# 2. 19th to 20th Century Honaz

**Abstract** The history of Honaz and its surrounding area, originally known as Colessea and later Khonaia, traces back to the Phrygians. Throughout history, from the Phrygians to the Ottomans, Honaz maintained its significance in the Menderes basin as a vital economic, commercial, religious, military, and strategic center. Honaz became firmly part of Seljuk Turkish rule in 1206/1207 and subsequently fell under the control of the Sahip Ataoğulları, Germiyanoğulları, and İnançoğulları before transitioning to Ottoman rule.

Administratively, Honaz was a district center attached to Denizli before the 1864 Provincial Regulation. Afterward, it was reorganized as a subdistrict (nahiye) center within Denizli Sanjak. Managed by a subdistrict governor and a local administrative council, Honaz had between 23 and 30 villages under its jurisdiction by the late 19th century. During this period, the population of Honaz center was approximately 2,544, while its total population, including villages, ranged between 9,131 and 10,631.

A notable portion of Honaz's population, around 400 people, consisted of Greeks, who were represented in the subdistrict administrative council by one member. The presence of the 3rd Reserve Battalion of the 43rd Regiment stationed in the subdistrict highlighted Honaz's continued military significance during the period under review.

This study aims to outline Honaz’s governance, demographics, military position, government facilities, the construction of the telegraph line, and the impact of the 1911 earthquake during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

**Introduction**

The history of Honaz and its surrounding region dates back to the Early Bronze Age, as evidenced by ceramic finds from Colessea Höyük and Kaklık Höyük, located within the Çürüksu Plain, where it meets the Çökelez Mountains near Kaklık township. Over time, the area’s economic and administrative center, Colessea, was established by the Phrygians in the 5th century BCE. Situated three kilometers north of Mount Honaz, Colessea was one of the principal cities of the ancient Phrygian state.

According to Herodotus, Colessea was a significant city on the trade route from Sardes to Iconium (Konya). Greek philosopher Xenophon described Colessea during the Persian king Cyrus’s Anatolian campaign in the early 5th century BCE as a populous, large, and prosperous city where Cyrus camped for 17 days. Despite experiencing a major earthquake during Emperor Nero's reign (54–68 CE), Colessea maintained its economic development and remained a critical city in the Menderes Valley until the late 7th century, when it was succeeded by Khonaia (Honaz).

**The Transition to Khonaia**

Khonaia, primarily established for defense, became a central settlement during the unstable periods of the Roman era. British scholar W.M. Ramsay notes that Honaz, strategically located to oversee the Menderes Valley and connected to Antalya via a southern route near Yatağan, replaced Colessea as the key city in the region between 692 and 787 CE. Situated on a rugged and steep hill, Honaz served as an important military center during the Byzantine period.

Byzantine historian Niketas Choniates (1155–1217), who was born in Honaz, described the city as “prosperous and large.” The city's historical renown is further underscored by its status as a religious center, alongside Hierapolis and Laodicea. It became an archbishopric in 858 CE, largely due to the presence of the Church of Archangel Michael, which Niketas praised as a magnificent and awe-inspiring masterpiece.

**Turkish Conquests and Integration**

Turkish contact with the Denizli region, including Honaz, began in 1070, prior to the Battle of Manzikert. Afşin Bey, under Sultan Alp Arslan, led a campaign through the area, capturing Honaz and devastating Laodicea before advancing to the Aegean Sea. However, this incursion was a temporary punitive expedition.

Following the Manzikert victory, Turkish raids spread across Anatolia, including to Laodicea and its surroundings, by 1073–1075. The Crusades, beginning in 1096, interrupted Seljuk dominance in western Anatolia. The decisive control over Honaz and its environs was solidified in the early 13th century after the Battle of Kazıkbeli (1147) and the Battle of Myriokephalon (1176).

**Honaz under Seljuk and Ottoman Rule**

Honaz fell definitively under Seljuk rule in 1206/1207. It remained a significant city in the Menderes Valley, frequently mentioned alongside Ladik (modern Denizli). The Seljuk influence continued until the city transitioned through the control of Sahip Ataoğulları, Germiyanoğulları, and İnançoğulları before coming under Ottoman rule in 1390, during the reign of Yıldırım Bayezid. After a brief period under Timur’s dominion (1403–1429), Honaz was re-incorporated into the Ottoman Empire by Murad II in 1429.

