## JAMES J. REID

## CRISIS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

## PRELUDE TO COLLAPSE 1839–1878



FRANZ STEINER VERLAG STUTTGART 2000

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

| mustra        | uons   | 11  |
|---------------|--|-----|
| Chapte        | r 1: Introduction  | 21  |
| Ī.            | Introduction   | 21  |
| П:            | Forms of Internal Conflict   | 21  |
| III.          | Content of the Book  | 25  |
|               | State of the Field   |     |
|               | A. Crimean War   | 26  |
|               | B. Russo-Turkish War, 1877–1878                                      |     |
| V.            | Social and Psychological Aspects of Ottoman Collapse and the Era of  |     |
|               | Wars   | 47  |
|               | A. Methodology   |     |
|               | B. Social and Psychological Perspectives                             |     |
| VI.           | Why War?   | 56  |
|               |  |     |
| Chapte        | r 2: Regular Army and Control of Empire                              | 58  |
| Ī.            | Introduction   | 58  |
| П.            | Army and Control of Empire   | 59  |
|               | A. The Nizâm [Regular Army]. Myth and Reality                        | 59  |
|               | 1. The Myth of Army Control over Ottoman Subjects                    |     |
|               | 2. The Reality of Ottoman Efforts to Control Subjects                |     |
|               | B. Military D Strategy, Tactics, and Communications                  | 61  |
|               | C. Provincial Military Garrisons                                     |     |
|               | 1. The Balkans   |     |
|               | 2. Anatolia  |     |
|               | 3. The Arabic Provinces  |     |
| Ш             | Dynamics of Military Operations                                      |     |
| <del></del> - | A. Tanzimat Military Reforms on European Models                      | 76  |
|               | 1. Chain of Command  |     |
|               | 2. Army Organization and Regimental Systems                          |     |
|               | 3. Creating an Army Capable of the Offensive Operation               | 83  |
| īV            | Corruption: The Chief Obstacle to Military Operations                | 86  |
|               | A. Corruption: Issues and Examples                                   |     |
|               | B. Structured Analysis of Corruption by Type                         |     |
|               | 1. Corruption Originating in Institutional Problems                  |     |
|               | 2. Dishonesty of Officers and Officials                              | 96  |
|               | 2. Distributy of Officers and Officials imminimum.                   | -   |
| Chapte        | r 3: Irregular Soldiers and Civil Disorder                           | 105 |
| I.            | Introduction. Definitions  | 105 |
|               | Origins  |     |
|               | Mercenaries and Militarized Societies in the Nineteenth-Century      |     |
| ***           | Ottoman Empire and Greece  | 114 |
|               | A. Introduction: Structure, Genesis, and Function                    | 114 |
|               | 1. Reasons for the Existence of Irregular Troops in the 19th Century | 115 |
|               | 1. Reasons for the Existence of Integral Troops in the 17th Century  |     |

