

Social Conditions of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire in Jerusalem: Sociological Study

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Abstract

The study aimed at identifying the social conditions of Armenians in Jerusalem, to reveal the social relations between Armenians and Muslims in the era of Ottoman Empire.

This study also proved that the Armenians were and still one of the most important Christian denominations in Jerusalem which are mainly represented its social development, their role was also appeared in establishing Armenians state in modern era (century) and maintained their role within society conclave.

Introduction

There is no city defined the heavenly message and its existence side by side as Jerusalem did, this explains its spiritual stature among the followers of divine religious Jewish, Christianity, and Islam. If all effort has been worked by Jewish Zionism and continued to consecrate the religious status for political purposes of the followers of Judaism .the followers of Christianity especially Arab ones have staked by its religious status by European countries interventions, specifically France, after its ability to conclude a treaty with Ottoman Empire in 1153 BC /1740 AD. Its significations /contents formed privilege of France, that treaty had concrete effects on the relations of Armenians as one of the Christian communities in Jerusalem and social relations between them and the Muslims, therefore, this study of the social conditions of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire in Jerusalem is a psychological study discussing the following aspects:

- 1- Armenian presence in Jerusalem in terms of the various sects and their respective divisions.
- 2- The essence of the social conditions of Armenians in line with the regional conflicts.
- 3- Armenian relations with both the Ottoman Empire and the Muslims.

Importance of the study

This study is a new type of studies that focuses in-depth research on the social conditions of Armenians and their inter-relationship with the Muslims and their relationship with the Ottoman Empire. The study is based on material to some documents, sources and historical references of some historians. The documents are analytical investigated and have been adopting the documented logical conclusion.

Social conditions of Armenians in Ottoman Empire era in Jerusalem

Jerusalem is characterized by the existence of multiple Christian denominations and each denomination has its monasteries and churches from all over the world, these communities carry multiple cultures and civilizations, especially after the Roman emperor Constantine Issued Milan edict in 310 AD, A decree which gave religious freedom in the empire of Roma.

Christian pilgrims began to flock to Jerusalem; some of them settled and established churches and monasteries, whether of Armenians Greece Copts and others.

Christians participate on building Jerusalem history and get the repentance and religious freedom under the Islamic governor in all ages Rashid , Abbasi , and Omawi also ,they participate in building the society of Jerusalem having good treatment till the western movements start calling for free Jerusalem from Muslims especially after the defeated of the empire of Rome on Maladthekr on 1071 AD. So they brought the crusades after telling that there are lots of problems faced the Christians in east.

And the first crusade was in 1096 AD to free Jerusalem from Muslims, since that time the Armenian's social and political role started to appear on helping crusader especially those who lived in Qalqelia and Qabadonia, they give all the places that were in and started to work as guiders to Jerusalem.

Armenian in Jerusalem

Some studies prove that in 9th century the Armenians were following the Monofzeti that supported the Orthodox. Also some of Armenian came later as Pilgrims and immigrants, and stay in south western part gathering around Deer Mar Ya'qoob.

Armenian divided into Orthodox and Catholic in 17th and 16th century after the France catholic since France was protecting Catholic while visiting religious places in Jerusalem.

The Armenians become the third party in Jerusalem after Romans and Westerns, competing on having their religious places, because of the good relationship with the Westerns and their supporting too.

That what emphasized by the Armenian historian arkaskanjian who said that Armenians presented the most of Jerusalem society also they are in a competition with other parties such roman and western, especially after the entrance of European and Westerns in Jerusalem, the conflicts increased for the religious places there.

Also the Armenians economical situation in Jerusalem had a role in controlling the social situation of Christians since they were very rich because of their working in trade and agriculture right from the beginning in original Armenia.

Also they stay interested working in trade even after live in Jerusalem and they were known by their economical wealth.

As a result of their rich they built economical relationships with Jewish over of their wide economical activities the thing that make them controlling other parties on selling buying and having as examples of the biggest Armenians families AL-ARMANI and ALSAMRA.

Armenians got lots of benefits of the good treatment that they got of Muslims in ayobyan and mamlokian ages , especially after getting their rights from salah aldien alayouby who gave to Muslims and local that had been taken by crusades . And offered protecting and safe to them giving them what give to Muslims .They live their life working producing and having the freedom of religion.

After the coming of the sultan saleem the first to Jerusalem 1516BC /922AD Armenians got good treatment and mercy of sultan saleem since they were considered as a part of Jerusalem society keeping safty and organization there. They had good relations with Muslims, paying taxes and as Muslims got bothered of it they got too.

