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LEMNOS VOIVODE ABDÜLKERİM AĞA (1784-1796)

Limni Voyvodası Abdülkerim Ağa (1784-1796)

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ABSTRACT

With its proximity to Istanbul, Lemnos Island had come to the forefront as one of the important provincial headquarters of the Ottoman Empire's shipbuilding activities. which started in the 18th century, albeit on a small scale. Many rulers on the island are known to have built ships for the Ottoman Navy. One of the most influential administrators who built ships in the region was Voivoda Abdülkerim Ağa, who was one of the inhabitants of the island and was appointed to an administrative position in the Ottoman State. Abdülkerim Ağa, who was personally responsible for the shipbuilding of the Ottoman State in different periods, successfully completed his missions. Pasha was exiled to Rhodes Island with his brother Yusuf due to the cruelties he committed to the people during his tenure, and after the subsequent trial the decapitated heads of the two brothers were sent to Istanbul. Abdülkerim Ağa's heritage was confiscated by the state, and his estate was returned to his family only after his debts were paid to the state. Many of the documents in the archive about Ağa are about the bad administration led by him. In the meantime, it was been documented that the immovables of the Voivode were seized by the people after their execution following the exile. In this article, which was written by making use of Ottoman archive documents, the rise of the agha's, who already had political influence in the region, to the state in a short time with his shipbuilding activities, and his murder in a short time were discussed.

Keywords: Abdülkerim Ağa the Lemnos Voivode, shipbuilding activities, mukataa and jizye, exile, inheritance.

ÖZ

Limni Adası, İstanbul'a olan yakınlığıyla Osmanlı Devleti'nin 18. yüzyılda başlayan gemi inşa faaliyetlerinin küçük çaplı da olsa önemli taşra tezgâhlarından bir olarak ön plana geçmiştir. Adadaki birçok yöneticinin Osmanlı donanması için gemiler inşa ettiğini biliyoruz. Bölgede gemi yapan en etkili yöneticilerden biri yine adanın sakinlerinden olan, Osmanlı Devleti'nde idari açıdan önemli mevkiye gelmiş olan Voyvoda Abdülkerim Ağa'dır. Farklı dönemlerde Osmanlı Devleti'nin gemi yapımından bizzat

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sorumlu olan Ağa, görevlerini başarıyla tamamladı. Paşa, görev süresi boyunca halka yaptığı zulümler nedeniyle önce kardeşi Yusuf ile birlikte Rodos Adası'na sürgün edilmiş, daha sonra yapılan yargılamanın ardından iki kardeşin kesik başları İstanbul'a gönderilmiştir. Abdülkerim Ağa'nın devlet tarafından terekesine el koyulmuş, devlete olan borçlarının ödenmesiyle terekesi ailesine iade edilmiştir. Ağa hakkında arşivde bulunan evrakların birçoğu, kişinin şahsından kaynaklanan olumsuz yönetim hakkındadır. Sürgünle gelen idamların ardından voyvodanın taşınmazlarına da ahali tarafından el koyulduğunu görürüz. Osmanlı arşiv belgelerinden yararlanılarak yazılan bu makalede zaten bölgede siyasi nüfuzu olan ağanın, idari olarak göreve gelmesiyle devlete yaptığı gemi inşa faaliyetleriyle kısa sürede yükselmesi ve yine çok zaman geçmeden katledilişi ele alınmıştır.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Limni Voyvodası Abdülkerim Ağa, gemi inşa faaliyetleri, mukataa ve cizye, sürgün, tereke.

