

Two Visits of Serbian Prince Mihailo Obrenovic to The Sultans in 1839/40 and 1867

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Left without local autonomies under previously unknown terror imposed by the janissary apostate Turkish governors, the Serbs in the Belgrade Pashalik rebelled in 1804. This uprising marked the beginning of what is also known as the Serbian Revolution.¹ National problems and the state-building aspirations of the Balkan nations at the beginning of the 19th century represented a new aspect of the Eastern Question. The result of the struggle of the Serbian people for liberation did not depend only on the capability of the insurgents, their numbers or the armaments of the Serbian and the Turkish armies; it was the reflection of European understanding. The *Serbian Revolution* (1804-1835) is one of the most significant events in the history of the Serbs and can be divided into two periods: war (1804-1815) and peace (1815-1835).² The main results of the Serbian Revolution were resurrection of the state (independent during the uprising, but later reverted to a vassal status), establishment of the state institutions, abolition of feudalism and cultural revival.

The statehood of the Principality of Serbia was founded upon three types of legal documents: 1) international agreements; 2) Ottoman documents (firmans, berats and hatt-i sherifs); and 3) Serbia's acts passed after she achieved internationally guaranteed autonomy within the Ottoman Empire in 1830, such as constitutions, laws, agreements, etc. International agreements concerning the autonomy of Serbia will only be listed: the Treaty of Bucharest (1812), the Akkerman Convention with its Separate Act (1826), and the Treaty of Adrianople (1829).

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1 Радош Љушић, *Вожд Карађорђе*, Београд 2005; Радош Љушић, *Српска државност 19. века*, Београд 2008, pp. 61-67.

2 The term *Serbian Revolution* was introduced by Leopold Ranke in the title of his joint work with Vuk Karadzic, *Die Serbische Revolution* (1829). The Serbian Revolution was mainly interpreted as a national and much more rarely as a social revolution. In socialist Yugoslavia it was wrongly interpreted as a bourgeois revolution. See: Радош Љушић, *Тумачења српске револуције у историографији 19. и 20. века*, Београд 1992; Љушић, *Српска државност*, pp. 16-26.

They paved the way to the restoration of Serbia's statehood as a principality as much as the resulting the Ottoman legal acts. It should be pointed out that Russia, through these agreements, had coerced Ottoman Turkey into solving the Serbian question raised by the Serbian Revolution of 1804. Russia, from 1830 a guarantor of the internationally protected autonomy of the Serbian Principality, was instrumental in establishing modern Serbia's institutions.

The Ottoman Empire established Serbia as a vassal principality under the following legal acts: the so-called Eight firmans of 1815/6; the att-i sherifs of 1829, 1830 and 1833; the berat of 1830; the firman of free salt trade of 1835; the firman on the Prince's release from Constantinople of 1835; the firmans on the flag and coat of arms of 1835 and 1839; the firman on establishing the Serbian Agency in Bucharest of 1835; the firman on trade of 1837; and the Concordat with the Ecumenical Patriarchate at Constantinople of 1831 with an appendage added in 1836. Towards the end of the first reign of Prince Miloš Obrenović (1815–1839), the Sublime Porte issued yet another hatt-i sherif to Serbia, which is known as the "Turkish Constitution" (1838). Under these acts, Serbia was granted the status of an autonomous principality under the Ottoman suzerainty. The Principality had its territory, its own administration from the highest (prince) to the lowest (village mayor) level, as well as some elements of statehood (flag, coat of arms, diplomatic representative at the Sublime Porte, agencies, consuls).³

During the time from formation of the autonomous Principality of Serbia (1830) until independence (1878), three Serbian princes visited Constantinople and the Turkish sultans - Prince Milos Obrenovic in 1835, Prince Mihailo Obrenovic in 1839/40 and 1867 and Prince Milan Obrenovic in 1874. The only Serbian ruler who twice officially visited Constantinople and the Turkish sultans was Prince Mihailo Obrenovic. His visits, especially in 1867, were of great importance not only for Serbia but also to the policy of the Ottoman Empire in the Balkans.

