

# THE MENDÎ / KÎLÎS EMIRATE



عَفْرِين

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**Melik Fexredin  
Lord of the Moon**

Late 12th Century

Sheikh Fexredin, (Melik Fexredin) is a holy figure venerated in Yazidism. He is considered one of the Seven Divine Beings, to all of whom God assigned the World's affairs. Fexredin is considered the personification of the Moon, while his brother, Sheikh Shems is the personification of the Sun.

Hekarî Family

Emadiyê Family

Mentesê Family

Semsidîn  
Behadîn

Founder of the  
Kîlîs Emirate



**Sheikh Mend**  
Early 13th Century



**Saladin**  
1137-1193

Sheikh Mend's sister was Khatuna Fekhra, and is revered today as one of the most important Yazidi female saints.

Ereb Beg

Cemel Beg

Ehmed Beg



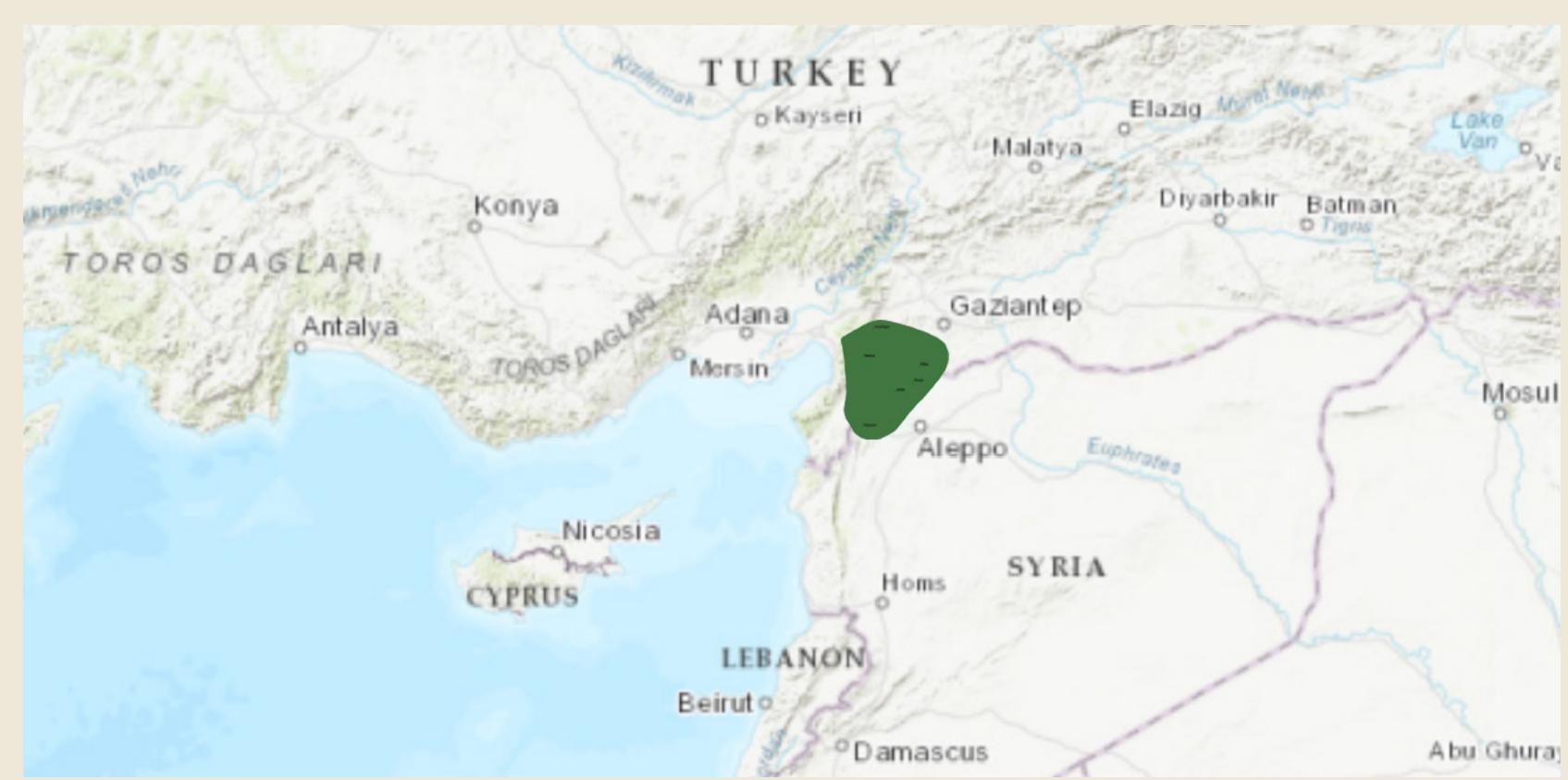
**Hulegu Khan  
(Mongols)**

Ehmed Beg  
(returns)

