

Baltacı Mehmed Paşa'nın 1711 Prut Seferi ile ilgili emirleri

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M. Münir Aktepe

HADEE YATIRILABİREYAS
SONRA GELİR DOKÜMAN

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BALTACI MEHMET PAŞA

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- Prut Savaşı
- Baltacı Mehmet Paşa

**HAZINE-İ BİRÜN KÂTİBİ
AHMET BİN MAHMUD EFENDİNİN TUTTUĞU
PRUT SEFERİNE AİT DEFTERDEN KOPARILAN
SAHİFELERDE NELER VARDI?**

ŞEVKET RADO

Prut Savaşı, bilindiği gibi, günümüzden tam 275 yıl önce, 1711 yılında Osmanlı Türkleriyle Ruslar arasında cereyan etmiş ve sonunda Türklerin parlak bir zafer kazanması ile neticelenmiştir. Devrin Padişahı Sultan III. Ahmed'in Sadr-ı Âzamı Baltacı Mehmet Paşa'nın kumandası altındaki Türk ordusu, başlarında Çar Koca Petro ile eşi Katerina'nın da bulunduğu Rus ordusunu son derece mâhir bir manevra ile Prut nehrinin bir yanındaki geniş bataklığa sürmüş, çaresiz kalan Ruslar bu durumda Türklerden aman dileyerek, Sadr-ı Âzam ve Serasker Baltacı Mehmet Paşa ile ordunun ileri gelenlerini, biribiri ardından gönderdikleri elçilerle bir an önce bir sulh akdedilmesine razı etmek için adetâ yalvar yakar olmuşlardır. Ne çâre ki Koca Petro'nun, nerede ise Türklere esir düşmeyi göze alıp kendisi esir olduktan sonra ne yapacaklarını yakınlarına söylediği sırada, Türk tarafında sulh müzakerelerini idare edenlerin âcemilikleri yüzünden, harp meydanında kazanılmış bu parlak zafer, hiç de parlak olmayan bir sulh anlaşmasıyla noktalanmış ve Ruslar feci bir çıkmazdan kurtularak memleketlerine salimen dönmek fırsatını kullanmayı başarmışlardır.

Prut Savaşıyla en fazla ilgilenen tarihçilerimizin başında, hiç şüphesiz, değerli hocalarımızdan, rahmetli Prof. Dr. Akdes Nimet Kurat gelmektedir. Kendisinin bu bahis etrafında pek değerli araştırmaları vardır¹. Bilhassa "Prut Savaşı ve Barışı" adlı iki ciltlik eseri en geniş çalışmasını teşkil eder. Prof. Akdes Nimet bu çalışmasında esas kaynak olarak "Hazine-i Birün kâtibi Ahmet bin Mahmud'un 1123 (1711) Prut Seferine ait defteri"nden faydalandığından sitayişle bahsetmektedir ki, bizim de asıl konumuzu bu defter teşkil ediyor.

Bu defter Prut Seferine ait elyazması bir ruznamedir ki, Hazine-i Birün kâtibi olduğu anlaşılan Ahmet bin Mahmud adındaki bir zat "Defter" adını

¹ Bilgi almak için: Ankara Üniversitesi, Dil ve Tarih-Coğrafya Fakültesi, Tarih Araştırma Enstitüsünce yayınlanan Tarih Araştırmaları dergisinin 1966 yılı, Cilt IV, Sayı 6-7, Sayfa 259.