**Ottoman Era and Beyond**

During the Ottoman era, Honaz retained its administrative and military importance as part of Denizli. According to Evliya Çelebi’s 17th-century accounts, Honaz was a modest district generating 150 akçes in revenue. Its fortress, located on a strategic promontory, was pentagonal in shape and constructed of stone, making it difficult to conquer. The fortress housed 400 homes, all occupied by Muslims, with no non-Muslims allowed entry. The lower town outside the fortress was home to the Christian population.

Honaz's rich history reflects its enduring significance as a regional center for defense, trade, and religion across millennia, adapting to changing powers and cultures while maintaining its strategic and economic prominence.

**19th-Century Governance in Honaz**

Before the reforms introduced by the 1864 Vilayet Law, Honaz served as an administrative district center (kaza) within the Denizli Sanjak. It was managed by a district governor (kaza müdürü) and an administrative council (idare meclisi). By the Tanzimat era, administrative modernization was evident in the oath-taking ceremonies of officials, as highlighted in an 1837 report where newly appointed district governors and council members pledged to act justly, avoid bribery, and prioritize public welfare.

This practice illustrates the growing influence of public accountability, an idea gaining traction in Ottoman provincial governance since the promulgation of the **Sened-i İttifak** and the **Tanzimat Edict**. Additionally, references to oath-taking ceremonies across regions suggest that this formality was still a developing tradition in local administration during this time.

**Public Participation in Administration**

Tanzimat reforms aimed to enhance local governance and strengthen ties between provincial administrations and the central government. Public opinion began to play a significant role, as exemplified by the appointment of Yusuf Ağa as acting district governor in 1854. When his appointment was formalized two years later, his salary of 500 kuruş was determined through community approval, with funds collected through an additional tax levy. Such examples underscore the increasing weight of public consent in administrative decisions during the Tanzimat era.

**Key Administrative Figures**

Notable district governors of Honaz during the 19th century included Mustafa Ağa (1860), Ahmed Ağa (1864), İsmail Ağa (1864), and Salih Ağa (1865). The appointment of Mustafa Ağa in 1860 highlights administrative dynamics; initially appointed as Sarayköy’s district governor, he assumed office in Honaz due to legal disputes involving his predecessor, Şerif Ağa.

**Case Study: Şerif Ağa’s Dismissal and Reinstatement**

Şerif Ağa's tenure as a district governor provides insights into Ottoman bureaucratic and legal processes. Dismissed in 1860 for alleged mismanagement and public discontent, he appealed to the Denizli district governor, asserting his innocence. His petition included testimonies from community representatives, leading to his reinstatement. However, opposition from local elites resulted in further appeals to higher authorities, including the Liva (province) Council and eventually the Supreme Council of Judicial Ordinances (Meclis-i Vâlâ). This case exemplifies:

1. The emphasis on procedural justice within the Ottoman administrative framework.
2. The influence of public sentiment on bureaucratic decisions.
3. Challenges in adhering to hierarchical protocols in governance.

**Governance Structure Before Tanzimat**

Before the Tanzimat reforms, local governance in Honaz followed a dual structure. Judicial matters were managed by **kadıs** or their deputies (naibs), while military and administrative responsibilities fell to feudal lords, such as sipahis and other landholders. This separation of powers sought to maintain balance and fairness in governance by preventing interference between judicial and executive domains. However, this system evolved with Tanzimat reforms, integrating these roles under a more centralized and cohesive administrative structure.

Overall, Honaz’s administrative history in the 19th century reflects the broader transformation of Ottoman provincial governance, characterized by increased public involvement, formalized bureaucratic processes, and a gradual shift toward centralized control.

The incorporation of nahiyes (townships) into the Ottoman provincial administration system as administrative units became possible with the introduction of the 1864 Provincial Law. This law defined a nahiye as a settlement larger than a village but smaller than a kaza (district): "Small areas resulting from the assembly of some villages that are not independent kazas themselves but are administered by annexation to another kaza are considered nahiyes."

Detailed regulations concerning the establishment, governance, management, and status of nahiyes were introduced in the 1871 General Provincial Administration Law. According to this law, a nahiye was defined as a locality composed of villages and settlements with at least 500 male residents. The establishment of a nahiye required deliberations in the kaza, liva (sub-province), and vilayet (province) administrative councils, followed by approval from the central government, and ultimately ratified by the Sultan’s decree.

