

Journal of Social Sciences and Education

An Overview of the Historical Development of Intelligence and Espy Activities

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ABSTRACT

Research Article

In this paper, it will be discussed how intelligence and espionage activities have survived through a process of change and transformation in the historical process. In this context, the etymological structure of the words intelligence and espionage will be examined first and these words will be briefly explained etymologically. Afterwards, the names under which intelligence and espionage activities were carried out in different periods will be discussed. In this article, intelligence and espionage activities will be discussed under three headings, namely the Pre-Islamic Period, the Islamic Period and the Post-Islamic Period. Intelligence and spying activities during the Seljuk period in the post-Islamic period will also be evaluated. The article will also include the areas in which states and societies need intelligence and espionage activities. The study will also provide information on which methods and techniques were used within the scope of intelligence and espionage activities during the Ottoman Empire period. The roles of religious representatives, ambassadors and travelers in intelligence and spying activities in the historical process will also be evaluated. The article will also discuss the importance of intelligence and espionage activities during the War of Independence and the effects of these activities on the victory of the National Struggle. In this context, the role of non-Muslims in conducting intelligence and espionage activities will also be mentioned. In the study, the qualifications of people who will carry out espionage and intelligence activities and the effects of such activities on the domestic and foreign policies of the countries will also be emphasized. Thus, it will be clarified how the intelligence and spying activities have undergone a process of change and transformation in the period from pre-Islam until today, and the importance of these activities will be emphasized.

Received: 22.12.2021

Revision received:
27.04.2022

Accepted: 30.05.2022

Published online:
30.05.2022

Key Words: Intelligence, Espionage, Islam, Seljuks, Ottoman.

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Introduction

*Believe me, when the results of the war are examined,
the heroism of the artillery,
the cavalry and the infantry are nothing
compared to that invisible cursed army of spies
I. Napolyon (Gurulkan et al. 2017, p.6).*

It is possible to say that human beings have taken actions that can be evaluated within the scope of intelligence and espionage activities, although under different names in almost every period of history. These activities, which were mainly carried out to obtain military information or to have information about another country in the historical process, have undergone a serious change and transformation with the change of age and technology. This change and transformation has led to some changes in the nature and structure of intelligence and espionage activities.

In history, human beings sometimes learned this information from a passer-by in order to collect intelligence information, and sometimes tried to obtain this information from a merchant, clergyman or a missionary. The content and type of this need has survived through many changes over time. In this sense, intelligence activities have always played an active role in almost every aspect of life from history to the present (Gör, 2018, p.XVII). However, although there has been a change in the acquisition of intelligence information over time, the importance of intelligence has never changed.

It would be useful to briefly look at the etymological structure of the terms intelligence and espionage, which are often used together. The word "spy", which is a word of Arabic origin, means "person, spy, agent who works for the secret purposes of a state or organization" (TDK, 2020). The word "espionage" is in Arabic; It means "watching, investigating". This word means "a person who investigates the secrets of the enemy and leaks information, and engages in various destructive activities within the enemy". The word "ayn" meaning "eye" is also used for this word in Arabic (Kallek, 2020, Para. 1).

According to the researchers, who noted that the concept of espionage was used for the first time by the Chinese, the first target of the Chinese in this process was the Turks. The old Turks used the expressions "çaşıt [spy]" or "çaşut [spy]" for the term "spy". Ancient Turks named this word as the name of the Chinese intelligence officers (Kapıcı, 2015:261-278, Gurulkan, 2017, p.6). In addition, it is known that the terms "çaşıt [spy] and spy" are used in *Divanü Lûgat'it Türk* as "caught language from the enemy" (Üzülmez, 2012, p.148).

In pre-Islamic periods, it is also known that statesmen affiliated to the Kağan who went back and forth between states in Turkish history were called "Elçi", "Haberci" and "spies" were called "körüg, tıl and tigrak" (Üzülmez, 2012, p.97).

