

# GERMANY IN TURKEY

## HOW DID THE TEUTON GET THERE



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**T**HE annual interest charged on part of the Ottoman government's national indebtedness, the part covered by loans, amounts to about one-third of its actual revenue.

All in all, before she entered the war, Turkey's net revenue was equal to one-seventh of the interest due on her total indebtedness. After the Balkan War, bound as she was in international shackles, Turkey added links to her chains, until she had mortgaged every available harbor, river, forest and mine to European bankers. And now, without money, men or prestige, here she is again shackled to allies who cannot help her; isolated, fighting three first class Powers, who are striking her from both flanks, rear and front.

We will be certainly defeated, and immediately afterward we will start all over again, "doing business at the same old stand," whatever is left of our "integrity" will be "guaranteed" jointly by our combined enemies and friends, and we will continue paying interest on our national debts; for we are a hopeless case.

Had we been any other nation or people we would have been annihilated two hundred years ago, but we are Ottomans, and being Ottomans we have a charm all our own. This charm is our debt to all nations.

But that was not all. Enever's sojourn in Berlin had its evil effect. Within a month after the proclamation of the new Ottoman Constitution many feuds and frictions arose in the ranks of the party itself; these feuds were those of the liberal and nationalist Young Turks (The Liberal Young Turks) who attempted to convert the empire to a "liberal policy," and demanded the recognition of the equality of all elements throughout the empire in the eyes of the constitution, while the nationalists insisted on adopting a policy of nationalism, which they named "the Committee of Union and Progress." They demanded that all elements unite for the progress of Turkish nationalism. This "Union and Progress" is the equivalent of the "German Kultur" and was backed up by the newly converted "English Junkery."

Thereupon the liberal element within the Young Turkey party, having already been disgusted with the behavior of the nationalist clique, which was playing the part of the power behind the throne, formed a secret parliamentary coalition with the conservative Old Turks and formulated a programme for a permanent future policy. This scheme was to permit such numerically predominant Christian possessors of Turkey's Macedonia possessions to unite with such Balkan States as they chose to recognize the independence of the Albanians, and having thus eliminated the eternal cause of discord in the Balkans, to form an entente with the newly created Albania, and then with Montenegro, Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece, and, after having assured the security and the integrity of the Ottoman empire, to adopt a stern foreign policy. In the meantime, serious and swift internal reforms were to be undertaken. This would have prevented the Balkan war and perhaps the present European conflagration. The programme was submitted to Sultan Hamid and, after one week's deliberation, was approved in its entirety. Early in January, 1909, however, the German Ambassador got wind of these negotiations between the coalition and the Sultan. The nationalists immediately hustled themselves with calumnies against the Christian members of the Parliament. They incited the Moslem elements in the remote provinces of the empire against their Christian countrymen. Meanwhile they arrested the liberal members of the Young Turkey party, denouncing them as plotters of a reactionary counter revolution against the constitutional régime. Finally, in March, 1909, the nationalists succeeded in starting a counter revolution in order to create a "pretence" to overthrow Abd-El-Hamid and put an end to the coalition's Balkan programme. The memorable Adana massacre was to be carried through first, and the counter revolution afterward. The object was to connect Abd-El-Hamid with massacre, but something went wrong and the plan was disarranged. Nevertheless, the perpetrators were not to be fooled. They carried the devilish programme through.

Enver Bey returned from Berlin and once more figured in the limelight beside Mahmud Shekret Pacha, when the latter made his triumphant march to Constantinople, suppressed the so called counter revolution with an iron hand, deposed Abd-El-Hamid and put the present weak Sultan on the Ottoman throne. It was after this second revolution that the Old Turks, as well as the liberal Young Turks, were hanged or sent out to Anatolian provinces to build roads. Then, disposing with the liberal Young Turks on one pretext or another, the "Committee of Union and Progress" (the Turkish Kultur), took full charge of the newer régime and controlled the foreign and the domestic policies of the empire. This newer revolution having cost more than \$15,000,000, the new régime was already under pecuniary obliga-



MEHMED REHAD KHAN, EMPEROR OF OTTOMANS AND KHALIF OF MUSULMANS.

tions to the German financiers, who, representing themselves as German and Austrian Jews, had generally financed this second revolution. So far as German interests were concerned, this sum was well spent. Germany did not wish to have the Ottoman empire absolutely independent in her dealings with the European Powers. Furthermore, the abolition of the Macedonian question from the Turkish national policies would upset the Pan-Germanic dream, "from Berlin to Bagdad," foster she had hitherto solidified herself as the patron of the Turk.

