

**ERDEL, ERDIL or ERDEHSTAN**, from the Hungarian Erdely (*erdo elve* = beyond the forest); Ardeal in Rumanian; Siebenbürgen in German; the Latin name Terra Ultrasilvas and later Transsilvania being a translation of the Hungarian—the province of Transylvania which now constitutes the western portion of Rumania. In Ottoman sources the name of Erdel occurs first in the *Ruzndme-i Suleymdni* in the course of a description of the reception into the Ottoman army of King Yanosh of the *wildyet* of Engurus (*i.e.*, of the Hungarians), who is described as having been formerly the Bey of Erdel (cf. Ferldun Bey, *Munshd<sup>dt</sup>*, 2nd ed., Istanbul 1275, ii, 275). The variant Erdelistan occurs also in later sources (Naçima, i, loc. var.; Ewliya Celebi, *Seydifyatndrne*, i, 181; Mustafa Nur Pasha, *Nat<sup>d</sup>'idi. alwukudt*, ii, 72). Geographically speaking, Erdel borders on Bpghdan (Moldavia) in the east, Eflak (Wallachia) in the south, the Banat (from which it is separated by the Iron Gates—Demir [Temir, etc.] Kapi) in the south-west, and the province of Marmarosh (Maramures) in the north. Thus delimited, Erdel is a basin surrounded by the Carpathians and the Transylvanian Alps on three sides, and separated from the Hungarian plain by the Erchegyseg (Rom. Muntii Apuseni) mountains. Ottoman Erdel often exceeded, however, these geographical limits at the expense of neighbouring countries. Erdel can be subdivided into three main areas: the Erdel plain, higher and more broken than the Hungarian plain and crossed by the river Muresh and its tributaries; the country of the Sekels in the east, and, finally, the area of the southern Carpathians.

The first contact of the Ottomans with Erdel occurred in the middle of the 8th/14th century. In 769/1367, Denes (Dennis), who had become *voyvoda* (prince) of Erdel after being *ban* (lord) of Vidin, fought the Bulgarians supported by Murad I. The first Ottoman campaign against Hungary and, therefore, Erdel is put by cAshikpasha-zade (ed. Giese, 60) in 793/1391. The large raid which occurred in 823/1420 under Mehemed I must have been the work of the frontier guards from Vidin. The following year the frontier *bey* of the Danube, encouraged by the *voyvoda* of Eflak, captured and burnt down the city of Brashov. There were other raids in 829/1426 and 836/1432, the latter being led by Evrenos-zade cAII Bey, acting in conjunction with the *Bey* of Eflak. Turkish historians speak of another raid by cAII Bey (sent by Murad II) in 841/1437 (cAshikpasha-zade, *op. cit.*, no; Neshrül, *Tewdrikk-i dl-i ^Othmdn*, Well al-DIn Efendi MS, no. 2351, f. 177). The following year, the Sultan himself entered the territory of Erdel for the first time, accompanied by Vlad Dracul, the *Bey* of Eflak, and advanced as far as Sibin (Sad al-DIn, i, 321). An interesting account of Ottoman customs and organization has been left by one of the Saxon prisoners taken during this campaign (*Cronica Abconterfayung der Turkei . . .*, Augsburg 1531). Resistance against the Ottomans stiffened with the appearance on the scene of Yanku Hunyades (in Hung. Hunyadi Janos), "the White Knight of Wallachia", who after engaging the Ottomans at Semendere in 841/1437 and near Belgrade in 845/1441, defeated and killed the Ottoman commander Mezld Bey in 846/1442. The same year Hunyadi, supported this time by Vlad Dracul, defeated in Wallachia Khadim Shihab al-DIn Pasha, the *Beylerbeyi* of Rum-lli (Rumeli) and thus seized the initiative in the Balkans, preserving it until the fateful battle of Varna. Ottoman raids were resumed under Mehemed II: there was a raid in 879/1474

against Hunyadi's son, Matthias; a force of 30,000 troops entered Erdel in 884/1479, but was defeated; and there was yet another raid in 898/1493. During the temporary cessation of Ottoman raids which then followed, the Hungarian and Wallachian peasants of Erdel revolted (in 920/1514), but were suppressed by the feudal lords, an important part being played by the *voyvoda* of Erdel, John Zapolayai ("Sapolyayi Yanosh" in Pecewi, i, 108), who, after the battle of Mohacz, proclaimed himself King of Hungary at Istolni Belgrad [*q.v.*] (Hung. Szekesfehervar, Ger. Stuhlweissenburg) in 1526. Challenged, however, by the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, Zapolayai fled to Poland, sending an ambassador to Istanbul to obtain the Sultan's support. This was granted in exchange for a recognition of Ottoman suzerainty, Zapolayai swearing allegiance to the Sultan in person during the Vienna campaign (Ferldun Bey, ii, 570; cAII, *Kunh al-akhbd*; 1st. Univ. Lib., no. 5959/32, f. 293). In 936/1530, Mehmed Pasha, the *sand'ak-beyi* of Silistre (Silistria), supported by Vlad, *voyvoda* of Eflak, captured Brasov and handed it over to Zapolayai, who appointed Stephen Bathory *voyvoda* of Erdel.