Fuad Köprülü, on the other hand, records that the ancient Turks used runners, whom they named as *Yam, Ulak, Sa'i, Kasid, Peyk*, to receive and convey information. He states that officials given names such as Ulak, Yam, Çapar and places such as Çaparhâne and Yamhâne are used for collecting information in the form of espionage (Köprülü, 1961, pp.V/548-549 as cited in Şimşir, 2011, pp.23-24). Köprülü underlines that the term "messenger" was a name given to the people who were active in the works of delivering and bringing news in the old Turks (Cited from Köprülü, s.V/548-549, Şimşir, 2011, p.185).

Another point that stands out about the term espionage is that these terms have been used in history to make accusations against each other on religious or ethnic grounds. For example, in the period when the Arabs came to Rome, in 1108, the Arab ruler Harun, on his way to the Romans, while passing through Urfa, some people who were here went to the Arab Ruler Harun to accuse the Christians and said, "*They are spies. The Roman emperor comes to pray in their churches every year*" (Syriac Patriarch Mihail, 1944, p.110). This attitude is important in terms of showing that people used this term to make mutual accusations in the social sense in the past.

The word "Intelligence", which is also a word of Arabic origin; It means "newly learned information, news, sensations, information gathering, receiving news" (TDK, 2020). The word intelligence is in the terminological sense; It means "receiving news, information/data collection activity or news received". This need to receive information has been an important resource and need not only for people but also for states from history to the present. Especially from the point of view of states, the importance of intelligence activities is clear in understanding the economic and social structures, especially the political, and the strong and weak points of rival or enemy states. For example; characteristics of the army, administration or command level of a rival or enemy state, relations between society and administration, opposition in the country, minorities in a country, etc. gathering information on issues has always been of key importance in terms of intelligence (Gör, 2018, p.XVII).

In general, the word intelligence can also be expressed as "mind, intelligence, understanding, knowledge, newly learned information, sensations, information gathering and receiving news". In some sources, it is also explained as "planning, research, collecting evidence, evaluating them with various mental and experiential scientific methods and reaching a conclusion and using them". In this context, intelligence activities can generally be defined as "activities carried out in order to reveal the possibilities and capabilities of individuals, groups, organizations or states that are likely to be targets and targets and to have a prior knowledge of possible modes of operation" (Delibalta, 2016, p.1).

In order to protect the assets of states and nations and to secure their future, the word intelligence can be defined as an activity aimed at the enemy or potentially hostile segments. In this context, learning the situations, intentions, abilities and weaknesses of the enemy or the people, groups and states that are likely to be enemies, etc. subjects are included in the definition of the word intelligence. In addition, preventing the activities of spies sent by rivals or enemies regarding a country is also included in the general definition of the concept of intelligence (Gurulkan et al., 2017, p.6).

From this point of view, it is possible to say that intelligence and espionage activities are the most important information gathering sources of states and societies from history to the present. It is useful to state that the information obtained in this way has a vital importance in almost every aspect of life, especially in the domestic and foreign policies of societies.

In the historical process, states have always benefited from the intelligence field against possible threats from inside and outside. For this reason, intelligence activities have been one of the information gathering methods used by every nation. The data obtained within the scope of intelligence activities has been of great importance for states to closely follow both internal and external developments and policies and to shape these policies. For example, during the Ottoman Empire, domestic intelligence issues were mostly related to the accession of the princes to the throne, rebellion attempts, and security problems. Foreign intelligence issues were

mostly about the policies in the Balkans, the Caucasus, the Middle East, etc., and the intelligence information about these geographies (Eroğlu, 2003, p.11).

The vital importance of intelligence and espionage activities is clearly understood in the statements of Napoleon I: "Believe me, when the results of the war are examined, the heroism of the artillery, cavalry and infantry will never be compared to this invisible cursed army of spies" (Gurulkan et al., 2017, p.6).