The counter revolution and the consequent establishment of a newer and more efficient despotism under a new name in the capital of the Turk had amazed the political students of the world. The fragmentary cable despatches never explained the peculiar workings of the Near Eastern politics. The energetic protests of the liberal Turks, as well as the serious warnings of the Christian population of Turkey, were drowned in the well intentioned but infelicitous praise of the Western world. The West did not and was not in a position to understand that the "Committee of Union and Progress" was a Turkish term for German Kultur and Prussian Junkery.

Being the Balkan war Enver was away at Tripoli, but during the sessions of the first Balkan conference in London, in 1913, having already arrived in Constantinople, he directed his every energy to preventing the session of the besieged city of Adrianople to the Bulgars. Finally, when the Turkish government made up its mind to accept the proposal of the Ambassadorial conference in London, Enver headed a mob and appeared at the Ministry of War, protesting against the conclusion of the peace terms with the cession of Adrianople to Bulgaria. During the tumult Nazim Pacha, Commander-in-Chief, was shot, no doubt by Enver himself. Enver's own version was that he was shot at by some one who was standing behind Nazim Pacha; thereupon he drew his revolver and aimed at his assailant and shot Nazim by mistake.

This assassination took place on January 21, 1913, and simultaneously Kiamil Pacha and his Ministry were kicked out and Shekret Pacha, the ardent nationalist and the leader of the Junkery, became the Grand Vizier and Minister of War. The new régime finally accepted the original Ambassadorial proposal in its entirety. This transaction had a tendency to discredit them in the eyes of the Moslem Turks, but soon afterward, when the Balkan League broke up, Enver reappeared in Adrianople, and the prodigiously ignorant Anatolian Turk accepted this as a reconquest of the lost province under the Enver régime. Provisory, Mahmud Shekret Pacha, the Grand Vizier and the Minister of War, having been removed by assassination, Enver had become a Pacha, and was promoted to the Ministry of War, under Prince Said Halim, the new Grand Vizier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and at the outbreak of the European war, early last August, this was the standing of the Turkish Ministry.

Abd-El-Hamid's feeble tyranny in the past had already given Turkey into such dire straits that even his successor to the throne was powerless in his struggles against the powerful foreign influences who ruled supreme in Constantinople. We reason like this:—The nations we are fighting over us today and soon. If they defeat us, which they certainly will, they will take what belongs to them; on the other hand, if the Teutons defeat the Allies, we will repudiate our international indebtedness. So, whichever way the fortune of war turns, we will not receive anything, and yet we cannot lose, for we have nothing to lose.

And again Turkey was preparing to fight Greece anyhow. The European crisis which broke out toward the end of July, 1914, had obscured the antipathy between her and Greece. British naval mis-

sions were busy reorganizing the fleets of the two prospective belligerents. This war between Turkey and Greece would have been decided last summer had it not been for the timely presence of the two American cruisers which made the Greek fleet in the Aegean Sea superior to that of Turkey.

Meanwhile two dreadnoughts were being built for Turkey in the British shipyards. The funds for these dreadnoughts were raised through popular subscription, and when, upon the outbreak of the European war, Great Britain detained these ships, the Turk's anger knew no bounds. It was the straw which broke the camel's back.

The German party took advantage of the situation created by Great Britain's naval exigency. No promise on the part of the Western Allies "to safeguard Turkey's integrity against any and all unforeseen enemies" could satisfy her.