Introduction

Lemnos Island is in the northern part of the Aegean Sea, located at a distance of 61 km from the Dardanelles. It is 476 km² wide and has a coastline of 259 km. The peak of the island, which is generally a flat land structure, is 430 meters (Skopia Hill) (Emecan, 2003: 190-192). According to Semsettin Sami, the people in this region, whose soil was not fertile, had turned to different livelihoods (Semsettin Sami, 1314[1899]: 3998). Social and economic studies have been carried out on the island of Lemnos before (Sannav, 2004). One of these studies is Demircan's study, which gives information about the social and economic situation of Lemnos Island in the 16th century. The study also revealed that resources were allocated to Capitan Pasha from the revenues of the island until the first half of the 16th century, which continued with the addition of livestock incomes until the end of the 17th century (Demircan, 2014: 289). One of the main differences that distinguish the Voivoda from the tax collector (muhassıl and mütesellim in Ottoman) in terms of tax collection is the fact that they could take on the collection of taxes not only from the elites of the timar, the zeâmet, and the high military class but also foundation revenues and the taxes of the central treasury (Özvar, 2013: 129). The current study also features the process of shipbuilding activities on the island in a period of nearly eight years between 1788-1796. One of the most important officials on Lemnos was Voivode Abdülkerim Ağa. The use of mukataas and the shipbuilding process on the island of Lemnos were also addressed based on the documents in the Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives, which is affiliated to the Presidency of the State Archives of the Republic of Turkey. The study features the strategic structure of the island in the protection of the straits, its close relationship with Rumelia and Istanbul, and the transportation possibilities of the island. It also explains how Abdülkerim Ağa, who assumed the position from Ahmet Ağa, a ruler whose cruelty was hated, also fell into the same situation, and that he also had the people around him use his influence in their own interests with the effect of his office. Agha made everyone oblige himself by confiscating the property of individuals and became a tyrant. The instructive aspect of this situation is noteworthy in terms of underlining the fact that history repeats itself. The study also underlines how Abdulkerim Aga lost his economic power in an instant after gaining it. While describing the services of an administrator to the state, the study has elaborated on the social and economic situation of the Ottoman Empire.

1. Unsolved Problem: Mukataa of Lemnos

The words "mukātaa-i zemîn, icâre-i zemîn" and briefly "mukataali" used to refer to the renting of the places owned by the state or foundations to private individuals or institutions in certain situations and to the rent paid (Genc, 2006: 129). In the estate (mansion) system, tax items called "mukātaa" were auctioned, as in tax farming. However, there was a significant difference between them. In normal tax farming, the auction was held on the amount of annual tax (goods) to be paid to the treasury for a period of one to three years, called bonds. In the estate (mansion) system, however, the amount of annual tax was determined by the treasury and it was not possible to increase or decrease it by competition. The auction, herein, was held on the cash amount called "muaccele", which had to be paid as the price of obtaining the right to taxation on the condition that the annual tax amount of the mukataa was fixed, not for a bond. The person who paid the highest amount of muaccele would get a certificate as the owner of the mansion (Genç, 2003: 516-518). The beginning of mukataa revenues was calculated as of Muharram (January).

It was reported that the income of the Limni Mukataa was divided between the mukataas and İrad-ı Cedid. It is evident that there were three shares in total in Mukataa, which are used for construction activities in various places. İrad-ı Cedid is known to be the treasury established for the needs of the Nizam-ı Cedid army in 1793 by the order of Selim III. The mukataa revenues here were used for shipbuilding (Karal, 1988; Baykara Taşkaya, 2021a: 263-264, 270-277).

The first document regarding the mukataa records was received by Abdülkerim on 14 December 1784 (1 Safar 1199). The document reveals that the mukataa income obtained from Limni Island and the mukataa (Tevabi Mukataa) connected to it, which lied in Abdülkerim's power, who is one of the residents of the region, was used for salary payment. As of the beginning of the month Muharram in 1198, 21 thousand kuruş belonging to the year 1199, each of which was divided as 120 akçe to be equivalent to 875 kuruş per annum, was used to pay the salaries of the Dergah-ı Mualla, who were in charge of the protection of Seddülbahir Castle (Document-1). As can be seen from this document, Abdülkerim started to serve the state in 1784. He also spent the income of the mukataas he had for the payment of salaries.