The administration of a nahiye was carried out by a nahiye müdürü (township head) and a nahiye administrative council chaired by the müdür. The müdür was appointed by the governor of the province and confirmed by the Ministry of Interior. The müdür was required to be at least 25 years old, literate, have no criminal record, and possess a good reputation.

The müdür was responsible for conveying state orders and decrees to the people, assisting tax officials in the collection and settlement of taxes, ensuring local security by consulting relevant authorities, and forwarding reports or complaints about disputes, deaths, births, and land disagreements to the district kaymakam (governor).

While nahiyes acted as supervisory units for villages, they were not extensions of village administration. Nahiye officials could not intervene in the jurisdiction of village headmen (muhtars) or their councils.

Following the Balkan Crisis that began in 1875, regulations regarding the administration of nahiyes were revised under international pressure. These revisions included provisions for electing müdürs, determining representation ratios for ethnic and religious groups in nahiye councils, and other conditions. However, these new regulations were implemented only in a limited number of provinces.

Within this framework, Honaz became a nahiye of Denizli Sanjak under the provisions of the 1871 Provincial Law. By the end of 1879, Honaz had two officials serving in its administration: a nahiye müdürü (Rıfat Efendi) and a Vukuat Mukayyidi (Incident Recorder, Nuri Efendi). In 1881/1882, the Vukuat Mukayyidi was replaced with a Vergi Kâtibi (Tax Clerk), marking the first appointment of such a position in Honaz, with Hamid Efendi assuming the role. Over time, Honaz’s administration grew to include roles such as Tahrirat Kâtibi (Correspondence Clerk) in 1883/1884 and Nüfus Memuru (Population Registrar) in 1893/1894.

During this period, Honaz maintained its status as an administrative center under Denizli Sanjak, reflecting the changes and expansion in Ottoman provincial governance.

When examining Table 1, it is evident that in 1882/1883, the township had three officials: the Township Director, the Clerk, and the Tax Clerk. The following year, a Deputy Justice (Naip Vekili) was added to the roster. This position was filled by Mehmed Efendi for two years, after which no further appointments were made for six years. From 1890, the position of Naip/Naip Vekili was reinstated but discontinued in 1897. It is worth noting that there is no information available about the officials in the township between 1897 and 1899.

The number of officials in the township reached its peak of five for the first time in 1893/1894. During that year, the officials included the Township Director, the Deputy Justice, the Correspondence Clerk, the Tax Clerk, and the Population Registrar. This composition seems to have persisted for at least four years.

The tenure of the officials ranged from 1 to 13 years, with most terms lasting between 4 and 6 years. The longest-serving officials were the Correspondence Clerk Tevfik Efendi, who served for 13 years, and Halil Efendi, who served for 11 years. Tevfik Efendi later worked in the Provincial Correspondence Office and temporarily acted in the director’s capacity during Ahmed Şükrü’s final years as Township Director. A document dated April 4, 1907, mentions a "Provincial Correspondence Office clerk," who was likely Tevfik Efendi, having served in Honaz between 1882 and 1895.

Among the directors, Ali Rıza Efendi served in two separate periods (1882–1885 and 1893–1894). Limited information about the appointments or dismissals of directors is available from the records. For example, Ahmed Enver Efendi was dismissed in 1890 due to "old age" and an inability to perform his duties. Similarly, Mustafa Nahifi Efendi was dismissed in 1894 for "incompetence" and "conduct unbecoming of an official." However, following an appeal, it was later stated in subsequent correspondences that his dismissal was unjustified and uninvestigated. Reports from the Civil Servant Selection Commission, the Provincial Administrative Council, and military units commended his good service and timely performance, even mentioning that he had built a primary school. Based on a decision by the State Council, it was decided to reappoint Mustafa Nahifi Efendi, although not back to his former post in Honaz but to equivalent roles elsewhere. These instances illustrate that arbitrary actions and violations of legal procedures sometimes occurred in provincial appointments and dismissals in the Ottoman administration.

The resignation of Ali Rıza Efendi in 1894 led to the appointment of Mehmed Hurşid Efendi, who passed away during his tenure. After his death, measures were taken to ensure his family received financial support, reflecting the Ottoman central administration’s attention to social welfare and its role as a social state.

Another question concerns the salaries of the township directors. During its period as a district center, Honaz’s directors received salaries ranging from 500 to 750 kuruş. For instance, in 1856, Yusuf and Hafız Ahmed Ağa earned 500 kuruş each, while in 1860, Mustafa Ağa earned 750 kuruş. After Honaz became a township, the standard salary for directors was 360 kuruş, with additional travel allowances provided when assuming their posts.