Intelligence and Espionage Activities in the Historical Process

Although intelligence and espionage activities have passed through different stages in the historical process, they have not changed much in terms of meaning in general. According to sources pointing out that the earliest records of intelligence and espionage activities were encountered during the Hittites and Egyptians, these activities were used by Persian, Roman, Byzantine, Ancient Greek and Arab states (Delibalta, 2016, pp.6-7).

In this study, intelligence and espionage activities are basically; It will be discussed under three separate headings: Pre-Islamic, Islamic Period and Post-Islamic Period.

A. Intelligence and Espionage Activities in the Pre-Islamic Period

1. Intelligence / Espionage Activities and Methods in the Axis of the Chinese and Hun Empires

B.C. In 139, the Chinese Emperor appointed a high-ranking officer to know the countries where the Silk Road passed and to explore the possibility of cooperating with the tribes living in these countries. This officer is actually a spy and was caught by the Huns while he was doing his secret mission. This Chinese spy, who was kept under surveillance for a long period of ten years, finally managed to escape and presented the information he obtained in the process into a report to the emperor. This report later played a key role in China's westward expansion policy (Koca, 2002, p.1073, Güzel et al., 2002, p.38).

Similarly, it was stated that the people in the embassy delegation sent by Emperor Kao to Mete during Mete's China expedition in the First Ages were not actually embassy delegations, but actually consisted of spies and observers. It was recorded that the main purpose of these spies and observers was to learn the situation of the Hun army. According to the sources, who noted that this embassy delegation gave Mete a good opportunity to apply the tactic of deception and deception, Mete wanted to show Emperor Kao his weak position in order to encourage the attack (Koca, 2002, p.1063).

Intelligence and espionage activities are concepts that have passed through many different stages from history to the present day. At this point, it is understood that the intelligence or espionage activities in the Ancient and Middle Ages regarding these concepts were mostly carried out through these organizations, also known as "post organizations". According to the researchers, the activities of these organizations developed in direct proportion to the needs of the time and turned into two separate institutions in the modern period (Altungök, 2012, p.174).

Another prominent method within the scope of intelligence and espionage activities is travel notes written by travelers and merchants. In this regard, the fact that Chinese priests and clergy sent the information they collected about Turks to their rulers through travel books was one of the important indicators of this (Delibalta, 2016, pp.8-10).

In the pre-Islamic period, especially in the Great Turkish states, it is seen that the subject of intelligence and espionage came to the fore within the scope of relations with foreign ambassadors. It has been noted that international envoys within the body of foreign affairs departments operate in Central Asia and that the envoys arriving in the country are not touched in any way unless they are spying on them. During this period, foreign representatives whose suspicious behavior was observed were punished by being imprisoned or exiled (Çandarlıoğlu, 2003, p.96).

Ancient Turks, especially in the Early Middle Ages, pre-Islamic Turkish States also had their own mail and espionage activities. According to the researchers, the former Turkish States took the Chinese postal and espionage organization as an example in this area, albeit partially, while the Turkish Islamic States in the post-Islamic period took the postal and espionage organizations of the Sassanids as an example in their former postal and espionage activities. As in the pre-Islamic period, espionage activities for the survival of the state in the post-Islamic period have also been evaluated as a sacred phenomenon in the historical process (Altungök, 2012, pp.173-174).

Noting that the Chinese engaged in espionage activities in the Hun and Göktürk Empires (such as in the murder of Kapgan Kagan) and the Byzantines in the Western Hun Empire, Kafesoğlu noted that the ambassadors were not touched unless they were spying. Due to his espionage activities, it is seen that Rua, the ruler, forbade the Byzantines, who provoked the people to revolt under the guise of merchants, travelers and actors in the Hun lands, from entering the country and recorded this with a treaty (Kafesoğlu, 2013, p.267).

The issue of which states the intelligence and espionage activities will be carried out, especially abroad, has also been of great importance in the geographies of the countries and the relations with the states in these geographies. In this context, there has been an interaction with the Chinese at the point of espionage organization, since the Chinese were located in the geography where Turks mostly lived in terms of the pre-Islamic period. In the following period, a similar interaction occurred with the Arabs, especially in the relations with the Abbasids.

