

Effects of the Treaty of Paris 1856

Alihan Kalfa

The Treaty of Paris 1856 was a peace treaty signed after the Crimean War. It was a revolutionary treaty in terms of techniques (such as telegraphs and steamships) newly used during the war and the balances that have changed as a result of the war. There were 4 states that signed this treaty. Names of the states were: the Ottoman Empire, Great Britain, Russia and France. Prussia and Piemonte, indirectly influenced by this treaty, profited from the treaty. This treaty provided armistice in Europe until the war Prussia and France of 1870. An armistice was reached between the Ottoman Empire and Russia until the war in 1877.

Firstly, as a result of the treaty, the pressure of the Russians on the Ottoman Empire, which had been going on since the Treaty of Küçük Kaynarca, was broken and the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire was secured by the European states. In addition, for the first time since the Vienna Congress of 1815, Europe has changed the balance in its favor. Moreover, the states parties reaffirmed their commitment to the London Straits Convention, which is signed in 1841 for the demilitarization of the Black Sea. This means Russia's landing in the Mediterranean has once again been blocked.

Secondly, by this treaty, the European states had the opportunity to intervene in the internal affairs of the Ottoman Empire. the Reform Edict published in 1856 was not in favor of the Ottoman State to be included in this treaty. At the same time, this edict formed the basis of the social problems that would arise in the coming years. Together with these facts, the Reform Edict reflected the view that the Ottoman Empire had an innovative image through the eyes of the people of Europe. In other words, this treaty allowed the Ottoman Empire to be a European State which means that the Ottoman Empire would have the advantages of the European system in terms of law. In addition, the accession of the Ottoman Empire to this treaty by invitation has an important impact on the recognition of the Ottoman Empire as a European state.

On the other hand, although the Ottoman Empire won the Crimean War against Russia, the Ottoman Empire did not earn any in term of bootygains. Even, during the war between the Ottoman Empire and Russia in 1877, European States didn't implement the treaty of Paris. Moreover, in 1870, during the war between Prussia and France, Russia announced that they would no longer comply with the Treaty of Paris, and Russia began using the Crimean Port and arming itself in the Black Sea. The European states had remained silent on this situation. In addition, while Europe eliminated the Russian danger, the Ottoman Empire postponed it only for a while. This led to an extension of the period of dissolution of the state.

In conclusion, the Treaty of Paris is an important treaty both for the establishment of a new European order and for the liberation of the Ottoman Empire from Russian danger for some time. It is an example of revolutionary diplomacy that influenced the fate of the country as a result of the recognition of the Ottoman Empire as a European state as a result of the treaty and increased reform efforts.