

# CABINET OF MEHMET I STUDY GUIDE

*haydarpaşanun'22*

# CABINET:

## Cabinet of Mehmed I

### STUDY GUIDE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

Head of Crisis: Kaan Berker  
Academic Assistant: Berkay Öztürk



## LETTERS FROM THE ACADEMIC TEAM

### Letter From the Under-Secretary General and Head of Crisis

Distinguished participants of the Cabinet of Mehmed I Committee;

It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you to the fifth edition of HaydarpaşaMUN as the conference's Head of Crisis and your Under-Secretary-General for this committee. Probably this is my first and last letter under HaydarpaşaMUN's roof because of me being a senior, but it gives me more and more aspiration to be a part of this event. Our academic team and especially our assistants worked so hard to make this conference , particularly special and crisis committees, remarkable and enjoyable for you and your MUN calendar in 2022.

I can't wait to see you and your directives in committee and make this year's HaydarpaşaMUN experience amazing for you. If you have any questions regarding the committee, study guide ,procedure or anything about the committee please do not hesitate to contact me via email. I would be very honored to respond to all of your questions if you have any.

With my best regards,

Kaan Berker

Head of Crisis and your Under-Secretary General

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### Letter From the Academic Assistant

Dear participants of the Cabinet of Mehmed I Committee;

First of all, I would like to welcome you all to the fifth annual session of the HaydarpaşaMUN as the academic advisor of the Cabinet of Mehmed I Committee. This is my first year in this club and this session of HaydarpaşaMUN organization is my very first experience as a member of an organization team so I'm as excited as you are to be a participant in this conference. We as the academic team worked really hard and gave our best this term to make this conference enjoyable and unforgettable for both you and us.

If you have any question marks in your head about the committee, procedure or study guide please do not hesitate to contact me via email. I would be very honored to provide you with any assistance and respond to all of your questions if you have any.

With my best regards,

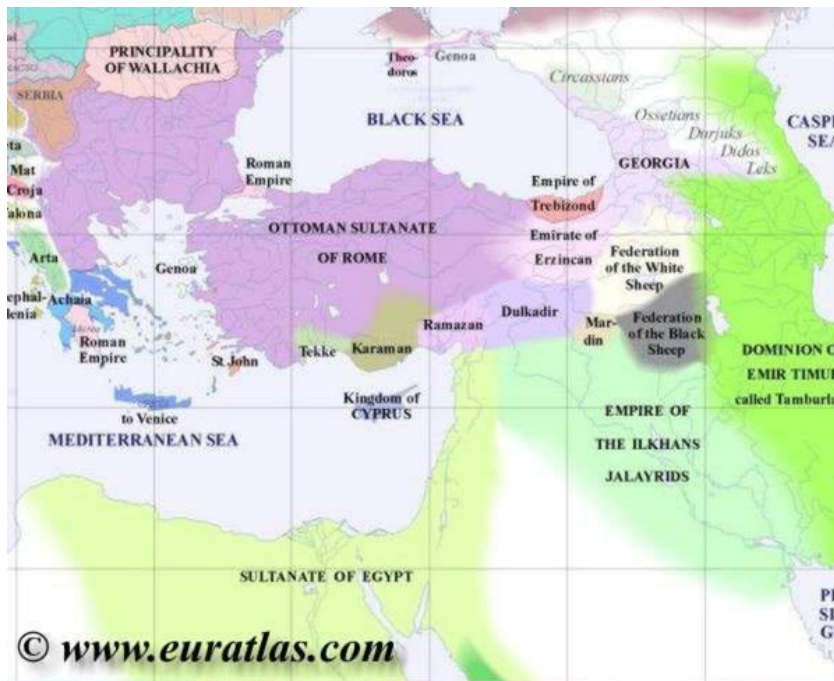
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## 1) The Balances of the Period



In his reign, Bayezid I had tried and achieved political union in the Anatolian region. Him being uniting beyliks and the other small neighbor nations gave him the opportunity to stand against the Eastern Invaders, the Timurids. While Bayezid's unification attempts on beyliks, many of these Beys fled to Amir Timur's side, therewith all nations leaders that fought and invaded by Timur fled to Bayezid's side to ask help and shelter. In that time the Ottomans and the Timurids were the strongest and the

rivals of each other, both rulers couldn't stand each other and his expansions and conquests. Consistently sending letters of swearing and insulting the other one and casually executing the other one's messenger. With all these motives and provocations, Timur made his move into Sivas to siege down the fort. Meantime Bayezid was besieging Constantinople and Timurid actions made him lift the siege and face him...