**End of Ayyubid Influence 1259**

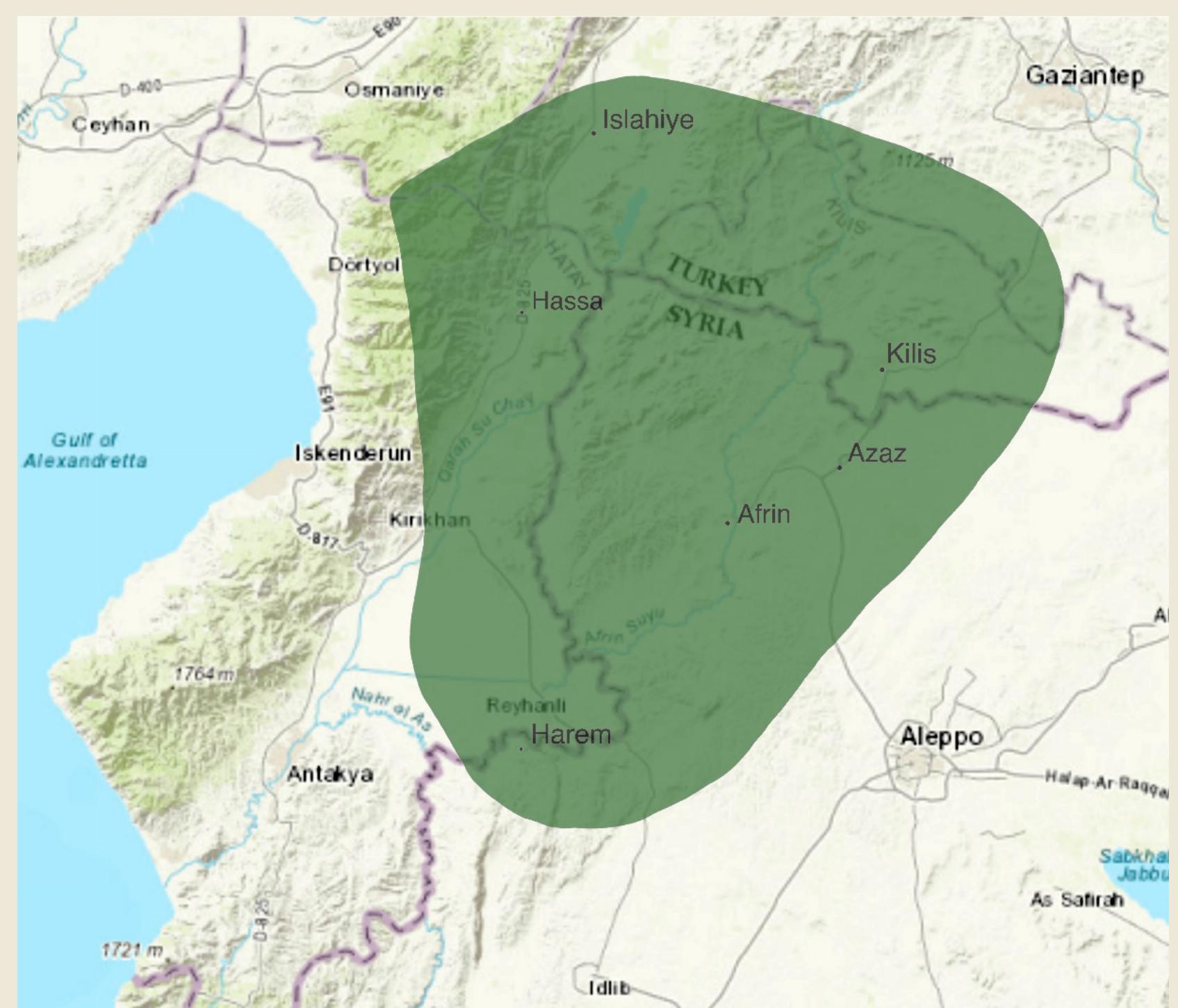
**Start of Bahri Mamluk Influence 1261**

Due to the good relations with the Ayyubid dynasty under Saladin, who was himself a Kurd, Sheikh Mend was appointed as the rulers of the principality that stretched from Afrin to Kilis, Maraş in today's Turkey. Sheikh Mend was later known as the "Prince of Princes" and "Emir of Kurds".



**Arrival of Burji Mamluks 1380**

Holako Khan (of the Mongols) occupied all regions of the Mendi in 1259. However, his authority lasted only two years. Hulagu was defeated by the Bahri Mamluks and returned to Iran, and with this all Ayyubid aspirations were left to the Mamluks.



