

GERMANY IN TURKEY

How Did The Teuton Get There



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THE annual interest charged on part of the Ottoman government's national indebtedness, the part covered by loans, amounts to about one-third of its actual revenue.

All in all, before she entered the war, Turkey's net revenue was equal to one-seventh of the interest due on her total indebtedness.

After the Balkan war, bound as she was in international shackles, Turkey added links to her chains, until she had mortgaged every available harbor, river, forest and mine to European bankers. And now, without money, men or prestige, here she is again shackled to allies who cannot help her; isolated, fighting three first-class powers, who are striking her from both flanks, rear and front.

We will be certainly defeated and immediately afterward we will start all over again, "doing business at the same old stand"; whatever is left of our "integrity" will be "guaranteed" jointly by our combined enemies and friends, and we will continue paying interest on our national debts; for we are a hopeless case.

Had we been any other nation or people we would have been annihilated 200 years ago, but we are Ottomans, and being Ottomans we have a charm all our own. This charm is our debt to all nations.

But that was not all. Enver's sojourn in Berlin had its evil effect. Within two months after the proclamation of the new Ottoman constitution many feuds and frictions arose in the ranks of the party itself; these feuds were those of the Liberal and Nationalist Young Turks. The Liberal Young Turks attempted to commit the empire to a "liberal policy" and demanded the recognition of the equality of all elements throughout the empire in the eyes of the constitution, while the Nationalists insisted on adopting a policy of Nationalism, which they named "the committee of union and progress." They demanded that all elements unite for the progress of Turkish nationalism. This "union and progress" is the equivalent of the "German Kultur" and was backed up by the newly converted "Turkish Junkery."

Thereupon the Liberal element within the Young Turkey party, having already been disgusted with the behavior of the Nationalist clique, which was playing the part of the power behind the throne, formed a secret parliamentary coalition with the Conservative Old Turks and formulated a programme for a permanent future policy. This scheme was to permit such numerous predominant Christian sectors of Turkey's Macedonian possessions to unite with such Balkan kingdoms as they chose; to recognize the independence of the Albanians and, having thus eliminated the eternal cause of discord in the Balkans, to form an entente with the newly created Albania and then with Montenegro, Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece; and, after having assured the security and the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, to adopt a stern foreign policy. In the meantime serious and swift internal reforms were to be undertaken.

This would have prevented the Balkan war and perhaps the present European conflagration. The programme was submitted to Sultan Hamid and, after one week's deliberation, was approved in its entirety. Early in January, 1909, however, the German Ambassador got wind of these negotiations between the coalition and the Sultan. The nationalists immediately busied themselves with columns against the Christian members of the Parliament. They incited the Moslem elements in the remote regions of the empire against their Christian countrymen. Meanwhile they arrested the liberal members of the Young Turkey party, denouncing them as plotters of a reactionary counter revolution against the constitutional regime. Finally, in March, 1909, the nationalists succeeded in staging a counter revolution in order to create a "pretense" to overthrow Abd-ul-Hamid and put an end to the coalition's Balkan programme. The memorable Adana massacre was to be carried through first, and the counter revolution afterward. The object was to connect Abd-ul-Hamid with massacre, but something went wrong and the plan was disarranged. Nevertheless, the perpetrators were not to be foiled. They carried the devilish programme through.

Enver Bey returned from Berlin and once more figured in the limelight beside Mahmud Shekret Pacha, when the latter made his triumphal march to Constantinople, suppressed the so-called counter revolution with an iron

hand, deposed Abd-ul-Hamid and put the present weak Sultan on the Ottoman throne. It was after this second revolution that the Old Turks, as well as the liberal Young Turks, were hanged or sent out to Anatolian provinces to build roads. Then, dispensing with the liberal Young Turks on one pretext or another, the "Committee of Union and Progress" (the Turkish Kultur), took full charge of the newer regime and controlled the foreign and the domestic policies of the empire. This newer revolution having cost more than \$15,000,000, the new regime was already under pecuniary obligations to the German financiers, who, representing themselves as German and Austrian Jews, had generously financed this second revolution.

So far as German interests were concerned, this sum was well spent. Germany did not wish to have the Ottoman empire absolutely independent in her dealings with the European powers. Furthermore, the elimination of the Macedonian question from the Turkish national politics would upset the Pan-Germanic dream, "from Berlin to Bagdad," forever. She had hitherto solidified herself as the patron of the Turk.