Early on this time, the Hundred Years War was wreaking havoc on Europe and the Western powers suffering its attritions, Christianity was being pushed and pushed constantly by the Turkic nations. In 1393 the Bulgarian tsar Ivan Shishman had lost Nicopolis to the Ottomans, while his brother, Ivan Stratsimir, still held Vidin but had been reduced to an Ottoman vassal. In the eyes of the Bulgarian boyars, despots, and other independent Balkan rulers, the crusade was a great chance to reverse the course of the Ottoman conquest and take back the Balkans from Islamic rule. In addition, the front line between Islam and Christianity had been moving slowly towards the Kingdom of Hungary. The Kingdom of Hungary was now the frontier between the two religions in Eastern Europe, and the Hungarians were in danger of being attacked themselves. The Republic of Venice feared that Ottoman control of the Balkan peninsula would reduce their influence over the Adriatic Sea, Ionian Sea, and Aegean Sea. The Republic of Genoa, on the other hand, feared that if the Ottomans were to gain control over River Danube and the Turkish Straits, they would eventually obtain a monopoly over the trade routes between Europe and the Black Sea, where the Genoese had many important colonies like Caffa, Sinop, and Amasra. In 1394, Pope Boniface IX proclaimed a new crusade against the Turks.



## 2) Battle of Ankara and the Interregnum Era

Timur, a Turco-Mongol from Transoxiana, had built an empire in Central Asia over the years, and became the most powerful ruler in Central Asia since Genghis Khan. He sought to rebuild the once great Mongol Empire. In the 1380s and 1390s, he invaded and conquered parts of Persia including Armenia, Azerbaijan and Upper Mesopotamia, ravaged southern Russia and Ukraine, and invaded India. Although there had been tensions between the Ottomans and Mongols, nothing would warrant a war, until Bayezid demanded tribute from an amir loyal to Timur, which he understood to be personal and a reason for war. In 1400–01 Timur took Sivas from the Ottomans, parts of Syria from the Mamluks, and next directed towards Anatolia. Meanwhile, in 1402, the Ottomans had been campaigning in Europe. Bayezid broke off the blockade of Constantinople and marched to Ankara after Timur again moved his army to the southeast in the summer of 1402.

It is estimated that the Timurid army counted 140,000, mostly cavalry, and also 32 war elephants. Bayezid's army numbered 85,000. The battle began with a large-scale attack from the Ottomans, countered by swarms of arrows from the Timurid horse archers. Several thousand were killed and many surrendered to Timur. Stefan Lazarević and his knights successfully fought off the Timurid assaults and cut through the Mongol ranks three times. Each time Stefan advised Bayezid to break up with him, Bayezid declined to do so. But the Serbians managed to save one of Bayezid's sons and the treasury from the Mongols and made their way to Constantinople. The Serbian troops wore heavy black plate armor which was very effective against the Timurid arrows. Timur admired the Serbian troops who, according to him, "fight like lions".





During the battle the main water supply of both armies, Çubuk creek, was diverted to an off-stream reservoir near the town of Çubuk by Timur, which left the Ottoman army with no water. The final battle took place at Catal hill, dominating the Çubuk valley. The Ottoman army, both thirsty and tired, was defeated, though Bayezid managed to escape to the nearby mountains with a few hundred horsemen. However, Timur had the mountains surrounded and, heavily outnumbering Bayezid, soon captured him. He died in captivity three months later. Already heavily outnumbered, the Ottoman army was further weakened by the desertion of the Black Tatars and the Sipahis from the Anatolian beyliks, who left Bayezid's side and joined Timur's forces.