Silahdar-ı Şehiryari Seyyid Abdullah Ağa was requested that the administrators be changed due to the unrest in the Limni Mukataa with the document sent from the Grand Vizier and Serdar-ı Ekrem Gazi Hasan Pasha dated February 2, 1790 (17 Cemazielvvel 1204). It was stated that the person named Ahmet, who was one of the Miri mukataa, had manipulated the mukataa of Lemnos Island before and that he had oppressed and attacked other people who had a share in the mukataa in order to obtain personal benefit by taking the supervision of the mukataa. For this reason, it was reported that Ahmet Bey devastated the poor. As a consequence of that, it was deemed appropriate to allocate the mansion mukata with the certificate (berat) given to Abdülkerim Ağa, who was also one of the residents of the place and brought the letter, and this situation was reported to the chamberlain (kapı kethüdası) (Document-2).

The documents reveal that Abdülkerim Ağa took over the administration by appearing as a savior against the other mukataa owner who persecuted the people. What is dreary is that he did not learn from his experiences, considering that he emerged as a savior. The person named Ahmet took the entire mukataa and power to seize (yed-i vahid) into his own hands. Having taken over the administration, he put the same situation into practice himself. Before anything else, it is crucial to explain the term "yed-I vahid" mentioned in the documents. Yed-i vahid, in the same sense, had been widely used in the taxation of mukātaas, which were divided into shares and tendered as mansions in the Ottoman finances since the end of the 17th century. What is meant by this is that all shares or elements of a particular mukātaa, or even all tax items in a region, are taxed by a single individual; its use in this sense continued in the 19th century (Genç, 2013:

378). The document received on 29 August 1791 (29 Zilhijce 1205) reported that the person named Ahmet sent the petition to the bookkeeper. Since he seized the shares of the Lemnos Mukataa, other mukataas and other possessors (mutasarrif) himself, the Mutasarrif Ahmet Ağa also took the share of Abdülkerim Ağa, who was a shareholder in the mukata, by giving an annual extra 5000 kuruş, just as the Ministry of Midilli would receive the mukaata from the yed-i vahid every year. Although it is known that the 5000kuruş goods given every year in this way provided benefits to the Treasury Amire, the people did not benefit at all from this practice. Since this situation caused the revolution and damage to the people in Lemnos Island and the partnership records with the owners of the mansion were destroyed, the person named Ahmet was re-registered to the mansion by giving a fee of 5000 kuruş, which is the saliyane (annual tax) of the mukataa property. As a consequence of that, Abdülkerim Ağa demanded a claim for himself due to this transaction. Since there was no record in the rikabi Hümayun for the case that was transferred to the provincial treasurer, it was reported that the apostil was declared invalid by the imperial army (orduyu hümayun). With the certificate (berat) he received, Abdülkerim Ağa undertook to give 5000 kurus as before to the imperial treasury of rikab of the state (rikab) hümayun) to the imperial treasury as a fee with hattı Hümayuns (Document-3, 4).

In the same year, the problem experienced in mukataa was reflected in the archive documents. As can be seen in the verdicts and court records, even though Ahmet Bey, one of the superintendent governors (nezaret mutasarrıfı), was given a warrant of duty in order to eliminate the unrest caused by the plurality and officers (zabitan) among the possessors of the Limni Mukataa, the mukataa was ordered to be taken from Ahmet Bey due to his oppression of the poor and the unlawful behavior and to be given to Abdülkerim Efendi. Beginning from Muharram of 1205, the supervision of mukataas was given to the person named Ahmet Bey by the imperial decree (hattı hümayun). Since it is known that he caused more than 400 bags of damage due to the tyranny he committed to the people by binding mukataas to himself as documented with the verdict sent by the Judge of Lemnos, it was ordered to bring this situation to an end as soon as possible. All the poor asked for help from Abdülkerim Ağa, one of the partners who administered the mukataa. In addition to 500 kuruş, 5000 kuruş was given from the state treasury, and the mukataa was given to Abdülkerim Ağa, on

the condition that mukataa was administered properly, and the bookkeeper (defterdar effendi) was informed about the status quo (Document-5).

