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The American Missions in Turkey

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ملخص الدراسة باللغة الإنجليزية

Abstract

Effectively, the Contemporary Arab/Muslim world is always strained by the hegemony of the major powers which drain on its economic, political and intellectual legacy. Realizing that the imperialist wars have proved fruitless/futile because the conquered peoples quickly throw off the yoke of colonialism and get back on their feet even more vigorously, the imperialist powers masterfully designed the intellectual colonialism; a new, but influential, mechanism to recruit the occupied nations to serve their own interests. By way of illustration, the United States is regarded as one, but striking, example of the most outstanding colonial powers exploiting the ideological invasion. As a consequence, some Muslims discernibly apotheosized/hero-worshipped the United States and meticulously followed the American mentality to the letter. More relevantly, the US is resourcefully

shrewd in contriving tactics to invade any nation intellectually. A highly noteworthy technique was sending missionaries to the Muslim world with the aim of converting/proselytizing the indigenous people to the Protestant creed.

As early as the nineteenth century/ **At the turn of the nineteenth century**, the Missionary activity burgeoned in the Islamic world with the advent of the American missionaries into the Ottoman Empire where they meteorically mushroomed in Iraq, the Levant, the Gulf region, Egypt, and Turkey. As years went by, the missionaries proliferated in the four corners of the Ottoman Empire.

As far as this research study is concerned, it approaches the Turkey-based American Protestant missions and sheds a flood of light on the religious, educational and medical activities of the American Missionaries there. Most importantly, the study gets closer to the attempts made by the Ottoman government to confront and curb missionaries'

activities through a series of legal actions. Eventually, the research study highlights the pivotal role played by the missionaries in the orientation of the American foreign policy towards the Ottoman Empire and lays greater stress on the due attention given by the American government to the mission work on Ottoman soil.

The study is divided into an introduction and more

four chapters:

With reference to the introduction chapter, it provides the definition of the geography of Turkey, the elements of the population, the religious situation in the United States, then the Ottoman–American relations, the beginning of the Protestant evangelization in the Ottoman Empire.

The first chapter discusses the motives of the Protestant missionary movement, the formation of missionary societies, the beginning of the American

Protestant missionary in the United States and its permeation through the Ottoman lands and the establishment of missionary Protestantism in the Levant, the Gulf, Egypt, and finally establishing the Protestant missions in Turkey and missionary centers there.

With regard to the second chapter, it draws special attention to the religious activities of American missions in Turkey, discusses the success of American missionaries in the establishment of a Protestant church in Turkey and the obtaining of official recognition. Additionally, it deals with the religious activities practiced by the missionaries to convert the population of Turkey to the Protestant doctrine and the influence of these activities on the local population.

Concerning the third chapter, it sheds light on the educational and medical activity of the American missionaries in Turkey.

Regarding the fourth chapter, it underscores the role played and the forms of support given by the United States' administration to the American missionaries in Turkey through signing treaties, offering diplomatic support and protecting the lives and property of missionaries. More significantly, it also underlines the policy of the Ottoman government which adopted a stick-and-carrot approach towards the missionaries.