

CHAPTER 6a: THE OTTOMAN SULTANS OF EDIRNE

BAYEZID I (r.1389-1402)

Sultan Bayezid I: A Great Ottoman Ruler

- Bayezid was a brave, smart, and efficient commander.
- He was known for his just and fair rule.
- Bayezid valued scholars and supported them financially.
- He was the eldest son of Murad I and received education from a young age.
- As a teenager, he became a governor in Kutayha and joined his father's military campaigns.
- Bayezid became Sultan after the Battle of Kosovo in 1389 at the age of 35.
- He earned the nickname "Yildirim," which means "Thunderbolt," for his speedy military actions.
- After his victory in Nicopolis, he was also named "Sultan i Rum" by the Abbasid Caliph.
- Bayezid didn't tolerate corruption and punished those who took bribes or acted unjustly.

Expansion

Bayezid doubled the size of the Ottoman state before the Battle of Ankara.

Unifying Anatolia

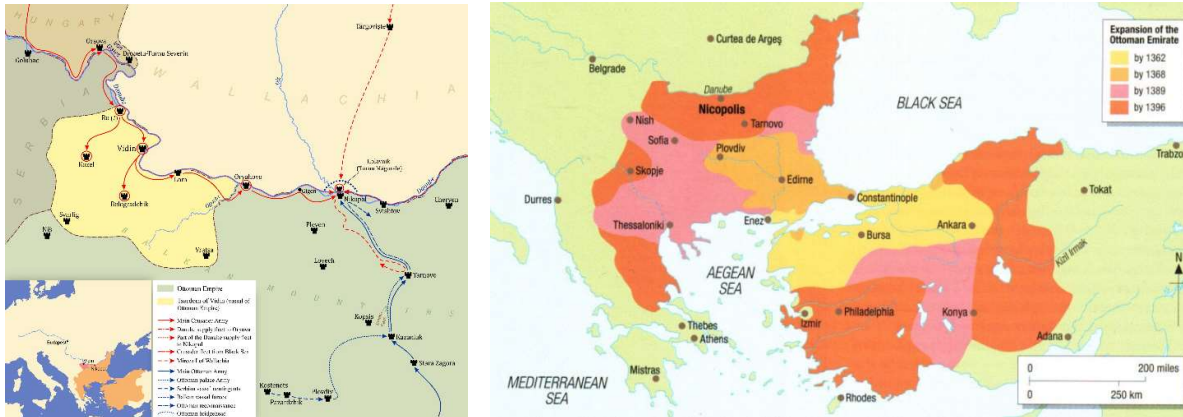
- Bayezid worked to unify Anatolia, bringing different regions under his rule.
- He received the submission of the Serbians after the Battle of Kosovo and appointed Lazar's son as the ruler of Serbia.
- Bayezid faced revolts by local leaders (beys) in Anatolia, which he aimed to suppress.
- He led campaigns to conquer various Anatolian Beyliks, taking over cities like Philadelphia from the Byzantines and Konya from the Karamanids.
- He faced battles with other rulers, like Qazi Ahmad Burhan Ad Din, and expanded Ottoman territory eastward.
- Bayezid's rule extended from the Black Sea to regions like Malayta and Erzurum in the east, bringing unity to Anatolia.
- His reign promoted prosperity and religious harmony, benefiting Muslims, Jews, and Christians in Anatolia.



Expanding into Europe

- While Bayezid was in Anatolia, Ottoman representatives conquered Skopje and entered Wallachia.
- Bayezid was the first Ottoman Sultan to besiege Constantinople in 1391 but failed to capture the city despite multiple attempts.
- Constant attacks by Hungarians in 1393 forced Bayezid to return to Europe and defend his territories.
- He continued to expand into Greece and Albania, retaking cities like Salonika, Kruje, and Scutary.
- In 1395, he defeated the ruler of Wallachia and installed a new leader.
- Bayezid entered Nicopolis, where he had the Bulgarian Tsar Ivan Shishman executed.

The Battle of Nicopolis



- In 1396, the Battle of Nicopolis, known as the Third Crusade, took place.
- Pope Boniface IX called for a crusade against the Ottomans to stop their advance into Europe.
- The Crusader army, consisting of various European forces (Hungarians, Croatians, Byzantines, French, Germans, Burgundians, Wallachians, Bohemians, Genoese and Swiss), marched towards Ottoman territories.
- The Crusaders faced challenges due to poor planning, infighting, and overconfidence.
- Bayezid's forces, including elite Janissaries and cavalry, engaged the Crusaders.
- The Crusader army, heavily armored and overconfident, was surrounded and defeated.
- The Ottomans' disciplined tactics and effective strategy led to their victory.
- This battle crushed European unity and reduced their willingness to send troops against the Ottomans.

