Yalçinkaya, "Osmanlı Devleti'nin Yeniden Yapılanması Çalışmalarında İlk İkamet Elçiliklerinin Rolü", *Toplumsal Tarih*, V.6, Issue/32, Ağustos 1996, p. 45.(Yalçinkaya)

³ F. Reşit Unat, *Osmanlı Sefirleri ve Sefaretnâmeleri*, TTK, Ankara 1968, p. 17-19(Unat, 1968); Hüner Tuncer, *Eski ve Yeni Diplomasi*, Ümit Yayınları, Ankara 1995, p. 44-45.(Hüner, 1995)

⁴ İpşirli, *op.cit.*, p. 8.

⁵ İpşirli *op.cit.*, p. 8.

⁶ Yüksel, *op.cit.*, p. 179; Yalçinkaya, *op.cit.*, p. 45.

⁷ Ercümen Kuran, *Avrupa'da Osmanlı İkamet Elçiliklerinin Kuruluşu ve İlk Elçilerin Siyasi Faaliyetleri 1793-1821*, Türk Kültürünü Araştırma Enstitüsü, Ankara 1968, p. 13.(Kuran, 1988)

⁸ Ercümen Kuran, *op.cit.*, p. 15.

⁹ Emre Aracı, *Türk Büyükelçisi'nin Merasim Marşı Yusuf Ağâh Efendi'nin Londra Günleri*, Andante, 2012, p. 82-86.Aracı (2012)

¹⁰ M. Alaaddin Yalçinkaya, *The First Permanent Ottoman-Turkish Embassy in Europe, The Embassy of Yusuf Ağâh Efendi to London (1793-1797)*, Isis Press, İstanbul 2010, p. 41.(Yalçinkaya, 1993)

¹¹ Kuran, *op.cit.*, p. 23-25.

¹² İbrahim Küreli- Osman Nihat Bişgin, *Moralı Seyyid Ali Efendi'nin Fransa Sefareti ve Paris Risalesi*, Türk Tarih Kurumu Belgeler, V/ 38, Issue/42, 2023, p. 230.(İbrahim Küreli, 2016)

¹³ İbrahim Küreli- Osman Nihat Bişgin, *op. cit.*, p. 230.

essay published in Belleten magazine, stated that Galib Efendi was born in 1763.¹³ Mehmed Süreyya's renowned work, *Sicill-i Osmani*, indicates his birth year as 1763/64.¹⁴ Galib Efendi was ten years old at the time of his father's demise. He was placed under the care of Abdullah Berri Efendi, who occupied significant state roles, including Rais al-Kuttap¹⁵ and Kethuda of the Grand Viziership,¹⁶ and commenced working under his father's tutelage. He was bestowed the title of hodja in 1787 after participating in a military operation.¹⁷ Near the conclusion of the Russian-Ottoman War that commenced in 1787, he assumed the role of clerk for the advisory council during the formulation of the Treaty of Jassy (Yaş). Upon his return, he was bestowed the title of serhalifah. Galip Efendi, who briefly served as a clerk of cebeci, was subsequently elevated and became an Amedi in 1798.¹⁸ He resided in Istanbul as a Rikab-ı Humayun Amedi during the Ottoman military campaign in Egypt and fulfilled the role of Amedi for approximately five years.¹⁹

2. Mehmed Said Galib Efendi in Paris Delegation

The origins of the connections between France and the Ottoman Empire can be traced to the era of Suleiman the Magnificent.²⁰ After establishing amicable relations with France, the Ottoman Empire conferred commercial privileges in 1536.



Figure 1: Mehmed Said Galib Efendi Photo Archive of Sultan Abdulhamid II in the Rare Works Library of Istanbul University (<http://nek.istanbul.edu.tr:4444/ekos/FOTOGRAF/90850---0046.jpg>)

¹³ İsmail Hakkı Uzunçarşılı, "Amedi Galib Efendi'nin Murahhaslığı ve Paris'den Gönderdiği Şifreli Mektuplar", *Belleten*, V.1, ISSUE/1, Türk Tarih Kurumu Yayınları, Ankara Nisan 1937, p. 357.(Uzunçarşılı, 1937)

¹⁴ Mehmed Süreyya, *Sicill-i Osmani*, V.2, Tarih Vakfı Yurt Yayınları, İstanbul 1996, p. 544.(Süreyya, 1996)

¹⁵ S. Gül Akyılmaz, "Osmanlı Miras Hukukunda Kadının Statüsü", *Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, V.11, Issue/1, Haziran 2007, p. 488; M. Aladdin Yalçınkaya, "Türk Diplomasisinin Modernleşmesinde Reisülküttab Mehmed Raşid Efendi'nin Rolü", *Osmanlı Araştırmaları*, V.21, Issue/21, Haziran 2001, p. 112.(Akyılmaz, 2007)

¹⁶ BOA, TS.MA.e. 540/58.