#### **a) Aftermath of Battle of Ankara**

After the battle, Timur moved through western Anatolia to the Aegean coast, where he besieged and took the city of Smyrna, a stronghold of the Christian Knights Hospitalers. The battle was catastrophic for the Ottoman state, fracturing what remained and bringing almost total collapse of the state. This resulted in a civil war among Bayezid's sons. The Ottoman civil war continued for another 11 years following the Battle of Ankara. The battle is also significant in Ottoman history as being the only time a Sultan was captured in person.



## *Map of the Ottoman Sultanate in 1403*

*Yellow: Suleyman Çelebi   Green: Isa Çelebi   Purple: Musa Çelebi   Red: Mehmed Çelebi*

### **b) Suleyman Çelebi, the Eldest Son**

Suleyman Çelebi was the eldest of Bayezid I. Suleyman worked as a sanjak governor in Saruhan, modern day Manisa, and fought in the Battle of Ankara with his father. After the defeat and capture of his father Bayezid I by Timur, Suleyman escaped to Rumelia. Timur appointed him governor of Edirne. With the death of Bayezid I, he declared himself the sultan of Ottomans and began to struggle for the vacant throne against his brothers Isa (Ruler in Karesi), Musa (Ruler in Bursa) and Mehmed (Ruler in Amasya).

His first act was signing the Treaty of Gallipoli with the Byzantine regent John VII Palaiologos in 1403. (The emperor Manuel II Palaiologos was traveling in West Europe at the time). By this treaty, he gave up Thessalonica and certain territories along the Marmara coast to the Byzantine Empire in return for Byzantine support in interregnum. Suleyman supported Isa against Mehmed. However, Mehmed defeated Isa in several battles between 1403-06. Afraid of Mehmed's increasing power, Suleyman crossed into Anatolia to reunite the state. He captured Bursa, the Anatolian capital. But before fighting against Mehmed, he marched to the Aegean Region to intimidate the small Turkmen beyliks of Aydin and Monteshe which had been annexed by his father Beyazid I, but had broken free after the Battle of Ankara. He then captured the city of Ankara from Mehmed but did not advance further. Suleyman returned to Bursa, which gave Mehmed a chance to relax.

Mehmed then made an alliance with their brother Musa, who was also a contender for the Ottoman throne, sending Musa to the Rumelia) via Wallachia. Because of this plot, Suleyman now had to fight in two fronts on two sides, one in Rumelia against Musa and one in Anatolia against Mehmed. Suleyman turned his attention to Rumelia against Musa, leaving Anatolia to Mehmed once again. Musa had the support of Wallachians and the Serbs, and Suleyman had the support of the Byzantines. However, the Serbs switched sides and joined Suleyman's forces, and Musa was defeated in the Battle of Kosmidion on 15 June 1410. However, Suleyman was not a willful prince, and to the dismay of his partisans, he began living in extravagance. Especially after the death of his grand vizier Candarli Ali Pasha, Suleyman's indifference to state affairs caused him to lose supporters. Thus in 1411, when Musa marched to Edirne, Suleyman found almost no one at his side. He tried to escape to Byzantine territories, but on the way, he was murdered on February 17, 1411.







### e) Isa Çelebi

Isa Çelebi was the second son in elderly of Bayezid I. His mother was Devletsah Hatun, the daughter of Suleyman Shah of Germiyanids and Mutahhara Abide Hatun, daughter of Sultan Veled, the Persian poet. Isa worked as a sanjak governor in Antalya and fought in the Battle of Ankara with his father. After the defeat and capture of his father Bayezid I by Timur, Isa escaped to west Anatolia. Timur appointed him governor of Karesi. With the death of Bayezid I, he declared himself the sultan of Ottomans and began to struggle for the vacant throne against his brother Suleyman (Ruler in Edirne), Musa (Ruler in Bursa) and Mehmed (Ruler in Amasya).