B. Intelligence and Espionage Activities and Methods in the Islamic Period

According to the researchers, who pointed out that the postal organization was called "Berid" in many regions and nations in the institutional sense in the history of humanity, the word Berid has been defined in different ways. This word, which derives from the Latin word "Veredus" meaning postal animal, was also used in all medieval Islamic States to mean postal animal, cavalry postman, state post, postal range and the distance between two postal destinations (Köprülü, 1961, ss.II/541-Citing from 542 Şimşir, 2011, p.249).

According to researchers emphasizing the importance of intelligence in the history of Islam, it was of great importance to receive information about enemy troops, especially due to wars (Gökalp, 2014, p.41). In the Islamic period, the word "berid" was used for postal and intelligence agencies, and the expression "ehl-i berid" was used for those who carried out these activities (Delibalta, 2016, p.13, Gurulkan, 2017, p.6). In the Islamic period, especially in the Middle Ages, many different methods were used in communication to obtain intelligence information. Among these methods, it is seen that especially animals come to the fore in the delivery of information. For example; In the Middle Ages, horses, camels and pigeons played a great role in delivering the news on time. Especially in communication, post pigeons

were widely used in this period. According to the researchers, almost all data sources providing information on domestic and foreign intelligence were used effectively in the struggles against the Crusaders, especially during the period of the Zengids and Ayyubids. Among these sources, pigeons were among the most important sources, especially for communication and intelligence. According to the sources pointing out that the communication network established by the Ayyubids with the homing pigeons was at a very advanced level in that period, a similar system was used during the Seljuk period. Similarly, according to sources pointing out that this method was used by the Crusaders for intelligence purposes in the Middle Ages, pigeons came to the forefront as one of the main means of communication in the said period (Yürekli, 2017, pp.293-311).

Noting that intelligence, that is, espionage activities, constituted the most important task of the postal organization in Eastern Rome, as in Muslims, Köprülü underlines that a similar structure could exist in the Sassanid period (Köprülü, 1961:542 as cited in Şimşir, 2011, p.250).

Another issue related to espionage in the Middle Ages in history came to the fore when the Iranian ruler Yezdigert gathered his army and dispatched it against the Arabs. It has been recorded that the Iranians sent a person who knew the Arabic language to the other party's headquarters to spy on them (Syriac Patriarch Mihail, 1944, p.17). As it is seen, in the Middle Ages, spies played an important role in obtaining military information about the other side, and good language skills were the first among the characteristics of spies in that period.

During the Islamic period, the word "Berîd" was widely used for the postal and intelligence organization. The word Berîd also means messenger, postman, postal range, etc. During the Islamic period, the word "Berîd" was widely used for the postal and intelligence organization. The word Berîd also means messenger, postman, postal destination, etc. Throughout history, the postal organization has been a structure of great importance for Muslims, as in all states and societies. With the spread of Islam, the expansion of borders has also increased the need for a communication network between the center and the provinces. Thus, from the time of Muawiyah, this issue was given special importance and in a short time, the Berid organization spread to all parts of the country (İTA).

C. Intelligence and Espionage Activities in the Post-Islamic Period

When we look at the intelligence and espionage activities in the Middle Ages, it is seen that the information about the societies was obtained especially through spies in this period. For example, it is seen that a society tries to obtain information about a state that it does not know or that it will organize expeditions through intelligence or espionage activities. In this context, for example, in the 11th century, it is seen that the Arabs described the people in the Germanica (Maraş) valley as the spies of the Romans and settled the inhabitants of this geography in the Ramle region. Later, it is seen that the Samosat people also brought them to the same place, as they were spies of the Romans (Syriac Patriarch Mihail, 1944, p.99). Such practices reveal how important espionage and intelligence activities were in the political and cultural structures and policies of societies in the Middle Ages.

