

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

The Ottoman Empire faced an internal danger due to outbreak of a civil war in the country between the sons of Bayezid who vied for rulership, and this lasted for ten years - from 806AH (1403 AD) to 816AH (1413 AD).

Bayezid had five sons who participated in fighting alongside him. It is believed that Mustafa was killed in the battle, Musa was captured with his father and the other three managed to escape. As for Sulayman, the eldest of them, he went to Adrianople and declared himself a sultan there; Eesaa went to Brusa and announced to the people that he was his father's successor, and Muhammad, who was the youngest of them, withdrew with some soldiers to Amasya. War started between these three brothers, among whom the fragments of the torn state were quarreling, and the enemies were waiting for them from all sides. Then Timur released Prince Musa to ignite the fire of sedition and make it more fierce and intense, and he began to incite them to fight one another. Then a year later, Timur departed with his army after burning both the green and the dry vegetation, and left the country in the worst state of destruction, devastation and chaos. Read here: <https://salaficentre.com/2020/04/19/some-perils-that-accompany-desire-for-leadership/>

This period in the history of the Ottoman Empire was a period of test and affliction that preceded the actual empowerment that led to the conquest of Constantinople. Indeed, this is the way in which Allaah deals with the creation- that it is not possible for a believing nation to establish itself until after it has passed through various tests, so that Allaah distinguishes the good people from the wicked ones. This is something that happens to the Islamic nation and it does not cease to occur, because Allaah has decreed that the believers will face trials and will be tested, so that Eemaan of the believers is purified and then they are given authority. Allaah [The Exalted] said:

الْم (۱) أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا ءَامَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ (۲) وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ فَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ

صَدَقُوا وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ الْكَافِرِينَ (٣)

Alif Laam Meem. Do people think that they will be left alone because they say: “We believe,” and will not be tested. And We indeed tested those who were before them. And Allah will certainly make (it) known (the truth of) those who are true, and will certainly make (it) known (the falsehood of) those who are liars, (although Allah knows all that before putting them to test). [Surah Al-Ankabut. Verses 1-3]: Read here: <https://salaficentre.com/2019/08/19/souls-cannot-be-purified-until-they-are-put-to-the-test-admonition-by-imaam-ibnul-qayyim/>

The Ottomans withstood the trial, despite the internal disputes they suffered, until Muhammad I (The First) became the sole ruler in 1413 AD, and he was able to unite the lands which the state had previously lost.

An Excerpt from Ad-Dawlah Al-Uthmaaniyyah Awaamil An-Nuhood wa Asbaab As-Suqoot 6/73-75. Slightly paraphrased