¹⁷ Carter V. Findley, *Kalemîyeden Mülkiyeye Osmanlı Memurlarının Toplumsal Tarihi*, Çeviri: Gül Çağalı Güven, Alfa Yayınları, İstanbul 2020, p. 47-50.(Findley, 1996)

¹⁸ M. İlkin Erkutun, *Mevrid'ül-Uhud 1812 Bükreş Andlaşması ile İlgili Galib Paşa Evrakı*, (İstanbul Üniversitesi, Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, Yakınçağ Tarihi Anabilim Dalı, Yayınlanmamış Yüksek Lisans Tezi), İstanbul 1997, V.. XV; Uzunçarşılı, *op.cit.*, p. 358; Süreyya, *op.cit.*, p. 544; BOA, HAT. 1653/9, 223/12466.Erkutun (1997)

¹⁹ Uzunçarşılı, *op.cit.*, p. 358; Orhan Fuat Köprülü, "Galib Paşa, Mehmed Said", *Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi (DİA)*, V.13, Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı (TDV) Yayınları, İstanbul 1996, p.330(Köprülü, 1996); Ayşegül Tokmak, *Mehmed Said Galib Efendi'nin Diplomasi Kariyeri (1802-1812)*, (Soysal, 1996)(Trakya Üniversitesi, Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, Tarih Anabilim Dalı, Yayınlanmamış Yüksek Lisans Tezi), Edirne 2019, p. 6-8; BOA, TS.MA.e. 786/47.

²⁰ İsmail H. Soysal, "Türk-Fransız İlişkileri", *Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi (DİA)*, V.13, Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı (TDV) Yayınları, İstanbul 1996, p. 181.(Soysal, 1996)

Nonetheless, these rights, initially granted to France on a temporary basis, gradually became permanent. Consequently, the Ottoman Empire afforded French merchants certain advantages, including customs exemptions, unrestricted wholesale commerce, and the transmission of inheritance to heirs.²¹ A series of alliance treaties were established between the Ottoman Empire and France against other states both at sea and on land. The partnership agreements were augmented by business advantages, fostering a tight friendship. France opened its inaugural embassy in 1525, with diplomats residing continuously in Istanbul.²² Consequently, Jean de la Foret was appointed as the inaugural diplomatic envoy of France to the Ottoman Empire.²³ During the tenure of the Marquis de Notiel, the treaty dated November 10, 1679, acknowledged France as the exclusive patron of Eastern Christians and lowered the customs duty rate relative to other nations. This action precluded France from joining the European states.²⁴ Due to the emerging political climate at the onset of the eighteenth century, it became imperative to dispatch an exceptional envoy to France. Yirmisekiz Çelebi Mehmed was assigned to the diplomatic mission with the backing of Nevşehirli Damad İbrâhim Pasha. Upon Çelebi Mehmed's arrival in Paris on March 21, 1721, he was received by King Louis XV at the palace with an extraordinary ceremony. During the inaugural event, Mehmed Efendi delivered the name-i humayun of Ahmed III, the correspondence from Ibrahim Pasha, and the esteemed presents he had brought for the king, who was but twelve years old at that time.²⁵ In response to economic advancement and military setbacks in Europe, the Ottoman Empire sought to restructure its army by recruiting officers from France, which it considered an ally, beginning in the 18th century. Subsequently, the French mission to Egypt precipitated a prolonged cessation of diplomatic, economic, and military contacts between the two nations.²⁶ At the age of 25, Napoleon, a Brigadier General, initiated efforts to seize Egypt, which he regarded as the paramount stronghold for controlling the Mediterranean and the East, from the Ottomans. His sole objective was not to rule the Mediterranean; rather, he sought to acquire Egypt, the critical leverage in compelling them to negotiate peace in the conflict with England. Through this gamble, Napoleon, who endeavoured and ultimately persuaded the directories for the annexation of Egypt, invaded the territory with a substantial naval force of 35,000 soldiers. The ease of the Egyptian invasion can be attributed to Napoleon's clandestine and rapid operations.²⁷ Confronted with an unforeseen manoeuvre from France, perceived as an ally, the Ottomans forged an alliance with the British and the Russians, expelling France from Egypt. A peace treaty was essential with the French, whom the Ottomans had ousted from Egypt due to alliances. Before the peace treaty, the initial protocol was signed on 9 October 1801. The Ottoman signature was affixed by Ambassador Ali Efendi in Paris, while the French signature was provided by Foreign Minister Talleyrand.²⁸ This preliminary protocol stipulates that France will withdraw all its troops from Egypt and transfer control of Egypt to the Ottoman Empire. Furthermore, France would officially acknowledge the

