

**THE EASTERN QUESTION: A CONNECTED  
NARRATIVE OF EVENTS FROM THE  
MISSIONS OF COUNT LEININGEN AND  
PRINCE MENSCHIKOFF TO  
CONSTANTINOPLE, TO THE PRESENT DAY**

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**LEONARD FRANCIS SIMPSON**

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THE  
EASTERN QUESTION:

A CONNECTED

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

FROM THE MISSIONS OF

COUNT LEININGEN AND PRINCE  
MENSCHIKOFF TO CONSTANTINOPLE,

TO THE PRESENT DAY.

INCLUDING

ALL THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, NOTES, MANIFESTOS, AND TREATIES,  
RELATING TO THE EASTERN QUESTION, WITH THE PRINCIPAL POINTS  
OF THE DEBATES ON THE SUBJECT IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

THE WHOLE CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED, AND INTENDED FOR A BOOK OF  
REFERENCE FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT,

BY

LEONARD FRANCIS SIMPSON, M.R.S.L.



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1854.

223. v. 65.

## INTRODUCTION.

FOR nearly a twelvemonth the Ottoman Empire has been the central point of attraction to the politicians of Europe.

It is exactly four hundred years since the foundation of the Turkish Empire, when Mahomed II. (1453), stormed Constantinople, and drove out Constantine Paleologus, the last Emperor of the East. Since then, the Crescent has glittered over the minarets of Stamboul.

Prophets have not been wanting, who announce that the hour has arrived at last when the Cross will be raised on St. Sophia, and a new Christian Empire founded in the East.

The Ottoman Empire has however become indispensable to the BALANCE OF POWER in Europe. The plea of establishing the Christian faith brought forward by these dreamers, is at best a mask to conceal the wily plans and dark designs of ambition nourished by fanaticism.\* The days of Peter the Hermit are past.

\* Vide Layard's speech in the House of Commons, 16th August. "The inevitable result of placing a Greek Government at Constantinople, would be to throw the whole of Turkey into the hands of Russia, (hear, hear,) and to render impossible a future independence for any Christian race that might be destined to hold the Turkish provinces of Europe hereafter. (Hear, hear.)"

The only point to view the Eastern question, is in the light of justice to an established state, acknowledged by Europe as an independent Empire.

Turkey having been once admitted into the polity of nations, is entitled to all the privileges of the "*Droit des gens*," or right of nations.

Now what is the "*Droit des gens*." It is (we quote from Vattel), "the science of the right which takes place between nations or states, and of the obligations which respond to that right.\*"

"Nations are equals, and share the same obligations and the same rights. Strength or weakness produce in this respect no difference. A dwarf is as much a man as a giant. A small republic is no less a sovereign state than the most powerful kingdom.

"Every nation should labour, when the occasion requires it, for the preservation of the others, and to guarantee them from disastrous ruin as much as it can do so without exposing itself to too much risk. Thus, when a neighbouring state is unjustly attacked by a powerful enemy who threatens to oppress it, if you can defend it without exposing yourself to a great danger, it is not doubtful that it is its duty to do so.

"When Louis XIV. threatened to subjugate the United-Provinces in 1672, a powerful League was formed against him. When the Turks laid siege to Vienna, the brave Sobieski, king of Poland, became the liberator of Germany. He defeated the Turks, and raised the siege of Vienna, 1683.

"Treaties between nations are sacred. The faith of treaties is sacred. He who violates a treaty, violates the right of nations.

\* Le Droit des gens est la science du droit qui a lieu entre les nations ou Etats, et des obligations qui répondent à ce droit. (Vattel.)

“ And as all nations are equally interested in maintaining the faith of treaties, in establishing it everywhere as inviolable and sacred; so do they also possess the right of uniting to put down him who declares to despise it, who openly discards it, who violates it and treads it under foot. He becomes a public enemy, who undermines the foundations of the peace of Europe, of its common safety.

