

climate, perhaps unpredictably, the economic benefits outweigh the potential costs and side effects.¹⁴⁶

Beyond the CATS project, a 2010 proposal by French poly-technician Yves Paumier advocates for a revival of the inland sea. Paumier argues that the once-impractical endeavor has become more feasible thanks to advances in engineering technology as well as increased cooperation between Tunisia and Algeria. His proposal envisions the creation of a new urban oasis city of Roudaireville-les-Palmiers by 2050 as a result of the sea's completion.¹⁴⁷ Similarly in 2015, an Italian organization called Cooperation Road (CO.RO) was formed to reassess the feasibility of constructing an artificial inland sea in the Sahara, obtaining approval by the Tunisian government in 2018 to pursue surveying work. CO.RO draws upon many of the same principles as the original Roudaire plan, aiming to create an international coalition to pursue its development.¹⁴⁸

These periodic revivals are emblematic of the legacy of French colonialism. Though over eighty years have passed since the demise of the Third Republic, a faith in the power of modern science to transform marginal spaces of the colonial (or post-colonial) world into "productive" continues to drive schemes devised by both European and African entities. Despite the evolution of goals and technologies, the underlying antipathy toward the Saharan climate has persisted from colonialism to neocolonialism. Thus, the dream of the Sahara Sea and the belief in the reversibility of desertification is not entirely dead; rather, the disdain for deserts is alive and well, as is a faith in technology to address the decline of marginal lands, however fantastical one might consider it to be.

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¹⁴⁶ Pugno et al., 500–514.

¹⁴⁷ Yves Paumier, "North Africa: From Roudaire's 'Inland Sea' Project to the Blue Nile," *Executive Intelligence Review* 39, no. 23 (2012): 44–49.

¹⁴⁸ Antonio de Martini, "Chott El Jerid: The Sea in the Sahara," *Cooperation Road*, https://30b9e9ba-ce42-4bbe-8158-fb2df01770e3.filesusr.com/ugd/470b66_23536a73570c47cfacfr857c7e53ed40.pdf.

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A Failed Transplant: American Cotton in the Ottoman Empire

AHMET IZMIRLIOGLU

This paper investigates the factors behind the failure of British efforts to cultivate significant amounts of American cotton in the Ottoman Empire to compensate for the supplies cut due to the American Civil War. The reports by British consuls on the subject sheds light on Ottoman labor markets, financial strains on Ottoman agricultural workers and land owners, difficulties posed by natural and climatic conditions, the challenges faced in the difficult Anglo-Ottoman partnership, and the extent of central Ottoman authority (especially in terms of the ability of imperial bureaucracy to co-opt or coerce regional elites) in the third decade of the Tanzimat Reforms. British communications also display the varying opinions among British officials of the Ottoman government, officials, population, and the status of the Tanzimat Reforms.

KEYWORDS: Ottoman, Tanzimat, American Cotton, British, inter-imperial project, imperial authority.

"The activity prevailing in the various cotton-growing countries in the world seems to have established the possibility of dispensing, if need be, with America as a source of supply. No apprehension is now felt that the continuance of the strife across the Atlantic can prevent the termination, ere [sic] long, of the cotton famine. The cloud has broken, and brighter days are opening."¹

So proclaimed the opening lines on the cover page of *The Cotton Supply Reporter*, a journal of the Manchester Cotton Supply Association, on December 1, 1863. The jubilantly optimistic tone of the report, however, was not entirely consistent with the wary tones

¹ The National Archives (TNA): FO 195/771, *The Cotton Supply Reporter*, December 1, 1863.

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