This counter revolution and the consequent establishment of a heavier and more efficient despotism under a new name in the capital of the Turk had amazed the political students of the world. The fragmentary cable dispatches never explained the peculiar workings of the Near Eastern politics. The energetic protests of the liberal Turks, as well as the serious warnings of the Christian population of Turkey, were drowned in the well-intentioned but misdirected praise of the Western world. The West did not and was not in a position to understand that the "Committee of Union and Progress" was a Turkish term for German Kultur and Prussian Junkery.

During the Balkan war Enver was away at Tripolitania, but during the sessions of the first Balkan conference in London, in 1913, having already arrived in Constantinople, he directed his every energy to preventing the cession of the besieged City of Adrianople to the Bulgars. Finally, when the Turkish government made up its mind to accept the proposal of the Ambassadorial conference in London, Enver headed a mob and appeared at the Ministry of War, protesting against the conclusion of the peace terms with the Bulgars. Finally, when the Turkish government made up its mind to accept the proposal of the Ambassadorial conference in London, Enver headed a mob and appeared at the Ministry of War, protesting against the conclusion of the peace terms with the Bulgars. Finally, when the Turkish government made up its mind to accept the proposal of the Ambassadorial conference in London, Enver headed a mob and appeared at the Ministry of War, protesting against the conclusion of the peace terms with the Bulgars.

This assassination took place on January 24, 1913, and simultaneously Kiamil Pacha and his Ministry were kicked out and Shekret Pacha, the ardent nationalist and the leader of the Junkery, became the Grand Vizier and Minister of War. The new regime finally accepted the original Ambassadorial proposal in its entirety. This transaction had a tendency to discredit them in the eyes of the Moslem Turks, but soon afterward, when the Balkan League broke up, Enver recaptured Adrianople, and the prodigiously ignorant Anatolian Turk accepted this as a request of the lost province under the Enver regime.

Previously, Mahmoud Shekret Pacha,

the Grand Vizier and the Minister of War, having been removed by assassination, Enver had become a Pacha, and was promoted to the Ministry of War, under Prince Said Halim, the new Grand Vizier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and at the outbreak of the European war, early last August, this was the standing of the Turkish Ministry.

Abd-ul-Hamid's feeble tyranny in the past had already driven Turkey into such dire straits that even his successor to the throne was powerless in his struggles against the powerful foreign influences who ruled supreme in Constantinople.

We reason like this: The nations we are fighting own us body and soul. If they defeat us, which they certainly will, they will take what belongs to them; on the other hand, if the Teutons defeat the allies, we will repudiate our international indebtedness. So, whether we win or lose, we will not receive anything, and yet we cannot lose, for we have nothing to lose.

And again, Turkey was preparing to fight Greece, anyhow. The European crisis which broke out toward the end of July, 1914, had obscured the acute tension between her and Greece. British naval missions were busy reorganizing the fleets of the two prospective belligerents.

Meanwhile two dreadnoughts were being built for Turkey in the British shipyards. The funds for these dreadnoughts were raised through popular subscription, and when, upon the outbreak of the European war, Great Britain detained these ships, the Turk's anger knew no bounds. It was the straw which broke the camel's back.

The German party took advantage of the situation created by Great Britain's naval exigency. No promise on the part of the Western allies "to safeguard Turkey's integrity against any and all unforeseen enemies" could satisfy her. This predominating German influence in Turkey dates back to the Kaiser's visit to Constantinople on his way to Palestine, for it was to Asia Minor that Germany had turned her longing eyes. In the days of Abd-ul-Hamid, when the palace clique ruled supreme at Yildiz, the highest bidder obtained political and commercial ascendancy in the empire. Beginning in this simple

MEHMET RECHAD KHAN, EMPEROR OF OTTOMANS AND KHALIF OF MUSSULMANS.

city, it went through various stages of evolution until Prussia had availed herself of every opportunity in strengthening her hold over every governmental function of the empire. The Prussian exercised control over the Turk's civil government, taught him how to drill, sold him Krupp guns, ran his railroads, owned his copper and silver mines, built his schools, acquainted him with the German Kultur, and finally dominated his diplomacy, until he could lay claim not even to his own soul. Even the Turk's last asset, his religion, was utilized for military purposes to assist the central empire.

This was the condition of affairs during the Hamidian regime that had contributed to intensify the Young Turkey spirit in Turkey.

With the overthrow of the Hamidian regime in 1908 and the advent to power of the Young Turks the progress of the German influence in Turkey came to a standstill; but this was only temporary.

Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, Germany's able diplomatist, soon gained the confidence of the new regime. He represented to the Young Turkey leaders that no matter what regime might come to power the Ottoman foreign policy must remain exactly the same. Baron von Bieberstein argued that whatever the defects of the Hamidian regime might have been it had a wholesome regard for the safety and the integrity of the Ottoman Empire. This meant the unrevised continuation of the old Hamidian foreign policy. The civilian members of the Young Turkey party, who were numerically predominant, opposed the military members of the new regime supported Baron Bieberstein's programme, and from that time on the German party, the national militarist, called themselves "the committee of union and progress," while the anti-German element went under the name of "the Liberal Young Turkey party."

Within the first two months after the overthrow of the Hamidian regime more than 1000 opponents of "the committee of union and progress" were expelled from Constantinople, while 68 members of "the Liberal Young Turkey party" were hanged.

The career of "the committee of union and progress" can be better understood if we make a short survey of the checkered history of this "20th century wonder."

After the horrible macedonian massacres of 1903 the Emperors of Russia and Austria met at Muratag at a shooting box of Francis Joseph and up

the suggestion of the Russian Emperor a programme for reform in Macedonia was devised. Subsequently this scheme came to be known as the "Muratag programme."

Under this programme the Macedonian provinces of the Turk were divided into racial delimitations and certain measures of reform were undertaken by the gendarmeries of Austria, Great Britain, France, Italy and Russia. In order once more to demonstrate his friendship to his old friend, Abd-ul-Hamid, the German Kaiser withheld from participating in this scheme.

And still later, when King Edward and the Czar met at a conference at Reval, in June, 1908, and decided upon the necessity of a firmer and more drastic reform in Macedonia, the Young Turks, fearing for the integrity of their country, in sheer desperation struck their decisive blow the following July.

The much-advertised Enver Bey made his first dramatic appearance in the revolution of July, 1908. He is a product of the Constantinople Military Academy and until he took up his post as the Turkish military attaché at Berlin he had never been in Western Europe. He spoke French as his native tongue. Later he learned English and German.

When the Young Turks formed a secret branch committee at Salonica, in 1905, Enver was a Major, attached to the staff of Hilmi Pacha, the Inspector-General of Macedonia. He joined the Salonica committee immediately after its formation.

For three years the missionaries of the various secret branches of this committee directed their entire energies to winning over the army, for they realized that the constitution could not be wrung from Abd-ul-Hamid without the army, and force must be used. The civilian members of the committee doubted the wisdom and stability of a revolutionary victory over the old regime by the military. They feared that after the overthrow of the old regime the new regime would be at the mercy of the army. Enver Bey and other military members of the committee, on the other hand, maintained that after the overthrow of the old regime the new regime would be handed over to the civilians.

Following the successful revolt of the Young Turkey element, Hilmi Pacha proclaimed the Ottoman constitution, in the name of Sultan Abd-ul-Hamid, from the steps of the Provincial Capitol at Salonica, on July 24, 1908. Ahmed Riza Bey, who had spent

many years in Paris as a refugee and publisher of revolutionary literature, returned to Constantinople and became the President of the first Turkish Parliament. But from the first day of the Young Turkey party's advent to power it adopted a nationalistic policy based upon "Turco-Mohammedanism"—that is it asserted that the Turk being numerically predominant, the empire's affairs must be conducted with due consideration to the Turkish nationalistic aspirations, and Mohammedanism must be recognized as the official state religion, while other religions must be recognized by the new Turkish constitution as foreign religions, "chartered and privileged."

The 3,000,000 Turkish Christians resident throughout the empire considered this as an indirect disfranchisement of the non-Moslem elements, who are intellectually and economically superior to the numerically predominant Moslem Turk. While 33 per cent of the population of the empire is Christian of various denominations, under the Young Turkey party's management of the first election proceedings the Christian elements were unable to elect more than six per cent of the Parliament's membership.

The old Hamidian cunning diplomacy, setting one European power against the other as the exigencies required, was not effective under all circumstances. My country had accepted Germany as its protector in our past dealings with other European powers, and now Germany was in dire need of Turkey's forces in her war against Europe. Turkey had to fulfill its obligations to that power. But this was only a formal argument for Turkey entering the fray on the side of the Teutonic allies; the whole truth is that it had nothing to say regarding the matter. Turkey was already being ruled by the Germans.