Köprülü records that, in the post-Islamic period, Muaviye Ebî Süfyân established the postal organization for the first time under the name of "Berîd" and that he imitated or quoted the old Byzantine organization while creating this structure (Köprülü, 1961, quoting from p.541 Şimşir, 2011, p.255). The Abbasids played a

major role in the institutionalization of espionage activities in the Turkish States, especially in the post-Islamic period, in the medieval period. Especially in this period, it is known that the Abbasid caliphs formed troops completely composed of Turks instead of Arab soldiers. The success of the Turkish commanders in the Islamic armies was not only limited to the military field, but also came to the fore in important duties of the state such as viziership (Bozkuş, 2020, pp.273-299, Koca, 1996, pp.278-279, Altungök, 20120, pp.173- 174). Although more than one tool came to the fore among the communication tools in the Middle Ages, it can be said that mirror, homing pigeons, Menâvir and Berîds were the fastest among them (Yürekli, 2017, pp. 293-311).

In the period of Zengids, Ayyubids and Great Seljuks, intelligence and espionage activities were carried out under the Berîd organization. In this period, official articles and news in the Berîd organization were conveyed to the relevant units mostly by the messengers called Berîd, Neccâbe, Kâsîd and Sai. It has been pointed out that in this process, where intelligence work is seen as "a very kind and superior job", reliable people come to the fore in the selection of reporters (Yürekli, 2017, pp.293-311).

According to the researchers, the Berid organization also had the task of establishing the communication between the center and the provinces. In addition, it had strategic duties such as transporting government and palace belongings, dispatching officials sent from one place to another on official duty, etc. However, one of the most important duties was to report the behavior and actions of high-level officials all over the country, and their thoughts towards the ruler, to the center, by keeping them under strict control (Köprülü, 1961, p.543 as cited in Şimşir, 2011, p. 256).

1. Intelligence and Espionage Activities in the Seljuk Period

When we look at the period of the Seljuks, which reigned between the XI and XIII centuries, it is seen that in this period, information, intelligence and espionage activities always had an important place in the background of military and political struggles. In the Seljuk period, in addition to the institutional work of intelligence activities, prominent officials of the state, especially sultans, statesmen and military commanders, gave special importance to information and espionage activities. In this context, it is possible to say that spies, messengers, ambassadors, traders and prisoners were always used to obtain intelligence during the Seljuk period (Delibalta, 2016, pp.V-VI).

During the Seljuk period, intelligence and espionage activities were also known as secret messengers, under the name of munhis, envoys and messengers, in order to obtain intelligence information in more than one field (Delibalta, 2016, pp.39-50).

Within the scope of intelligence and espionage activities during the Seljuk period, it is seen that places as well as people come to the fore in such tasks. In this sense, the caravanserais have been considered as an important source of information because of the safety of the roads and accommodation, as well as being one of the frequented points of the merchants. Although most of them were built for military security purposes during the Islamic states, these caravanserais often served as a fortress. Considering that pilgrims, travelers, scholars and students were accommodated in the caravanserais as well as traders, it can be stated that these places also serve a very important role in terms of intelligence information (Delibalta, 2016, pp.52-53).

The messengers named "kussad", who provided the communication between the Seljuk Sultan and his commanders, also held important duties in the field of intelligence. The Kussads not only provided the communication during the war or campaign, but also fulfilled the duties such as informing the sultan's enthronement to all parts of the country, delivering fetihname, emsile (examples) and edicts to the provinces, providing communication between the state officials and conducting intelligence. In this respect, it is seen that the kussads played an active role in the intelligence activities of the Seljuk period (Kuşçu, 2002, p.259).

In intelligence and espionage activities, especially within the scope of pre-Islamic and post-Islamic periods, tamiyye officers, barid, nejjab, qasid, sai, envoys, translators, traders, refugees and captives, travelers also played a great role (Yürekli, 2017, pp.293-311).

According to the researchers, the main purpose of a country in sending an ambassador is to learn the political, military, socio-economic strength and weaknesses of any country. In this context, it has been recorded that the Ottomans used and accepted ambassadors in their relations with the surrounding states from the early times, and this process corresponds to approximately 1339 (Turan, 2018, pp.195-196).