²¹ Azmi Süslü, "Osmanlı-Fransız Diplomatik İlişkileri, 1798-1807", *Belleten*, V.47, Issue/185, Haziran 1983, p. 259.(Süslü, 1983)

²² Soysal, *op.cit.*, p. 181-182; İpşirli, *op.cit.*, p. 8.

²³ İsmail H. Soysal, *Fransız İhtilâli ve Türk-Fransız Diploması Münasebetleri (1789-1802)*, Türk Tarih Kurumu Yayınları, Ankara 1999, p. 74(Soysal, 1987); Sevil Gözübüyük, *Osmanlı- Fransa İlişkileri Ve Kapitülasyonlar (XVI.-XVII. Yüzyıllar)*, (Pamukkale Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, Yayınlanmamış Yüksek Lisans Tezi), Denizli 2017.(Gözübüyük, 2017)

²⁴ Soysal, *op.cit.*, p. 182.

²⁵ Zeki Arıkan, "Yirmisekiz Çelebi Mehmed Efendi", *Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi (DİA)*, V.43, Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı (TDV) Yayınları, İstanbul 2013, p. 551.Arıkan (2013)

²⁶ Süslü, *op.cit.*, p. 262.

²⁷ Fahir Armaoğlu, 19. Yüzyıl Siyasi Tarihi 1789-1914, Türk Tarih Kurumu Yayınları, Ankara 1997, p. 55-58.(Armaoğlu, 1997)

²⁸ <https://web.archive.org/web/20110719181947/http://www.talleyrand.org/> (15.07.2024).

territory of Venice and the Republic of the Seven Islands.

“Founded in 1800 under the auspices of the Ottomans and Russia, the Republic of the Seven Islands (The Republic of The Seven United Islands), Corfu (Korfu), Kefalonia (Kefalonya), Zante (Zante), Ayamavra (Lefkas), Chuka (Cerigo), Itaki (It consisted of the islands of Ithika) and Paxos (Paxos). This political structure, which the Ottomans called the Republic of Cezâyir-i Seb'a-i Müctemia, was located in the northwest of the Peloponnese, in the south of Albania, and in the region formerly called the Venetian Sea, where the Adriatic Sea and the Mediterranean intersect.”²⁹

In opposition to these requests, France insisted on the liberation of the prisoners and the reinstatement of commercial rights.³⁰ Following the preliminary protocol signed by the Ambassador and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the primary concern was the formulation of the peace treaty. Consequently, Amedi Galib Efendi was dispatched to Paris on 7 October as an extraordinary envoy.³¹ A correspondence was addressed to the Foreign Minister of England concerning the confidence and esteem for Said Galib Efendi.³² Similarly, they were requested to place their trust in Galib Efendi. Galib Efendi, designated as a delegate, departed for Paris approximately one month following his appointment. Galib Efendi documented the observations made during his expedition to Paris. Upon reaching the Austrian border in late April, Galib Efendi experienced an unforeseen occurrence, despite being welcomed with a military fanfare. The authorities mandated the quarantine of Galip Efendi and his companions. Subsequently, after Galip Efendi presented the official correspondence in his possession, he was permitted to depart with his retinue.³³