On 7 August 1793 (29 Zilhijce 1207), Ahmet Ağa, the governor of the mansion, was given allowance for the salaries of the guards of Bozcaada and Lemnos castles from ministry assets for the year 1203 to the account of 1204 as well as 2573 kuruş salyane cebesi for the salaries of the officer cebeciyan's soldiers (neferat) for the account of 1204 in order to take the administration of the Mukataa of Lemnos Island from Ahmet Ağa (former owner) and give it to Abdülkerim Ağa. Again, an allowance was given to Abdülkerim Ağa with the gross fee and the amount due from the beginning of the same year to the registration of the property of the ministry. In the same year, it was stated that there was not even a single coin in the account of the ministry assets, and the Chief Accountant was informed that the 30 thousand akçe was given for the supervision of the mukataa of the island and its subjects (tevabi) starting from the beginning of Muharram. and then 6 loads of 61.133-akçe goods and the mukataa were given to Abdülkerim. In 204, the mukataa was delivered to Ahmet Ağa in return for an annual commitment of 5000 kurus; the next year it was decided that Abdülkerim Ağa would hand over seven thousand coins in return for the seizure (ved-i vahit), 30 thousand coins (akçe) to the property owners and 2000 kurus in return for the mansion. 500 kurus gross fee was given to the former governor Ahmet Ağa in 205 and then to Abdülkerim Ağa in the same year as per the imperial decree. The payment of the year 204 had to be taken from Abdülkerim Ağa, and it was given to Ahmet Ağa, from whom the salyane cebesi was given to Abdülkerim Ağa back as a mansion (Document-6; Baykara Taşkaya 2021d: 87). In the six-year period from 1790 to 1796, the mukataa shares changed hands between Ahmet Bey and Abdülkerim Ağa. As it is seen, it is a fact that the people were not satisfied with Ahmet Ağa. After the execution of Abdülkerim Ağa, however, the mukataa shares were transferred to the Lemnos Minister Ahmet Ağa and İrad-ı Cedid imperial treasury as reported by the documents.

The mukataas were left to Lemnos Minister Ahmet Ağa and the Treasury of İrad-ı Cedid upon the disappearance of Abdülkerim Ağa and his brother. On July 5, 1796 (29 Zilhijce 1210), three shares from the Lemnos Island and its affiliated Ministry Mukataa were ordered to be handed on Ahmet Ağa, the titleholder (mutasarrıf) of the other shares, for the administration by seizure (yed-i vahid) of some (escheated) shares that became unclaimed by one of Abdülkerim's heirs upon the request of Treasury of İradi

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Cedidi Hümayun. Due to the large share of the mukataa, the revenues obtained from the escheated part of the three shares were given to the minister for safekeeping, starting from the beginning of Muharram in 1211 until the registry was made in the month of Zilhijce. It had been decided that three pieces of shares would be given to the minister, the remaining ones would be given to the revenue account and the registry book would be given to the Imperial Treasury of İrad-ı Cedid (Document-7).

Apart from the ships built on the island, the Mukataa of Lemnos had also been an important center that provides resources for other shipyards. After Abdülkerim Ağa's death, the shipbuilding activities were reported to continue and the transfer of financial resources from the Lemnos Mukataa continued. The document dated 22 June 1800 (29 Muharrem 1215) reveals that Dergah-ı Ali Chief Warder (Kapıcıbası) Osman, the former Tekfurdagi Notable in exile in Lemnos Island, was released by the order of the Ministry of Finance to go to Lemnos and oversee the construction of a 50-zira (37.9 meters) frigate (firkateyn) there, resulting in disruptions in shipbuilding.1 Dergah-ı Ali Chief Warder Osman, the former Tekfurdagi Notable, demanded 270 logs of high quality timber for the 51-zira long (38.65 meters) frigate being built on Lemnos with the the document he sent on 23 June 1801 (11 Safer 1216) to the Notables of Karasu and Yenice as well as Gümülcine Notable and Chief Warder Süleyman. It was also reported that 5000 kurus was transferred from the 1217 revenues of the Lemnos Mukataa. Tatar Mahmut Bey came to the region and the construction of the ship should be started by Kapıcıbaşı. While the timber was demanded by Rumelia to be cut and transported to the port, 5-10 carpenters, lumbermen and blacksmiths were appointed to work in shipbuilding. While there was difficulty in reestablishing the team because the winter season intervened, the necessary tradesmen were gathered by Cami Mehmet Efendi and the building trustee was brought to the island. Although it was reported that 5000 kurus was transferred from the 1217 revenues of the Lemnos Mukataa to Voivode Ahmet Ağa, Cami Mehmet Ağa conveyed the situation to the kadı since the person never received the money (Document-8, 9).