Daniel Goffman, in his book titled "The Ottoman World and Europe 1300-1700", while talking about the duties of the consuls or balyos in the Ottoman Empire, points out that they have a duty to "understand what is going on, to write letters frequently and to prepare reports on what they have learned when they return to their countries". In this case, he notes that one of the main duties of these representatives is to gather as much information as possible in order to predict the policies and actions of the enemy, keep them under control and take counter-actions (Turan, 2014, pp.232-233).

According to the researchers, who pointed out that the most important part of intelligence was foreign intelligence during the Great Seljuk period, a significant part of the activities within the scope of foreign intelligence was carried out through ambassadors. It has been noted that in this period, among the duties of the ambassadors, besides receiving news and sending letters, fulfilling their secret duties also took place. For this reason, it is stated that the ambassadors fulfill an important task for both military and strategic intelligence activities and this issue is included in *Nizam al-Mulk*. It is noted that the ambassadors are also tasked with determining the number of soldiers of the targeted country and reporting the amount of their tools and equipment (Başdin & Topçu, 2017, p.569). As a result, it is possible to say that there is important information in the relevant literature on the use of many methods regarding intelligence and espionage activities, especially in Genghis and his successor states since the 13th century. In this respect, especially during the Ilkhanate period, these activities are important in that they affected both the Anatolian Seljuks and indirectly the Ottoman Empire.

2. Intelligence and Espionage Activities and Methods in the Ottoman Empire Period

The information obtained in the intelligence sense had a significant impact on the relations between the Balkans, the Mediterranean, Venice and other states, especially the Balkans, during and after the establishment of the Ottoman Empire. Undoubtedly, the intelligence and espionage activities in that period played an important role in many areas, especially the shaping of the "conquest" and "gaza" policies of the state, although not in their current meanings (Eroğlu, 2003, p.12).

Pointing out that there was a serious increase in the number of new missions to the Empire during the reign of Sultan Süleyman in the 16th century, Sander points out that the French, Hungarians, Croats and representatives of the Holy Roman Empire started to come to Istanbul. Sander stated that even if the incoming people are not ambassadors, European states have information about Turks thanks to these representatives, foreigners, travelers and writers (Sander, 2012, pp.87-88).

To express it by opening a parenthesis; In the 18th century, in order to ensure full security in the Azerbaijani lands during the Khanate period, outposts called "Çaparhâne" were established at certain strategically important points. These Caparhânes also took care of intelligence and postal affairs in addition to their duties (Çakmak, 2002, p.13).

It can be said that the intelligence network and the flow of information in the Ottoman Empire were at least as important as the espionage activities. For example, it is seen that the information about the periods when there was no activity in the intelligence flow is reflected in the Mühimme Defters of the period as follows; "Or do you not have spies?" or "What is the reason for not getting a sound verdict from the disbeliever until this time" (Gurulkan et al., 2017, p.6).

This feature also comes to the fore in the structuring of the *Teşkilat-ı Mahsusa*², which was more active in the last periods of the Empire. In this process, it is seen that Urdu, Afghan, Indian language desks and Arabic, Turkish and European languages desks were established under the name of "Translation and Copyright Branch" under the chairmanship of Ali Rıza Bey. The establishment of special desks within the scope of the *Teşkilat-ı Mahsusa*, especially for French, German, English, Russian, Persian and Italian languages, reveals how important language was in intelligence matters in the last period of the Ottoman Empire. In this process, it is seen that sub-tables were created to collect intelligence information about Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Tripolitania, Egypt, Iran, Baluchistan, India, Afghanistan, Bukhara, Khiva, South Caucasus, North Caucasus, Crimea and Zionism, as well as European languages. It is seen that the India, Egypt, Afghanistan and Arabia branches of the *Teşkilat-ı Mahsusa* are managed by Fuad Bey and the intelligence information about these regions is followed by him (Shaw, 2014, pp.316-317).