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24 AGUSTOS 1993

MAAQUE TAYINLANDIRKAN
BONRA GELEN DOKÜMAN

اون ايكنجى شارل روسيه قارشو اسوج ، ايله اتقانى رجا ايلديكى ذات حضرت پادشاهى به عرض و تقديم ايلديكى نامه سنده شو سوزلى يازميشدى : « اكر روسيه چارينه بزم فلاكتزدن منحصلا و روسيه نك منافنه موافق بولان احوال دن استفاده ايچون زمان مساعد ويريلور ايسه ولايات شاهانه كزدن برينه ترمض و هجوم ايله جكدور ؛ نته كيم دساس منفق [لهستان قرالى] ايله اسوج بمالكة هجوم ايلميشدى . «تهن» [دون] نهري اوزر بيه انشا ايتد برديكى قلملر دولت عليه عثمانيه كزه قارشو دشمنانه افكار بسلديكى اثبات ايدن دلائل دندر . احوال و امور بومر كزده ايكن تهلكتي دفع ايتك ايچون اك صاغلام و امين برچاره دولت عثمانيه ايله اسوج دولتى آره سنده عقد اتقاق ايدلمك دن عبارتدر » اون ايكنجى شارل بويولده كي مصرانه تكليفات مسترحانه سنه ينه قرال مشاراليه ك تشويقه قريم و نونغاى و قوبان تانارلينك دولت عثمانيه به مراجعت و التجارى دخى انضمام ايلدى ؛ بوتانارل « آراق » جهتنن كله جك تهلكتي عرض و اراهه ايله دولت عثمانيه نك حايث و امداديني رجا ايتكده ايديلر .

چار پترو به قارشو محاربه آجلسى ايچون وقوعه بكن تشويقات مبحوثه باب عاليجه حسن صورته تلقى اولنمقده ايدى و چونكه باب طالى دخى روسيه نك صورت تدريجه ده اكتساب ايتكده بولنديكى مكنت و سطوت جهته عطف انظار ايتكدن حالى دكلى . اك مونوق خبرلرله دخى مؤيد اولدينى اوزره - روسيه نك قره دكز ساحلده كي وضع و موقعنه منات و يرملك ايچون - « پترو » طرفدن فوق العاده بر فضاليت ابراز اولنمقده ايدى . « آراق » ، « طينان » [طاعان روغ] و « دبنه پر » نهري اوزرنده كي « قانتى زاتون » [*] قلملرينك آز وقته ميدانه گلش [*] « قانتى زاتون - Kamenni zatun » طاش قلمه مناسنه در . نوارخ عثمانيه ده « قابه نفا » سورتده محرر در .

روس منابنه كوره :

بالطهجي محمد پاشانك پروت سفري Ahmed Muhtar

(۱۱۲۳ هـ - ۱۷۱۱ م)

اسباب سفر

« بولتاوا » محاربه مدهته سندن سوكره هزيمت كلييه دوچار اولان اسوج قرالى اون ايكنجى شارل - كندى قوماندانلرندن « مازه با » و بر قاج زاندىن عبارت مقرينى ايله برلكده - ممالك عثمانيه به فرار و التجا ايتميشدى . ذات حضرت پادشاهينك فرمان مخصوصيله مشاراليه قرال « بندر » قلمسى قريبنده كاآن « وارنجي - Varnitzi » نام كويده اقامت ايتدى . قرال ك هر درلو لوازم و مصارفى طرف پادشاهين نام احسان و تخصيص بيورلدينى كي اقامتگاه قرالده خدمت ايتك اوزره سميته نسب و تعيين بيوريلن بشيوزى متجاوز يكيچرى دخى دبدبه قرالى بي اتعام ايله رك مقتضيات فرمان همايون وجهله نزد قرالده مأمور و مستخدم بولنيور ايدى .

اون ايكنجى شارل « بولتاوا » [بالطوه] ده كي هزيمتن سوكره غالب « پترو » نك اسوج مملكتنه قارشو حركات تجاوزيه اجرا ايتندن خوف ايتكده بولنديقتن بوتجاوزات ملحوظه نك اوكنى آلق ايچون چوقدنبرو روسيه به قارشو اتقانى استرحام ايتديكى دولت عليه عثمانيه به وجه معروض اوزره بالالتجا بوسفر دولت عثمانيه نك اسوج حكومتى ايله اتقاق ايتمى ده ايازده مصرانه رجا و التماس ايتكده و بو استرحامى فرانسه حكومتى ايله لهستان قرال غلوعى « ايتائيسلاوله چينسكى » نك طرفدارى بولان لهيلر طرفندن دخى ترويج قلمقده ايدى .

بالخاش، دریاچه و شهری در قزاقستان. این نام که مغولی است، از سوی قلموقها بلخاس خوانده می‌شود. قلموقها در سده ۱۷ و نیمه نخست سده ۱۸م/۱۱ و ۱۲ق بر سرزمینهای اطراف این دریاچه تسلط داشتند. قرقیزها که بعدها به این منطقه کوچ کردند، آن را آق تنگیز (دریای سفید) نامیدند (بارتولد، 361-360).