**Start of Ottoman Influence 1516**



**Sultan Salim I**  
1470-1520  
1512-1520

Qasim Beg joined Sultan Salim I in successfully expelling the Burji Mamluks from the emirate. However, due to slander from Izz al-Din via Qara Jah Pasha, Sultan Salim I executed Qasim Beg and kept his son, Canpolat in the Ottoman court.



**Suleiman the Magnificent  
Sultan Suleiman I**  
1494-1566  
1520-1566

After Canpolat showed "great deeds" in some of the battles, he earned the sympathy of Sultan Salim I. After hesitation by Suleiman I, and stubbornness of Canpolat along with the inhabitants of the Emirate of Kilis, Canpolat was granted the emirate.



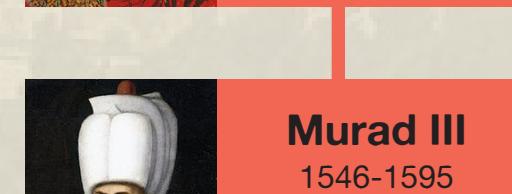
**Sultan Salim II**  
1524-1574  
1566-1574

At the end of the era of the Burji Mamluks, Qasim Bey, one of the descendants of Prince Mend, assumed the reins of governance of the emirate and its Kurds. Some of the Yazidi Kurds submitted to his order. However, Izz al-Din (Şêx Izdin) fought against him, along with a section of the Mamluk soldiers of Aleppo, to expel Qasim Bey. Battles broke out between them, which resulted in the failure of the Mamluk army and the forces of Sheikh Izz al-Din. Qasim Bey was victorious, thus preserving the complete independence of his emirate.



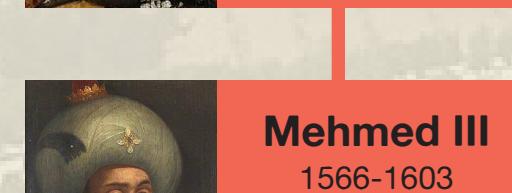
**Mîr Qasim  
Begê Mendî**  
? - c.1516

After Qasim Bey's execution, Habib Bey took over the rule of the Kurds in the region. Qara Jah Pasha then invited him to Aleppo, and killed him there by crucifying him under its citadel on the charge that he had married nine women at the same time, and/or he was a Yazidi.



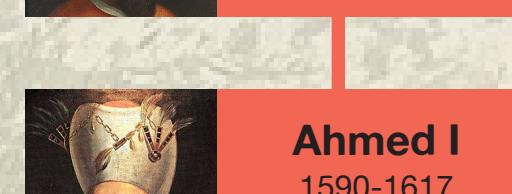
**Murad III**  
1546-1595  
1574-1595

The empire under Murad III was known as a period of increasing corruption, as shown when Habib Bey gave a gift of 5,000 dinars to the Sultan in order to keep the Emirate of Kilis.



**Mehmed III**  
1566-1603  
1595-1603

Husen Bey was accused of "being too slow" to help the Ottomans in a battle against the Persians, and partially blamed for the Ottoman defeat, and was executed in 1605.



**Ahmed I**  
1590-1617  
1603-1617

Canpolat controlled the Kilis Emirate with "awareness and firmness."



**Emîr  
Canpolat**  
c. 1480-1572

Sultan Suleiman I delegated the Emirate to Hussein Khan the Eunuch to examine the conditions of the Kurds in the state, and the possibility of granting its hereditary government to Canpolat. Hussein concluded that only Canpolat would be able to control the unruly emirate.

Ce'fer  
Bey

Hebib  
Bey

Husen  
Bey

Umer  
Bey

Ehmed  
Bey

Evdille  
Bey

Gedenfer  
Bey

Zenel  
Bey

Heyder  
Bey

Xidir  
Bey



**Eli Beg**  
? - c.1611

When news of Husen Bey's execution reached his nephew, Eli Beg, he led an independence movement against the Ottomans. Initially the movement was successful, spreading across the greater Syria region. However, it was eventually quelled.

Eli Beg then went to the Sultan Ahmed I saying, "bands of the wretched gathered against me, and I did not get rid of them except that I threw them into the mouth of your soldiers, and they fled to you as the sinners did." The Sultan pardoned him, appointed him as Emir of the Timișoara in present-day Romania, and had him assassinated in Belgrade Castle in 1611.

This ended the Mendi rule of the Kilis Emirate in 1611.

## Post Script

The followers of Eli Beg remained in the region and were a source of trouble between 1613 and the 1690s, notably the Okçu İzzedînî tribe which was involved in banditry.

The descendants of Canpolat are named 'Canbolatogulları' and fled to Lebanon in 1630. The Druze Jumblatt family are descendants of this family. The Jumblatt family is an important family in Lebanese history and is still involved in Lebanese politics.