This predominant German influence in Turkey dates back to the Kaiser's visit to Constantinople on his way to Palestine, for it was to Asia Minor that Germany had turned her longing eyes. In the days of Abd-El-Hamid, when the palace clique ruled supreme at Yedigözü, the highest bidder obtained political and commercial ascendancy in the empire. Resplending in his simple grey frock through various stages of elevation until Prussia had availed herself of every opportunity in strengthening her hold over every governmental function of the empire. The Prussian exercised control over the Turk's civil government, taught him how to drill, sold him Krupp guns, his railroads, owned his copper and silver mines, built his schools, equipped him with the German Kultur, and finally dominated his diplomacy, until he could rely claim not even to his own soul. Even the Turk's just asset, his religion, was utilized for military purposes to assist the central empires.

This was the condition of affairs during the Hamidian régime that had contributed to intensify the Young Turkey spirit in Turkey.

With the overthrow of the Hamidian régime in 1908 and the advent to power of the Young Turks, the progress of the German influence in Turkey came to a standstill, but this was only temporary. Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, Germany's able diplomat, soon gained the confidence of the new régime. He represented to the Young Turkey leaders that no matter what régime might come to power the Ottoman foreign diplomacy must remain exactly the same. Baron von Bieberstein argued that whatever the defects of the Hamidian régime might have been it had a wholesome regard for the safety and the integrity of the Ottoman empire. This meant the unabated continuation of the old Hamidian foreign policy. The civilian members of the Young

regime more than sixteen hundred opponents of "the Committee of Union and Progress" were exiled from Constantinople, while sixty-eight members of "the Liberal Young Turkey party" were hanged. The anti-German element went under the name of the Liberal Young Turkey party. Within the first two months after the overthrow of the Hamidian régime more than sixteen hundred opponents of "the Committee of Union and Progress" were exiled from Constantinople, while sixty-eight members of "the Liberal Young Turkey party" were hanged.

After the horrible Macedonian massacres in 1903, the Emperors of Russia and Austria met at Mursteg at a smoking box of Francis Joseph, and upon the suggestion of the Russian Emperor a programme for reform in Macedonia was devised. Subsequently this scheme came to be known as the "Mursteg programme."

Under this programme the Macedonian provinces of the Turk were divided into racial demarcations, and certain measures of reforms were undertaken by the governments of Austria, Great Britain, France, Italy and Russia. In order to once more demonstrate his friendship to his old friend, Abd-El-Hamid, the German Kaiser withheld from participating in this scheme.

And still later, when King Edward and the Tsar met at a conference at Reval, in June, 1908, and decided upon the necessity of a firmer and more drastic reform scheme in Macedonia, the Young Turks, fearing for the integrity of their country, in sheer desperation struck their decisive blow the following July.

The much advertised Enver Bey made his first dramatic appearance in the revolution of July, 1908. He is a product of the Constantinople Military Academy, and until he took up his post as the Turkish Military Attaché at Berlin he had never been in Western Europe. He spoke French as his native tongue. Later he learned English and German.

When the Young Turks formed a secret branch committee at Salonica, in 1905, Enver was a major, attached to the staff of Hamid Pacha, the Inspector General of Macedonia. He joined this Salonica committee immediately after its formation.

For three years the misadventures of the various secret branches of this committee directed their energies to winning over the army, for they realized that the constitution could not be wrung from Abd-El-Hamid without the army, and force must be used. The civilian members of the committee doubted the wisdom and stability of a revolutionary victory over the old régime by the military. They feared that after the overthrow of the old régime the new régime would be at the mercy of the army. Enver Bey and other military members of the committee, on the other hand, maintained that the overthrow of the old régime the new régime would be handed over to the civilians.

Following the successful revolt of the Young Tur-

## WHY DID THE TURK ENTER THE WAR



key element, Hamid Pacha proclaimed the Ottoman constitution, in the name of Sultan Abd-El-Hamid, from the steps of the Provincial Capitol at Salonica, on July 24, 1908.