دریاچه بالخاش: این دریاچه پس از آرال بزرگ‌ترین دریاچه آسیای مرکزی است که در جنوب شرقی قزاقستان و در ارتفاع ۳۳۹ متری از سطح دریا واقع است («دائرةالمعارف...»، 187/1). مساحت آن متغیر، و میان ۱۷ تا ۲۲ هزار کصم برآورد شده است. طول دریاچه ۶۰۵ کصم و عرض آن در بخش شرقی میان ۱۹ تا ۱۹ کصم و در بخش غربی حداکثر ۷۴ کصم و مساحت حوضه آن ۵۰۱ کصم است (BSE³, II/588). میانگین عمق دریاچه ۶ متر و حداکثر آن ۲۶/۵ متر است («دائرةالمعارف...»، همانجا). اقلیم جلگه‌های اطراف این دریاچه بیابانی، و میانگین دمای آن در ژوئیه ۲۴° و در ژانویه ۸- است. آب بخش شرقی دریاچه اندکی شور و آب بخش غربی آن شیرین است که از ماه نوامبر یخ می‌بندد و تا ماه آوریل ادامه می‌یابد (همان، 187-188/1). رود ایلی که کاشغری آن را ایلان نوشته است (ص ۲۱۳)، بزرگ‌ترین رود منطقه است که از سمت مغرب به دریاچه بالخاش می‌ریزد (نک: ۵، د، ایلی). در جهت دیگر رودهای قراتال، آق سو، لیسا و چند رود کوچک دیگر به این دریاچه می‌ریزند (نک: بروکهاوس، 834/IIA).

جغرافی‌نویسان سده‌های نخست اسلامی دریاچه بالخاش را نمی‌شناختند. ظاهراً نخستین کس از مسلمانان که به سرزمین جونگار و حدود دریاچه بالخاش سفر کرد، عربی به نام سلام بود که به دستور واثق خلیفه عباسی (۲۲۷-۲۳۲ق) در حدود سالهای ۲۲۷-۲۲۸ق/۸۴۲-۸۴۳م از طریق بُرسخان، طراز و سمرقند، راهی آن دیار شد. گویا انگیزه این سفر شایعه پیشروی قبایل ترک به آسیای مرکزی بود که در نتیجه درهم شکسته شدن اویغوران توسط قرقیزها در مغولستان صورت گرفت (کراچکوفسکی، IV/140). بارتولد ابتدا محمد حیدر مؤلف تاریخ رشیدی را نخستین کس می‌شناسد که در سده ۱۰ق/۱۶م از این دریاچه یاد کرده است. وی می‌نویسد که در آن زمان این دریاچه مرز میان سرزمین ازبکها و مغولان بود و آن را گوگچه تنگیز (دریای آبی) می‌نامیدند (ص 360)؛ ولی بعدها بارتولد از این نظر عدول ورزیده، و شرف‌الدین علی یزدی مورخ قرن ۹ق/۱۵م را نخستین مؤلفی نامیده که از دریاچه بالخاش با نام اترک کول (دریاچه اترک) یاد کرده است (ص 434).

حوضه دریاچه بالخاش به ضمیمه منطقه بسیار وسیعی از ترکستان شرقی و بخش بزرگی از جونگار و هفت رود (هفت آب) محدوده دولت قراختایان بود (خاراداو، 32). جلگه‌های اطراف دریاچه بالخاش، زمانی در محدوده دشت قیچاق قرار داشت (باخروشین، II/21). پس

بالتاچی مُحَمَّد پاشا (د ۱۱۲۴ق/۱۷۱۲م)، صدراعظم دولت عثمانی در روزگار سلطنت احمد سوم (حک ۱۱۱۵-۱۱۴۳ق). وی به پاکجه مؤذن (ثریا، ۲۰۸/۴) و گوزلجه مؤذن (طیارزاده، ۱۴۶/۲) نیز مشهور است.

