

BEYLIK, (BEGLIK), a term formed by joining the adjectival and relative suffix *lik* to *bey* (*beg*, *beg*) which was an old Turkish title [see BEG]. The word *bey* is said to correspond to the Arabic *amir*, and *beylik* to *imdra*. The term *beylik* thus denotes both the title and post (or function) of a *Bey*, and the territory (domain) under the rule of a *Bey*. Later, by extension, it came to mean also "state, government", and, at the same time, a political and administrative entity sometimes possessing a certain autonomy. When the Ottoman Empire was established, cOthman Bey, the founder of the dynasty, was referred to as *Bey* by the sovereign of the Saldjukid Empire; in the same way, the territories which he had taken from the Byzantine Empire were granted to him as a *beylik*, *imdra*. At the beginning of the 8th/14th century, the other Turkish principalities in Asia Minor (of the *Tawa*if Muluku*) were also generally referred to as *Beylik*. Later, as the Ottoman Empire increased in size, the country was divided into *Sandj[ak-beyliks*—the most important and fundamental military and administrative unit, and these in turn were grouped, regionally, under the authority of the *beylerbeys*. From the 9th/i5th century, those Balkan countries which acknowledged the political and military suzerainty of the Ottoman Empire but enjoyed complete internal autonomy, were referred to as *Beyliks*: e.g., *Beylik* of the Danube, *Beylik* of Eflak, *Beylik* of Bogdan, *Beylik* of Erdel. Later still, countries which had obtained some privileges from the Ottoman Empire and had succeeded in achieving a measure of autonomy, were also considered as *Beyliks*: e.g., *Beylik* of Sisam

(Samos), *Beylik* of Bulgharistan (Bulgaria). This term in turn extended its meaning still further, and began to be used as an adjective to denote places and things belonging to the Government; *e.g.*, *Beylik arddi* (*mirl arddi*), "the lands (domain) of the *Beylik*", *Beylik kishla*, "the winter quarters of the *Beylik*", *Beylik ceshme* "the fountain of the *Beylik*" *Beylik dkhlr*, "the stable of the *Beylik*", *Beylik gemi* "the ship of the *Beylik*", etc. There are also some Turkish proverbs in which this word occurs, *e.g.*, "A *Beylik* of one day is a *Beylik*" (*Bir gunun beylighi beylikdir*). The name of an official in the central organisation of the Empire was derived from this term: *Beylikdji* (*Beglikdji*), who was the president of one department of the *Diwdn-i Humdyun* [q.v.].
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