He fought against Musa to gain control of Bursa, the Anatolian capital of the state. He defeated Musa and gained control over Bursa and some parts of Anatolian territory of the state. But the European territory, Rumelia, was under the control of Suleyman and the east part of Anatolian territory was under the control of Mehmed. Feeling his lands to be fragile situated between his brothers' on both sides, he signed a treaty of friendship with the Byzantine Emperor Manuel II Palaiologos and refused Mehmed's suggestion to partition the Anatolian part of the state with him, on the grounds that he was the elder brother and was entitled the entirety of the territory. But following this refusal, he was defeated by Mehmed in the Battle of Ulubad in 1405. In this battle, he also lost his vizier Kara Timurtas Pasha, who was an experienced statesman. Isa escaped to Rumelia to Byzantine territories. He met with Suleyman, who supported his cause in Anatolia. With fresh troops provided by Süleyman, he returned to Anatolia and tried to recapture Bursa. Although he failed, allying himself with the Anatolian beyliks, which his father Bayezid I had captured but which had regained independence after Bayezid's defeat at the Battle of Ankara, he continued to fight. However, after a series of defeats and the betrayal of his allies, Isa gave up the war for the throne. After losing the struggle, Isa went into hiding, and was spotted in a public bath in Eskişehir, and was strangled by Mehmed's partisans in 1406.

### c) Mehmed Çelebi

Mehmed Çelebi was the third son in elderly of Bayezid I. His mother was Devlet Hatun, one of the slave girls in Bayezid I's harem. Mehmed worked as a sanjak governor in Amasya and fought in the



Battle of Ankara with his father .After the defeat and capture of his father Bayezid I by Timur, Mehmed escaped to central northern Anatolia. Timur appointed him governor of Amasya. With the death of Bayezid I, he declared himself the sultan of Ottomans and began to struggle for the vacant throne against his brother Suleyman (Ruler in Edirne), Musa (Ruler in Bursa) and Isa (Ruler in Karesi).

During the early interregnum, Mehmed Çelebi behaved as Timur's vassal. Beside the other princes, Mehmed minted coin which Timur's name appeared as "Demur han Gürgân", alongside his own as "Mehmed bin Bayezid han" This was probably an attempt on Mehmed's part to justify to Timur his conquest of Bursa after the Battle of Ulubad. After Mehmed established himself in Anatolia , Timur had already begun preparations for his return to Central Asia, and took no further steps to interfere with the status in Anatolia. He fought with Isa and gained control of Bursa. Suleyman who supported Isa in Anatolia got mad with this situation and began attacking Mehmed and took the Anatolian part of the state till Ankara. To solve this problem Mehmed agreed with Musa and sent him to Rumelia to fight against Suleyman. While Suleyman was fighting with Musa in Rumelia, Mehmed retook the Anatolian part of the state. After Musa's victory and Suleyman's death, only him in Bursa and Musa in Edirne left alive. While Mehmed viewed Musa as his vassal. Musa besieged Byzantine Constantinople as retribution for Manuel II Palaiologos' support for Suleyman during the previous battles between Musa and Süleyman. Manuel II Palaiologos turned to Mehmed for support, who betrayed Musa and set up a new alliance between himself and the Byzantines against Musa. In 1411 and in 1412, Mehmed's forces clashed with Musa's, and in both cases Mehmed was defeated. In 1413, Mehmed gained the support of Serbian monarch Stefan Lazarević and the bey of the Turkish Dulkadirids, as well as some of the generals in Musa's army. He defeated Musa's forces in the Battle of Çamurlu near Samokov, in modern day Bulgaria. Injured and trying to escape, Musa was spotted and killed by Mehmed. After winning the fight Mehmed ruled the Ottoman state as the only sultan till his death in 1421 for 8 years.



#### d) Musa Çelebi

Musa Çelebi was the fourth son in elderly of Bayezid I. Musa fought in the Battle of Ankara with his father. After the defeat and capture of him and his father Bayezid I by Timur, Musa was taken to Samarkand as a prisoner. With the death of Bayezid I: he was released, Timur sent the corpse of his father with him to Bursa and appointed him Sultan in Bursa. Then they began to struggle for the vacant throne against his brothers Isa (Ruler in Karesi), Süleyman (Ruler in Edirne) and Mehmed (Ruler in Amasya).