3.The Process Leading to The Treaty

Upon Galip Efendi's arrival in Paris on 3 June, he was welcomed by Ali Efendi. He designated the translator Franki to follow Galib Efendi, the French chargé d'affaires in Istanbul. Bonaparte, however, stated that Franki would not serve as a companion and designated a general to meet Galib Efendi. Upon receiving the delegation, Seyyid Ali Efendi, Galib Efendi, and the designated companion general entered the vehicle and departed for the residence assigned to Ali Efendi by the Paris Governor's Office. Subsequently, Galib Efendi communicated his presence in Paris and requested an appointment for the next day by dispatching his translator to the palace. Galib Efendi had not only notified the French authorities of his arrival in Paris but also dispatched envoys to the Russian Ambassador Markof and the British Ambassador Merry for a meeting. He also solicited information from the embassies regarding the evolving situation and pertinent topics prior to his arrival in Paris. Russian. Ambassador Markof proposed mediation to the envoy dispatched by Galib Efendi. Furthermore, the ambassador dispatched the messenger, conveying that Galib Effendi required an urgent meeting with him. Upon his arrival in Paris, Galib Efendi commenced his initial diplomatic endeavours and met with the Prussian Ambassador Luchessi. Subsequently, he reached out to General Colonel Sebastian, who had been dispatched to the sultan to ratify the preliminary agreement struck with Ali Efendi, but returned without endorsing the arrangement.³⁴ Through these discussions, Galib Efendi aimed to gauge the sentiments of France and ascertain the French objectives. On the third day following Galip Efendi's arrival in Paris, the chief attendant of France visited the residence. He stated that Galib Efendi and his entourage were

²⁹ Ali Fuat Örenç, “Yedi Ada Cumhuriyeti”, *Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi (DİA)*, V.43, Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı (TDV) Yayınları, İstanbul 2013, p. 384-387.(Örenç, 2013)

³⁰ Ahmed Cevdet Paşa, *Tarih-i Cevdet*, VII, 2. Baskı, Dersaadet Matbaa-i Osmaniyye 1309. p. 141-142; Soysal, *op.cit.*, p. 312-317.(Paşa)

³¹ BOA, A.DVNSNMH.d. 9/457; BOA, A.DVNSNMH.d.9/458; BOA, C.HR. 100/4966.

³² BOA, HAT. 140/5818.

³³ Unat, *op.cit.*, p. 181-182.

³⁴ Belkıs Altunış-Gürsoy, “Âmedî Galib Efendi Sefaretnâmesi”, *Erdem*, Atatürk Kültür Merkezi, Aydın Sayılı Özel Sayısı, V.9, Issue/27, Ankara 1997, p.921-922.(Altunış-Gürsoy, 1997)

invited to the ball organised at the Tuileries Palace for the military exercise termed "parade" the following day. A splendid hinto with six horses was assigned to Galib Efendi for the occasion. Galib Efendi and his retinue proceeded to the palace with the hinto designated for them. Upon their arrival at the palace, ambassadors from Russia, England, and other nations engaged in conversation with them. Subsequently, they present themselves before Bonaparte alongside Foreign Minister Talleyrand Galip Efendi. Talleyrand introduced Galib Efendi to Napoleon as "the Ottoman envoy". Following Galip Efendi's introduction, Bonaparte enquired about the details of his travels. Following Bonaparte's conference with the other diplomats, he convened briefly with Galib Efendi once again. Galip Efendi elucidated this entire procedure comprehensively in the correspondence he dispatched to Sultan Selim III.³⁵