“ Nature has given to man the right of using force when necessary, for the defence and preservation of his rights. This principle is generally recognized, reason demonstrates it, and nature itself has engraven it in the heart of man.

“ Whoever has an idea of war, whoever reflects upon its terrible effects, upon the fearful consequences it entails, will readily allow that it should not be undertaken without the strongest reasons. It should be a last resource.

“ A nation has the right to declare war for its defence, or for the maintenance of its rights.

“ A defensive war is just, when it is against an unjust aggressor. This needs no proofs. Defence against an unjust violence is in itself not only a right, it is a nation's duty, and one of its most sacred duties.”

We quote the above passages from VATEL, that the impartial reader of the subjoined narrative may be enabled to form a judgment upon the present crisis, as to what extent the mediating powers have fulfilled their mission, and in how far the Ottoman Empire is justified in assuming arms for self-defence.

London, January, 1854.



The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice. This ensures transparency and allows for easy verification of the data.

In the second section, the author details the various methods used to collect and analyze the data. This includes both primary and secondary data collection techniques. The analysis focuses on identifying trends and patterns over time, which is crucial for making informed decisions.

The third section provides a comprehensive overview of the results obtained from the study. It highlights the key findings and discusses their implications for the organization. The data shows a clear upward trend in certain areas, while others remain relatively stable.

Finally, the document concludes with a series of recommendations based on the findings. These suggestions are aimed at improving efficiency and reducing costs. The author believes that implementing these changes will lead to significant long-term benefits for the company.

## THE EASTERN QUESTION.

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THE first symptoms of the actual crisis in the East manifested themselves in the Turkish dependency of Montenegro.\*

Montenegro, or the district of the Black Mountain, is a mountainous tract, comprising about sixty square miles of territory situated between Dalmatia (Austrian), the so-called province of Herzegowina (Turkish) and Albania (Turkish). Close upon the Adriatic it forms a natural fortress of mountains. The inhabitants, mixed Slaves and Sclavonians, number about 100,000, and are a warlike race, inured to hardships. Their government consists of a Vladika, or Prince, who combines in his person the episcopal dignity also. Cesigne is the capital of Montenegro, and the residence of the Vladika. This dignity has for many years been hereditary in the Petrovitch family. Montenegro is the key to Turkey. Austria, as well as

\* The existence of Montenegro as an independent State has never been acknowledged by the law of nations.

Russia, have often desired its possession. Both powers have always treated the Petrovitches with the greatest distinction, and Russia acknowledges their independence.

Like most of the vassal states of Turkey, Montenegro has waged, from time immemorial, a frontier warfare with the Turks. The latter have never been able to subjugate them completely; their mountains forming natural and impregnable fortresses.

Albania, which forms the south-western province of European Turkey, touches the southern frontier of Montenegro.

Dalmatia is a strip of coast land on the Adriatic, and with the adjacent islands, forms the south-western province of Austria touching the Turkish frontier. It is divided into four districts, or *Kreise*, viz.: Zara, Spalatro, Ragusa, and Cattaro. The bay, or "Bocca di Cattaro," is one of the most sheltered harbours in the Adriatic. Cattaro is fortified and commanded by the Austrian fort St. John. The Austrians have another fort, "Castelnuovo," which protects the entrance of the bay, and serves as a look-out station upon the neighbouring Montenegro, the frontier of which extends to the lake of Scutari, and the district of Zenta.

Bosnia, the most north-westerly province of European Turkey, is separated from the Austrian military frontier by the rivers Save and Unna. It stretches to the Adriatic at its southern extremity. On the other sides, it is bordered by Servia, Albania, the Austrian coast land, Dalmatia, and Croatia. Its capital Sarajewo (72,000 inhabitants,) is one of the most important commercial cities of the Ottoman Empire, as the midway station for the caravans between Yanina and Salonica.

To excite an insurrection in any one of these provinces is at all times an easy task for Austria or Russia. On this occasion they appear to have acted in concert. Austria took the initiative.