



BRILL

## Because they are Genghis Khan's Descendants: The Involvement of the Giray Dynasty in Tax Farming and Allocations of *Timars* in Eighteenth-Century Serfice

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### Abstract

The Ottoman eighteenth century is a period of decentralisation dominated by the emergence of peripheral semi-autonomous lords. This period is also marked by the spread of tax farming (*iltizam*), especially lifelong *malikane* contracts. This article is a case study of these two phenomena, through examination of the activities of minor/secondary notables in a remote corner of Ottoman Macedonia, namely the town of Serfice (today Serbia, in Greek Macedonia), their relationship with the Giray dynasty ruling over the Tatar khanate of Crimea, who were in their own right the traditional patrimonial beneficiaries of the *hasses* of Serfice, and the role of the Ottoman administration operating as an efficient power broker. It also examines the role of the Giray dynasty in bestowals of *timar* grants on beneficiaries, in an era in which the *timar* system is described in the available bibliography as either moribund or completely defunct.

### Keywords

tax-farming – malikane – Serfice – Giray dynasty – *timar* system – *timar* grants – Ottoman administration – imperial centre vs periphery

The eighteenth century, which is also known as the "Age of the Ayans", was a period of ground-breaking transformations of the Ottoman socio-economic

and political systems, with the emergence of provincial and peripheral magnates, the well-known *ayan*, being the most characteristic expression of the trend towards economic, political, and military de-centralisation.<sup>1</sup> According to Bruce McGowan, the basic trait of the Ottoman eighteenth century was the blurring of existent dichotomies and career backgrounds, and the violation of all rules concerning and regulating landholding, with a general assault on state-owned (*miri*) lands. Local provincial elites and newly-formed central elites achieved domination by participating in the tax farming system. In this way *ayans* and bankers, who financed the tax farming system and were indispensable for its smooth operation, managed to take over from older elites and to become the real eighteenth-century protagonists.

McGowan distinguishes between two generations of *ayans*. The first generation of lesser *ayans* were by-products of tax farming and of interference in the management of their communities. These people were the intermediaries between central state authorities and their communities, as they undertook the responsibility for tax collection and money lending to villagers and poor urban centre dwellers, something that helped them gain prestige, respect and power. From the ranks of these lesser local notables emerged a second generation of local magnates who formed a select group of grand *ayans* who were warlords, since they gained power by force and quasi-official networks. This second generation made its appearance in the late eighteenth-century catastrophic wars against Russia and Austria, when they mustered their own militias, formed of men residing in their territories, and offered them to the central state to fight its external enemies. They thus managed to establish direct communication links with Istanbul and exploit the desperate needs of the Ottoman state for soldiers. For this reason, by saving the Ottoman state, they seized total control over vast territories, thus accelerating the decentralisation of political power.<sup>2</sup> In this period the survival of the Ottoman state was secured through intricate negotiations between the imperial centre and the peripheral magnates, who, by taking advantage of the daunting needs of the state administration for cash and troops, succeeded in imposing their will and securing their position within the Ottoman imperial system. Thus, local notables emerged during the "Age of

- <sup>1</sup> This term was initially used by Bruce McGowan to designate Ottoman history between 1699 and 1812. For additional information and explanation for the adoption of this term by McGowan, see his "The age of the Ayans", in *An Economic and Social History of the Ottoman Empire*, ed. Halil İnalcik and Donald Quataert (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), vol. II, pp. 637–758.
- <sup>2</sup> McGowan, "The age of the Ayans", pp. 658–63.

03 Mart 2013

MADDE YAYIMLANDIKTAN  
SONRA GELEN DOKÜMAN

Giray (070215)

Timar (190951)

D.3550



20 SUBAT 1992

ŞAHİN GIRAY. Gazel [Gibb IV, 250;] metrical translation by E. J. W. Gibb. Turkish literature, pp. 140-141.

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Tatarlar,  
Giray,  
mesnevi

Kırım

poş.

Kırım Hanlığı, TİM

Kırımli, Hakan

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ray Han dönemi" Emel, İstanbul.