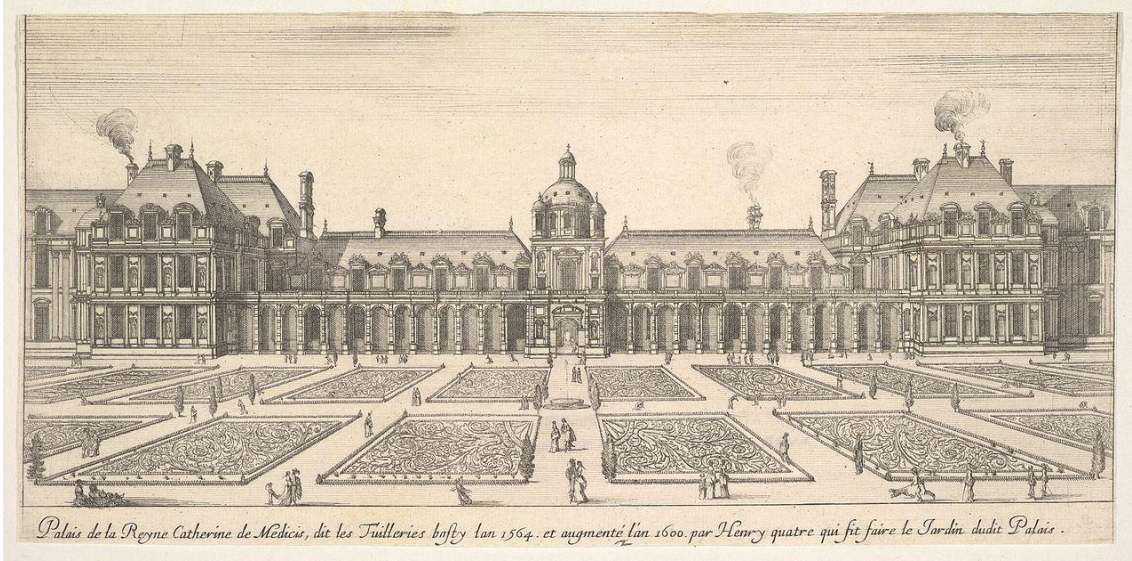


Figure 2: Tuileries Palace in the 1600s³⁶

On the sixth day of his arrival in Paris, Galib Efendi, accompanied by Ali Efendi, met with the embassies of Austria, Russia, England, Spain, Sicily, Prussia, Sweden, and Denmark. Bonaparte encouraged Talleyrand to cultivate favourable connections with Galib Efendi and extended dinner invitations to the deputy on two occasions.³⁷ Galib Efendi, designated as the delegate, faced a formidable challenge. As the representative of a triumphant state, a defeat at the negotiating table may have signalled the conclusion of his career. As the representative of a triumphant state, a defeat at the negotiation table may have signified the conclusion of his career. The Ottomans, conversely, had no desire to sever their alliance with the British in Alexandria and the Russians in Algiers-i Seb'ai, nor did they wish to forfeit their relationship with France. Galib Efendi needed to render the pact agreeable to both the French and the British and Russian ambassadors. Both parties perceived themselves as the custodians of the pact. On October 8, 1801, France consented to allow the Russians to mediate the preliminary treaty, but subsequently retracted this agreement.³⁸ Conversely, Britain sought to finalise the deal under British oversight. The Ottomans, conversely, choose the Russians as a participant in this issue. The Reisülküttap was instructed to correspond with Koçi Bey, the Minister of Umur-ı Ecnebiyye, requesting that Markof, the Russian delegate in Paris, endorse Galib Efendi. This matter was also addressed during the meeting with the Russian ambassador.³⁹ One of the concerns that troubled Galib Efendi

³⁵ Altunış-Gürsoy, *op.cit.*, p. 921-925.

³⁶ <https://collections.louvre.fr/en/ark:/53355/cl020567821> (05.01.2024)

³⁷ Altunış-Gürsoy, *op.cit.*, p. 922-923.

³⁸ Soysal, *op.cit.*, p. 313.

³⁹ BOA, HAT. 169/7155.

during his visit to Paris, which he monitored closely, was the Amiens Peace Treaty signed between England and France on March 27, 1802. France and Britain were engaged in negotiations to conclude the Second Coalition Wars that commenced in 1798. Nevertheless, the Ottoman Empire was excluded from the initial talks of this pact. The circumstances and events rendered Galib Efendi apprehensive.⁴⁰ While in Paris, Galib Efendi maintained correspondence with Istanbul, updating them on his activities and the information he acquired. This correspondence was transmitted in code for security purposes.⁴¹ A few days later, the court chamberlain and a French officer approached Galib Efendi to extend an invitation to a ball at the palace. Galib Efendi accompanied the host general and his interpreter to the palace designated for him. Talleyrand was the initial individual to welcome him at the palace, after which the regent escorted him to Bonaparte. Bonaparte convened a private meeting with Galib Efendi and the interpreter. During this meeting, Galib Efendi articulated two objectives. The primary objective was to rejuvenate the camaraderie and collaboration amongst the states, while the secondary aim was to express the sultan's sentiments regarding Bonaparte's commendable actions. He presented the name-i hümayun to Bonaparte along with its translation. Bonaparte then conveyed to Galib Efendi his gratification about both the correspondence and his appointment as delegate. Bonaparte asserted that his true objective was not to engage the Ottomans, but rather to progress into India to undermine the British, a notion that was misconstrued. During their subsequent meeting, Bonaparte enquired if Galib Efendi required any assistance. Galib Efendi procured a loan from him due to the postponement of funds dispatched from Istanbul.⁴² Galib Efendi's intimate friendship with Bonaparte, evidenced by his borrowing of funds, sufficiently demonstrates his diplomatic success.

