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| Young Turk Revolution, The |
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| The Young Turk Revolution refers to the events that occurred in 1908 under the initiative of the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP) [*İttihad ve Terakki Cemiyeti*] and carried out in Macedonia by young Ottoman army officers, who restored the constitution shelved in 1878 by sultan Abdülhamit II — though there remains some disagreement about describing these events as a ‘revolution.’ The uprising led to elections and the reconvening of parliament, which the committee hoped would enable the survival of the Ottoman Empire against rival imperial powers (Britain, France, Germany, Austro-Hungary, and Russia). The CUP, initially a secret society that became a political organization, did not overthrow the sultan at first, preferring to rule behind the scenes. The uprising can be considered a continuation of the constitutionalist movements of the nineteenth century, but it also heralded changes in socio-political life, such as the rise of a new elite, the increasing involvement of the army in government, and the emergence of party politics. The revolution was enthusiastically received for a time, and a vibrant socio-political life emerged with the dismantling of many of Abdülhamit’s authoritarian policies. However, the Committee’s increasingly authoritarian and later nationalist stance spurred opposition, resulting in new rebellions. |
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