

Palestine, Africa. Here only the outlines will be sketched, although the resulting story may appear disjointed to an extent.¹

A bare century after the Crusades, then, 'Uthman (1288 to 10.8.1326) first of the dynasty which was to be named after him, "Ottoman" Turks, son of Ertoghrul of the Seljuk tribesmen from further Asia, became independent sultan after the fall of Konieh.² Second in succession after him, Murad I (or Amurath: 1359 to 15.6.1389) obtained by Genoese ships the transport of his tribesmen from the Asiatic coast, occupied the peninsula of Gallipoli and established them in Adrianople (1359-63). The sovereigns of Eastern Christendom with forces from Bosnia, Hungary and Serbia marched to rescue that city, but were surprised and routed, and Bulgaria added to the Ottoman possessions. Control of lower Serbia was gained after the battle of Kossovo, 1389, though Sultan Murad himself was mortally wounded. Under his son, Bayazid I, the "Thunderbolt" (Yilderim), the Christians made another strong but ineffectual effort to rid themselves of the Turks, French and German detachments swelling the host of the king of Hungary, which suffered defeat. Next Bayazid turned to resist the invasion by Timur the Lame, and in a battle near Angora his army was annihilated by the hordes from Central Asia, the Sultan himself becoming a prisoner, and dying one in 1403. After the civil war between the Turkish princes and respite from attack, Thessalonica, second city of the Byzantine Empire, once before and temporarily occupied in 1388 by Khair-ud-Din Pasha, fell in 1430 to the army of Sultan Murad II (May 1421 to 9.2.1451) who warred successfully against the Serbians and occupied Sofia and Varna. But the valiant Hunyady with an army of Hungarians, Poles, Serbians and other crusaders from the West under the Cardinal Julian Cesarini routed the Ottoman army, recovered Sofia, and the Turkish Sultan Murad II in a treaty of peace to last ten years had to surrender Serbia and Vallachia. The Christian princes themselves broke the treaty, and with the crusading Cardinal and Hunyady proceeded to attempt to wrest Bulgaria from the Crescent: Murad, however, fell on the Christian allies in the battle of Varna in 1444, when both the Hungarian king Ladislas and the Cardinal were among the slain. In 1442 the Turks had begun to devastate the Morea in Greece, and they were besieging Parga and Butrinto on the mainland opposite Corfu. Murad II died in 1451.

His son, Muhammad II, the "Conqueror" and "Padishah" (12.12.1451 to 3.5.1481) became master of Constantinople on 29.5.1453, when, after having invested the city in March, the Turks burst in and the last Byzantine emperor perished with the empire: and in 1469-71 he occupied the islands of Mitylene, Negroponte (which was taken from the Venetians by 120,000 Turks brought on 300 sail). In Greece the Peloponnesus submitted to him in 1462, Trebizond on the southern shore of the Black Sea in 1470, Bosnia and Vallachia, Scutari in modern Albania. Though he failed to take Belgrade, being driven wounded from the field by Hunyady, the rest of the Balkan peninsula was conquered, and in Asia Minor Anatolia as far as the Euphrates. In the last years of his life, 1480-1, he organized three great expeditions: against the knights of Rhodes (but the attack was repulsed): ambitious of subjugating Italy, he raided Otranto, but the Muslim soldiers left there were besieged, and compelled to surrender: finally against the Sultan of Egypt. In 1481 he died at Nicomedia. To him succeeded his son, Bayazid II (3.5.1481, died 26.5.1512, after abdicating) from whom in 1495 the Ionian islands, Cephalonia and Santa Mavra, were won back. In his reign began the power of the Turkish fleet, which gained the battle of Sapienza against the Venetians; but the Sultan made a truce in 1503 with the Republic, in order to devote himself to subduing Asia. He, however, and the rest of his house were deprived of life in May 1512 by his son Selim the I, the "Grim" or "Cruel" (May 1512 to 21.9.1520) who, first making peace with the king of Hungary and confirming that with Venice, fanatical Sunni that he was had thousands of

¹ The following historical resumé is based on the *Relatione* of Domenico Trevisiano, the Venetian ambassador, after his embassy to Constantinople, 1554, vide 'Fondo Pio,' 134, Vat. Arch.: on *Cronologia Calendario Perpetuo*, by A. Cappelli: on *Corcira Antica and Moderna*, by Luigi Ippeviz, 1901: and on *The Catholic Encyclopaedia*.

² According to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, in his son Orkhan's (died 1359) time the Janissaries, the 'praetorian guard' of the Turkish Sultans, formed of children of Christian *rayas* taken from their parents, circumcised and educated as Muslims, was first formed. The Venetian envoy, Trevisiano, however, ascribes the formation to Murad II's reign (1421-51).