Ottoman supremacy in Erdel (948/1541-1110/1699): a few days before his death in 1540, Zapolayai secured the Sultan's agreement to the succession of his son John Sigismund (Pecewi, "Simon Yanosh" and "Yanosh Jigmon", i, 228 and 434 *passim*) but in other Ottoman sources he is generally called Istefan), this time against payment of a tribute (*kharddi*). During the Budin campaign, the boy was shown to Suleyman the Magnificent who granted him a *sand'ak* in the *wildyet* of Erdel, with the promise of a kingdom later (cf. cAII, *Kunh al-akhbd*; f. 277). Ottoman supremacy was confirmed in the treaty of 948/1541, which provides for Ottoman protection against payment of a tribute, which was first fixed at 10,000 ducats, was raised to 15,000 between 983/1575 and 1010/1601, was then remitted for ten years and later still fixed again at 10,000. In the second half of the nth/17th century it was again raised first to 15,000 and then to 40,000 gold coins (*altin, altun*). It was also customary to give an annual present (*pishkesh*) of 10,000 to 60,000 coins. The prince of Erdel was nominated by the local Diet, the Sultan confirming the choice by sending him a caparisoned horse, a standard, a sword and a robe of honour (for the order of precedence as between the prince of Erdel and the *voyvadas* of Eflak and Boghdan, see *Natd'idi al-wuku'dt*, i, 137). There were also cases of the Porte rejecting a nomination or dismissing a prince, as in 1022/1613 with Gabor Bathory and in 1067/1657 with George Rakoczi II. The princes' foreign policy had to conform to the Porte's wishes, but they were free in their internal affairs. They were represented at the Porte first by special envoys, the first permanent agent (*faypu kakhyasl = kedkhuddsi* (in Erdel documents *kapitihā*), being appointed in 967/1560. This agent represented both the *Bey* of Erdel and the three local *millets* (Hungarians, Germans and Sekels, the Wallachians being denied legal existence). His residence was in the Balat quarter of Istanbul, in a street known today as Macarlar Yokusu ("Hunga<sup>704</sup> ERDEL tians' Rise") near the residences of the agents of Boghdan and Eflak.

During John Sigismund's minority, the Diet appointed as regent the Croatian Catholic friar George Martinuzzi-Utyeszenicz (Utes'enic) (in cAII, f. 287 "brata", *i.e.*, "brother"), who, however,