The appointment of a Population Registrar in Honaz was first proposed in 1892 following a request from the 3rd Army Command. The General Staff highlighted the need for a registrar to expedite population-related processes for the military unit stationed in Honaz, given the distance of four hours from Denizli. This arrangement was approved in late 1892, and Sarayköy Registrar Şükrü Bey was appointed to Honaz in January 1893 with a salary of 300 kuruş. This appointment underscores the role of military needs in shaping local administrative structures.

Regarding the township’s administrative council, it was comprised of members selected from village councils within the township. The council could have a maximum of four members and served as a decision-making body that met four times a year with the governor’s approval. Its decisions were presented to the district governor for final consideration.

The duties of township councils included mobilizing public assistance to construct buildings, bridges, and roads connecting villages; overseeing and managing communal lands such as pastures, meadows, and forests; discussing and deciding on proposals from village councils aimed at enhancing agriculture and trade; and deliberating on and making decisions regarding measures to develop agriculture and animal husbandry. These responsibilities illustrate the significant role of township councils in driving agricultural and economic development in their regions.

Regarding Honaz's township administrative council members, information from the Aydın Province Yearbooks for the years 1883–1897 is available. Below is **Table 2**, which lists the members of the Honaz township administrative council over a 14-year period as recorded in the Aydın Province Yearbooks:

| **Year** | **Member 1** | **Member 2** | **Member 3** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1883/1884 | Ömer Ağa | Hacı Hasan Efendi | Hacı Hüseyin Efendi |
| 1884/1885 | Ömer Ağa | Hacı Hasan Efendi | Hacı Hüseyin Efendi |
| 1885/1886 | Ömer Ağa | Hacı Hasan Efendi | Hacı Hüseyin Efendi |
| 1886/1887 | Ömer Ağa | Hacı Hasan Efendi | Mihalaki Efendi |
| 1887/1888 | Ömer Ağa | Hacı Hasan Efendi | Mihalaki Efendi |
| 1888/1889 | Ömer Ağa | Hacı Hasan Efendi | Mihalaki Efendi |
| 1890/1891 | Ömer Ağa | Hacı Hasan Efendi | Mihalaki Efendi |
| 1893/1894 | Münhal (Vacant) | Hacı Hasan Efendi | Mihalaki Efendi |
| 1894/1895 | Münhal (Vacant) | Hacı Hasan Efendi | Mihalaki Efendi |
| 1895/1896 | Ömer Ağa | - | Mihalaki Efendi |
| 1896/1897 | Ömer Ağa | - | Mihalaki Efendi |

This table reflects the consistent presence of certain members, such as Ömer Ağa and Mihalaki Efendi, highlighting their significant roles in the council over the years.

**Translation of the Text**

As seen in Table 2, compiled from the Aydın Province Yearbooks between 1301-1314 (1883–1897), the number of members in the township administrative council was two or three. In this context, the number of members serving in the Honaz township council was three until 1893 and two between 1893 and 1897. One notable point regarding the council members is that, starting from 1886, one of the members was a non-Muslim. This non-Muslim member, Mihalaki, served as one of the three council members until 1895 and one of two members from 1895 to 1897. Mihalaki Efendi's presence in the administrative council represented the Greek Orthodox population residing in Honaz.

### **Population of Honaz Township**

From its founding years, the Ottoman Empire conducted land and population censuses to determine the country’s economic resources and workforce. However, the first modern census was conducted in 1831. This first census was part of the broad reform plans envisioned by Sultan Mahmud II following the 1829 Treaty of Edirne, and subsequent censuses were conducted throughout the 19th century.

However, it cannot be said that these censuses fully accounted for the Ottoman population. For example, the 1831 census generally included only taxable non-Muslims and adult Muslim males eligible for military service; women, orphans, Christian children who had not reached puberty, individuals with mental or physical disabilities, and those exempt from taxes or military service were excluded. During the 1844 census, due to rumors that the government would impose new taxes in each district, the population was underreported in many areas. Additionally, the incompetence and lack of seriousness of census officials and the reluctance of non-Muslim religious leaders to provide accurate information also played a role.