According to the researchers who noted that there were two financial sources of the *Teşkilat-ı Mahsûsa* in the Ottoman Empire, the first of these was the appropriations hidden under other sections from the secret budget of the Ministry of War. It was recorded that the other one was approximately 4 million gold Ottoman liras given by the German military mission for military and propaganda purposes. According to the sources who stated that the *Teşkilat-ı Mahsûsa* was directly affiliated to the Ministry of War through its manager and in the official sense, the necessary supplies and transportation for the Organization were provided by the Ministry (Shaw, 2014, pp.318-327).

It is possible to list briefly how a spy should be or what kind of features he should have; It is in the first place for spies to know the language and be reliable in their word. Then, it is essential to have an experienced, resilient and intuitive, understanding, skillful and efficient character. In addition, it is necessary to be aware of the developments in the world, to know the enemy, as the old saying for quickly-informed and to have developed friendship relations. In the selection of these people, care is taken to ensure that they are chosen from among the cunning people who are

² Intelligence and propaganda organization operating between 1913 and 1918 during the Second Constitutional Second Constitutional Era (TDV, 2022).

prone to wandering, eavesdropping, and doing secret work, as a requirement of their profession. Especially when we look at the old intelligence agencies, these features came to the fore even when there were no educational institutions for espionage. It is seen that the spies, who were expressed as useful spies in the Mühimme Defterleri in the Dîvân-ı Hümâyûn Registries during the Ottoman Empire period, had all these features. It is understood that these spies have superior abilities in obtaining information and not being caught by the enemy (Gurulkan, 2017, p.5).

According to the researchers, intelligence and espionage activities were institutionalized in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In Turkish history, it is seen that these activities started to gain great importance with the policies of opening to the Balkans after the establishment of the Ottoman Empire (Eroğlu, 2003, p.12).

Although many tools were used to obtain intelligence information in the XIX and XX centuries, it is seen that communication with pigeons also came to the fore. The "communication with pigeon" method, which was accepted as an important intelligence method in the 19th century, revealed the importance of homing pigeons by the end of the century. The homing pigeons, which have been used systematically, have come to the fore as a safer and healthier method in communication (Güllü, 2020, p.1183).

Representatives who were in charge of providing diplomatic contacts during the Ottoman Empire also played an active role in obtaining intelligence information. It is known that after Venice established a close diplomatic relationship with Istanbul, they constantly sent ambassadors to the country, had a representative with high skills called "Balyos"³ in the Ottoman capital, and constantly sent reports from Istanbul to Venice through these representatives. It has been noted that other European states received the news about what was going on in Istanbul through these representatives (Sander, 2012, p.87).

It is worth noting that intelligence and espionage activities are not only limited to domestic work, but also such activities are carried out abroad. In this context, it is known that Ahmed Celaleddin Pasha, the head of the intelligence agency, was sent to Europe in 1897 during the reign of Sultan Abdulhamid II (Findley, 2012, p.162).

The issue of knowing a language in intelligence and espionage activities became a very important issue in the last periods of the Ottoman Empire and the National Struggle period, as it was in the Middle Ages. For example, when the intelligence reports of this period are examined, it is seen that non-Muslims took a very active role in obtaining intelligence information. Non-Muslims played an active role in the Ottoman Empire, not only in Istanbul, but also in all provinces in Anatolia and mostly took part in the duties of translators or interpreters (Deveci Bozkuş, 2018, pp.363-364).

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the Teşkilat-ı Mahsûsa had an important role in the execution of intelligence activities in the last periods of the Ottoman Empire and the first years of the National Struggle (Zürcher, 2002, pp.206-207).

³ The name given by the Venetians to their permanent representatives in the Ottoman Empire. It was used not only for Venetian representatives, but also for other state representatives from time to time as a consul equivalent (TDV, 2022).

