

Gotthard by Montecuculi, a noted Italian general in Austrian service. This victory demonstrated that European discipline and military science were now far above the Turkish. A truce with Austria followed, during which Poland and Russia were at war with Turkey. The Polish general, Sobieski, won brilliant victories in this war, which prepared him for the glorious triumph of 1683 (p. 251).

The Turks had encamped around Vienna with an army numbering altogether nearly a million men. The city was defended by 11,000 soldiers. Sobieski, with 70,000 men, came to the rescue, and by brilliant generalship utterly routed the last Turkish army which seriously threatened to overpower Christendom.

Meantime, in 1669, Crete (Venetian since the Fourth Crusade) was won by the Turks, but the Venetians conquered the Peloponnesus. A succession of Austrian victories, won by Prince Eugene, carried the Austrians to the Danube, and resulted in the Peace of Carlowitz, 1699, by which all Hungary was regained (p. 251).

Austria had made peace in anticipation of the Spanish Succession War (p. 254), but in alliance with Venice resumed hostilities after 1715.

The Peace of Passarowitz, in 1718, gave back the Peloponnesus to Turkey, but carried Austria back to the Danube. This acquisition was abandoned in 1739 by the Peace of Belgrade, ending a three years' war in which Austrian over-confidence occasioned terrible reverses.

Meantime Russia was replacing Austria as the formidable rival of the Turks. Between the Turkish Tartars of the Crimea and the Cossacks of Southern Russia was waged a constant warfare which the respective authorities sometimes could not check and sometimes would not. (In 1570 an army of Crimean Tartars had even sacked Moscow.) When, with the accession of Peter the Great, the policy of extending Russia to the Baltic and Black Seas began, his first undertaking was an expedition, in 1695, against Azof, the port controlling the navigation of the Don. This conquest was abandoned after his disastrous campaign of 1711 on the Pruth (p. 416).

In the war just mentioned as closed by the Peace of Belgrade, Russia had taken active and successful share, but was obliged to abandon her conquests by the disasters of Austria. But the war between Turkey and Catharine II., opened 1768, resulted in the Russian acquisition of the Crimea, thus securing the Don. Important ports were acquired here by the Peace of Kainardji in 1774, and the entire occupation took place after 1783. A second war under Catharine II. carried Russia to the Dniester, thus securing the navigation of the important river Dnieper. (Peace of Jassy, 1792, p. 418.)

Times of the French Revolution.—In the complications and rapid changes of alliance among European states after the French Revolution and during Bonaparte's time, Turkey was entirely controlled by foreign countries, to whose jealousies she owes her later existence.

Beside the losses of territory so far noted, Servia obtained a position of semi-independence after 1804, since transformed into entire independence, 1878. Moldavia and Wallachia were governed by elective Hospodars subject to Russian approval after Catharine II., and only paid tribute to Turkey. Russia lost her protectorate over these provinces by the Crimean war. They were united as "Roumania" in 1859, and have been since governed by a prince of the Prussian House of Hohenzollern. Since 1878 they are no longer tributary to Turkey. The Roumanians claim descent (as their name implies) from Roman soldier colonists of the time of Trajan (p. 123).

The Greeks revolted against Turkey in 1820. Russia, France and England united to assist them, and the entire Turkish fleet was destroyed at Navarino, west coast Peloponnesus, 1827.