Thus, until the late 19th century, censuses provided only an approximate estimation of the population in Ottoman districts and provinces. Starting from 1282 (1865), the provincial yearbooks (salnames), which provided information on the administrative organization, history, geography, economic activities, and social and cultural life of the Ottoman provinces, also contained important data on population. Although these yearbooks do not clearly indicate when and how censuses were conducted or updated, the establishment of population administrations in districts demonstrates the importance placed on this matter. However, it is essential to approach and evaluate the data cautiously, as some entries were repeated from one or several years prior. Nonetheless, these yearbooks provide a general framework regarding the population of a given locality. In this regard, the population of Honaz township in the late 19th century must be assessed.

### **Population of Honaz Before the 19th Century**

Determining the population of Honaz before the 19th century is quite challenging. Official records or travelogues from the period provide only general information about the population. As mentioned earlier, Evliya Çelebi's account notes that in the 17th century, Honaz's lower town, located outside the citadel and surrounded by a single wall, had two Muslim neighborhoods, while the rest were inhabited by "infidels."

The 1831 census and tax registers (temettuat defterleri) provide a general overview of Honaz's population in the first half of the 19th century. According to the 1831 census, 2,502 Muslims lived in the Honaz center. This number seems to have decreased slightly by 1844–1846, based on the tax registers. According to a study based on the tax registers, in the mentioned years, Honaz town center had 421 households with 2,105 Muslims, while its villages had 612 households with 3,060 Muslims. It is also estimated that the non-Muslim (Greek) population living in 56 households in Honaz center numbered around 260. Thus, the total population of Honaz, including its villages, was 5,205.

At that time, Honaz consisted of two neighborhoods (Aşağı Mahalle and Hisar Mahallesi) and 18 farms and villages, including Belevi, Dağdere, Ovacık, Gözler, Yeniköy, Geveze, Çayır Çiftliği, Dere Çiftlik, Çömleksaz, Hortuç, Güzelpınar Çiftliği, Toraban, Irlıganlı, Doğanlu, Menteşe, Uzunpınar Çiftliği, Emirazizli, and Korucuk. Naturally, the absence of tax registers for some villages makes it impossible to determine the total population of the Honaz district, including its villages.

### **Population According to the Aydın Province Yearbooks**

The Aydın Province Yearbooks provide significant insights into the population of Honaz at the end of the 19th century. The first information regarding Honaz's population is found in the 1308 Hijri (1890–1891 Gregorian) Aydın Province Yearbook. According to this yearbook, Honaz township consisted of 23 villages, with a center population of 2,544 and a total village population of 6,587. The individual populations of Honaz and its villages, along with their percentages of the total population, are as follows:

| **No** | **Settlement** | **Households** | **Population** | **Percentage** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Honaz town | 584 | 2,544 | 27.86% |
| 2 | Emir Azizli | 30 | 110 | 1.21% |
| 3 | Ovacık | 37 | 179 | 1.96% |
| 4 | Hortuç | 7 | 18 | 0.20% |
| 5 | Menteşe | 24 | 124 | 1.36% |
| 6 | Çömleksaz | 8 | 38 | 0.42% |
| 7 | Dere Çiftlik | 6 | 24 | 0.26% |
| 8 | Taşdere | 52 | 194 | 2.13% |
| 9 | Kocabaş | 67 | 143 | 1.57% |
| 10 | Belevi | 104 | 502 | 5.50% |
| 11 | Korucuk | 14 | 40 | 0.44% |
| 12 | Çayır Çiftlik | 20 | 64 | 0.70% |
| 13 | Sakızcılar | 48 | 222 | 2.43% |
| 14 | Akdere | 177 | 819 | 8.96% |
| 15 | Irlıganlı | 91 | 364 | 3.98% |
| 16 | Güzelpınar | 100 | 487 | 5.33% |
| 17 | Kurtluca | 70 | 310 | 3.40% |
| 18 | Uzunpınar | 88 | 642 | 7.03% |
| 19 | Doğanlı | 37 | 186 | 2.04% |
| 20 | Gözler | 159 | 859 | 9.41% |
| 21 | Torapan | 73 | 389 | 4.26% |
| 22 | Köstere | 94 | 413 | 4.52% |
| 23 | Yeniköy | 53 | 224 | 2.45% |
| 24 | Hamidiye | 56 | 236 | 2.58% |
| **Total** | **-** | **1,999** | **9,131** | **100.00%** |

According to the data in Table 3, Honaz, as the central settlement of the township, is the largest settlement with a population of 2,544. Considering Honaz's population of 2,105 in 1844/1845, it can be observed that over approximately 45 years, its population grew by 20.85%. This indicates that Honaz continued to develop and maintained its administrative, military, and economic significance. Undoubtedly, its proximity to Denizli, the district center, played a significant role in this growth.