Defeat at the Battle of Ankara (1402)

Tamerlane's attack on the Ottomans was driven by his ambition for power, rivalry with Bayezid, and a desire to enhance his reputation. Political disputes, defiance, and the refugee situation contributed to escalating tensions.

Lead-up to the Battle of Ankara

- Tamerlane regarded himself as the heir of the Seljuks and Ilkhanids and aimed to occupy the entirety of Anatolia.
- Bayezid and Tamerlane had political disputes related to several towns and notable figures who sought refuge or protection from one ruler against the other.
- Tensions escalated, and Bayezid was overconfident in his response to Tamerlane's polite diplomatic letters.

The Battle of Ankara

- The Battle of Ankara took place on July 20, 1402, with both armies facing each other.

- Tamerlane's forces were larger and included war elephants, while the Ottoman army consisted of Janissaries and vassal troops.
- Tamerlane's forces reached the battlefield before the Ottomans and so had a chance to rest and prepare, while Bayezid's army reached tired and thirsty.
- The Ottomans faced a rain of arrows from Tamerlane's horse archers, and they were not heavily armored.
- Also, some of the Ottoman forces defected to Tamerlane.
- Bayezid refused to withdraw; He was captured, imprisoned, and would later die in captivity, with differing accounts of his treatment and cause of death.

Impact of the Battle of Ankara

- The Battle of Ankara in 1402 had a significant impact on the Ottoman Empire.
- Bayezid was captured by Timur, leading to internal strife and confusion regarding succession.
- This weakened the unity of the Ottoman state and created a power vacuum.
- The Ottomans temporarily retreated from their expansion efforts.
- Timur's reputation as a conqueror was boosted, and he had devastated Ottoman lands but did not expand further into them.
- The Ottomans needed to regroup and stabilize their empire.

Bayezid's Legacy

- Bayezid left a legacy of construction projects, including mosques and medical facilities.
- He aimed to create a centralized empire, developing a central bureaucracy based on Islamic principles.
- His reign saw progress in Ottoman seafaring.
- A tradition of an annual procession with imperial gifts was established.

Major Battles

Year	Name of Battle	Sultan	Against	Impact
1396	Battle of Nicopolis	Bayezid I	A coalition of European Christian states, known as the Crusader army.	The victory solidified Ottoman dominance in the Balkans and southeastern Europe. Bayezid's success reinforced the Ottoman reputation as a formidable power in the region.
1402	Battle of Ankara	Bayezid I	Forces of Timur (Tamerlane)	The Ottoman defeat at the Battle of Ankara was a major setback. Bayezid was captured by Timur, marking a significant humiliation for the Ottoman Empire. This battle weakened the Ottoman state and led to a period of internal strife known as the Ottoman Interregnum, during which Bayezid's sons fought for control of the empire.

Timeline of Bayezid's Reign

- 1360: Bayezid is born around 1360 and received training in Islamic and administrative education from a young age.
- 1389: Bayezid came to power after the Battle of Kosovo at the age of 35.
- 1389-1393: Bayezid takes Philadelphia from the Byzantines, overruns several Beyliks in Anatolia such as the Karamanids and Candarids

- 1391: Bayezid's representatives in Rumelia conquer Skopje in 1391 and enter Wallachia. Bayezid becomes the first Ottoman Sultan to besiege Constantinople in 1391.
- 1393-1396: After defeating the Hungarians, Bayezid continued to advance into Greece and Albania, and took Salonika, Kruje, Scutary, and Tarnova.
- In 1396, a crusader army consisting of various European nations is defeated by Bayezid at the Battle of Nicopolis.
- 1400: Bayezid initiated numerous construction projects, including dervish lodges, medreses, almshouses, and the Ulu Camii in Bursa.
- 1402: The Ottomans are defeated by Timur at the Battle of Ankara

What Was Happening Elsewhere (1389-1405)

- 1392: King Taejo established the Joseon Dynasty in Korea, replacing the Goryeo Dynasty. This dynasty would last until the late 19th century.
- 1396: Wenceslaus's sister, Anne of Bohemia got married to King Richard II of England forming an alliance between England and parts of the Holy Roman Empire.
- 1397: Union of Kalmar: The Union of Kalmar was established, uniting the kingdoms of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden under the rule of Queen Margaret I. This union would last until 1523.
- 1399: Henry IV of England deposed Richard II in a power struggle, leading to the beginning of the Lancastrian era in the Wars of the Roses.
- 1403: The Welsh uprising known as the Glyndŵr Rising, led by Owain Glyndŵr, continued in its struggle for Welsh independence against English rule.
- 1405: Death of Timur.