The mukataa of Lemnos changed hands in some periods, and the Agha served as an administrator for about six years, as the people were not satisfied with the other administrators, and therefore he was seen as an alterna-

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¹ The most common of the measurement "zira" was 54 cm, and the one used in canal measurements was 145,6 cm (Hinz, 1990: 68).

tive savior. The period that Abdülkerim Ağa took office in the state started with the administration of the Lemnos mukataas, and after he became a voivode, and continued with ship building services for the navy.

2. Shipbuilding Activities

Abdülkerim Ağa, who was the most important instrument of the government in the region, was the first rank person in shipbuilding many times. The first type of ship he built was the two swallows (kırlangıç). The swallow was one of the ships that used sails, although its main thrust was oars (Bostan, 2003: 136). It was used between the 16th and 18th centuries. There are two or three masted types of this ship, which could sail with both sails and up to 10 pairs of oars (Güleryüz, 2004: 29). In the document dated March 13, 1788 (5 Cemazielahir 1202), Abdülkerim Ağa, the Lemnos Council (divan) Voivode, asked the workers to increase their work in order to complete the two swallow ships on time. 1500 kuruş and then 3250 kuruş were given for the construction of ships in the center of Lemnos as soon as possible; it was reported that the swallows were almost finished. Later, money transfer was made from the center twice, 6500 kurus and 3500 kurus respectively, and a total of 14,750 kurus was spent for the shipbuilding (Document-10). The ships were asked to be completed immediately. Five weeks later, Lemnos Voivode Abdülkerim was sent a correspondence (tahrir) to inform that the navy be deployed to the Black Sea as there was a possibility of an expedition to the Russian State, and it was ordered that the two swallow ships in Lemnos be completed and sent (Document-11). The lengths of frigates ranged from 34,41,5 meters to various sizes. The galley (kadırga) was the most important warship of the Ottoman navy during the 16th century and most of the 18th century. It is 40-42 meters long and 5.5 meters wide. (Panzac, 2009: 27).

By sending the necessary materials for the ships to be built in the countryside, it was requested that Murabitzade be sent the same amount for the frigates to be built in the Rhodes area as provided for the galleons (kalyon) to be built in the Sinop area by Altınkulaçzade el-Hac Hüseyin Ağa. 15.000 kuruş money and 500 weighing scales of raw iron were sent to the island of Lemnos on July 28, 1793 (29 Zilhijja 1207) for a frigate with a length of 53.5 zira (40.55 meters) built by Abdülkerim Ağa; it was requested that the construction of the ship be started as soon as possible (Document-12). The document dated February 1, 1794 (29 Cemazielahir 1208) also reveals that shipbuilding activities continued in the local shipyards as well. It is also evident that how much money and iron (ahe) was provided for the eight

