

## THE OTTOMAN - MAMLUK WARS AND THE ROLE OF HERSEKZADE AHMED-PASHA

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### Abstract

The Ottoman-Mameluk War, which had been led from 1485 to 1491 was actually series of war between those two rival states. During the war, the operations had been held on the territory of the Anatolia, both Ottoman and Mameluk part of it, and Siriya as well. This war was one of the most important war that the Ottomans had led in the Middle East. Despite several severe battles that had occurred during this war, the peace treaty in 1491 did not change the borders between the two states. The peace had lasted until 1516.

The first immense battle was the most important for this paper. It was the battle led by the Ottoman sultan Bayazit II in 1485. The *beğ* of Karaman, Karagöz Mehmet Paşa was the main commander on the battle field.

The first task for the Ottoman Army was to capture the region of Kilicia, as well as to tranquilize the rebelled tribes, Turgut and Varsak. The Ottoman Army been defeated by the Mameluk Army on February the 9<sup>th</sup> 1486, on the field just outside Adana. That was the reason why the janissary corpus, under the command of Hersekli Ahmed Paşahad left Istanbul in the direction of Adana. Even with their help, the Ottomans did not achieve success on the battle field. On March the 15<sup>th</sup>, Karagöz Mehmed had fled the battle field and Hersekli Ahmet Paşa had been captured. As a result, the region of Kilikiya had come again under the Mameluk control.

Second and Third Ottoman offen sives had occurred in 1487 and 1488, while the Mameluk offen csive was under taken in 1490.

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of both sides (this was clearly seen into his act as the intermediate in the Venetian-Ottoman War 1499-1503).

He had left the stage of history after the success of the Egyptian campaign in 1517, dying somewhere in the previously existing Zulkadr province, in the frontier between Turkey and Syria of today. At the same time this was the end of the Mamluk Sultanate. The Ottoman Empire had become the greatest Islamic power in the world.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> В. Атанасовски, *Пад Херцеговине*, 206-207; for the end of the Mamluk Sultanate see: F. Hiti, *Istorija Arapa*,<sup>2</sup>, Sarajevo 1972, 488-495; A. Hourani, *The History of the Arab peoples*, London 1991, 86.