1982/33 sayı 128 ss. 9-23

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bk. Giray Hanlar 1426-1792

1 KASIM 1991

madde: Giray

A. Br. : c.IX, s.468

B. L. : c.VIII, s.4576

F. A. : c. , s.

M. L. : c.V, s.179-180

T. A. : c.XVII, s.369-370

## Giraylar (1440-1840)<sup>1</sup>

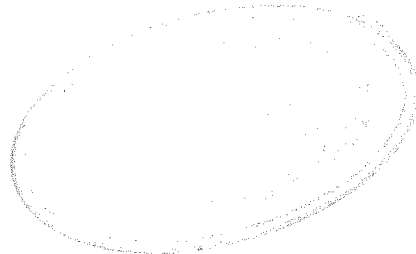
Ali KARACA

Fatih devrinde, Karadeniz'in Osmanlı devletinin hakimiyetine girdiği sıralarda (1454-1475), Karadeniz'in kuzeyinde coğrafi, ekonomik ve stratejik açıdan önemli bir konuma sahip olan Kırım'da da Cengiz soyundan Hacı Giray Han (1440?-1466) yeni bir hanlığın temellerini atdı.<sup>2</sup> Bu dönem aynı zamanda Osmanlı devleti ile Kırım hanlığının tarihi birliktelik sürecinin başlangıcını oluşturdu. Hacı Giray Han'la başlayan münasebetler onun halefi Mengli Giray zamanında bir nevi tedafüf ve tecavüzî ittifaka dönüştü. Kefe'nin zaptı, Kırım'ın güney sahilleri, Kerç boğazının her iki kıyısı ve Azak şehrinin çevresindeki bazı yerlerin Osmanlı devletinin hükmü altına girmesiyle Kırım hanlığı da Osmanlı devletine bağlanmış oldu (1475).<sup>3</sup> Bu bağlılığın en önemli göstergesi hiç şüphesiz hanların tayin ve

<sup>1</sup> Bk. Halim Giray Sultan: *Gülbin-i hânân*. İstanbul, 1327, 13-14; Tatar mirzalarının oğullarını on beş yaşına kadar Atabeylerden Giray kabilesinde bir kişinin himayesinde büyütmek, terbiye ettirmek öteden beri âdet olmuştu. Hacı Giray'ın babası Sultan Gıyaseddin Han da Giray kabilesinden Devlet Giray Sofu'nun evinde büyümüşü. Hacı Giray'ın doğduğu gün Devlet Geldi Sofu'nun hacdan döndüğü güne tesadüf ettiğinden, Sultan Gıyaseddin Han oğlunun adını hem Giray kabilesine hem de Devlet Geldi Sofu'ya bir cemile olarak, Hacı Giray koydu. Hacı Giray, Kırım hanı olduğunda Devlet Geldi Sofu, Giray kabilesinin adının hanların nesilleri tarafından unutulmaması için doğacak hanzâdelerin isimlerine "Giray" ilave edilmesini, böylece kabilesine bir yadigâr bırakılmasını rica eder, Hacı Giray da bu ricayı kabul eder. Bundan sonra doğan bütün han oğullarının adlarına Giray lakabı ilave etmek âdet haline gelir. Hamdi Giray Bey de kesin bir kanaate varamamakla birlikte, "Giray" lakabının Devlet Geldi Sofu'nun arzusuyla konulduğunu belirtmektedir (*Türk-Moğol imparatorluğunun müstakil bir ülkesi olan Altın Ordu devletinin tarihçesi ve bu devletin bir ülkesi olan Kırım*. İstanbul, 1926. Türkiyat Araştırmaları Enstitüsü Kütüphanesi, T. 11, s. 58-60).

<sup>2</sup> H. İnalçık: Kırım. *İA*, VI, 1955, 741-762. A. N. KURAT: *IV-XVIII yüzyıllarda Karadeniz kuzeyindeki Türk kavimleri ve devletleri*. Ankara, 1972, 206-207.