The First Visit of Prince Mihailo to Constantinople

Mihailo Obrenović was Prince of Serbia from 1839 to 1842 and again from 1860 to 1868. His first reign ended when he was deposed in 1842 and his second when he was assassinated in 1868. Initially, Prince Milos abdicated in favour of his

3 *Pregled međunarodnih ugovora i drugih akata od međunarodnog značaja za Srbiju od 1800 do 1918*, Beograd 1953; Михаило Гавриловић, *Милош Обреновић*, vols. I–III, Београд 1908, 1909, 1912; Радош Љушић, *Кнежевина Србија (1830–1839)*, Београд 2004, pp. 1-30; Љушић, *Српска државност 19. века*, pp. 89-126; Archives of Serbia, Belgrade, Mita Petrović Collection, 2343.

firstborn Milan Obrenovic, who was terminally ill and died after just month of rule. Also, after the abdication of Prince Milos, in June 1839, the First Regency was established, consisting of three members (Avram Petronijevic, Jevrem Obrenovic and Tom Vucic Perisic). They ruled for nine months, first in the name of the sick Prince Milan, and then in the name of the absent Prince Mihailo, who was with his father in Wallachia.⁴ The Berat to Prince Mihailo Sultan signed in September 1839 and in it Mihailo was confirmed for the prince of Serbia. A special official of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nedim Effendi, handed the text of the berat to Prince Mihailo in Bucharest on October 21, in the presence of Prince Milos and other officials. The Sublime Porte in order to oblige the new prince for itself and once again clearly proclaimed that the Serbian princes were only the vassals of the Turkish sultan, demanded that Prince Mihailo came to Constantinople to bow to the sultan, get the text of new firman and, then confirmed “as a Prince of Serbia”.⁵ After long negotiations, this condition was received and Prince Mihailo decided to leave for Constantinople.

On November 8, 1839, the Prince Mihailo headed out of Bucharest. His delegation was led by cavalier Aleksa Simic, minister of finance. Prince traveled to Giurgiu (south Wallachia) by carriages. There he crossed the Danube and rested one day in Rusciuk.⁶ At the time of his departure for the trip to Constantinople, Prince Mihailo was only seventeen. Very young for a difficult government call, the Prince felt quite uncomfortable at his first steps. He was taught to stay with his parents, who, after the death of the unfortunate Prince Milan, watched his future in him. The separation of parents was very touching and left a trace in his later life. Mihailo knew that the departure to Constantinople was the first step to uncertainty. Nevertheless, the young prince worked quite a bit, which is especially evident from his letters, which he sent from the road to the members of Regency in Serbia. These letters were sent genuinely and pedantically to Belgrade and they are a valuable document of his youthful views.

From Rusciuk, the prince travel to Edirne, where he arrived on 20 November 1839, where he was greeted by Emin Pasha. This welcome, excellent hospitality,

4 Радош Љушић, *Прво намесничтво (1839–1840)*, Београд 1995, p. 31.

5 Rossiiskii gosudarstvennyi arkhiv drevnikh aktov, F. 3 (III), 8, pp. 316–319; *Србске новине*, No. 44, 19 October 1839; No. 11, 28. March 1840.

6 Letter of the members of the First Regency to Prince Mihailo, 24 October 1839; Letter of the members of the First Regency to Aleksa Simic, 24 October 1839, Archives of Serbia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1839, VII, 43.

and especially the military guard who welcomed him, left a great and deep impression on the young Serbian prince.⁷ The Prince arrived in Constantinople on 26 November. The capital of the great empire left a great impression on the prince. The prince was placed in the house of a Serbian diplomatic representative in Constantinople and he had to wait almost one month for a reception at the ultan. He wrote about his impatience to members of the Regency in Belgrade.

On December 23, the prince was informed that the sultan would receive him. Nedim Efendi, who was with the prince in contact, came to the Prince at 5 o'clock in the morning and escorted him to the Imperial Court. The Prince was delighted of salute of the soldiers. First he spent time in conversation with the Grand Vizier Mehmed Hüsrev Pasha and after that with Mustafa Reşid Pasha, minister of foreign affairs.⁸ After two hours the prince was carried through the magnificent palace rooms and carried out before the sultan Abdülmecid I. The Sultan spoke briefly to him and the prince take a bow and addressed it in the French language, expressed his commitment to the sultan, his loyalty, and submissive gratitude. The sultan then asked the prince to present the members of his delegation giving the prince a series of councils how to guide his people. The adjutant Riza Pasha gave a order of the Sultan to the Prince. After a brief conversation, the Prince surprised of the Sultan's question about how old he is. After answering that he was 17 years old, the sultan replied that they were the same age. The enthusiastic prince after that was escorted from the Sultan's chamber and after a brief conversation with Turkish officials was returned to his apartment.⁹

Prince Mihailo used his further stay in Constantinople to get in touch with the political figures of Constantinople, those from the Turkish political world, and from foreign diplomatic missions - Russian and Austrian ambassadors and Greek representative. Also, the Prince again visited Mustafa Reşid Pasha, minister of foreign affairs. He was very pedantic in writing and distributing his reports for Belgrade, and did not miss any significant event without informing the member of the Regency. On December 30 he received from the sultan a sword adorned with

7 Letter of Prince Mihailo to the members of the First Regency, 20 November 1839, Archives of Serbia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1839, VII, 43; *Pravda*, No. 76, 20 March 1927; Љушић, *Прво намесништво*, pp. 142-143.