محمد در عثمانجق از توابع قسطنطنیه زاده شد (شیخی، ۴۳۶/۳-۲). ثریا، همانجا). از دوران کودکی او آگاهی دقیقی در دست نیست. وی به عنوان بالتاچی (نبرد) در صنف بالتاچیان وارد دستگاه حکومتی شد (طیارزاده، همانجا) و در مناصب مؤذنی، منشیگری، میرآخوری و قاپودانی خدمت کرد و سرانجام در ۱۱۱۶ق/۱۷۰۴م پس از فلایلی احمد پاشا، به صدر اعظمی برگزیده شد، اما چندی بعد از این مقام عزل گردید و بار دیگر در ۱۱۲۲ق/۱۷۱۰م به صدارت منصوب شد (همانجاها).

پناهنده شدن کارل پادشاه سوئدیه عثمانی و جنگهای روس و عثمانی از رویدادهای مهم دوران صدارت کوتاه اوست. در این دوره روسها با ساختن استحکامات جنگی و کشتیهای رزمی در بندر دریای آرژف و برانگیختن مسیحیان آن نواحی و تصرف قلعه آرژف (جودت، I-XII/92) به دولت عثمانی اعلان جنگ دادند و فرماندهی سپاه عثمانی در این جنگ به محمد پاشا واگذار شد (طیارزاده، همانجا؛ درباره جزئیات این جنگ و نقش محمد پاشا به عنوان فرمانده سپاه و صدراعظم، نک: آق-تپه، 132-133). وی در سمت فرماندهی معاهده‌ای نه چندان مناسب که در تاریخ به معاهده پروت معروف است، منعقد ساخت. نظریات گوناگونی در تأیید یا انتقاد از سیاست او در این جنگ و انعقاد معاهده‌ای و هن آور، آن هم در هنگامی که احتمال پیروزی عثمانیها می‌رفت، اظهار شده است، چنانکه او را حتی به گرفتن رشوه از تزار روس متهم کرده‌اند (شاو، ۴۰۰/۱؛ هامر پورگشتال، ۲۹۸۲/۴؛ ثریا، ۲۰۸/۴-۲۰۹).

بالتاچی مردی خردمند، مدبر، جسور و در عین حال مکار و غدار (همانجا؛ هامر پورگشتال، ۲۹۴۲/۴). و گویا هنردوست و اهل قلم نیز بود (IA, II/296). وی سرانجام در شوال ۱۱۲۳ پس از ۲/۵ سال صدارت (طیارزاده، همانجا) به سبب عدم موفقیت در جنگ از مقام خود معزول، و اموالش مصادره شد. او نخست به جزیره میدلی، و سپس به لیمنی تبعید گردید و پس از مدتی بر اثر بیماری در همانجا درگذشت و در جوار آرامگاه شاعر عارف، شیخ مصری دفن گردید (هامر-پورگشتال، ۲۹۸۲/۴، IA، همانجا). سن او را به هنگام مرگ بیشتر از ۵۰ سال دانسته‌اند (طیارزاده، همانجا)؛ بنابراین، می‌بایست در حدود

سال ۱۰۷۴ق/۱۶۶۳م زاده شده باشد.
مآخذ: ثریا، محمد، سجل عثمانی (تذکره مشاهیر عثمانیه)، استانبول، ۱۳۱۶ق؛ شاو، ج. واک. شاو، تاریخ امپراتوری عثمانی و ترکیه جدید، ترجمه محمود رمضان زاده، مشهد، ۱۳۷۰ش؛ شیخی محمد اقدی، رباع الفضلاء (ذیل الشقائق العمانية)، به کوشش عبدالقادر اوزجان، استانبول، ۱۹۸۹م؛ طیارزاده، احمد عطا، تاریخ، استانبول، ۱۲۹۷ق؛ هامر پورگشتال، بوزف، تاریخ امپراتوری عثمانی، ترجمه میرزا زکی علی-آبادی، به کوشش جمشید کبائفر، تهران، ۱۳۶۹ش؛ نیز:

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07 AĞU 2008

MADDE SAĞIRI VE SAĞIRI
SONRA SAĞIRI VE SAĞIRI

AN EMPRESS AND A GRAND VIZIER: CATHERINE, BALTACI
MEHMED AND THE BATTLE OF THE PRUT, 1711

Baltacı Mehmet Adrian JONES*

^{Paşa}
This is a study of unusual events on 10 July 1711 (Old Style). Peace broke out just when most people expected a rout. An unusual woman – Empress Catherine I, as she came to be – played an unusual role in shaping the final outcome of a battle. A big bribe was taken; or was it just a normal gift received?