4. Treaty of Paris (1802) and Contents

Galib Efendi's extensive diplomatic efforts in Paris and his collaboration with other nations, particularly Russia, had culminated. Nevertheless, this process had significantly fatigued him. Talleyrand, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, a notably indecisive statesman, attempted to alter the agreements made the previous day. An eight-point accord was established between Mehmed Said Galib Efendi, the Amedcil (chief secretary) of the Divan-ı Humayun, and Deputy Foreign Minister Talleyrand.⁴³

The articles of the treaty made between the aforementioned persons;

1- There will be a permanent peace between the Ottoman Empire and the French Republic.

2- In the second article, the covenant and condition between the Republic of France and the Ottoman, which had been in force between the two parties and which had confirmed and confirmed all kinds of mutuality, was renewed in its entirety even this time. Therefore, the observance of the condition contained in the ancient treaty, which has been revoked, is also valid for the francophone countries in accordance with the interests of the other nations. Validity of the French flag in the Black Sea, and the French merchant ships flying the French flag in the Black Sea shall be allowed to sail without any interference, and the benefits that are valid for the French by the Ottoman in accordance with the provisions of the law shall be valid for the subjects and merchant ships of the Republic of France in the Republic of France as well as in the Republic of France.

⁴⁰ Soysal, *op.cit.*, p. 303-305; Nihat Karaer, "Fransa'da İlk İkamet Elçiliğinin Kurulması Çalışmaları ve İlk İkamet Elçimiz Seyyid Ali Efendi'nin Paris Büyükelçiliği (1797-1802) Sürecinde Osmanlı-Fransız Diploması İlişkileri", *Tarih Araştırmaları Dergisi*, V.31, Issue/51, Ankara 2012, p. 63-92.(Karaer, 2012)

⁴¹ BOA, HAT. 169/7217, 163/6791, 141/5845, 1093/44373.

⁴² Altunış-Gürsoy, *op.cit.*, p. 923-925.

⁴³ Galib Efendi is referred to as "Director of the Riyaset-i Umur".

3- The Ottoman side will accept the treaty signed between France and England in Amiens on March 26, 1802.⁴⁴

4- The French Republic and the Ottomans will become guarantors of each other's land.

5- The confiscated property and belongings of ambassadors and subjects in the presence of States shall be fully identified and returned.

6- The sixth article relates to duties and customs, and in order to eliminate any disputes that may arise due to the new regulations, both sides shall apply and act in accordance with the ancient customs in their respective countries in this regard.

7- If there are prisoners on both sides, all of them will be released and handed over to each other.

8- This treaty, which contains eight articles, is to be ratified in Paris within 80 days of its drafting, or as soon as possible thereafter.