frigates and galleons being constructed by Lemnos Council Voivode Abdülkerim Ağa, Menteşe Sanjak tax collector (mütesellim) Ömer Ağa, Rhodes tax collector Muratibzade Hasan Kapudan in Rhodes (Baykara Taşkaya, 2021a: 159), Numan Bey of İnegöl in Gemlik, Osman Bey in Sultaniye, Elhac Ali Ağa in Sinop, Kasap Elhac Osman Ağa in Erikli, and Sohum guardian Keleş Ahmet Bey in Sohum. While 20.000 was paid for the three-decked galleon of Rhodes, which documents were issued for two or three months, 5.000 for the galleon built in Gemlik, 10.000 for Sultaniye Galleon in Sultaniye, and 7.500 for Sinop Galleon, the building trustees were not paid, and information was demanded about this situation. While the Rhodes galleon was planned to be launched in the month of Shawwal, it was decided to bring the necessary materials from Dersaadet. The timber necessary for this work was asked to be cut from Cezraz and it was ordered to be brought to the site (Document-13; Baykara Taşkaya, 2021c: 100).

The timber of the ships built on the island of Lemnos was procured from the Rumelia Sanjak. The document dated May 5, 1796 (27 Shawwal 1210) reveals that 550 weighbridges of timber were cut from the Sasallu and Balyanlu groves of the Komotini (Gümülcine) District for the frigate built by the Lemnos Divan Voivode Abdülkerim Ağa on the island of Lemnos and they were transported to the piers. While the remaining part of the timber was ordered to be cut, the transportation of the goods was postponed on the pretext that the thief and bandits would steal the goods. As the frigate was about to be finished, the captain and warrant officers were brought from Istanbul in order not to delay the launch of the ship. It was ordered that the timber be cut and sent immediately, and the situation was reported to the treasurer. It was documented that the shipbuilding activities continued in the local shipyards a week later. Lemnos Divan Voivode Abdülkerim Ağa and Bodrum Dergah-ı Ali Chief Warder Menteşe Sanjak Tax Collector Ömer Ağa were given 60-arşın ship (yard in Ottoman-one arşın is 68 cm). Rodos Tax Collector Murâbitzâde Hasan Kaptan in Rhodes, Numan Bey of Inegol in Gemlik, Osman Bey in Sultaniye, and Kastamonu Tax Collector Elhac Ali Ağa in Sinop were also given 60-arşın ship. The documents also reveal that the Chief Accountant was asked how much money and iron (ahe) was given for the eight frigates and galleons built by the Butcher Elhac Osman Ağa in Erikli, and the Sohum Guard Keleş Ahmet Bey in Sohum (Document-14).

20.000 were paid for the three-decked galleon of Rhodes, which documents were issued for two or three months (Çırpan, 2020: 48). Due to the completion of the frigate on the island of Lemnos, the captain and oarsmen

were ordered to return. It had been reported that while the timber of the ships of Lemnos and Bodrum Districts was being transported, the workers who would work in the shipbuilding would be procured from the surrounding towns. While the necessary allocation and iron needs for the construction of these ships were notified, it was noted that the deposits (akçe) recorded as debit were not delivered in places where there was the building trustee. In total, 3 loads of 3910 kurus were spent on the expenses of these ships, while 10.480 weighing scales of iron and nails were sent from the armoury. In addition, a total of 3 loads of 63,797 kuruş were spent for the completion of the ships, and 800 more iron scales were ordered to be sent for the need (Document-15). The remaining part of the timber was not cut under the pretext of a robber bandit. Due to the delay, it was reported that the captain and the wardens had arrived from Istanbul to launch the ship since the frigate's completion was close. In the notification sent to the Revenue Office, it was stated that a penalty would be applied in case of delay and that the cut trees- especially the Akburhan tree timber -should be immediately transported to the pier (Document-15). In the document dated March 3, 1797 (7 Zilhijce 1211), it was reported that the frigate with a length of 53.5 zira (40.55 meters) built by the former Voivode of Lemnos Divan Abdülkerim and Ahmet Ağa, who was still the voivode, was nearing completion. In order to complete this process of the ship to be launched, Captain Ahmet Ağa, one of the imperial captains of the navy, recorded a total cost of 11,347 kuruş and handed over the Accounting Book to Defterdar Efendi via the mabeyn. 1150 scales of raw iron was used and 300 kuruş was spent for the cost of nails (mismar) (Document-16). In the document sent three months later, it was reported that 14,552.5 kuruş was needed for timber fees. It was also underlined that the same frigate would be completed in two weeks, and 37,297 kuruş and 1050 weighing scales of raw iron and 200 scales of mismar-i atik (nails removed from old ships) were needed. A total of 250 weighing of iron were also sent from the Treasury. 5000 kuruş, 100 scales of raw iron, 100 scales of small-sized nails, 42,292 kuruş money, 1650 scales of iron and mismar were sent from Cebehane. 5000 kurus and 200 scales of iron were also requested (Document-17).

