THE EASTERN QUESTION 1822 TO 1842

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The Eastern Question 1822 to 1842 by Milton Rieto Gutsch

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by

Milton Rieto Gutsch

A Thesis Submitted for the Degree of BACHELOR OF ARTS

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

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PREFACE

The Egyptian question (1821-1842) is of such a cemplicated nature, has so manydifferent aspects from which it may be viewed and finally is so intimately connected with the history of Europe during the same period, that it is impossible to understand it thoroughly without an introduction that is somewhat more elaborate and more detailed than at first thought may be expected. The introduction briefly describes the economic conditions of Europe, Turkey and Egypt at the outbreak of the Greek revolution, gives a short summary of political events bearing on the Eastern Question from Waterloo to Navarino, and finally sets forth a survey of Mehemet Ali's life up to the time of the Sultan's appeal for Egyptian aid to put down the Greek revolt. This chapter therefore serves as the background, of "the thesis proper.

The second chapter is devoted to a discussion of the Greek revolt with particular attention to the diplomatic questions involved and the growing dependence of the Sultan on his vascal Mehemet Ali. Incidentally it attempts to show Russian designs on Turkesh territory, the attitude of the other powers towards Russian aggression, the weakness of the Ottoman Empire and the rise of Egypt in the circle of powers as seen by the superiority of Mehemet Ali's troops over those of Mahmoud II.

The third chapter takes up Mehemet Ali's social and

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economic reforms, his ambitious plans for independence, his invasion and conquest of Syria and the final arrangement at Kutayah which made him a formidable rival of the Sultan as the head of the Mehammedan World.

The fourth chapter contains a somewhat detailed and(it is hoped) accurate account of the diplomatic struggle over the Egyptian question from the Treaty of Kutayah" to the Treaty of the Straits." Particular attention is paid to the rivalry between England and France in the Levant, the European fear of Russian aggression and aggrandizement and the reactionary attitude of Austria and Prussia.

The conclusion contains a brief speculative account of the results on the later development of the Eastern problem, had the great powers at this time assumed a different attitude. The conclusions drawn may not be accepted in their entirety but the general result will it is hoped show the great importance of the Eastern Question in 1840, a fact which many historians have (it seems) so greatly underestimated.

In the spelling of proper names the form that is most commonly used among English writers has been accepted. Thus the name of the Pasha of Egypt has been variously spelled Mehmed.,¹ Mohammed,² Muhammad,³and Mehemet.⁴ But the latter form has been accepted in this thesis. 1) Prokesch-Osten 2) Holroyd 3) Transliteration into English 4) Paton, Cammeron, C. M. H., Debidour, Cadalvene, Blanc, etc.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Preface
Chapter I - Introduction
1. Conditions in Europe after the Peace of Vienna.
(a) Metternich's"European System".
(b) Attitude of the Powers.
2. The Decline of the Ottoman Empire.
(a) Inherent Weaknesses.
(b) The Political Condition of the Provinces.
(c) Unrest of the various Peoples,
5. Nehenet Ali.
(a) His early Life.
(b) War against the Manelukes.
(c) War against the Wahhabys.
(d) War in the Soudan.
Chapter II - The Greek Revolution
1. Causes.
2. Outbreak.
(a) Ypsilanti.
(b) Attioude of the Powers.
3. The Russo-Turkish Controversy.
(a) Russia's Complaints against the Sultan.
(b) Strogonoff's Note.
(c) The Crisis.
(d) Interference of the Powers.