8 Letter of Prince Mihailo to the members of the First Regency, 21 December 1839, Archives of Serbia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1839, VII, 43; *Pravda*, No. 94, 7 April 1927.

9 Ibid.

diamonds and two Arabian horses as a gift.¹⁰

On February 1, 1840, Prince Mihailo was admitted to the farewell reception of the sultan. The Order that he received earlier was replaced by a new one, and he received a title *Müşir* and was awarded the title of “Brightness”. The last Sultan’s gift was a fez with gold and diamonds decorated edges. After leaving the Sultan, Prince Mihailo visited the Grand Vizier Mehmed Hüsrev Pasha again. From Constantinople he went to Serbia on February 10.¹¹

Mihailo didn’t cope best with the complicated situation in which Serbia was at the time. In 1842 his reign came to a halt when he was overthrown by a rebellion led by Toma Vucic Perisic, which enabled the Karadjordjevic dynasty to accede to the Serbian throne. After the overthrow, Prince Mihailo withdrew from Serbia and lived in exile to 1858.¹²

The Second Visit of Prince Mihailo to Constantinople

Obrenovic dynasty back to the throne in Serbia in 1858 once again. Mihailo was accepted back as Prince of Serbia in September 1860, after the death of his father who had regained the throne in 1858. During the second reign (1860-1868) his greatest achievement was in persuading the Turkish garrisons to leave Serbia, in 1862 (when the Ottoman Army left the fortresses of Uzice and Soko Grad) and 1867 (when the Turks left their fortifications in Belgrade, Sabac, Smederevo and Kladovo). This was done with major diplomatic support from Russia.¹³

The defeat of Austria in the war with Prussia and the outbreak of the uprising in Crete in August 1866 changed the situation on the European stage. The Great European Powers were concerned about the escalation of the conflict across the Ottoman Empire, so that Serbia could expect important concessions. In the moments of major crises, the Serbian government decided at the end of October 1866 to request from the Sublime Porte and the Sultan the cession of the city’s

10 Letter of Prince Mihailo to the members of the First Regency, 31 December 1839, Archives of Serbia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1839, VII, 43.

11 Letter of Prince Mihailo to the members of the First Regency, 25 February 1840, Archives of Serbia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1840, V, 75; Љушић, *Прво намесништво*, 145-146.

12 See further: Данко Леовац, *Кнез Михаило Обреновић, младост, прва владавина, емиграција*, Београд 2019, pp. 109-193.

13 Данко Леовац, *Србија и Русија за време друге владавине кнеза Михаила (1860-1868)*, Београд 2015.

fortress to Serbia.¹⁴ After a series of long negotiations and pressures of the Great Powers, the Sultan made a decision on the cession of cities on February 18, 1867. The Serbian ruler was officially notified in the letter of Ali-pasha on March 3, 1867, and five days later, Prince Mihailo informed the sultan that he accept the invitation to visit Constantinople.¹⁵

On March 30, 1867, at 9 a.m. Prince Mihailo left the Belgrade at state ship “Deligrad” and went to Constantinople. After sailing on the river Danube, the Prince arrived at Turn Severin at 5.45 p.m. Tomorrow ship sailed without delay and at 10 p.m. they arrived at Rusciuk. There the Prince was welcomed by Midhat Pasha. The journey continued the next day, on April 1, by train to Varna. In the dock at Varna they boarded on a boat carrying them to the Sultan’s yacht, which awaited at a distance of 200 to 300 meters from the coast. The Sultan’s yacht “Sultania” was much larger than “Deligrad”. At the Sultan’s yacht, to meet

