

IBRAHIM, eighteenth Ottoman Sultan, was born on 12 Shawwal 1024/4 November 1615, the youngest son of Ahmad I [q.v.]. He spent all his early life in close confinement, in constant fear of being put to death (as four of his elder brothers were); so that when Murad IV [q.v.] died and Ibrahim, the sole surviving prince of the dynasty, was called to ascend the throne, only the combined persuasions of his mother Kosem and the Grand Vizier Kara Mustafa Pasha [qq.v.] induced him to emerge (16 Shawwal 1049/8 February 1640).

The capable Kara Mustafa remained in power for the first four years of Ibrahim's reign. He promoted peaceful relations with Persia and, by the treaty of Szon (15 March 1642), renewed the peace with Austria; while in 1051/1642 Azov (Azak [q.v.]) was recovered from the Cossacks. He carried through a reform of the coinage [see SIKKA] and a new land-survey (*tahrir* [q.v.]) in an attempt to stabilize the economy, and took strict measures to restore the authority of Istanbul over refractory provincial governors (repression of the revolt of Nasuh Pashazade Hiiseyn Pasha, 1053/1643).

During at least the first years of his reign, Ibrahim was capable of concerning himself with the well-being of his empire. The Grand Vizier addressed to his utterly inexperienced new master a memorandum on public affairs (F. R. Unat, *Sadrzām Kēmenkes Kara Mustafa Pasa layihasi*, in *Tarih fasikalari*, i/6 (1942), 443-80); Koci Beg [q.v.] also submitted a pre^{cis} of advice on government (MS Re van 1323, ? autograph); and documents in the Sultan's own hand, preserved in Topkapisarayī, show him urging the Grand Vizier to attend, e.g., to the provisioning of Istanbul (Ē. Ulu^{ay}, *Sultan Ibrahim deli mi, hasta mi idil*, in *Tarih Dnyasi*, no. 12 (1950), at p. 498; cf. *I A*, art. *Ibrahim*, 880 b). But perhaps as a result of the terrors and tension of his early years he was subject to perpetual headaches and to attacks of physical prostration; furthermore, since fears that he might be impotent put the survival of the dynasty in doubt, he was encouraged, by his mother and his entourage, to abandon himself to the pleasures of the harem (and soon fathered several children in rapid succession, the future sultans Mehmed IV, Suleyman II and Ahmed II [qq.v.] among them). Thus he came increasingly under the influence of concubines and favourites, and of the charlatan Djindji Khodja [see HUSAYN, DJINDJI KHODJA], who purported to cure the Sultan's fits.

Djindii Khodja and his allies the *rikbaddr* Yusuf and Sultan-zade Mehmed Pasha became more and more powerful, controlling appointments and dismissals, enriching themselves by bribes and finally procuring the execution of the upright but tactless Kara Mustafa (21 Dhu 'l-Ka.da 1053/31 January 1644). Sultan-zade Mustafa now became Grand Vizier, while Djindii Khodja was appointed *kddi^{asker}* of Anadolu and Yusuf Kapudan Pasha. The new Grand Vizier did nothing to restrain the Sultan's eccentricities and extravagance.

It was at this juncture that the seizure by Maltese corsairs of a ship carrying pilgrims to Egypt provoked the Sultan, urged on by Yusuf, to invade Crete (Djumada I io55/June 1645), and thus to embark on the exhausting war with Venice, which was to last for 24 years [see IKRITISH; KANDIYA]. Yusuf Pasha's initial success in forcing the surrender of Canea (Hanya) aroused the jealousy of the Grand Vizier; and the intrigues between them and the attempts of each to win over the wayward Sultan led successively to the deposition of Mustafa (Shawwal

io55/December 1645) and to the execution of Yusuf (Dhu '1-Hidjdja loss/January 1646).

Ibrahim's addiction to the women of the harem now found its culmination in his taking one of his concubines (Telli Khasseki) in legal marriage (after which he is said to have ordered the Palace of Ibrahim Pasha on the Hippodrome, which was made over to the lady, to be carpeted with furs). The imposition of heavy taxes, not for the prosecution of the war but for the satisfaction of such eccentric whims, aroused increasing discontent both in the provinces (revolt of Varvar cAH Pasha at Sivas, put down by Ipshir Mustafa Pasha [q.v.]) and in Istanbul. Various Janissary officers persuaded some members of the *ulema** to join in a plot, at first directed against the Grand Vizier Ahmed Pasha, who on 18 Radjab 1058/8 August 1648 was strangled and torn to pieces (whence his later nickname "Hezarpare"); and on the same day Ibrahim was seized and put into close confinement in the Palace, while his seven year old son Mehmed (IV) was placed on the throne. Ten days later, however, fearing that Ibrahim's partisans might procure his restoration, the new Grand Vizier, Sofu Mehmed Pasha, accompanied by the Shaykh al-Islam (who had given a *fetwd* sanctioning the execution), had him strangled (28 Radjab 1058/18 August 1648).

Bibliography: General histories: P. Rycout, *The history of the Turkish Empire*, London 1680; Hammer-Purgstall, v, 295-454; Zinkeisen, iv> 530-802; Ranke, *Die Osmanen und die Spanische Monarchic.* ?, iv, 64-71; Uzuncarsili, *Osmanh tarihi*, iii/i, 212-44; T. Yilmaz Oztuna, *Turkiye tarihi*, ix, Istanbul 1966, 98 141. For a popular account of the period, see Ahmed Refik, *Samur dewri*, Istanbul 1927, and idem, *Kadlnlar saltanati*, Istanbul 1332. Ottoman chronicles: Hadjdji Khalifa, *Fedhleke*, ii, 219-330, 339-40; Na'ima, iii, 452-iv, 334; Karacelebi-zade cAbd al-cAziz, *Rawdat al-abrd*; 6ioff.; Munedjdjim-basjii, iii, 679-93; Solakzade, 766-73.

The above is an abridgement of the article *Ibrahim* in *IA*, fasc. 49, pp. 880-5, which includes references to and quotations from archive documents, and further bibliography.

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