This treaty, of eight articles, was executed in Paris on June 12, 1802, with the parties' seals affixed.⁴⁵ Subsequent to the treaty's ratification, a preface and an epilogue were draughted for inclusion in the document.⁴⁶ France prioritised the capacity of its vessels to engage in unrestricted trade along the Black Sea coastline. The French side was amenable to reaching an agreement from the outset. During the discussions, Talleyrand caused Galib Efendi to waver, as this was the initial prerequisite for finalising the pact. To avoid actions that would undermine the interests of his state, Galib Efendi enquired of the sultan regarding the issue. Sultan Selim III acquiesced to the French proposal, as he supported the substitution of his army with French officers.⁴⁷ Despite France's supremacy in Mediterranean commerce, it was unable to infiltrate the Black Sea trade. France recognised the economic significance of the commercial concessions it had acquired since 1533. The forfeiture of these agreements may have undermined Bonaparte's authority, which he had usurped by force in 1799. The commercial contraction Bonaparte encountered throughout his reign can be quantified. From 1787 to 1789, French imports and exports totalled 19.5 million and 39.9 million francs, respectively, however from 1797 to 1799, exports and imports declined to 5.2 million and 3.8 million francs, respectively. France's endeavour to capture Egypt resulted in a cessation of trade with the Ottoman Empire.⁴⁸ Consequently, despite the shifting trade routes, France remained steadfast in its objective of accessing the Black Sea to offset its losses. Following the deal executed between Galib Efendi and Talleyrand, the primary concern was the ratification of the peace treaty. France and the Ottomans promptly executed the Treaty of Paris on June 25, 1802, approximately two weeks later. This pact was, in fact, an augmented iteration of the agreement reached on June 12. The second provision of the treaty, concerning the unrestricted passage of French merchants under French flags, was elaborated upon and incorporated into two articles (Articles 2 and 3). Consequently, France accomplished its objective of accessing the Black Sea from the outset. Bonaparte attained significant success by restoring economic rights to alleviate the French economy, which had deteriorated due to the conflicts France had engaged in. An further concern, overlooked in the Treaty yet deemed significant, was the establishment of a consul to safeguard the rights of French nationals involved in business endeavours in the Black Sea. A French trader trading in the Black Sea would lack recourse to any authority in the event of disputes with the state or other parties. The appointment of a consul was incorporated into the

⁴⁴ Amiens is a city in the northern region of France. It is located on the banks of the Somme River. <https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amiens> (15.07.2024).

⁴⁵ BOA, HAT. 11/354; 140/5807.

⁴⁶ BOA, HAT.138/5665.

⁴⁷ Belkıs Altunış Gürsoy, *op.cit.*, p. 925.

⁴⁸ Özgür Yılmaz, "19. Yüzyılda Trabzon'da Fransız Ticareti ve Yatırımları", *Karadeniz İncelemeleri Dergisi*, V.8, Issue/15, Güz 2013, p. 41.(Yılmaz, 2013)

third article of the Treaty of Paris.⁴⁹ France established a general consulate in Sinop on September 21, 1802, shortly thereafter. It additionally built sub-commissariats under this consulate in Trabzon and Ereğli.⁵⁰ It would be inaccurate to assert that the swift conclusion of this treaty, finalised between the parties in only 22 days, was a straightforward process. Galib Efendi's correspondence with the Sultan distinctly reveals the diplomatic acumen of Talleyrand positioned across from him. Galib Efendi's poise in response to Talleyrand's guile would fully unlock the potential of his career. Following the ratification of the treaty, dinners are conducted in Paris. Galib Efendi notified Bab-ı Ali that a cannonade akin to that in Paris should be orchestrated in Istanbul. The Ottomans designated Aleksan, an interpreter of the Divan-ı Humayun, as chargé d'affaires in Paris, succeeding Seyyid Ali Efendi.⁵¹ A subsequent issue that required resolution following the treaty with France was the customs tariff, which remained unresolved with France. In 1802, the Ottomans dispatched a communiqué to the foreign embassies in Istanbul. Bab-ı Ali's communiqué said that foreign merchants engaging in trade within Ottoman territory were required to pay the same taxes as Ottoman merchants.⁵² A directive was dispatched from Istanbul to Paris indicating that Galib Efendi should confer with Talleyrand regarding this issue. Prior to departing Paris, Galib Efendi met with Talleyrand to discuss the customs tariff matter. During this encounter, Talleyrand apprised Galib Efendi that the issue will be addressed by the French envoy in Istanbul, Broune.⁵³ Galib Efendi subsequently spoke with Broune in Paris; however, Broune indicated that he had not received any directives on this issue.⁵⁴ Conversely, England did not acquiesce to the exemption of French merchants from customs charges for a specified duration as stipulated in the seventh article of the Treaty of Paris. Britain contested this provision, arguing that it would jeopardise its interests and trade in the region. The British ambassador notified Istanbul that Galib Efendi must rectify this error promptly, or European nations would declare war on the Ottoman Empire. The envoy insisted that British merchants be excluded from the customs tax until the requisite amendment was implemented.⁵⁵ Following Galib Efendi's triumph in Paris, he was elevated to the role of great tezkireci by being appointed as ganem muqatıcı.⁵⁶ Consequently, Mehmed Galib Efendi was elevated to the second tier of state authorities. Bonaparte, satisfied with Galib Efendi's conduct, encountered other diplomats and statesmen in Paris, where he had arrived to ratify a treaty, thereby cultivating a network of acquaintances.⁵⁷