Isa defeated Musa and captured Bursa. Musa took refuge in Germiyanid territory, where he waited for a suitable moment to try again. In 1406, Mehmed, who had defeated Isa, became the sole ruler of the Anatolian portion of the state, but he was no match for Süleyman of the Rumelia portion. Mehmed and Musa met in Kırsehir in central Anatolia and formed an alliance against Süleyman. Most of the beyliks in Anatolia also supported this alliance. According to the terms of the alliance, Musa was transferred to the European part over the Black Sea where he allied himself with Mircea



of Wallachia. Süleyman now had to fight on two fronts, against Mehmed in Anatolia and against Musa in Rumelia. This strategy was partially successful, as Süleyman gave up his hopes to conquer the Anatolian portion of the empire. However, he was able to defeat Musa at the battles of Kosmidion and Edirne despite his defeat, Musa continued with hit-and-run tactics against Süleyman up until 1410. Meanwhile, Süleyman had lost most of his previous allies due to his uncontrollable temper. In 1411, Musa's tactics finally gave victory and he captured Edirne. The defeated Süleyman, while attempting to escape into Byzantine territories, was killed by villagers on 18 February 1411, and Musa found himself as the co-sultan of the state. After Musa's declaration himself as the sultan of the Rumelia portion of the state, while Mehmed viewed Musa as his vassal. Musa besieged Byzantine Constantinople as retribution for Manuel II Palaiologos' support for Süleyman during the previous battles between Musa and Süleyman. Manuel II Palaiologos turned to Mehmed for support, who betrayed Musa and set up a new alliance between himself and the Byzantines against Musa. In 1411 and in 1412, Mehmed's forces clashed with Musa's, and in both cases Mehmed was defeated. In 1413, Mehmed gained the support of Serbian monarch Stefan Lazarević and the bey of the Turkish Dulkadirids, as well as some of the generals in Musa's army. He defeated Musa's forces in the Battle of Çamurlu near Samokov, in modern day Bulgaria. Injured and trying to escape, Musa was spotted and killed on 5 July 1413 against Mehmed.