Aliud Riza Bey, who had spent many years in Paris as a refugee and publisher of revolutionary literature, returned to Constantinople and became the President of the first Turkish Parliament. But from the first day of the Young Turkey party's advent to power it adopted a nationalistic policy based upon "Turco-Mohammedanism"—that is, it asserted that the Turk, being numerically predominant, that the empire's affairs must be conducted with due consideration to the Turkish nationalistic aspirations, and Mohammedanism must be recognized as the official State religion, while other religions must be recognized by the new Turkish constitution as "free religions," "chartered and privileged."

The 8,000,000 Turkish Christians resident throughout the empire considered this as an indirect disfranchisement of the non-Moslem elements, who are intellectually and economically superior to the numerically predominant Moslem Turk. While thirty-three per cent of the population of the empire is Christian of various denominations, under the Young Turkey party's management, of the first election proceedings the Christian elements were unable to elect more than six per cent of the Parliament's membership.

The old Hamidian cunning diplomatic tactics of Enver Bey against the other side of the empire, required, was not effective under all circumstances. My country had accepted Germany as its partner in our past dealings with other European Powers, and now Germany was in dire need of Turkey's forces in her war against Europe. Turkey had to fulfill its obligations to that Power. But this was only a formal argument for Turkey entering the fray on the side of the Teutonic allies; the whole truth is that it had nothing to say regarding the matter. Turkey was already being ruled by her Germans.

When at last the great conflagration broke out the Turkish nationalism became a virtue, while the German gold made patriots out of the Ottoman Expressions such as "the redemption of the lost provinces" and "war for the fatherland" became Ottoman slogans. Finally the Western Allies became convinced that Turkish neutrality was not likely to endure very long.

Turkish mobilization had already begun, but Germany was bound to hasten the crisis. On August 10, 1914, the two German war ships Goeben and Breslau arrived at the Dardanelles and the next day they became Turkish. On August 11, the next day they became Turkish. On August 11, the next day they became Turkish.

The ill-paid soldiery, hopelessly ignorant of the significance of the German military incursions into our country, regarded the foreigners as the benefactors of the Turks. The German controlled regiments disarmed all the Christian soldiers in the army, and put them to work as common laborers, building fortifications and military roads. Those who had the courage to raise their voices condemning the policy of the military régime were dealt with in such fashion that they were never heard from again, and there were other methods, more effective than these attacks.

Suddenly an army of Moslem softies feverishly were imported and, backed up by all the German newspapers, these Mohammedan zealots started an energetic campaign in the city. The newspapers published reports of the "horrible crimes" committed by the Western Allies against their Moslem subjects in Africa, Egypt, India and elsewhere. These reports were sent broadcast throughout the Anatolian ports, and the Moslem softies in the army were ordered to take up arms in defence of these suffering Moslems. By the middle of September there were about 12,000 German soldiers and sailors in Constantinople. On October 27, \$20,000,000 in gold bullion was imported into Constantinople, and the German Ambassador and delivered at the Deutsche Bank.

This act of Germany turned the scale. On October 29 three Turkish torpedo boats sailed from Odessa Harbor, sinking a Russian gunboat and damaging a French steamer, and killing several Russian civilians. Theodosia was also bombarded.

It is also true that neither the Sultan nor the military members of the Cabinet had knowledge of these attacks. No, this war is not the Turk's war. But Enver had committed himself to this suicidal policy, and he had allowed the unrestricted importation of German civilization to his shores. Turkey is now fighting the Allies under the delusion that they are fighting for their Moslem faith. But the Turks are so stupid to realize that they have been tricked to fight the present allies' fighting for them. There is no doubt feeling in our Turkish Constantinople that everything—slow in starting and slow in stopping.

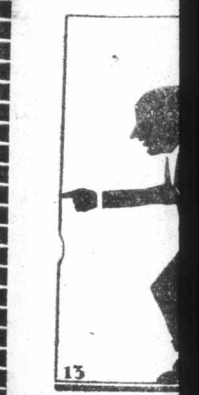
2,000 Dead Field and Troops Prisoner in Guns

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