Honaz township, with its 23 villages, ranks as the third-largest settlement among the townships included in other districts. When considering just the population of the township center, it is the second-largest after Kadı township. Its largest villages in terms of population are Gözler, with 859 residents, and Akdere, with 819 residents. Honaz’s villages, mostly small, generally have populations ranging from 100 to 400. The five smallest villages in the township, with populations between 18 and 64, are Dere Çiftlik, Çömleksaz, Hortuç, Korucuk, and Çayır Çiftlik.

The population data in the 1308 (1890/1891) yearbook allows us to make comparisons and gain insights into the population growth of Honaz township. Table 4 below provides data on neighborhoods, villages, and population from 1890 to 1899:

**Table 4: Neighborhoods, villages, and populations of Honaz township between 1890 and 1899**

| **Year** | **Neighborhoods** | **Villages** | **Muslim Male Population** | **Muslim Female Population** | **Non-Muslim Male Population** | **Non-Muslim Female Population** | **Total Population** | **Growth Rate (%)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1890/1891 | 4 | 23 | - | - | - | - | 9,131 | - |
| 1893/1894 | 4 | 25 | 4,844 | 3,914 | 200 | 198 | 9,156 | - |
| 1894/1895 | 4 | 25 | 4,844 | 3,914 | 200 | 198 | 9,156 | - |
| 1895/1896 | 4 | 25 | 4,954 | 5,097 | 201 | 192 | 10,243 | - |
| 1896/1897 | 4 | 25 | 5,045 | 5,191 | 202 | 193 | 10,631 | - |
| 1897/1898 | 4 | 30 | Data not available | - | - | - | Data not available | - |
| 1905/1906 | 4 | 25 | Data not available | - | - | - | Data not available | - |

Table 4 shows that Honaz township continued its demographic growth toward the end of the 19th century. Its population increased from 9,131 in 1890/1891 to 9,156 in 1893/1894, 10,243 in 1895/1896, and 10,631 in 1896/1897. Over eight years, from 1890/1891 to 1897/1898, Honaz's population growth rate was 16.42%.

This population growth in Honaz township was undoubtedly related to the increase in the number of villages under its administration. The number of villages in Honaz increased from 23 in 1890/1891 to 25 in 1893/1894 and to 30 in 1897/1898. When comparing the villages listed in the 1308 (1890/1891) yearbook with those added in later years, the newly incorporated villages were identified as Avşar, Geveze, Kızılyer (1893/1894), Çınarlı, Musa Ahmed Bey, Dumeydan, Koyun Aliler, and Döşeme Başı (1896/1897). Meanwhile, Köstere, which was part of Honaz in 1890/1891, was no longer within the township boundaries after 1893/1894.

This indicates that the population growth observed in the mid-19th century continued toward the end of the century. Furthermore, the number of non-Muslim (Greek) residents in the township ranged between 392 and 398 during the specified years. This shows that the proportion of non-Muslim residents in the general population varied between 3% and 4%. This coexistence indicates a social harmony between Muslims and non-Muslims in the same geography.

Determining which tribes settled in or were settled in Honaz and its surroundings during the Seljuk period, and tracking this process through the Ottoman period, is quite challenging. However, it is known that Anatolia experienced significant Turkmen settlement after the Battle of Manzikert and during the Mongol invasions. Despite interruptions during the Crusades in the 11th–12th centuries, western Anatolia, including Denizli and its surroundings, gained importance as a settlement and activity area for Turkmen tribes.

In this regard, the quantitative population data of Honaz can be approximately determined as shown in Table 4, although there is little information about the communities and tribes that composed this population. The names of certain villages suggest the presence of Turkmen settlements in the Honaz region. For example, Avşar village is one of these. The presence of the Avşar tribe in the region is evidenced by its mention in certain official documents. For instance, when the case of Hüseyin Efendi, who was murdered in 1856, was discussed in correspondence, it was noted that he was one of the residents of Avşar village and a member of the "Avşar Tribe."

A tahrir register from 1530 mentions communities such as the Alaylu (Alilü), Bükmüş Yörükleri, Gurbetan Yörükleri, and Hızır Haddad Yörükleri living in and around Honaz. Although these community names do not appear in current records, other community names are found in the tax registers. For instance, Senekçi, Eşme, Tursunlu, and Çakal tribes are mentioned in Torapan village, and households associated with the Turcalı tribe are noted in the tax records of Güzelpınar estate.

