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## Preface

**H**istory is a debate and again a debate. It is thus never one sided. To discuss historical matters among historians have always been a delicate subject. This delicacy is mostly felt when they write, teach, speak or image of the “other”. It becomes even more sensitive when they attempt to write about expanding empires. Empires have always been invading phenomenons; and history have generally been written from their points of view being based on what they have left – written sources, geo-historical traces or monuments. For at least this reason –and also because the invaded peoples and countries had been usually kept their voices unheard and were not able to leave their own accounts– the history of expanding empires have unavoidably been written impartial. Despite great changes in historical writings took place in the twentieth century, thanks to democratic advances in human rights and new evidences from the discovered and captured lands and seas –even the readings and interpretations of imperial remnants have gone through new approaches– we are still insufficient to come to reasonable terms while dealing with expanding, occupying and exploiting empires. This book may not (and could not) claim, therefore, that the Ot-

tomans' advance towards the Indian Ocean and their rule over various Arab and African lands and seas have been written according to expectations of an ideal historian of our own century would like to see. It is, however, an attempt to establish certain facts and organizations that an enlarging empire tried to set up in the sixteenth century.

This piece of work is an outcome of my studies that I have so far, within the last 40-45 years, done on the Ottoman southern expansion. It is, in fact, a rearrangement with supplementations of new data and reorientations of my earlier suggestions on the Ottoman expansion towards the southern Arab lands and around the Indian Ocean in the sixteenth century. In other words, the articles which had been published in various journals since 1970s and put together in my haphazardly arranged and published works (*The Ottoman Response to European Expansion: Studies on Ottoman-Portuguese Relations in the Indian Ocean and Ottoman Administration in the Arab Lands During the Sixteenth Century*, İstanbul, 1994; and *Yemen'den Basra'ya Smurdaki Osmanlı*, İstanbul, 2004), have been developed, rearranged and put into a book form with corrections, new suggestions, new ideas and new data that I have proposed in my later publications and that I have discovered during my research in recent years.

“The imperfect and conflicting accounts of the Franks and the Muslims”, as announced in 1922 by the British orientalist Denison Ross, could have perhaps not been reduced to “historical fidelity”; but we are now in a much better position in understanding the events occurred in and around the Indian Ocean in the sixteenth century. From the points of view of the Ottoman expansion, the Portuguese penetration and local geo-historical scenery, we have now been better illustrated. Although one can never be perfectly sure about the past, historiography has now brought us to see the sixteenth century in and around the Indian Ocean with much clearer picture. This book aims to show –with the contributions of certain monographs and articles already appeared and the help of contemporary sources, particularly rich Turkish and Portuguese material and also some local Arab evidences–

the Ottoman expansion towards the Indian Ocean and their imperial establishment on the Arab and African lands and seas in the sixteenth century.

Following an introduction which aims to outline scenery, sources and historiography, this book consists of four parts: 1) expansion, 2) provincial/ fiscal organizations, 3) military structures, and 4) trade. The purpose of the first part is to provide for the reader a chronological set up of the major events in the Red Sea, the Gulf and the wider world around the Indian Ocean during the sixteenth century together with encounters with the native peoples and Portuguese incursions. The second and the third parts intend to examine the structures of the Ottoman Empire within the context of characteristics of an imperial rule, namely the provincial administration, tax-farming regime and military structure. And the fourth part attempts to show the Ottoman role and exploitation in trade through the Red Sea and the Arabian/Persian Gulf together with certain statistics arranged from the Ottoman records. The appendices which take place in this book aim to support the arguments discussed, and to give certain specimens of the first hand sources and some statistical results about the subject. The glossary is designed to provide very short explanations for the terms which have been often used in the book, and which readers may not be acquainted with.

Although nearly half a century of my research period endures since the days of graduate years at the University of İstanbul (1959-63), I can claim no more than that this book is an attempt to add something to what my predecessors had already achieved and what my contemporaries have contributed to this field of study.

SALİH ÖZBARAN

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