3. Intelligence and Espionage Activities and Methods during the National Struggle Period

The enemy's combat capability, infrastructure, visible and invisible power are valuable in proportion to the information obtained. During World War I, intelligence and espionage activities had a great importance in the course of the war. Especially the developments in Çanakkale and its surroundings and the information reflected in the archival documents of this period once again revealed the importance of intelligence and espionage activities (Deveci Bozkuş, 2017, pp.210-221).

Missionaries played an important role in intelligence and espionage activities, especially during World War I. Missionary activities were carried out actively even in the most remote corners of Anatolia.

When we look at the studies on intelligence, it is seen that intelligence is defined as a product that is owned at the end of certain processes. In this process, all raw information obtained with different data collection tools is analyzed and made ready for use (Özer, 2015, pp.51-80).

Intelligence and espionage activities, which have a key role in war periods, also have the power to affect the course of the war. In this context, manpower is as important as equipment in collecting and processing information during the war. When we look at the studies carried out on this issue during the National Struggle, some ethnic groups come to the fore within the scope of intelligence and espionage activities. It is seen that Armenians and Greeks take the first place among these ethnic groups. It was reflected in the intelligence reports of the period that some non-Muslim groups were in contact with foreign states as well as non-Muslims who took an active role in intelligence activities by taking sides with the Turks. At this point, it is worth mentioning that great states such as England, France and Russia were in the first place among the states where non-Muslims took an active role within the scope of intelligence activities, especially during the National Struggle (Deveci Bozkuş, 2018, pp.364-366).

When we look at the intelligence reports of the National Struggle period, it is seen that there is information about different elements such as British, American, French, Greek, Yugoslav, Armenian and Greek. It is also among the subjects reflected in the documents that foreign countries contacted different ethnic groups in the country to a large extent during the said period (Deveci Bozkuş, 2017, pp.223-224).

With the end of the Cold War period, there have been some changes and transformations in the concepts of intelligence and espionage activities. At this point, states have begun to feel the need to revise their intelligence agencies according to cultural factors. The data collected through cultural intelligence, on the other hand, is very important as it has the possibility to affect the decision-making process of the society (Özer, 2015, pp.51-80).

Researchers note that the current perception of the concept of intelligence in society has gone through a process of change and transformation over time. Accordingly, although the word intelligence still evokes mystery, with the effect of globalization in the 21st century, this concept is now used in many fields. Intelligence activities, based on access to information, were renewed in parallel with the developments of the period. In this context, the intelligence structures of the states have also developed and diversified by keeping up with the developments of the age. This development and diversity has become a basic need due to the use of information in every field. At this point, the importance of knowledge and the process of obtaining it, especially within the scope of economic activities, came to the fore. While the

importance of intelligence activities in wars was evident in the historical process, the importance of economic intelligence has come to the fore especially with the effect of globalization today (Güldiken, 2006, p.180).

Discussion and Result

Since the first periods of history, states have attached great importance to intelligence and espionage activities in order to be aware of developments within and outside of them. In this context, although these activities have been under different definitions in the literature from the first day until today, most of them have been used to meet the same task. Intelligence information has a great importance especially for powerful states to obtain information about both internal and external developments and to shape international relations today.

Intelligence activities have had an important place among the information gathering resources of all states from history to the present. For this reason, states should consider the main problems in this field in determining their policies and make the necessary investments in research and development areas in this field as required by the age. It is essential to realize these developments, especially in this age where intelligence data is being used in almost every field with globalization.

When we look at intelligence and espionage activities and methods in general, it is seen that these studies are a source of information collection needed in almost every period of history to have prior knowledge of internal and external threats and to take necessary measures for this purpose. For this reason, with this study, in which we try to evaluate the intelligence and espionage activities in different periods under three headings in general terms, it has been understood once again how vital such activities are in administrations, although there have been some changes and transformations from the past to the present. From this point of view, it is possible to say that although there have been changes and transformations in intelligence and espionage activities in different administrations and periods from history to the present, the importance of such activities still maintains its importance, especially in terms of external influences.

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