Toward the mid-19th century, we learn about two additional tribes that settled in the vicinity of Honaz: the Saçıkaralılar and Sarıkeçililer. According to correspondence from November-December 1848, the Saçıkaralılar consisted of 70 households, while the Sarıkeçililer comprised 100 households. Previously living within the Teke district, they later migrated to the Honaz area, adopting a winter lifestyle. Considering the number of households, these tribes likely had a population of approximately 800-850 people.

During their arrival in the Honaz area, a population census that had not been conducted while they were in Teke was initiated. Correspondence regarding this census emphasized that the tribes should not be offended during the process and that the census should be conducted "without grievances." Notably, the tribes were described as exhibiting obedient behavior toward the state, which is a significant observation.

Based on the available information, it can be stated that Honaz and its surroundings have been a site of settlement for Yörük and Turkmen tribes since the Seljuk period. This settlement history has significantly shaped the demographic structure of modern-day Honaz.

### **Honaz Redif Battalion**

The establishment of Redif battalions was a response to the conditions created after the abolition of the Janissary Corps. Although the *Asakir-i Mansure-i Muhammediye* army was formed in 1826 after the dissolution of the Janissary Corps, the new army's limited size made it impossible to protect the empire's vast borders. Increasing the number of soldiers in the new army using existing resources was also infeasible. Thus, in 1834, the Redif organization was established, forming a new framework. According to this system, battalions of 1,400 soldiers, including officers, would be formed in every district. Soldiers were selected by drawing lots from young men aged 23 to 32.

Officers needed for the battalions were chosen by the governor from prominent local families and subsequently reported to Istanbul. When it became evident that these officers lacked military knowledge, they were summoned to Istanbul for one to two months of training. Following its establishment, the Redif military organization garnered significant public interest and quickly spread throughout the empire. In 1836, measures were taken to address problems arising from the new organization's formation:

1. Instead of having all battalions within a district participate simultaneously in biannual training sessions, soldiers would train in rotation for three months at central locations. This ensured that cities were not left defenseless, and the training quality improved.
2. Training sessions were scheduled for months when agriculture was not active to prevent harm to farmers. If a company had to train during the agricultural season, neighboring villagers were tasked with tending to the soldiers' fields and farms.
3. During training, the state covered soldiers' food, lodging, weapons, and other expenses.
4. Barracks, similar to those constructed during Sultan Selim III’s *Nizam-ı Cedid* army reforms, were built in district centers to accommodate soldiers during training.

A new treasury, the *Redif-i Mansure Hazinesi*, was established to finance the Redif military organization. Revenues from various regions in Anatolia and Rumelia were allocated to this treasury to cover soldiers' salaries, uniforms, and other expenses. However, irregularities in money collection from the public and the records sent to Istanbul led the central government to implement new regulations. Consequently, all districts were reorganized into seven military jurisdictions: Hüdavendigar, Konya, Ankara, Aydın, Erzurum, Edirne, and Kayseri.

The Redif military organization continued its development and significance throughout the 19th century. However, we do not have precise information about when the Honaz Redif Battalion was established. Nevertheless, the Aydın provincial yearbooks provide partial insights into the 43rd Regiment’s 3rd Redif Battalion, stationed in Honaz. These include details about its commanders, officers, and other personnel. These records are essential for understanding the battalion’s status in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

According to the 1311 (1893/1894) provincial yearbook, the Honaz Redif Battalion was under the command of Major Tevfik Efendi, along with Captain İzzet Efendi and Clerk Ali Efendi. The positions of the battalion's rifleman and depot officers were vacant. Each of the four companies in the battalion had two captains and one first lieutenant. This hierarchical structure underwent changes in subsequent years. By 1896/1897, the number of captains per company was reduced to one, and the role of second lieutenant was introduced. In 1898/1899, the position of first lieutenant was abolished, leaving each company with only one captain and one second lieutenant. This structure persisted for seven years until 1905/1906, when the organization reverted to the 1896/1897 structure.

Table 5 summarizes the number and roles of officers and personnel in the Honaz Redif Battalion over a 15-year period.