After the frigate was completed on the coast of Lemnos, galleon construction began on the island. Workers were appointed for the galleon being built by Abdülkerim Ağa, and information was also given about the catering for the workers. In the document dated May 18, 1796 (11 Zilkade 1210), it was stated that an engraver, a caulker and a chief reelman were sent to be

selected for the ship's needs. It was decided to give a daily wage to the workers selected and appointed by Ağa. 60 kuruş per caulker, 50 kuruş per engraver, and 40 kuruş per the reelman was given the daily wage. It was decided to give 100 dirhams per engraver and reelman per day (Sahillioğlu, 1994: 368), 300 dirhams of lamb and 100 dirhams of rice and 12.5 dirhams of plain oil, 2 breads per caulker, which would be covered by Ağa. Workers cost 6 bread, 400 kuruş meat, 300 kuruş rice, and 372 kuruş plain oil. A record was sent to the Chief Accountant to send each weighbridge from the Shipyard as 20 oka and to give 130 weighbridges to Istanbul (Document-18).²

The document dated 22 August 1796 (17 Safer 1211) reveals that the shipbuilding activities continued in the local shipyards. This shipbuilding was also the last task of the Lemnos Voivode Abdülkerim Ağa. Even the expenses incurred due to his debt to the state were covered from the inheritance of Abdülkerim, who was executed. In cases where the treasury's financial means for shipbuilding were limited, he sought to find other resources. 20.000 kuruş was sent from Rhodes Center (Document-19), 77,500 kuruş was requested from the Chief Accountant. The situation was reported to the Chief Accountant from the Treasury, and since it would not be possible to give this money, it was found appropriate to give the money from the inheritance (tereke) of the Lemnos tax collector Abdülkerim Ağa (Document-20).

While 20.000 was paid for the three-decked galleon of Rhodes, which documents were issued for two or three months, 5.000 for the galleon built in Gemlik, 10.000 for Sultaniye galleon in Sultaniye, and 7.500 for Sinop galleon, the building trustees were not paid, and information was demanded about this situation. While the Rhodes galleon was planned to be launched in the month of Shawwal, it was decided to bring the necessary materials from Dersaaadet. In addition, it was stated in the document that the construction of three-decked galleon in the provincial shipyards was not welcomed, and it was requested to send 35,000 kuruş and 5000 weighbridges of raw iron for the three-decked galleon of the Rhodes tax collector Murâbitzâde Hasan Kaptan. In total, 3 loads of 3914 kuruş were spent on the expenses of these ships, and 3480 weighings of iron were requested from the shipyard. 10.480 weighing scales were sent from the Armory as iron and nails. Besides, 3 loads of 63,797 kuruş were spent for the completion of the

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² Dirhem, the theoretical weight of the Islamic dirham is 2.97 grams.