8 Contents

|    |      |    | 2. Nineteenth-Century Ottoman Definitions of Irregulars           |     |
|----|------|----|---|-----|
|    |      | _  | 3. Greek Definitions  | 121 |
|    |      | В. | Composite Bands, or Bands of Mixed Origin                         | 123 |
|    |      |    | 1. The Composite Band: Dynamics of Unit Morale and Operation      |     |
|    |      |    | 2. The Composite Band and the Marginal Man                        | 127 |
|    |      |    | 3. A Composite Force in the Crimean War: General Yûsuf's Irregula | r   |
|    |      |    | Cavalry   | 127 |
|    |      | C. | Cavalry   | 131 |
|    |      |    | 1. Albanians [Arnavûts]   | 133 |
|    |      |    | 2. Circassians or Cherkes   | 137 |
|    |      |    | 3. Kurds  |     |
|    |      |    | Band as an Enterprise   |     |
|    | IV.  |    | actions of Irregular Cavalry                                      |     |
|    |      | Α. | General   | 163 |
|    |      | В. | Scouting, Picket, and Guard Duty in No Man's Land                 | 164 |
|    |      | C. | Courier and Escort Service  | 164 |
|    |      |    | Skirmshing Activities   |     |
|    |      | E. | Cavalry Screen for Marching Army, or, an Advance Guard            | 166 |
|    |      | F. | The Raid  | 167 |
|    |      | G. | Provincial Garrison Troops  | 171 |
|    | V.   | Mi | litary Customs and Unit Order of Irregular Bands and Soldiers     | 172 |
|    |      | A. | Military Customs  | 172 |
|    |      |    | 1. Administrative Customs   |     |
|    |      |    | 2. Habits on Campaign   |     |
|    | VI.  | Co | nclusion  | 174 |
| ·  |      | _  |   |     |
| Ch | -    |    | Rebellions and Revolutions in the Ottoman Empire, 1835-1878       |     |
|    | I.   |    | oman Society and Social Attitudes                                 |     |
|    |      | Α. | Introduction. Ottoman Race Theory                                 | 175 |
|    |      |    | 1. Perso-Islamic and Ottoman Perceptions of Social Order:         |     |
|    |      |    | Race Theory   | 175 |
|    |      |    | 2. Ottoman Philosophy of Tyranny and Conservative Political       |     |
|    |      |    | Philosophy  | 176 |
|    |      | В. | Traditional and Historical Ideas of Race in the 19th Century      | 182 |
|    |      | C. | Xenophobia and Paranoia   | 185 |
|    |      | D. | Assimilationism and Anxiety                                       | 187 |
|    |      | E. | Assimilationism and Anxiety Orientations                          | 189 |
|    | Π.   | Re | bellion and Revolution in the Ottoman Empire                      | 189 |
|    |      | Α. | Introduction  | 189 |
|    | •    | В. | Semi-autonomous Military and Local Authorities not in Revolt      |     |
|    |      |    | but Resistant to State Authority and control                      | 190 |
|    |      |    | 1. Uncontrollable "Loyal" Chieffains                              | 190 |
|    |      |    | 2. The Government's "Ability" to Control Irregulars               | 193 |
|    |      |    | 3. Vendetta, Blood Feud, Vigilantism and Terrorism                |     |
|    | III. |    | surrections   |     |
|    |      |    | General   |     |
|    |      | В. | Case Studies  |     |
|    |      |    | 1. Armenian Conflicts – 1848                                      | 205 |
|    |      |    | Afshâr Revolt. 1852   | 209 |
|    |      |    |   |     |

Contents 9

|    |      | 4. Kurdish Revolts. Millingen – 1860s                                   | 225   |
|----|------|---|-------|
|    |      | 5. Montenegro – 1876–1877   |       |
|    | IV.  | Conclusion  |       |
|    |      | A. Movements and Rebellions   |       |
|    |      | B. Suppression of Revolts   | 234   |
|    |      |   |       |
| Ch |      | : 5: Ottoman Crimean War, 1853-1856                                     |       |
|    | I.   | Introduction  | 236   |
|    |      | The Danube Campaign. 1853-1854  |       |
|    | III. | Greek Insurrection, Siege of Silistra, and the Dobruja Expedition. 1854 |       |
|    |      | A. Greek Insurrection   | 248   |
|    |      | B. The Siege of Silistra. May to June, 1854                             |       |
|    |      | C. The Dobruja Expedition. July, 1854                                   |       |
|    |      | 1. Battle at Giurgevo. July 7, 1854                                     |       |
|    |      | 2. Dobruja Expedition   |       |
|    |      | D. The Crimea and Beatson's Bâshï-Bozûks. 1854-1856                     |       |
|    |      | 1. The Crimea   | 268   |
|    |      | 2. Beatson's Bâshï-Bozûks   |       |
|    | IV.  | Anatolia. 1854–1855   | 278   |
|    |      | A. Ottoman Failures and European Soldiers-of-Fortune. 1853-1854         | 278   |
|    |      | B. The British Military Commission and the Siege of Kars. 1854-1855     | 281   |
|    | V.   | The Transcaucasian Campaign. 1855                                       |       |
|    | VI.  | Rebellions and Early Terrorism  | 297   |
|    |      | A. Revolt in Armenia. 1854–1855   | 297   |
|    |      | B. Revolt of Yazdân Shîr Bukhtî, 1855                                   | 298   |
|    |      | C. 1859 - Külelî Vak'asï [Incident] [Ottoman Empire]                    | 303   |
|    | VII  | . Conclusion  | 306   |
|    |      |   |       |
| Ch | apte | r 6: Balkan Revolutions and Russo-Turkish War, 1875-1878                | 307   |
|    | I.   | Ottoman Military Reform and the Ottoman Army: to 1877                   | 307   |
|    |      | A. Balkan Revolts: 1875–1876  | 308   |
|    |      | B. Cherkes Hasan Incident. 1876   |       |
|    | Π.   | Course of the War: 1877-1878  |       |
|    |      | A. The Danube Campaign  | 317   |
|    |      | B. The Anatolian and Caucasian Campaigns                                | 342   |
|    |      | C. Refugees. Social and Psychological Issues                            | 352   |
|    |      | 1. Ottoman Refugees: the Bulgarian Theater                              | 352   |
|    |      | 2. Derangement  | 355   |
|    |      | 3. Alienation   | 355   |
|    |      | 4. The Refugee Problem  | 356   |
|    | III. | Court-Martial of Süleymân Hüsnü Pasha: War Strategy and Tactics         |       |
|    |      | on Trial  | .357  |
|    | IV.  | cAlî Sûâvî Vakcasi  | . 367 |
|    |      | A. Background   | .367  |
|    |      | B. Chirâghân Palace Incident - 17 Cemaziyel-evvel, 1295/20 May, 1878    | 368   |
|    |      | C. Psychological Ramifications. Paranoia                                | . 372 |
|    | V.   | cAbdülhâmid II  | .376  |
|    |      | A. Hamidian Autocracy   | . 376 |
|    |      | B. Denial   | . 379 |
|    | VI   | Conclusion  |       |