- 14 Гргур Јакшић, Војислав Вучковић, *Спољна политика за владе кнеза Михаила. Први балкански савез*, Београд 1963, pp. 295–305; *Archives diplomatiques 1867. Recueil de diplomatie et d’histoire*, tome deuxième, 7. année (avril, mai, juin 1867), pp. 700–701; *Archives diplomatiques 1868. Recueil de diplomatie et d’histoire*, tome premier, 8. année (janvier, février, mars 1868), pp. 290–291; *Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Rossiiskoi Federatsii*, F. 730, 4488, p. 99; 3422, p. 8.
- 15 Assignment of the city’s fortress at Serbia and emigration of Turkish crew from them was an event of great importance to the strengthening of Serbian autonomy and to pave the independence of the Serbian state, which occurred a decade later (1878). In June 1866 Great Britain had a new government led by Lord Derby, the leader of the Conservatives. Foreign affairs were entrusted to his son, Lord Stanley. From the English Conservatives, regarding the Eastern Question could be expected course based on the status-quo and the preservation of Turkey. However, aware of the constant decline of Turkey, they were deprived of a rational view of things. France and Russia since the beginning of the sixties years of the 19th century favored their projects on issues of national movements in the Balkans, which caused reactions of Great Britain. When the Serbian request for cession of the city’s fortress due to the Sublime Porte, Lord Stanley considered that that question should not require urgent attention and he does not believe that it will any time soon be on the agenda. He argued that there was no need to engage in details, before the conditions were serious for consideration. After only three months, Stanley changed his mind. News of the continued arming of Serbia and Russia’s involvement in the preparation of the uprising in the Balkans against the Turks, forced Britain to emerge from its perpetual reservation. On behalf of the British Government Lord Stanley told that it was desirable that the sultan immediately, without delay, by the public and the spontaneous action taken matters into their own hands and surrender the fortress as his gift to the Serbian Prince. The instructions from London were of great importance for the success of the Serbian diplomatic action, at a time when among the Turkish ministers prevailed unyielding power. On the same day that instructions were given, 22 January 1867, at the British Legation on the Bosphorus came the reply that the ministers decided to resolve the issue “in accordance with the advice of Great Britain and France”. Сузана Рајић, “Велика Британија и градско питање 1866/1867. Борба за Београд”, *Београдски историјски гласник* 4 (2013), pp. 123–140; Bourne Kenneth, “Great Britain and the Cretan Revolt”, *The Slavonic and East European Review*, Vol. 35, No. 84 (Dec 1956), pp. 77–84.

the Prince, from Constantinople arrived Sultan's first adjutant, and Jovan Ristic, Serbian representative. After a formal dinner, about 2 hours after midnight, the luxury yacht sailed to the capital of the Empire.¹⁶

After pleasant sailing, Prince Mihailo arrived in Constantinople on Thursday April 2, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon with numerous entourage and accompanied by the Sultan's first adjutant, and a honorary escort of six armored battleships. The "Sultania" was anchored not far from the coast, immediately followed by a Sultan's boat with the administrator of the imperial court. He greeted the Prince in a parade uniform and told him the desire of Sultan to receive him immediately. The Prince accepted the invitation and immediately went to the *Dolmabahçe Sarayı*, where Grand Vizier Ali Pasha, the Imperial Guard and the Military Orchestra welcomed him at the entrance.¹⁷ After the greetings to the Grand Vizier and saluting the guard, the Prince removed a kalpak from his head, entered the Imperial Palace, and approached directly to the sultan, with the following words:

"My Lord, in coming, to express his Majesty my deepest obeisance, I am cunning, that I can express my acknowledgment for the great testimony of the goodwill you have chosen to show to me, fulfilling a living desire of the Serbian people. My personal confession, Lord, is no less than the recognition of my people. History will speak with praise of this generous act of Your Majesty, and I am proud to see that my name is united with an event that is so happy, so much so that it can improve good relations between the Principality and its exalted sovereign. It is famous for Your Majesty, that you have shown to Europe and the whole world, to know how to settle the general interests of the Empire with a just satisfaction of the needs and aspirations of Serbia. Therefore, my lord, be convinced, believe me in the cavity, which I feel at this moment, that I am in the state, that I can personally convince Your Majesty, by submitting to you my gift and repeating the expression of my deep obeisance."¹⁸

Sultan and Prince, accompanied by Jovan Ristic, spoke about 45 minutes, and then the other members of the Serbian delegation were presented to the Sultan. Each one of the delegation members deeply bowed to Sultan and took the place to the left and to the right of the Prince. Sultan Abdülaziz stood at the head of

16 Зорица Јанковић, *Пут у Цариград. Кнез Михаило, предаја градова и одлазак Турака из Србије*, Београд 2006, pp. 74-76.