Conclusion

Said Galip Efendi, born in 1763 as the son of Seyyid Ahmed Efendi, the ser caliph of the Sadaret Mektubi Kalem, commenced his civil service career under the patronage of Abdullah Berri Efendi, following his father's guidance. While draughting the Treaty of Iasi, he served as the clerk of the council of muhâkeleme, and upon his return, he was bestowed the title of ser caliph in his pen. Subsequent to his tenure as a clerk for the cebeciler, he was designated as Amedçi in 1798. During his tenure as Amedçi, Galib Efendi was designated as a delegate to travel to Paris on October 7, 1801, to facilitate the preparation of the treaty to be signed following the expulsion of the French from Egypt, with the endorsement of Sultan Selim III. In late April, Galib Efendi journeyed to Paris by land and meticulously documented his observations along the route.

⁴⁹ Nihat Erim, *Devletlerarası Hukuku ve Siyasi Tarih Metinleri*, Ankara Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Yayınları, V.I, Türk Tarih Kurumu Basımevi Ankara 1953, p. 215-217.(Erim, 1953)

⁵⁰ Özgür Yılmaz, "Güney Karadeniz'de Yeni Fransız Politikası: Pascal Fourcade ve Sinop Konsolosluğu (1803-1809)", *Cahiers Balkaniques*, V.42, 2014, p. 37.(Yılmaz, 2014)

⁵¹ BOA, HAT. 140/5807; BOA, A.DVNSNMH.d, 10/1, p.18.

⁵² Mübahat S. Kütükoğlu, *Osmanlı-İngiliz İktisadi Münasebetleri I (1580-1850)*, Türk Kültürü Araştırma Enstitüsü, Ankara 1974, p. 56-57.(Kütükoğlu, 1974)

⁵³ General Bruone, Fransa tarafından İstanbul'a büyükelçi olarak atanmıştır. BOA, HAT., 166/6969.

⁵⁴ BOA, HAT., 258/14821; Tokmak, *op.cit.*, p. 29-30.

⁵⁵ BOA, HAT., 169/7219.

⁵⁶ BOA, AE.SSLM.III. 265/15313.

⁵⁷ Altunış-Gürsoy, *op.cit.*, p. 925.

In each region he travelled, he encountered throngs of individuals eager to behold an Ottoman subject in his presence. Upon arriving in Paris on June 3 following a nearly month-long journey, Galib Efendi's initial task was to solicit meetings with fellow ambassadors. Upon arriving in Paris, he proceeded to the Tuileries Palace with his host general and entourage, spoke with the ambassadors, and subsequently, escorted by Minister of Foreign Affairs Talleyrand, had the opportunity to see Bonaparte. Galib Efendi promptly commenced his diplomatic endeavours, engaging sequentially with representatives from England, Russia, Austria, and other nations. The task now involved draughting and negotiating the treaty, which was the purpose of Galib Efendi's assignment there. Talleyrand, one of Bonaparte's most trusted statesmen, stood before him. During the treaty's formulation, Talleyrand was a guy whose opinions fluctuated daily, which greatly exasperated Galib Efendi. Upon France's participation in negotiations, the primary stipulation that would not be relinquished was the reinstatement of concessions and the need for access to the Black Sea. Nine days after Galib Efendi's arrival in Paris, he and Talleyrand formulated and endorsed an eight-point treaty. Thirteen days subsequent to this pact, the pact of Paris, with ten articles, was executed. During this economically troubled period in France, the signed treaty restored its right of passage in the Black Sea and the benefits it had forfeited. The Ottomans, conversely, were content with the deal, believing it would facilitate the acquisition of allies. The treaty's provision on tax exemption generated conflict between the Ottomans and Britain for a period. Galib Efendi not only secured Bonaparte's favour through his diplomatic achievements but also ascended to the second rank of state official due to his exceptional *tezkirecilik*. Galib Efendi's future statesmanship was significantly influenced by the friendships and connections he established via his diplomatic endeavours. Upon completing his engagements in France, Galib Efendi returned to Istanbul. In conclusion, Galip Efendi, akin to Seyyid Ali Efendi and Giritli Ali Aziz Efendi, can be characterised as a "wolf" politician and had a significant position in the diplomatic history of the Ottoman Empire.

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