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## Lala Şahin Paşa

**Lala Şahin (Lālā Şāhīn) Paşa** (d. 788/1386?) was tutor (*lala*) to the Ottoman sultan Murad (Murād) I (763–91/1362–89) and the first person in the Ottoman state to hold the title of beylerbey (*beglerbegi*, lit. “lord of lords,” in this period, commander-in-chief of the army; in later usage, governor general). Apparently, Şahin was a convert to Islam, and, according to Taşköprülüzade (Taşköprülüzāde (also Taşköprüzade, Taşköprizade), d. 968/1561), a manumitted slave of Sultan Orhan (Orkhān, r. c. 724–63/1324–62). Circa 760/1359, Orhan sent Şahin to the European part of the Ottoman domains (Rumeli), a few years after the death of Orhan’s son, Süleyman (Süleymān) Paşa (d. 1357), who had been leader of military operations in Rumeli.

At this time, Şahin was serving as Murad’s tutor and taking part in important Ottoman conquests in Thrace. According to Halil İnalçık, these may have included the capture of Edirne, although the date of the city’s seizure is still disputed. When Orhan died (763/1362), Murad returned

to Bursa to succeed him, but left Şahin in Rumeli as commander-in-chief, or *beylerbeyi*. As such, Şahin played a key role in many further conquests in Bulgaria and Greece, alongside Evrenos (d. 1417), other marcher lords (*uc beyleri*), and the vizier Çandarlı Kara Halil Hayreddin (Qara Khalīl Khayr al-Dīn) Paşa (d. 789/1387). He also played a role in the Ottoman victory of 883/1371 over the Serbs at Chernomen (Çirmen, “the battle on the Maritza”), as well as in the conquests of Filibe (Plovdiv), Drama, and Serres. He probably took part in the Ottoman conquest of Niš (787/1385), but died before Murad I’s campaign against Karaman (788/1386). His connection to the town of Kirmasti (Mustafakemalpaşa) is apparent from the fact that he constructed an extensive pious foundation there. In addition to his still extant tomb (*türbe*), and a now mostly ruined mosque, *imaret* (*imāret*, hospice), and *medrese* (*madrassa*), this originally also included a *zaviye* (*zāwiya*, dervish lodge).

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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