

In The Name of Allaah, The Most Merciful, The Bestower of Mercy.

Orkhan's domestic and foreign policy

The conquests of Orkhan were focused on the Romans, but it happened that in the year 736 AH, the Ameer of Qara, one of the emirates that was established on the remnants of the Seljuk state of Rome, died, and his two sons disagreed after him and disputed about the emirate. And the aim of the emerging Ottoman Empire was to inherit the Seljuk state of Rome in Asia Minor and the other areas was under its control; so the conflict continued for this reason between it and the other Emirates until the days of Muhammad Al-Faatih when all of Asia Minor was subjected to his authority.

Orkhan took care of consolidating the foundations of his state by pursuing reform, built infrastructure, organized the administration and the armed forces, built mosques and established institutes. He spent twenty years - after taking over the Emirate of (Karacha) - without initiating any wars; rather, he spent that time improving the civil service and the military, strengthening internal security, built mosques and allocated religious endowments to them, and established vast public facilities. This testifies to Orkhan's piety, wisdom and farsightedness.

He did not wage war after war out of a desire for expansion, but rather he was keen to consolidate his authority in the lands that he could annex, and establish - in every new land - the characteristics of the civil, military, educational and cultural state, thus coming under their full authority and state property in Asia Minor. This demonstrates his understanding with regards to gradual progression in establishing nation states, civilization and regeneration.

As soon as he completed the internal construction, the struggle for rulership within the Byzantine state started and thus the emperor Kantakouzenos requested his help against his opponents; so he sent forces from the Ottomans to consolidate the Ottoman influence in Europe. And in the year 1358 AD, an earthquake struck the city of Thrace and the walls of Gallipoli collapsed, so the people deserted it, which made it easy for the Ottomans to enter. The Byzantine Emperor protested this to no avail and Orkhan's response was that the affair was a divine providence as the city gates were opened to his forces! Gallipoli soon became the first Ottoman base in Europe, and from there the first campaigns were launched, which eventually culminated in the seizure of the entire Balkan Peninsula. **[An Excerpt from Ad-Dawlah Al-Uthmaaniyyah Awaamil An-Nuhood wa Asbaab As-Suqoot 6/56-58. Slightly paraphrased]**