The events in questions took place at the close of a two-night and two-day battle beside the Prut River in Moldavia. The official protagonists were a Russian tsar and emperor-to-be, Peter the Great (born 1672, reigning 1682-1725) and an Ottoman Grand Vizier (*Sadrızam*), Baltacı Mehmed Paşa (born 1660?, governing 1704-6, 1710-11).

Stories about 10 July 1711 are rich in irony. The victor, Baltacı Mehmed, is now widely viewed as anything-but-Great, a might-have-been, a figure of shame.¹ Conversely, Tsar Peter, the monarch who lost, is now renowned – though few Russian historians, it must be said, dwell on his errors in Moldavia in June-July 1711 or on the luck of his escape unscathed as an unexpectedly generous peace was offered to him by Baltacı Mehmed following Peter's crushing defeat. In retrospect, this was one Turkish view in 1932:

* La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia, adrian.jones@latrobe.edu.au

¹ François-Marie Arouet de Voltaire is an exception: *Histoire de l'Empire de Russie sous Pierre le Grand* (1759) in *Œuvres historiques*, ed. René Pomeau, Paris, Gallimard, Bibliothèque de Pléiade, 1957, p. 488.

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BALTACI MEHMED PAŞA (1660 ?-1712).

Osmanlı sadrâzamlarından olup, Çorum civârındaki Osmancık kasabasında doğmuştur. Âilesi ve doğum tarihi hakkında bilgimiz yoksa da, öldüğü zaman yaşının elliye geçtiği gözönünde tutulursa, 1660 civârında dünyaya geldiği söylenebilir.

Mehmed Paşa, Vâlide Râbia Cülnûş (ölm. 1715) Sultan 'a yazmış olduğu 1711 tarihli bir mektuba nazaran, bulûğ çağında memleketinden ayrılmış, birçok yere ve bu arada Trablusgarb, Cezâyir ve Tunus 'a kadar gitmiştir. Burada Mağribli bir azîz, kendisine büyük bir adam olacağını müjdelediğinden İstanbul 'a gelip saraya intisâb ederek, Gülnûş Sultan 'ın hizmetinde bulunmuştur. IV. Mehmed 'in tahttan indirilmesi (1687) üzerine, Eski Saray 'a geçip yine Gülnûş Sultan 'ın hizmetinde bulunmuştur. Daha sonra Baltacılar ocağına geçen Mehmed Ağa, II. Mustafa 'nın pâdişah olmasından sonra, ikinci yazıcılık, baltacı ocağı yazıcılığı ve dârüssaâde ağası imâmlığı gibi hizmetlerde bulunmuş; sesinin güzelliği, mûsikîye olan istidâdı ve tabiatının yumuşaklığı ile kendisini sevdirmiş, husûsiyle Vâlide Cülnûş Sultan 'ın iltifât ve himâyesine mazhâr olmuştur. Ancak, kendisine gösterilen bu iltifâtı hazmedemeyen bâzı ileri gelen baltacılar onu İstanbul 'dan uzaklaştırmaya muvaffak oldular. Bu münâsebetle pek çok yeri görmüştür. Feyzullah Efendi vak'ası sırasında, Mısır 'dan getirilerek sıkı bir sorguya çekilmiş, daha sonra, evkaf mütevellîsi olarak Amasya 'ya gönderilmek istenmişse de, İstanbul 'da çıkan isyân üzerine başşehirde kalarak "Edirne vak'ası" veya "Feyzullah Efendi hâdisesi" adı ile meşhûr olan ayaklanmada, âsî reisleri ile temasta bulunmuş ve Şehzâde (III.) Ahmed 'in tahta geçmesi husûsunda gayret sarf etmiştir. Bu şehzâdenin cülûsundan sonra, birinci mîrâhorluğa getirildi (şaban 1115=aralık 1703) ise de, Mehmed Ağa 'nın Vâlide Sultan ve pâdişâha yakınlığı dolayısıyla kendisine rakib olacağı endişesiyle, Sadrâzam Moralı Damad Hasan Paşa tarafından mal tahsili için Haleb ve Trablus 'a gönderilmiş; daha sonra hakkında bâzı şikâyetlerde bulunularak pâdişâhın gözünden düşürülmek istenmiştir. Mehmed Ağa ancak Kalaylıkoz Ahmed Paşa 'nın sadâretinde İstanbul 'a çağrılarak eski vazifesine iâde edilmiş ve kısa bir zaman sonra vezirlikle kapudân-ı derya olmuştur (6 kasım 1704).