handed over Erdel to the Habsburgs in 1551. The *beylerbeyi* of Rum-ili Mehmed Pasha Sokollu thereupon led an army into Erdel (cAII, f. 287). Martinuzzi made his peace with the Ottomans, but was then attacked by the Austrian General Castaldo and killed in 1552. A second army was sent to the Banat under Kara Ahmed Pasha who captured Temesvar (Timisoara). Castaldo withdrew from Erdel in \*553> the country being for a time ruled by *voyvodas* on behalf of the Habsburgs, until in 1556 the Diet invited back the Queen Mother Isabella and John Sigismund, who, coming from Poland, established their seat of government in the Belgrade of Erdel (Erdel Belgradi, Rum, Alba Julia, Hung. Gyulafehervar, Ger. Karlsburg). John Sigismund ruled alone from 1559 to 1571 both over Erdel and over the northern districts of Hungary in constant competition with the Habsburgs. Although by the agreement of Satmar in 1564 he recognized Emperor Ferdinand as King of Hungary, peace was not long preserved, John appealing to the Sultan for help (cf. Pecewi, i, 412), and the latter responding by undertaking the Szigetvar expedition in 1566. John's reign witnessed also the revolt of the Sekels and the suppression of their traditional privileges in 1562 and the proclamation of religious toleration in Erdel by the Diet's decisions of 1564 and 1571. His successor Stephen Bathory (1571-6) managed to preserve a precarious balance between the Habsburgs and the Ottomans, by recognizing the Emperor Maximilian as King of Hungary and thus becoming his vassal by the treaty of Speyer in 1571, while continuing payment of tribute to the Porte. In 1576 he was elected King of Poland by the efforts of the Porte and of the Grand Vizier Sokollu Mehmed Pasha (see Ahmed Refik, *Sokollu Mehmed Pasha ve Lehistdn intikhdbdti*, in TOEM, 6th year, 664 ff.), Erdel being governed until 1581 by his brother Christopher Bathory and then until 1602 (although with intervals) by his son Sigismund Bathory. The latter wavered in his loyalty to the Porte, entering the Holy League in 1593 and executing the leaders of the pro-Turkish party in 1594 at a time when he pretended to be getting ready to join the Ottoman army under Kodja Sinan Pasha. He incited the *voyvodas* of Boghdan and Eflak against the Ottomans and defeated in 1603/1595 the Ottoman army sent to suppress their rebellion. After the severe defeat suffered by the Imperialist forces at the battle of Mezo-Keresztes in the following year, he withdrew from Erdel, relinquishing the rule to his cousin Cardinal Andreas Bathory, who had been brought up at the Polish court and was, therefore, pro-Ottoman. The latter was, however, defeated by the rebellious *voyvoda* of Eflak, Mikhal (Michael), who was in turn killed by the Austrians. The latter then occupied the country, foiling an attempt by Sigismund Bathory to re-establish his rule. In 1603 a Sekel nobleman, Szekely Mozes, made an unsuccessful attempt to oust the Austrians with Ottoman support. An Erdel nobleman, Stephen Bocskay, who had fled to the Ottomans (see Naaima, i, 386) was more successful, and by the treaty of Vienna in 1606, the Emperor Rudolf recognized him as prince of Erdel. His death was followed by a period of instability which included the tyrannical rule of Gabor Bathory (1608-13), known in Ottoman sources as "the mad king". The *beylerbeyi* of Kanije, Iskender Pasha, succeeded in deposing him and in getting the diet at Kolojvar to elect in his place Gabor Bethlen, whose rule marks the golden age of the principality of Erdel. His death in 1629 was followed by a short interregnum, his

policy of safeguarding local autonomy through cooperation with the Ottomans being re-established by George Rakoczi I (1630-48). In 1046/1636 the Ottomans made an unsuccessful attempt to unseat him in favour of Gabor Bethlen's brother, Stephen Bethlen. George Rakoczi I was succeeded by his son George II (1648-57, 1658, 1659-60), whose unsuccessful attempt to gain the crown of Poland against the wishes of the Porte led eventually to his death, Erdel being occupied by Ottoman troops. One of the prisoners taken by the Ottomans in Kolozsvár was the young Hungarian who later embraced Islam and became known as Ibrahim Miiteferrika /q.v.l. Ottoman supremacy in Erdel was re-established in the Koprili period, the principality being governed from 1072-3/1662 to 1101/1690 by the Ottoman nominee Michael Apafi. The fate of Erdel autonomy was, however, sealed when Austria gained the upper hand in her wars with the Ottomans, Michael Apafi himself allowing Habsburg troops to enter his country. In 1102/1691 the famous *Diploma Leopoldinum* fixed the status of Erdel as a Habsburg crown land, the local Diet being, however, kept in existence. Austrian sovereignty was legally recognized by the treaty of Karlowitz (Karlofca) in 1110/1699. Francis Rakoczi II tried in 1703 to put the clock back: after a local revolution he was chosen prince in 1704, but was defeated in 1710 and fled to France the following year. An attempt was made by the Ottomans to make use of him in their war with Austria in 1127/1715, but, after the treaty of Passarowitz he and his Hungarian companions had to withdraw and were settled at Tekirdağ (Rodosto in Thrace) (cf. Rashid, iv, v, *passim*; Ahmed Refik, *Memlek-i 'Othmdniyyede Rakoczi ve tevdbi'*, İstanbul 1338; M. Tayyib Gokbilgin, *Rakoczi Perenc II ve tevdbiine dair yeni vesikalalar*, in *Belleten*, v/20, 1941). A similarly unsuccessful attempt was made by the Ottomans to make use of the latter's son József, all Ottoman designs on Erdel being finally abandoned with the peace of Belgrade in 1152/1739. The main events in the post-Ottoman history of Erdel are the submission of a large number of local Rumanian Orthodox to the Pope (the Union of 1700), the Rumanian peasant rising of 1784, the decision of the Diet in 1848 to merge with Hungary and finally the accession of Erdel to Rumania under the treaty of Trianon in 1920.

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*lului, Moldovei si Tdrii Romdnesti*, Bucharest belong to the *eydlet* of Anadolu, and in the 19th century to the *wildyet* of Kastamonu. The place has 8,815 inhabitants (1960) and the district 67,661.

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