When at last the great conflagration broke out the Turkish nationalism became a virtue, while the German gold made patriots out of the ill-paid Junkery. Expressions such as "the redemption of the lost provinces" and "war for the fatherland" became Ottoman slogans. Finally the western allies became convinced that Turkish neutrality was not likely to endure very long.

Turkish mobilization had already begun, but Germany was bound to hasten the crisis. On August 19, 1914, the two German warships Goeben and Breslau arrived at the Dardanelles and the very next day they became Turkish. On August 14 Admiral Limpus and all the officers of the British naval mission were replaced by the Germans and the mobilization of the Ottoman land and sea forces continued under German auspices. Every train from the west brought hundreds of German military and naval officers, until the entire province of Constantinople and its surrounding sectors had become a German camp. The civilian Moslem population of the capital seemed paralyzed with this peculiar invasion of their country. The martial law which had been in existence since the advent of the Young Turks to power was relentlessly used in suppressing opinions contrary to the policies of the regime in power. During these critical days hundreds of anti-

Why Did The Turk Enter The War



German military officers were shot as traitors.

The ill-paid soldiery, hopelessly ignorant of the significance of the German military incursions into our country, regarded the foreigners as the benefactors of the Turks. The German-controlled regime disarmed all the Christian soldiers in the army and put them to work as common laborers, building fortifications and military roads. Those who had the courage to raise their voices condemning the policies of the military regime were dealt with in such a fashion that they were never heard from again. But there were other methods, more effective means, to silence opposition.

Suddenly an army of Moslem softas (cozymen) were imported and, backed up by all the Turkish newspapers, these Mohammedan zealots began an energetic campaign in the city. The newspapers published reports of the "horrible crimes" committed by the western allies against their Moslem subjects in Africa, Egypt, India and elsewhere. These reports were sent broadcast throughout the Anatolian provinces. The Moslem softas incited the Turks to take up arms in defense of these suffering Moslems.

By the middle of September there were about 12,000 German soldiers and sailors in Constantinople. On October 25 \$20,000,000 in gold bullion was imported into Constantinople, consigned to the German Ambassador, and delivered at the Deutsche Bank.

This act of Germany turned the scale. On October 29 three Turkish torpedo-boats raided Odessa Harbor, sinking a Russian guard ship and damaging a French steamship and killing several Russian civilians. Theodosia was also bombarded.

It is also true that neither the Sultan nor the majority members of the Cabinet had knowledge of these attacks.

No, this war is not the Turk's war. But yet, he had committed himself to this suicidal policy, since he had allowed the unrestricted importation of the German civilization to his shores. Turkey's Anatolian hordes are fighting the western allies under the delusion that they are defending their Moslem faith. But the Turks are beginning to realize that they have been tricked to do their present allies' fighting for them. There is an ugly feeling in Constantinople, but Turks are slow in everything—slow in starting and slow in stopping.

The Italian Cricket a Ventriloquist.

J. H. FABRE, the French naturalist, tells us many interesting things about the life of insects. He gives us the social life as well as the ordinary food-hunting habits of the little creatures which creep and fly about the woods, mountains, valleys and fields. Of the Italian cricket he has this to say:

"The Italian cricket has not the black costume and heavy shape characteristic of the family. It is, on the contrary, a slender, weakly creature; its color very pale, as is natural in view of its nocturnal habits. In handling it one is afraid of crushing it between the fingers. It lives an aerial existence, on shrubs and bushes of all kinds, and rarely descends to the earth. Its song, the pleasant voice of the calm, hot evenings from July to October, commences at sunset and continues for a greater part of the night. This song is familiar to all country folk. It resounds even in granaries, into which the insect strays, attracted thither by the fodder."

"The song consists of a slow, gentle note, rendered more expressive by a slight tremor. If the insect is not in any way disturbed as it sits in the low foliage, the note will not vary, but at the least noise the performer becomes a ventriloquist. First of all you hear it there, in front of you, and in the next moment you hear it over there, 20 yards distant, then behind you it resounds, the double note decreased in volume by the distance."

"You go forward. Nothing is there. The sound proceeds from its original point; but no, it is not there! Much patience and many precautions will be required before you can locate and capture the insect."

"Amphibious."

W. B. Allen in Scribner's Magazine.

Speaking of fish stories, one cannot help being reminded of the occasion when a committeeman was examining a class of boys in the South. "Can any of you," he asked, "tell me what 'amphibious' means, and give a sentence to illustrate?" A bright little darky held up his hand. "I know, sah. It's lying! Mos' fish stories 'an' fictions!"