

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

Sultan Murad embarked upon Jihad, calling to the path of Allaah and conquering regions in Europe. His army set out to conquer Macedonia and his victories had a far-reaching significance, so it led to a European Balkan crusader alliance (against him) that was approved by the Fifth Pope of Europe, and included the Serbs, Bulgarians, Hungarians, and the inhabitants of Wallachia region. The member states of the Crusader alliance were able to mobilize an army of sixty thousand soldiers who were confronted by the Ottoman commander Lala Şahin with a force less than the allied forces, and he met them near (Chermen) on the Martiza River, where a frightening battle took place. The allied army was defeated and the two Serbian princes fled, but drowned in the Martiza River, and the King of Hungary miraculously escaped death. Meanwhile, Sultan Murad was engaged in battle in the countries of Asia Minor, where he conquered several cities, then returned to the seat of his Sultanate to organize what he conquered from the regions and countries, just as a wise leader would do.

Included among the important results of the Ottoman victory at the Martiza River was the conquest of Thrace and Macedonia, and the Ottomans also reached southern Bulgaria and eastern Serbia. The cities and possessions of the

Byzantine Empire, Bulgaria, and Serbia began falling in their possession like autumn leaves. When the advance of the Ottoman Empire intensified, its neighbors became afraid, especially the weak ones; so the Republic of (Ragoza) took the initiative and sent emissaries to Sultan Murad to conclude a friendly and commercial treaty in which they pledged to pay an annual tribute of 500 gold ducats, and this was the first treaty concluded between the Ottoman Empire and the Christian countries.

[An Excerpt from 'Ad-Dawlah Al-Uthmaaniyyah Awaamil An-Nuhood wa Asbaab As-Suqoot' 6/60. slightly paraphrased]