17 Ibid.

18 Љубомир Узун Мирковић, *У свити књаза Михаила*, Београд 1899.

the salon, just before him was a table, behind him one chair. And on the left side was the sultan's Grand Vizier Ali-pasha, and on the right Fuad-Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs. In front of the Sultan, left side toward Fuad-Pasha, stood Prince Mihailo, supported with a left hand on a sword with a precious stone surrounded and gold-coated, with the right leg forward and pushed aside, in the right hand hold kalpak with a brilliants. On the left side of the Prince, and from the right side of the Fuad-Pasha, one step back, stood Jovan RistiC On the right side of the Prince stood Jovan Marinovic, and close to him Milivoj Petrovic BlaznavaC Opposite to Prince and Sultan, and on the left side of the Grand Vizier, all the others in two and three orders were compared. The Sultan had the fez on his head, a black silk vest tied to the neck, a black coat, the same black pants, and the jacket, set with fine soft skin with short shiny hair, and on the feet of a shoe of some thin and soft skin, and shoes of some thin and soft skin. He twisted his fingers, and turned the thumb of his right arm around the thumb of the left arm, holding hands on his belly. The sultan had big black eyes, he looked drowsy, black thick eyebrows, black short hair and mustache, black, round-shaved short dense beard, neck lousy and short, the chest is wide, the body was of medium height, and the look was tired. Ali-pasha and Fuad-pasha stood up looked in front of themselves; arms were crossed on their chest. All the others stood, looking at the Sultan and Prince. The sultan said 5-6 words to the Grand Vizier and not looked to him. After that the Grand Vizier, began to speak in French, whole allocution, who was barely heard: how his Majesty is the exalted to see in his capital his exalted Light of Serbian Prince Mihailo and his delegates, how welcomes him and wants to spent nice time in Constantinople, and to take a nice memory when he back to Serbia, etC After that Jovan Marinovic, also in French, thanks on behalf of all of us on the overwhelming reception. Throughout that time, the Sultan was only looking to the Prince and measuring him from head to toe and cap-a-pie, and turned his thumb around thumb. When the speech was finished, the Prince take a bow, after 2-3 steps he stopped, turned to the Sultan and bowed again, and he did the same for the third time at the door.¹⁹

After the solemn audience at the Sultan, Prince Mihailo were received also in the imperial palace (floor below) by the Grand Vizier Ali-pasha and Fuad-Pasha. Then the Prince was driven by imperial carriages (surrounded by horse guard) in the palace near Beşiktaş, where he was greeted by the delegates of the missions of Russia, Austria, England, France, Italy and Prussia. After the reception in the

19 Ibid.

Sultan's residence, on the shore of Bosphorus, and admission to the palace near Beşiktaş, the Prince was located in the luxurious palace Maslak.

In the next two days the Prince had a very rich and strenuous program. First, on April 3 (the second day of his stay in Constantinople), he made a visit to the Sublime Porte (in an old building on the Asian side of Bosphorus), where he was presented to the all of the dignitaries. On the same day, Prince also visited all members of the ambassadors of the Great Powers. On the third day of his stay in the capital of the Ottoman Empire, Prince had new meetings with the Grand Vizier, and other ministers. They came to the palace where he was stay, vigorously dressed, accompanied by 10 to 12 horsemen. On the same day, the deputies of the Great Powers returned the visit to the Prince. Half of all expenses for the representation, during the several-day stay of the delegation in Constantinople and on arrival and departure, was personally gave Prince Mihailo.²⁰

On the fourth day (April 5), the Sultan called the Prince back to the palace at two o'clock in the afternoon. After a long conversation with each other's respect, seven years younger host gave to his guest the greatest State Order - Order of Osmaniye (all in the diamonds) with a big lap, and as a personal honor he gave him five wonderful Arabian horses, knowing that the horses were passion of the Prince.²¹ After an audience with the Sultan, the Grand Vizier prepared lunch in honor of the Prince. At the lunch the prince pronounced the toast to the Sultan, and the Grand Vizier to the Prince. On the fifth day of stay in Constantinople (April 6), the Prince visited the Ecumenical Patriarch.