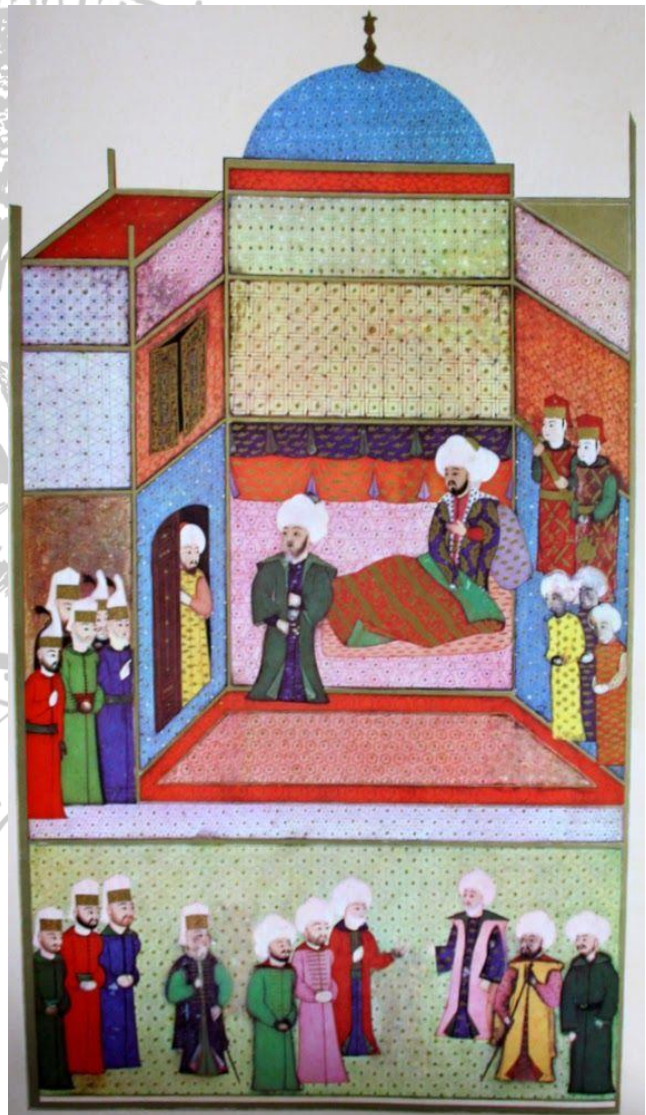
#### 3) Order After the Fight





After winning the Interregnum, Mehmed crowned himself sultan in the city of Edirne becoming Mehmed I. He consolidated his power, made Edirne the most important of the dual capitals, and conquered parts of Albania, the Jandarid Emirate, and the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia from the Mamelukes. Taking his many achievements into consideration, Mehmed is widely known as the "second founder" of the Ottoman Sultanate. As a result of the Battle of Ankara and other civil wars, the population of the empire had become unstable and traumatized.

A very powerful social and religious movement arose in the empire and became disruptive. The movement was led by Sheikh Bedreddin, a famous Muslim Sufi and charismatic theologian. He was an eminent Ulema, born of a Greek mother and a Muslim father in Simavna southwest of Edirne. Mehmed's brother Musa had made Bedreddin his supreme judge. Bedreddin created a populist religious movement in the Ottoman Sultanate. Successfully developing a popular social revolution and syncretism of the various religions and sects of the empire, Bedreddin's movement began in the European side of the state and underwent further expansion in western Anatolia. In 1416, Sheik Bedreddin started his rebellion against the throne. After a four-year struggle, he was finally captured by Mehmed's grand vizier Bayezid Pasha and hanged in the city of Serres. Before his death, to secure passing the throne safely to his son Murad, Mehmed blinded his nephew Orhan Çelebi, and decided to send his two sons Yusuf and Mahmud to be held as a hostage by Emperor Manuel II, hoping to ensure the continuing custody of his brother Mustafa. He died in 1421 and was buried in Bursa.



#### **a) The Brother Who Disappeared: Mustafa Çelebi ( the Impostor)**

Mustafa Çelebi was the fifth son in elderly of Bayezid I. Mustafa fought in the Battle of Ankara with his father. Don't known when but soon after Mehmed began his reign, his brother Mustafa Çelebi, who had originally been captured along with their father Bayezid I during the Battle of Ankara and held captive in Samarkand, hiding in Anatolia during the Interregnum, reemerged and asked Mehmed to partition the state with him. Mehmed refused and met Mustafa's forces in battle, easily defeating them. Mustafa escaped to the Byzantine city of Thessaloniki, but after an agreement with Mehmed, the Byzantine emperor Manuel II Palaiologos exiled Mustafa to the island of Lemnos.



After the death of Mehmed I in 1421, Mustafa felt that he could easily defeat his nephew Murad II, Mehmed's son and successor. With the help of the Byzantines, he captured Gelibolu, the fort which controlled the strait of the Dardanelles, and after capturing Edirne, he began ruling in Rumelia. Next, he proved that he was indeed Bayezid's son and gained the support of the Ottoman provincial governors in Rumelia. Although Murad sent troops to Rumelia to defeat Mustafa, even these troops joined his forces in

the Battle of Sazlıdere. Growing overconfident in his abilities, Mustafa decided to cross to Anatolia and complete his conquest of the Asian side of the state. However in Anatolia, Mihaloğlu, a partisan of Murad who was very famous in Rumelia, encouraged Mustafa's allies to betray him and support Murad instead. Furthermore some of Mustafa's allies, notably Cuneyt Bey, abandoned him. Mustafa gave up his hopes to conquer Anatolia and escaped to Rumelia, with Murad's forces in pursuit. To cross the strait of the Dardanelles after Mustafa, Murad asked for the help of Genoan vessels, for which he paid an exorbitant price. Murad's forces soon caught up with Mustafa and captured him. Mustafa was sentenced to death and hanged in 1422

#### **4) Chronological Events During Timeline**



**1402:** After the Ottoman Empire was defeated by Timur in 1402 and Yıldırım Bayezid was taken prisoner, fights for the throne began between his brothers and the Princes.