Baltacı Mehmed Paşa, kısa süren bu hizmeti sırasında daha ziyâde Kalaylıkoz Ahmed Paşa 'nın sadâretten azline yol açan tertiplere girişmiş ve so-

(v. 1125 / 1712)

Kaçak Türk-İslam Ans.

(v. 4), s. 303-312, 1981 (197)

1/1921-2), based on a manuscript of the final recension (Türk Tarih Kurumu Lib., ms. 509) it has also become one of the sources most frequently referred to by researchers.

Finally, Bursalı Mehmed Tahir, *Othmānī müzellifleri*, iii, 142, attributes to a Mehmed b. Hüseyin of Sultan İbrāhīm's time a translation of the Persian history of 'Alī b. Shihāb al-Dīn Hamadānī, the *Dhakhīrat al-mulūk*, at the command of the governor of Baghdād, Derwīsh Mehmed Pasha [q. v.], in 10 bābs, to which he added two further bābs and called the whole the *Tuḥfat al-ma'mūn*. This history must nevertheless be by Muşliḥ al-Dīn Muştafā b. Sha'bān (d. 969/1561-2) (see Kātib Čelebi (Hādīdjī Khalīfa), *Kashf al-zunūn*, Istanbul 1941, i, 824, and from it, Bursalı Mehmed Tahir, ii, 226), and this is strengthened by the fact that the *Dhakhīrat al-mulūk*, as described in the above two sources, is not a history but a treatise on political ethics (see Storey, i, 946-7 n. 4).

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(BEKİR KÜTÜKOĞLU)

MEHMET LALA PASHA [see MEHMET PASHA, LALA].

MEHMET LÁLEZĀRĪ [see LÁLEZĀRĪ].

MEHMET PASHA, BALTAĐJĪ, TEBERDĀR (1071-1124/1660-1 to 1712), Ottoman Grand Vizier under Sultan Ahmed III [q. v.].

Born in Osmancık (Merzifon), as the son of Turkish Muslim parents, he was able to enter the outside service of the Sultan's palace thanks to patronage (*intisāb*). He began his career in a secretarial function. By favour and through the patronage of Habeshī 'Alī Agha and other *birün aghas*, he entered the service of the *Wālide Sultān Khadīdje Tarkhān*, attaining the rank of *khalīfe* in 1099/1687. The prince Ahmed (the later Ahmed III) appointed Mehmed as apprentice to the corps of the "Baltađjis of the Old Sarāy", where he became known as the "beautiful muezzin" because of the musical qualities of his voice. When in 1695 Habeshī 'Alī became *Dār al-Sa'āde Aghasi* to Sultan Muştafā II [q. v.], Baltađjī Mehmed became personal scribe to his protector and was thus admitted to the proximity of the sultan and of Prince Ahmed. At the accession of the latter on 10 Rabī' II 1115/21 August 1703, Mehmed, with 9 years' experience of confidential service and having travelled all over the empire, was promoted to the rank of *Mir Ākhūr*, but his appointment as *taḥşıldār* of Aleppo removed him from the palace service. The Grand Vizier Kalaylıkoz Ahmed Pasha promoted him to the rank of vizier (8 Rađjab 1116/6 September 1704) with the function of *Kapudān Pasha*. Already on 27 Sha'bān 1116/26 December 1704 he became Grand Vizier (1704-6/1116-18). He had to maintain his position against the rival faction led by Čorlulu 'Alī Pasha and Newshehirli (Dāmād) İbrāhīm Pasha [q. v.]. He made himself indispensable to his monarch by playing upon the latter's constant fear of revolt and deposition. The Grand Vizier managed to free himself from the supervision of financial affairs by means of an intrigue, falsely accusing the *Nishāndjī Hüseyin Pasha* of plotting a revolt and consequently sending him into exile at İstanköy Island (Cos). The Sultan for long tolerated his old familiar companion in spite of his marked lack of ability in financial matters.