10 Contents

| Chapter                         | r <b>7</b> : | Psychological Factors: Soldiers in an Era of Warfare           | 386 |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--|-----|--|--|--|
| Ī.                              | De           | structiveness of War   | 386 |  |  |  |
|                                 | A.           | The Psychology of Violence in War and "Peace"                  | 386 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | 1. Psychological Conditions                                    |     |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | 2. Aggression  | 386 |  |  |  |
|                                 | B.           | General Studies. War Stress and Associated Syndromes           | 402 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | 1. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder                              | 402 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | 2. Life-Death Continuum  | 404 |  |  |  |
|                                 | C.           | The Crimean War  | 406 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | 1. War and Death in 19th-Century Armies                        | 406 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | 2. War Stress and Crimean War Soldiers                         | 407 |  |  |  |
|                                 | D.           | American Civil War, 1861–1865                                  | 415 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | 1. Life-Death Continuum  |     |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | 2. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and the Life-Death Continuum | 417 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | 3. Sadism and PTSD   |     |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | Franco-Prussian War. 1870–1871                                 |     |  |  |  |
| II.                             | Psy          | chological Factors in the Ottoman War Experience: 1839-1878    | 427 |  |  |  |
|                                 | Α.           | Ottoman Common Soldiers: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder        | 427 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | 1. General Comments  | 427 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | 2. Soldier's Attitudes   | 429 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | 3. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder                              |     |  |  |  |
|                                 | В.           | Aggression and Sadistic Attitudes indicated by Atrocities      | 438 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | 1. An Institutional Practice Encouraging Sadistic Behaviour in |     |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | Soldiers: Impalement as a Punishment for Rebels                | 440 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | 2. Rape, A Non-Institutional Aftereffect of Conquest           | 442 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | 3. Looting and Atrocities                                      | 445 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              | 4. Aggression and Sadism as a Consequence of War Experience    | 447 |  |  |  |
| III.                            | Co           | nclusion   | 456 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              |  |     |  |  |  |
| Conclu                          | sior         | 1 ,  | 458 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              |  |     |  |  |  |
| Append                          | dix 1        | I: Society, Social Change, and Rebellion                       | 460 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              |  |     |  |  |  |
| Append                          | dix :        | II: Psychological Profiles of Generals in the Ottoman Army     | 466 |  |  |  |
|                                 |              |  |     |  |  |  |
| Bibliography and Abbreviations4 |              |  |     |  |  |  |
|                                 |              |  | 502 |  |  |  |
| Indo-                           |              |  |     |  |  |  |