The Interregnum period, which would last for 10 years, passed with conflicts and struggles for the throne, and time was lost.

The cities of Iznik, Bursa and Izmit were plundered by Timur. Anatolian lands were given back to their former owners by Timur.

**1403:** Musa Çelebi was defeated by Isa and took refuge in Germiyanid territory

**1405:** Isa Çelebi was defeated by Mehmed in the Battle of Ulubad in 1405. In this battle, he also lost his vizier Kara Timurtas Pasha. Isa gave up the war for the throne and went into hiding.

**1406:** Isa was spotted and killed by Mehmed's partisans.

**1409:** Musa Çelebi was sent to Rumelia by the help of Mehmed

**1410:** Suleyman gave up his hopes in Anatolia and returned back to Edirne

**1411:** Suleyman Çelebi was defeated and killed by Musa and Musa's reign start in Rumelia

**1412:** Mehmed broke his agreement with Musa and declared war on him

**1413:** Musa was captured and killed by Mehmed. Mehmed survived as the only prince and start ruling all Ottoman territories

**1414:** Places of strategic importance such as Izmir and Aydın were captured as a result of the raids of the Ottomans. Foça, Lesbos and Chios, were annexed.

**1415:** Mehmed went on the Karamanoğulları expedition. What was lost in the Battle of Ankara, was recaptured. Çelebi Mehmed successfully completed his campaign against Karamanoğulları and added Konya to the Ottoman lands.

**1416:** After Mehmed I's brother Mustafa was released by Shahruh, he went to Wallachia and started a rebellion. While fighting against Mustafa in Rumeli, Mehmed I also had to deal with the uprising organized by Sheikh Bedreddin in Western Anatolia and in Deliorman in Rumelia.

**1417:** Mehmed I marched against Isfendiyar Bey, who helped the sheikh pass to Wallachia.

**1419:** Mehmed went on a campaign against Mircea. The Wallachian Voivode Mircea surrendered and agreed to pay tribute by sending his son as a hostage to the sultan.

**1420:** Sheikh Bedreddin was executed. Shahrukh warned Mehmed I not to take refuge in the Ottoman lands of Kara Yusuf's son, Iskender.

**1421:** He became paralyzed, fell and injured while hunting in Edirne. The news of Mehmed's death was hidden for 42 days until Murat reached Bursa.

## **5) Technology and War Tactics of the Age**

The earliest form of the Ottoman military was a steppe-nomadic cavalry force. This was centralized by Osman I from Turkoman tribesmen inhabiting western Anatolia in the late 13th century.

These horsemen became an irregular force of raiders used as shock troops, armed with weapons like bows and spears. They were given fiefs called timars in the conquered lands, and were later called timariots. In addition they acquired wealth during campaigns.

The Ottomans began using guns in the late 14th century. Following that, other troop types began to appear, such as the regular musketeers (Piyade Topçu, literally "foot artillery"); regular cavalry armed with firearms (Süvari Topçu Neferi, literally "mounted artillery soldier"), similar to the later European reiter or carabinier; and bombardiers (Humbacı), consisting of grenadiers who threw explosives called khımbara and the soldiers who served the artillery with maintenance and powder supplies.

By the 14th century, the Ottomans had adopted gunpowder artillery. The adoption of the gunpowder weapons by the Ottomans was so rapid that they "preceded both their European and Middle Eastern adversaries in establishing centralized and permanent troops specialized in the manufacturing and handling of firearms." But it was their use of artillery that shocked their adversaries and impelled the other two Islamic Gunpowder Empires to accelerate their weapons program. The Ottomans had artillery at least by the reign of Bayezid I and used them in the sieges of Constantinople in 1399 and 1402. They finally proved their worth as siege engines in the successful siege of Salonica in 1430.