Armenian lives in Jerusalem and had a good role building society but they still dream about having their own country there with its people.

Armenian situation in Ottoman Empire

Armenian were in the third place after orthodox and Latin in Jerusalem but they considered as followers of Orthodox and Monofezit so they try keeping their place by creating different religious houses and church and they had got their rights in churches there especially AL-Qiama church And they got the right of Setna- Mariam church and their Daers such Daer Yaqoob, Daer Zytoona for the Armenian, and in Habs –Al Maseeh church and Mario hana church they were making their rituals and worshipping Celebrating their occasions, this cause the increasing of Armenian number there and they live their life working, predicting and having the freedom of religion.

After the coming of the Sultan Saleem the first to Jerusalem Armenian got good treatment and mercy of Sultan Saleem since they were considered as a part of Jerusalem society keeping safety and organization there, with good relations with Muslims, paying taxes and as Muslim got bothered of it they got too.

Live in Jerusalem and had a good role building society but they still dream about having their own country there with its people, and they had got their own part of churches there.

The caring for Jerusalem increased by the Ottoman Sultan because of its religious importance and its location so they were working on building it and keeps safety there.

When Jerusalem was the control of Mohammad Ali Basha In 1800 Armenians were taking most important places in comparison with Muslims and Christians. And they had Ibrahim Basha the son of Mohammed Ali Basha next to their side. In giving them rights in AL Qiama church as they became one of the basic part of the Jerusalem society in 1840

Armenian had a normal life in Jerusalem. But its political art religious in the presentences of the different Christian parties cause them worry and confusion because of the changing of Muslims leaders one after another's, since. The governor of Jerusalem verifies between stable and changble. This reflects on the period of Mohammed Basha Abu Maraq leading. He starts leading in yafa, Gaza, Ramla, AL led and Jerusalem imposing taxes, and cutting the road of pilgrims who come from Europe and Russia.

Armenians complain him because these things effect their economical situation especially they were depending on tradal exchanging with pilgrims as the locals of Jerusalem.

Also they sell their products to pilgrims because they were good in treadle works producing coppers and gold and making shoes using the period of pilgrimages for those pilgrims come from Greece, Germany, Anodal, and even for Arab countries and Russia.

They got lots of money from that .Armenians Known as workers who love to work and had good works.

So their products were wanted and most pilgrims especially those who belong to the same vase from Anodal, Russia and Balkans. According to their social relationship with their Muslims neighbors it was very good and full of respect, in addition to that they had trade relation and there is freedom of religion.

Also the relation expands to reach the leaders of Jerusalem and the head master in Istanbul. But Armenians didn't keep the independence of society.

In Jerusalem instead of that they create social and religious conflicts with Romans.

They make conflicts about some religious right in AL- Qiama church. They were dreaming to create their own country using their economical powers, so they try to get more rights in Jerusalem through their father in Astana, those rights are different between social and religions.

Armenian also, asks for changing their masses and leiliras, and putting their picture then they got the reply of ottomans to keep the old as it is.

But Armenians were afraid of getting westerns new religions especially they were supported of France, so they ask for more rights in AL Qiama and Al jothmania church the thing that make ottomans replied again to keep old thing as it is.

American wish things to change for better after the AL Qiama church had burned in 1808 they were accused of burning it for the purpose of the eligibility to rebuild their burned part at the church and for getting more rights so they hurried to ask Sultan Mohammed the second to allow them to rebuild what was burned as what also Romans fernge had did but order had allowed Romans to rebuild it because they are the oldest party and because they own visiting places in AL Qiama , Bait lahem and Edira . and the order also makes all Christian parties under the government of the btrreak of Rome since few month ago a fire in the church and we answered the Romans asks we had ordered to rebuild the Romans houses and shops Armenians tried to stop the rebuilding of the urging some Christians as mentioned is report complaining of building that if hurts them

So they had attacked the Romans, this movement happened as a reaction of not getting the right of building the church .and locals had attacked workers and builders who were working at church and when the Ottoman government had been informed of that an order had done to giving Romans of the right of rebuilding the church and parenting any attack towards them.