On the same day, Prince Mihailo visited the Serbian representative in Constantinople, Jovan RistiC. On Sunday, April 7, after several receptions, the Prince visited Hagia Sophia, and a national historical museum, and the following day spent mainly on a stroll to Constantinople, and especially shopping in the famous Bezistan. On the eighth day of his stay in Constantinople (Tuesday, April 9), the Prince received the Ecumenical Patriarch and several delegations, and then visited the military academy and a barracks. In the Russian mission, on the occasion of the Prince's stay in Constantinople, a gala dinner was prepared

20 Јанковић, *Пут у Цариград*, pp. 85-90.

21 Prince Mihailo was a great fan of racing horses and horseback riding horses. He organized and wrote the rules for the competition for the first horse races in Belgrade and Serbia, and he also raised the state farm in Pozarevac, calling Ljubicevo (in memory of his mother Ljubica). The horse of his ergela, named Sortiton, won one of the famous races in Paris in 1857, defeating Rothschild's horses. Milan Jovanović Stojimirović, *Silvete starog Beograda*, Beograd 1971.

by Russian Deputy General Ignatyev. On Wednesday, April 10, the Prince had breakfast with Fuad Pasha in his summer house in Kanlidja on the shores of Bosphorus, received several deputies in his residence, and sailed on the Sea of Marmara and Bosphorus afternoon.

On the day of the Prince's departure from Constantinople, on Thursday, April 11, 1867, in a farewell audience, Sultan Abdülaziz handed over to the Prince Mihailo Firman (signed the previous day), in which he entrusted to all the fortresses to in Serbia.²² The prince received the Firman in a ceremonial general uniform. With Prince was the only representative Jovan Ristic, while the other members of the Serbian delegation, in ceremonial suits and with the Sultan's Orders on the chest, joined the audience after 20 minutes. This official visit of the Prince Mihailo was completed. Directly from the imperial palace, the Serbian prince headed to yacht "Sultania", on the same steamer by which he came to Constantinople.

Unlike the previous visit (1839/1840), this visit was on a higher level and with much more respect for Serbia and the Prince. Prince Mihailo himself spoke to Marinovic about the first and second visit: "Then I had a small house in Jebalija (the Christian quarter of Constantinople), and now the imperial palace in the town and the second imperial palace on Bosphorus. Then I waited for several weeks while the Sultan was delighted to receive me, and now I was received immediately from the Sultan, and after that went to a certain apartment; then it took a few days to wait until one of the nobles received me, and now all the nobles of the next day, after my arrival, came to the podium, and they all run, who will show me greater service." The second stay of Prince Mihailo in Constantinople was both important, so the best Turkish photographer Pascal Sebah, immortalized this act by filming Prince.

Conclusion

Serbian Prince Mihailo Obrenovic visited Constantinople twice and was a guest of Sultan Abdülmecid I in 1839/40. and Sultan Abdülaziz in 1867. These visits are extremely important from the aspect of the relationship between the Ottoman Empire and the Autonomous Principality of Serbia. Prince's letters from his first stay in the Ottoman capital portray welcome reception by Turkish representatives and sultan, so they are important not only from the political aspect but from

²² *Србске новине*, No. 49, 18 April 1867; No. 50, 20 April 1867; No. 53, 27 April 1867; Исто, бр. 56, 25. април/7. мај 1867; *Archives diplomatiques 1867. Recueil de diplomatie et d'histoire*, tome deuxième, 7. année (octobre, novembre, décembre 1867), 1565.

the aspect of social history also. Of particular interest is that it was a meeting of a sovereign ruler Abdülmecid I, and a vassal prince, and that in the time of meeting both of them were 17 years old. The second visit of the Serbian Prince was in 1867 and shows a completely different picture. Prince Mihailo has taken the advantage of the interests in Europe and has asked from the the Ottoman government the surrender of the fortified Serbian cities and leaving off the Turkish garrisons. Pressed by the Great Powers, Turkish representatives accepted Prince's proposition and invited him to visit sultan and to accept the Sultan's Firman consisting the document of the surrender of the cities to the Serbian government. The last Turkish soldier, altogether with the commander of the Belgrade fortress has abandoned Serbia on 6 May 1867. These two visits of the Serbian Prince Mihailo to the sultans are important from several aspects: how it looked and how the reception was changed at the Sultan's palace, how looked social life in the palace during the reception of the vassal prince, what was discussed, how the attitude of the sultans towards the Serbian prince was changed.

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Ekler



Ek 1: Prince Mihailo Obrenovic



Ek 2: Prince Mihailo Obrenovic



Ek 3: Photography in Constantinople (1867)