<sup>3</sup> Abdurrahman Şeref: *Tarih-i Osmaniyye*. 1. İstanbul, 1315, 177: "... Hacı Giray'ın vefatında on iki evlâdı birbirine düşüp, serzede-i zuhûr olan nifâk ve münâfeset bâdî-i inkisâm-ı devlet ve müntec-i harâb-ı memleket olduğundan, Kırım ülemâ ve eşrafı



MADDE YAYINLANDIKTAN  
SONRA GELEN DOKÜMAN

1. Giray

2. Selim Giray Han

3. Kerim

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Author: HAJDA, LUBOMYR ANDRIJ

Title: TWO OTTOMAN GAZANAMES CONCERNING THE CHYHYRYN CAMPAIGN OF 1678  
(UKRAINE, EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST)

School: HARVARD UNIVERSITY (0084) Degree: PHD Date: 1984 pp: 303

Source: DAI 45/07A, p.2228

Publication No.: AAC8419348

Subject: HISTORY, EUROPE (0335)

Abstract: This dissertation presents two seventeenth-century Ottoman historical sources of the type called gazaname. This genre of writing appeared in the mid-fifteenth century and lasted to the Crimean war, but despite its popularity, the gazaname has not been the subject of rigorous study.

Two gazanames are presented here: the anonymous Cehrin Seferi and the Ahval-i Icmal-i Sefer-i Cehrin attributed to ('c)Abd'ul-Kerim Efendi, secretary to the Crimean khan, Selim Giray. These concern the Ottoman campaign against Chyhyryn in the Ukraine in 1678, an event which marked the apogee of Ottoman expansion in Eastern Europe, and they add significantly to our knowledge about this event.

Both works have been preserved in unique copies in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris, the Cehrin Seferi in an eighteenth-century copy made by a French scholar, Sieur LeRoux, and the Ahval-i Icmal-i Sefer-i Cehrin in an eighteenth-century Ottoman copy. Because of their location these works have remained unknown to Turkish scholars, and neither has been used in the study of Ottoman history. This dissertation gives a critical edition and an annotated translation of both sources with a discussion of the manuscripts, the style of the works and their probable authorship. The final chapter evaluates their historiographical significance, and compares them with other contemporary accounts of the Chyhyryn campaign, both Ottoman and European.

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قازان بوردنده بولونمش تاریخی برویقه

صاحب کرای خان یارلیغی

عبدالله بطال

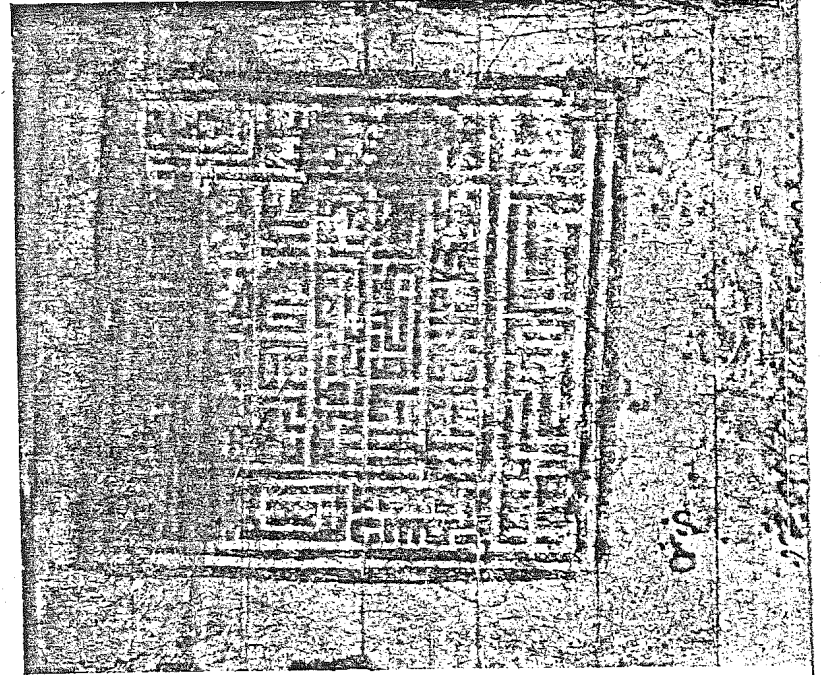
۱۹۲۰ سنهسی یازنده تاریخ معلمی سید واحد افندی قازان بوردنده بر کویده مهم بر تاریخی وثیقه (صاحب کرای خانک تاریخانلیق یارلیغی) بونشدی. ۱۹۲۵ سنهسی قازانده چیقمش اولان «تارستان تیبع جمعیتک مخبری» اسمنده کی روسجه مجموعه نك ۱-۲ صاییلرنده یارلیغک کاشفنگ بو وثیقه یه دائر مقاله سنه، وثیقه نك فوتوغرافی، روسجه قازان لهجه سیله ترجمه سنی کوردک. بو یارلیغه دائر سوز سوبله مه دن و اونق تحلیله کیریشمه دن اول عموماً « یارلیقلرک ناصل وثیقلر اولدیقنه دائر برارچه معلومات ویرمه یی مناسب بولو یورز .