After than Armenian had asked for rights of getting religious rights in the church which led ottoman government to end the conflicts between their church and insisting on the Romans right of rebuilding the church and Armenians obliged in specific times to visit the church and allowed them to put their pictures and their poises to work and the government left old things as what they were according to the keys, Othman government refused the Armenian request to get the keys of the church change their poises times, and putting end to what had obliged them in bait lahm and Armenian had to visit it after taking permission of the Ottoman church

Othman government was busy with its political situation and its wars with European countries also, in revolutions that had taken place against it in separate following state. So according to the important of this holy place and the stability they're seeking for it had an order at keeping old thing as it is and not to let Armenian own anything as usual .

The government found that Armenian had to put only one candle inside and one outside. The relationship between Armenians and other parties and affected after conflicts on getting the key since other parties were getting them for religious occasion in the grave yard .which led to a conflict and making unacceptable actions. keys were almost with Romans so Sultan Mohammed the second made an order that every party had to own their shops and places .the problem was the noise some parties did when other party was doing its prays in the church As what Armenian was doing with other pares and a complaint was set from those affected parties to the othmanic government since Armenians requests to have the keys with them. as what other part did so ordered was set in 1814 still taking place till nowadays after looking at the their requisitions and complains . About the church's keys that it would to given to Muslims to as a gate guard of the church and gate responsible on opening it for these parties when they want to pray and it has sent that order to Jerusalem part,

And they lived randomly inside the Ottoman borders using the national feeling on those who belong to the same race motivating them to call for creating their own country the original Armenia.

They get supported of west Europeans gathering all Armenians to go deeply inside Ottoman country weakening it, working hard to get confession of Armenia as an independent from Russia.

After the Egyptians governor came to Jerusalem the public weather was unstable locals of Jerusalem and Armenians were very cheer greeting Ibrahim Basha as a leader.

Armenians knew that the period that he'll lead will be better and will give them more immunity especially he had good relations with Europeans and to go free of Abdullah Basha the new leader who imposed too many taxes, some studies mentioned that Armenians celebrated happily with Jewish because of Ibrahim Basha's coming. But Muslims were afraid even they were greeting, because they had some bad feelings toward Egyptians control against them especially there are economical problems, too much taxes, less rains and high prices. Ibrahim-Basha started as a governor of Jerusalem and most of the immunities he gave goes to Christians he cancel the price that payed by Russian instead of visiting AL Qyama church and didn't allow to get it in future .

Armenians were helped because of that thing so they can visit the church and pilgrims who came from different places too. And it became a main event since that time 1839 AD, and the roman in 1832/1299 BC when they try to replace a stone instead of another one in church but the Roman didn't allow which cause conflict but the judge order to replace the stone to its place.

However he imposed the molarity draft for Muslims in addition to that they didn't get any immunities that he gave since all of them help Christians , So they get bothered of him and that create conflict between Muslims and Christian after being neighbors and brothers for long time.

All that immunities gave under the effect of Europeans, and Eurasians

Everything become clear and stable to Armenians, and most of their families become rich with high jobs and positions in government.

Muslims refused those developments which lead to peasant's revaluations 835-1839 AD, but they were faced by Ibrahim -Basha, as Muslim families replaced by Christians and Armenians and they get authority and effectiveness.

These things last till the end of Egyptian governor, after that all ammunition that gave to Christians stopped and all the conflicts are solved by the end of Egyptians governor 1890 AD/1250 BC.

Jerusalem was followed by EGIPTION at that period , and its came back to ottoman I 1840bc /1256ad the Armenians gained many religious social economical privileges that given to ibraheem basha at that time also they supported by those European countries that adopted the Armenian propaganda of making national Armenian country exploiting the weakness of the ottoman country since there were lots of European works , the national parties got increased and Christians started to call for their independence because of Europeans ideas , about greeting the Christians on their side by protecting being kind as stop all the conflicts between Muslims and Christians that lifted by the Egyptians governor .but the European countries didn't take the citizens back after all that given by Ibrahim basha especially at that time since each of European countries choose to protect the Christians who follow them, and they put their flags every Sunday and their ringing bills in occasions. American got their place in Jerusalem stadin by those who look for independence side.

Summary

This research includes the following points:

- 1 Armenians have a main role in building the society of Jerusalem, also American families control some of economical works instead of Christian's ones
- 2 The social relationships between Armenians and their neighbors were because of the good social relation.
- 3 A period which the Armenians got many religious privileges, social, and economic control, were granted by Ibrahim basha. Moreover they were backed by the European countries that have adopted the publicity to establish a nation-state where the Armenian state was founded and Armenian capital Erevan
- 4 The policy of the Ottoman Empire to Armenian was by treating them as a part of the community.

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