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to the researcher are singled out by a short notice (*'fonds important'*). As many registers deal with a variety of subjects, complete indexing is of course impossible for a researcher working alone. Even so, Temimi has greatly enhanced the usefulness of his book by a detailed subject index, which contains such items as 'new *habous* in Algiers', 'purchases of iron', or 'distribution of barley to the poor'. Considering that most of the documents can be consulted both in France and in Algeria, it is to be hoped that these materials will interest scholars working in Turkey, who until now have rather tended to neglect the history of Ottoman North Africa⁴.

In the introduction to his book, Temimi stresses the petty inconveniences which have caused innumerable difficulties to North African scholars wishing to study the history of North Africa in a broader framework. These difficulties will appear very familiar to scholars working in Turkey. Thus Temimi's reference to the 'pious wishes and politically motivated polite phrases expressed in public speeches' (p. 6) will no doubt excite a sympathetic reaction among Turkish archivists and scholars engaged in archival research. It is to be hoped that Temimi's book will contribute toward tearing down the 'fences of ignorance and possessiveness' which so far have impeded a study of the Ottoman Empire in its entirety.

4 The only summary in Turkish: Aziz Sami İltter, *Şimali Africa'da Türkler*, 2 Vols., (Istanbul, 1936-37), while useful, is by now considerably out of date.

Suraiya Faroqi

Sieben Jahre in Aleppo (1656-1663), Ein Abschnitt aus den «Reiss-Beschreibungen» des Wolfgang Aigen, ed. Andreas Tietze, Beihefte zur Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes (Wien, 1930).

Travel accounts are so familiar to the researcher dealing with the Ottoman Empire that after a while saturation sets in. That the authors of travelogues quite frequently copied from one another does not help matters. Moreover, the classical reminiscences of the more erudite writers probably constitute the kind of material which the investigator concerned with the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries most often skips with impatience. Thus it is easy to gain the impression that nothing very new can be learned from the perusal of seventeenth-century European travel accounts. Even worse, one might be pardoned in assuming that most of these authors, apart from Tavernier and a few others, were altogether a dreary company.

But every once in a while, a novelty is served up to tempt even the most

jaded palate. Wolfgang Aigen's account, which for some reason has remained unpublished until 1980, belongs into that category. The author, a Nuremberg commercial agent in the service of a Venetian firm, spent seven years in Aleppo, usually under the protection of the French consul. Moreover, commercial and sportive outings took him to Tripolis, Tortosa, and Beirut, but also to certain towns of southeastern Anatolia such as Birecik, Ayntab (Gaziantep) and Rumkale. Since Aigen's main interests were commercial, he generally noted the products such as silk, cotton, or fruit which could be purchased in given localities. But he was also interested in the physical appearance of the towns he saw, while the description of classical ruins takes up but a limited amount of space in his memoirs. Especially noteworthy is his description of Aleppo, including the citadel. When passing through the smaller towns of Ottoman Syria, he also appears to have visited the fortifications whenever the local commander could be persuaded to admit him.

Aigen's account is of particular value as he describes Aleppo when it was still a centre of long-distance trade. Even though the Dutch had established themselves in the spice islands of what is now Indonesia, drugs and precious stones were still available in the *suks* of Aleppo. Aside from local products such as silk, cotton thread, cotton cloth, nut-gall and leather, particularly French and Dutch merchants exported large quantities of these more exotic wares to Europe. But since the value of European goods imported into Syria was way less than the value of goods exported, particularly English and Dutch merchants brought in large quantities of silver, mostly Spanish in origin. On the whole, crafts in the bazaars of Aleppo were still flourishing, even though Aigen does note that most Aleppine craftsmen worked shorter hours than their European counterparts. It is unfortunate that Aigen has paid relatively little attention to the trade routes that linked Aleppo with the Irak and with Iran, except where the supply of tanning agents exported by European merchants is concerned. Thus his account does not tell us much about what happened to Spanish doubloons and reals once they had begun to circulate in the market of Aleppo.