At last, the Sultan decided to replace Baltađjī Mehmed Pasha by Čorlulu 'Alī Pasha (19 Muharram 1118/3 May 1706), his trusted intimate as well as a competent statesman. The ex-Grand Vizier was honourably exiled with the appointment as *Beglerbegi* of Erzurum. In 1119/1707 he was transferred to Chios

(Ott. Sakiz [q. v.]), from which post he went to Aleppo as *Beglerbegi*. In that city, the poet Nābī [q. v.] belonged to Baltađjī Mehmed Pasha's salon.

On 14 Djumādā II 1122/10 August 1710, Ahmed III decided to appoint his old companion as Grand Vizier again. The latter actually took office in Istanbul by 3 Sha'bān/27 September. By this time a "war party," which aimed at a renewal of the war against Russia, had gained the upper hand. The intrigues to that end were assisted by the King of Sweden, "Iron Head" (*Demir Baş*) Charles XII, who had found refuge in Ottoman territory since 1709. His Ottoman ally was the Khān of the Crimea Dawlat Giray II [see GIRAY] (second reign, 1120-5/1708-13) who came to Istanbul in 1122/1710 to further his aims of war against the Russian Tsar Peter. A Council was held in the Sultan's palace (*Meshwret-i 'Azīme* of 28 Ramađān 1122/21 November 1710) and war was declared on Russia. The new Grand Vizier was to command the army. The so-called Pruth campaign began in the spring of 1123/1711. The Tsar's diplomacy could not curb the Ottoman initiative and the two armies marched towards each other, meeting on 12 Djumādā II/28 July 1711 in Moldavia (Ott. Boghdan [q. v.]) near Khān Tepesi (= Stanilesti) on the river Pruth, downstream on the road from Jassy (Ott. Yash [q. v.]). Nobody in the Russian army was aware that Baltađjī Mehmed Pasha was already close by. The Ottomans, reinforced by a large body of Tatars, Cossacks and Polish troops, totalling 120,000 men and 400 guns, were in perfect condition. The Russian army (40,000 infantry, 14,000 horse and 122 guns) had been suffering from lack of food and forage for three weeks. The support promised in a secret treaty concluded in view of the Russo-Turkish war by the prince of Moldavia Demetrius Cantemir (1673-1723) was not delivered, for the crops had failed as a result of drought and locusts. On 5 Djumādā II/21 July 1711, Baltađjī Mehmed's army completely surrounded the Russians and was preparing for the general attack with an artillery barrage. The Tsar Peter, who was with his army, realised that his forces would be annihilated and decided quickly to sue for an armistice and peace. For this move, he found support not only from his Vice-Chancellor Peter Shafirov but also from his wife Catherine. This lady's involvement probably gave rise to the historical legend that the corrupt Ottoman Grand Vizier gave in easily to the Russian proposals, as these were accompanied by the offer of the jewelry and the charms of the Tsarina to his person. In any case, lacking insight into the true situation of the two powers, Baltađjī Mehmed was too easily content with the Russian proposals. He was already satisfied with the retrocession of Azov (Ott. Azak [q. v.]), the demolition of the newly-built Russian fortresses at Taganrog, Kamenny Zaton and along the Dniepr, the closing of the permanent Russian embassy at the Porte, the evacuation of Polish territory and a guarantee of non-interference in Polish affairs. All Ottoman prisoners were to be set free and the King of Sweden was to be allowed safe passage. The Russian troops were provided with food for their free retreat. A preliminary treaty of peace was hurriedly agreed upon on 6 Djumādā II 1123/23 July 1711 (O.S. 12 July), notwithstanding the protests of Dawlat Giray II Khān and the representative of Charles XII, the Polish general Stanislas Poniatowski. Baltađjī Mehmed Pasha seems to have been carried away by his own unexpected success. It must be realised, however, that the Janissaries had little stomach for fighting in this desolate country and that the Sipāhis were always reluctant to face the costs of

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