The presence of Redif battalions in both Honaz and Tefenni consistently kept the region's communication network under consideration. Starting in June 1892, military officials began raising the issue of the need for a post office and telegraph office in the region due to communication difficulties. It was proposed that communication, including in Honaz, could be facilitated through a post office and telegraph office to be established in Tefenni. This military request was initially submitted by the 3rd Army Command to the War Ministry (*Seraskerlik*), which forwarded it to the Ministry of the Interior (*Dâhiliye Nezareti*) on June 28, 1892.

The matter reached the Grand Vizier’s Office (*Sadaret*), which responded on October 29, 1892, stating that due to insufficient funds in the budget for the establishment and operational costs of a post and telegraph center in Tefenni, the proposal would have to be postponed for the time being. However, this decision did not resolve the issue, and seven to eight years later, the 3rd Army’s request was resubmitted to the Grand Vizier’s Office. This time, it was stated that the necessary funds for the telegraph line to be established in Honaz and Tefenni had been collected from the local population, and the required poles and other materials had been procured. The operational costs of the telegraph line were also proposed to be covered by regional revenues.

The Grand Vizier’s Office rejected this broader request, citing that even if the initial establishment costs could be met through donations, there were no provisions in the budget for ongoing expenses such as staff salaries, maintenance, and incidental costs. However, permission was granted for the construction of a telegraph center in Tefenni alone. The extension of the telegraph line to Honaz was delayed until April 1908. According to a letter from the Aydın Governorate dated March 24, 1324 (April 6, 1908), the telegraph line in Honaz was completed and became operational on April 5, 1908.

### **Other Developments in Honaz in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries**

The idea of a police force (*zaptiye teşkilatı*) in the Ottoman Empire emerged just before the announcement of the Tanzimat reforms and continued to develop during the Tanzimat period. By 1846, efforts were underway to establish police forces across almost all regions of the country. The *Asâkir-i Zaptiye Nizamnamesi* issued in 1869 enabled the establishment of a modern police organization in the Ottoman provinces.

This organizational development was of great significance for Western Anatolia, including the Aydın province, which faced serious security challenges during the 19th century. By the late 19th century, police directorates and departments had been established in many districts and subdistricts (*kazas* and *nahiyes*) within the Aydın province, including Honaz.

By 1867, one of the police offices in the Aydın province was located in Honaz. On June 30, 1867, the Aydın Provincial Administrative Council decided to convert several police offices into directorates for better maintenance of public order. Honaz, along with Seferihisar, Sarayköy, and Gökhöyük, was among the locations proposed for this conversion. However, a lack of response for over a year prompted further correspondence between the Aydın Governorate and the Grand Vizier’s Office.

Regarding agricultural productivity and related activities in Honaz, little information is available in the documents. However, some notable initiatives were undertaken in 1898. One of these was recognized with a silver medal awarded to Neşet Bey on April 8, 1898, for draining swamps in Honaz and converting them into arable land, thereby advancing agriculture in the area.

Like other districts and subdistricts in Denizli, Honaz also saw plans for the construction of a government building. Construction began just before the Second Constitutional Era (*II. Meşrutiyet*). According to correspondence from the Aydın Governorate dated March 30, 1908, the foundation of the government building in Honaz was laid in the presence of some officials from Denizli and a large crowd. During the construction process, challenges such as procuring timber arose. While the Denizli Administrative Council made efforts to obtain the timber for free, the provincial authorities deemed this request unacceptable, arguing that it would disrupt the state budget and require extensive correspondence. As a result, no exemptions were made, and timber procurement followed the usual taxation procedures.

One of the significant events that affected Honaz in the early 20th century was the earthquake that began on December 10, 1911, and lasted for several days. Although the earthquake did not cause fatalities, it was highly destructive to the city. A large portion of the houses in Honaz sustained damage, and five to six homes were completely destroyed. Residents avoided entering their homes, spending their days outdoors. The insufficient number of tents prompted efforts to obtain around 100 tents from the military. However, the Ministry of War (*Harbiye Nezareti*) refused this request, citing the military's needs and the state of mobilization as reasons. The Ministry instead suggested sourcing the tents from merchants in Istanbul or İzmir. Whether the tents were ultimately obtained remains unrecorded.

### **Conclusion**

Honaz, which served as a district center until the 1864 administrative reforms and then became a subdistrict center, continued to maintain its military, administrative, and economic importance during the period under review. Factors contributing to this included its proximity to Denizli, its connections to the Antalya region, its strategic significance, and the presence of the 3rd Redif Battalion in the area.