Aigen's account of Syria forms part of a book of memoirs in which the author has recorded his travels in other parts of the world as well. It is a pity that the introduction does not include a short biography of the author. For both the formal education and the informal training that Aigen undoubtedly received have left their impact on his book. While the extensive use of words borrowed from French, Latin, and Italian was a common feature of seventeenth-century German, it is very likely that Aigen's familiarity with the commercial languages of his time has also influenced his choice of words in this direction. A special index explains the terms borrowed from Romance languages to the reader. Further indices of German words no longer in current use and of Arabic and Ottoman terms make the text easily accessible to the reader whose native language is German. However, considering that few scholars dealing with the economic history of the Ottoman Empire know the latter language at all well, a translation at least of certain sections or an index in English might have added to the usefulness of this valuable book.

It must be hoped that Aigen's account, brief and full of interest, will stimulate research into the commercial history of Aleppo and its hinterland during the centuries of Ottoman domination. It may contribute toward dispelling outmoded assumptions concerning an unmitigated decline of all town life in the Arabicspeaking provinces of the Ottoman Empire. Where trade and public construction were concerned, Aleppo lived some of its most brilliant years during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and Aigen, among others, was present to record the fact.

Suraiya Faroqhi

Carter V. Findley, *Bureaucratic Reform in the Ottoman Empire - The Sublime Porte 1789-1922* (Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'nda bürokratik reform - 1789-1922 arasında Bâbiâli), Princeton, New Jersey, 1980, 455 sahife, 9 resim, 9 şema.

Sekiz bölümden oluşan eserde ilk bakışta *kalemiye* sınıfının tarih boyunca geçirdiği evrelerin anlatılmış olduğu göze çarpmakta ise de, genelde III. Selim devrinden başlayıp cumhuriyetin ilânına değin Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'nun değişik dönemlerinde sivil-bürokratik teşkilâtında kaydedilen tüm yenilik hareketlerinin sebep-sonuç bağıntısı içerisinde anlatımını görmekteyiz. Findley kitabına Cevdet Paşa'nın (Tarih, VI, 6) «*Bir devletin böyle külliyen tebdil ve teccid-i nizâmâtı müceddeden bir devlet teşkilinden güç olduğuna binaen...*» cümlecigini almış, her bölümün başını da bunun gibi uygun sözler bulup süslemiştir.

Eserin giriş kısmında (s. 3-40) gerek imparatorluğun merkezi, gerekse Osmanlı toplum bütünü'nün önemli bir parçası olan Bâbiâli'nin teşkilât ve yürütme sistemleri incelenmiş, verilen bilgilerle *kalemiye* sınıfının XVIII. yüzyıldaki durumu yansıtılmıştır.

İdarî sınıfın gelişim evrelerinin yer aldığı ikinci kısımda (s. 41-68) XIX. yüzyılın siyasi dönemlerinin tüm koşulları ve taşıdıkları özellikler göz önünde bulundurularak yapılmış yorumu vardır.

Üçüncü bölüm (s. 69-111) Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'ndaki gerilemenin *kalemiye* sınıfını ne yönde etkilemiş olduğunun yanısıra Bâbiâli ve mensuplarının XIX. yüzyıldaki genel durumlarını kapsamaktadır.

III. Selim ile II. Mahmut dönemlerinin kısa özetlerinin verilerek konuya girildiği eserin dördüncü bölümünde (s. 112-150) yazar saltanatın yeniden güçlenmesi ve sivil-bürokrasinin kurulmasını anlatmış, bu arada *kalemiye* sınıfından «*reis'ül küttâb*» ın «*hariciye vekili*» ne dönüşümüne ait bilgi vermiştir.

Beşinci bölümün (s. 151-220) ana tem'ası ise Tanzimat döneminin sivil-bürokratik sistemindeki yapısal zayıflıktır. Findley Tanzimat dönemi Osmanlı siyasi hayatının temelini bu bölümde değinilen bürokratik-politik sistemin yaratılış ve işleyişinin oluşturduğuna inanmakta, Tanzimat reformcularının bü-