بارلیقلره عمومی بنظر — « یارلیغ ، یارلیق ، یرلیغ » امر ، بو یوروق معناسنه کلدیکی کی ، امر و فرمانی احتوا ایده ن یازی یه ده اطلاق اولونور . « ربغوزی » قصص الانبیاسنده « یونس هم مناجات قیلدی : الهی آلا رسوز منی قبول قیلما سانی قیلاین ؟ یرلیغ کیلیدی : بلا یبار کابین » دنیلور ، که [۱] بوراده « یرلیغ » البت « امر ، فرمان » معناسه دز . « محمود الکاشغری » ایسه ، « یرلیغ » کله سنه « حکمدارک یازیلی و امری » دیبه ایضاح ایدیور که [۲] ، کله نك هر ایکی معناسنی آ کلاتیور دیمکدر . کورولیور که ، بو ، خالص تور که بر کله در . فقط عینی معنایی افاده ایده ن و لفظاً بوکا مشابه اولان برسوز موغولجه ده ده وارد . جنکیز قآنک قوردینی بویوک تورک موغول قآنلغنده و صوکرالی اوندن تشعب ایده ن اور دالر ( دولتر ) ده ده حکمدارک بو یوروغی و فرمان یازیلی « یارلیق » تسمیه اولونوردی . بوندن ماعدا ، خانلرک ، اجنبی یوردلرک حکمدار لرینه یازمش اولدقلری دیپلوماتیک یازیلری ده « یارلیق » تعبیر اولونوردی . مثلاً « آلتون اوردان » خانی « توقامش » ، لیتوانیا - لهستان قرالی « یاغایلا » یه یازدینی مکتوبی « یارلیق » تعبیر ایتدیکی کی [۳] ، صوکرالی قریم

نوروزیان مجموعه سی - اکتوبری ۱۹۲۶

صاحب کرای خان یارلیغی

قازان بوردنده بولونمش تاریخی برویقه :



[۱] ف. ق. مولر ، اویغور یقا (۱۹۰۸) ، ص ۱۰

[۲] رادلوف ، Chuastuanift ، ص ۳۸ . - « فون لوقوق » Chuastuanift ، ص ۱۹

( سطر ۳۸ ) .

[۱] صحیفه ۳۲۲ ، قازان ، ۱۸۹۹ سنهسی طبعی .

[۲] یرلغ : هو کتاب السلطان و أسرہ باغچه گل و لاتر نه الغزیه ( دیوان ، جلد ۳ ، صحیفه ۳۱ ) .

[۳] « باقیسی اول بولغای تیب آلتون نشانلق یارلق توتوق » دنیلور .

30 KASIM 2008

MADDE YAYINLANDIKTAN  
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Giray

\*Yard. Doç. Dr. Hüseyin ÇINAR

**ARSLAN GİRAY HAN VE KIRIM'IN YENİDEN  
İMÂRINDA VAKIFLARIN ROLÜ**

The  
CRIMEAN  
TATARS

— Giray

Dia  
Khan

Alan Fisher



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### 3. The Political System of the Crimean Khanate

The Crimean Tatar Khanate was one of the most important states in eastern Europe from the early sixteenth century until the end of the seventeenth century. This is true despite the fact that most historians have considered the Tatars to be, at best, vassals of the Ottoman sultan and a northern extension of his aggressive imperialistic policies against the Christian world, or, at worst, semicivilized brigands whose only function was to raid and devastate the steppe, living upon their more civilized neighbors.

