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Assignment #2

HIST300 – 02

1. In my opinion, the event that transformed the Ottoman society between 1908 and 1922 most was Declaration of Independence War. Ottoman Empire had already been exhausted by losses, starting from Balkan Wars. After Balkan Wars, the empire lost its valued European lands, and this didn’t only cause a political weakness but also had reshaped the demographic pattern of the country. The empire had to adapt more national-focused policies because minorities were proven to be chasing their own national ideals. This devastated the empire’s former paradigms. Also, this terrific land and manpower loss created a desire for comeback among the people. With this mindset, the empire decided to enter the First World War with an ally that is probably not the strongest. First World War was an attempt to reach the good old days, but it didn’t end well. The loss was awful. The defeat broke all possible independent, glorious country hopes for the future. In such circumstances, a few dedicated officers thought that the only way out was to turn the face of the governance to the real roots of the country and stepped foot on Anatolia. This was the craziest option for that time maybe, but they were able to trigger those unmotivated people to give each and every thing remained. This act didn’t only save the country from invasion but also led to founding of an independent, self-sufficient, and modern democracy. That is why, the very first step towards the independence was the most affective event that shaped the Ottoman society.