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**Journal of Anglo-Turkish Relations Volume 6 Number 1 January 2025**

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**Burcu Kaya**



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**Dear Readers,**

In Volume 6 Issue 1 of the Journal of Anglo-Turkish Relations, we have five research articles, one short report, and a book review.

In the first article, Ahmet Can HACIOĞLU discusses the relationship between the German soldiers and the Turkish soldiers in the Yıldırım Army Group by examining both the memoirs of those who fought in the Syria-Palestine Front and British documents, which were mainly based on the testimonies of prisoners of war, eyewitnesses and agents.

In the second article, Ali Ulvi Özdemir discusses the Ottoman Empire's modernization efforts, driven by military and economic challenges, aimed to sustain its existence through reforms. He touches upon key economic reforms, including the Tanzimat Edict and the Ottoman-British Trade Treaty of 1838, and how this cultural, political and economic legacy was passed on to the Republic of Turkey.

Fatih SELÇUK, in the third article, explores the diplomatic relations between Free France, led by Charles de Gaulle during WWII, and Türkiye. De Gaulle's Free France, unrecognized as an official government, sought diplomatic legitimacy from both Allies and non-war countries, including Türkiye. Initially, Türkiye's relations with Free France were unofficial and confidential, shaped by the war's progression. By late 1943, relations began to formalize, culminating in official recognition by 1944, aligned with Britain's stance. Türkiye's cautious approach and alignment with Britain highlighted its strategic considerations for post-war France, exemplified by appointing Numan Menemencioglu as ambassador to Paris immediately after Britain's recognition of Free France.

The fourth article, authored by Müzehher YAMAÇ, explores the Irish potato famine (1845-1852), its causes, progression, impacts, and the socio-economic and political issues it created. It also examines how emigration during the famine was portrayed in contemporary literature and the British and Irish press. Additionally, the study highlights Ottoman Sultan Abdulmecid's humanitarian response, providing aid to Ireland. The Irish people's gratitude towards Sultan Abdulmecid is documented in the Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives, evidenced by his sending grain-laden ships to Drogheda Port. The study aims to assess the impact of this aid on the relations between the Ottoman Empire and Ireland.

Finally, after the discovery of new continents, political and commercial relations between the Ottoman Empire and European states increased. Official relations with England began in the 16th century, focusing on political and commercial interests. British merchants, through Levant companies, traded in the Eastern Mediterranean, balancing commercial and political relations. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the Ottoman Empire granted commercial privileges to foreign states, benefiting British merchants who became influential in trade and politics. The Tanzimat Edict's commercial law changes further empowered British merchants. Zümrüt ÜSKÜL examines Ottoman-England relations from the Empire's foundation to the 19th century, focusing on British merchants and using various historical sources.



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In addition to the research articles, there is a short report by F. Rezzan ÜNALP, who provides an account of the Sivas Congress (September 4-11, 1919), which was a pivotal event in the Turkish War of Independence, led by Mustafa Kemal Paşa. Despite numerous challenges, Mustafa Kemal emphasised national unity and independence. The congress, held in Sivas, was marked by intense debates, particularly over the idea of accepting a mandate. Ultimately, the Congress rejected the mandate and adopted principles of full independence and national sovereignty. Key decisions included unifying defence organisations and establishing a legal framework for the national struggle. The congress also highlighted the importance of public communication and set the stage for the formation of a new, democratic, and independent state.

Finally, Burcu KAYA reviews the book by Engin Berber (ed.), *Türk Dış Politikası Çalışmaları: Cumhuriyet Dönemi İçin Ulusal Rehber*, [Studies on Turkish Foreign Policy: A National Guide for the Republican Period] Extended 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi Yayınları, İstanbul 2012. The book, compiled by Prof. Dr. Engin Berber, addresses the lack of source information for students. It consists of five sections, introducing primary and secondary sources, and discussing their roles, historical development, and providing critiques and suggestions. The book is a collective effort of Berber's colleagues and students. It covers national archives, official and semi-official publications, private yearbooks, news magazines, and memoirs. The book aims to guide researchers in Turkish foreign policy and modern history, making it valuable for disciplines like history, law, political science, economics, and public administration.

We hope you enjoy this collection of works we have brought together in this issue, and we look forward to meeting you again with the next issue.

**18 January 2025**  
**JATR Editorial Team**