In fact, however, the Crimean Khanate met all of the prerequisites for early modern statehood. It possessed a viable government with a central administration that provided leadership in military, political, and economic affairs. Its administration was based on both historical tradition and a well developed legal system. The legal system was modeled primarily on the Ottoman Islamic example although it contained some remnants of the Tatars' central Asian traditions. The khanate had a clearly defined social system, with at least as high a proportion of urban population as its northern and eastern neighbors. Its economy depended greatly upon trade, including trade in slaves, agriculture, and livestock. Its educational system was as complex and thriving as that of the Ottomans and more advanced than that in Muscovy. Finally, the Crimean khans were patrons of the arts. They built both sacred and secular monuments. Historiographical literature written by Tatar authors extolled the development of the khanate and was a sophisticated contribution to Islamic literature. In view of all of this, it is strange that today in the historiography of eastern Europe the Crimean Tatars can be considered to have been without state or civilization.

#### Giray Dynasty

At the pinnacle of Crimean society stood the Giray dynasty that provided all of the khans and the highest court officials. The Girays traced their genealogical origins through the Golden Horde to the Great Horde and Jengiz Khan. This tradition gave the dynasty a sense of historical legitimacy and a political pretension that was embodied in the khan's titles. Mengli Giray was called:

the Crimean Khan, born of the pure race, descended from the Great Khan, through the dynasty of Khans, whose rank provided him with sovereign power,

political theory, these two officers were considered heirs to the throne. In practice, this was seldom the case. While the *kurultay* chose the khan, and its choice was confirmed or rejected by the Ottoman sultan, the khan himself made the selection of these two positions.

Thus the khan's power derived from three streams: Tatar tradition, his personal selection by the *kurultay*, and his acceptance and subsequent financial support from the Ottoman sultan. Once he assumed the throne, the khan's position depended upon his ability to satisfy the demands and needs of the other members of his Giray family and of the leaders of the important Crimean clans. Such satisfaction demanded both effective leadership within the state and lucrative foreign adventures. It is no accident that those khans with the longest reigns were the khans who brought to the Crimea both booty from military campaigns and a strong internal rule.

#### Giray Finances

The economic resources of the khan were only sufficient to support his court activities and the upkeep of his palaces. Much of the peninsula was outside of his financial control. Most of the economically productive land was in the hands of the clans, the Muslim institutions, and the Ottomans. In addition to the taxes that the Girays could expect from their own lands, they also owned the monopoly of salt production. Until the end of the seventeenth century, the Girays also received tributes in varying amounts from Muscovy, Poland, and the Danubian Principalities.<sup>5</sup>

Monies were needed for several courts. As visible evidence of his sovereignty, the khan maintained both a large palace in Bahçesaray and country estates at Ulakli and Alma. (By the end of the sixteenth century, the khan's first palace at Solhat had fallen into disuse and disrepair.) The *kalgay* and *noredin* sultans also kept palaces of their own in Akmeçet. Foreigners who visited these palaces during the early seventeenth century indicate that there seemed to be no official business conducted there. They remarked that the palaces seemed to be mostly pleasure centers for the Giray heirs to the throne.<sup>6</sup>

The last element of the ruling dynasty was made up of the large number of Giray sultans that included all of the living Giray males who had never held one of the three top positions. From Ottoman records it appears that these sultans numbered as many as fifty at a time.<sup>7</sup> Both the ruling khans and the Ottomans had difficulty keeping these sultans active while keeping them from striving to gain one of the top positions. Some of these sultans were assigned as the khan's representatives among the Nogay hordes; some were sent to Circassia to administer the khan's interests there; a few were kept on estates assigned to the Girays by the Ottoman sultans. These latter originally bore