ships, and it was requested to send another 8020 weighbridges of iron for the need. In the document that came a week later, it was stated that 30,000 akce were required for the employees to send 4500 pieces of wood timber from the Mentese Sanjak to the ship with three-decked galleon of Rhodes, and that the trees would be lowered to the pier by the workers due to the hike in the timber, and 20 thousand kurus for the transportation was required; the funding was requested from the shipyard (Document-21). With the architect and the captain arranging the area in the area where the ship was built, help was received from Menteşe Tax Collector Ömer Ağa regarding this situation. Since financial means would be needed for the payment of the timber, it was emphasized that the cut timber should be taken down from the mountain and transported to the pier. Due to the time constraint for this work, it was requested to provide 20.000 kuruş for the transportation of the timber without interruption. The situation was written to the Chief Accountant from the Treasury; since this payment would not be possible, it was found appropriate to give it from the inheritance of Lemnos Island. It is evident that other ship benches were supported with the completion of the galleons on the benches. Since the galleons built in Bodrum and Sinop were completed on 21 December 1796 (20 Cemazielahir 1211), it was requested to prepare the trees to be cut from the groves of Mentese Mountains for the three-decked galleon of Murabitzâde (Document-22). The document dated one day later reveals that 11,346.5 kuruş was spent on the ship, whose curriculum book was delivered to the shipyard of the frigate built in Lemnos. Former voivode Abdülkerim Ağa informed the Chief Accountant about the expenditure of 37,390.5 kurus and 50 weighing iron from the treasury. The ship's expenses had been transferred to the shipyard trustee. It was inspected by the Deputy Chief Architect Nikola Kalfa and Shipyard architects. The ledger issued by them was sent from the treasury with 1,353 kuruş, which is the money required for the fee of timber, architect, and supplies (Document-23). Abdülkerim Ağa, like many local administrators appointed by Istanbul, continued shipbuilding activities in the shipyard on the island. The process, which started with two swallow type ships, continued with the construction of frigates and galleons. Agha was executed before he could complete the last frigate he had been building.

3. Heavy is the Head that Wears the Crown

The archive documents shed light on the status of the agha and it is possible to find out more about his activities due to the troublesome situations arising from the administration of Abdülkerim Ağa during his term. It

was also documented that the agha was given references upon request on the one hand, and yet he seized many lands by means of the power he obtained, and even illegally seized the goods of the merchants and imprisoned individuals.

The first document reveals that Abdülkerim Ağa was holding such an important position that he could be taken as a reference for other people during his most brilliant administration. In the document dated 9 September 1790 (29 Zilhijce 1204) sent to Silahdar-ı Shahriyari Seyyid Abdullah Ağa with the signature of Mehmet, the person (Mehmet) stated that he wanted to take part in a service among their entourage, requesting a job after as "a person with honor and experience" upon the references he obtained from the Lemni Island Voivode and Jizyyedi Abdülkerim Ağa. It is evident with the aforementioned document that favoritism was effective in the Ottoman Empire. Since there is no further document, it is unclear whether the person, who had almost become an orphan after serving for twenty years faithfully and devotedly during captainship of the former Grand Vizier, the deceased Hasan Pasha (Gazi Hasan Pasha of Algeria), was given a job or not (Document-24).

Abdülkerim Ağa's support for the people, who do injustice especially regarding property iddues, as reflected in the archive, is the first example of his bad administration. As can be seen in the document dated April 24, 1791 (20 Şaban 1205), Bıyıklıoğlu Atnaş, the son-in-law of Bozaki Yorgaki, one of the inhabitants of the Lemnos Island and whose debts to the deceased Wallachian Voivode Mavroyani Nikola were ordered to be collected, seized the aforementioned estate (house) and two vineyards of Bozaki Yorgaki after his death seven years ago. Bıyıklıoğlu Atnaş was never captured and he was, indeed, protected by Abdülkerim Ağa. Bozaki. According to the information given in the transcript from Kapıcıbaşı Ahmet Ağa, who was appointed as a scribe for the heritage of Bozaki Yorgaki, Hançerlioğlu Kostantinaki, the translator of the Imperial Navy, was asked to look into the situation. Again, as in the abovementioned document, there is not much information about how the issue was resolved, since there is no document in the archive (Document-25). Another document in the archive is in this instance about Abdülkerim Ağa seizing the properties of individuals. The document dated 13 October 1797 (21 Rebiülahir 1212) reveals the efforts of the heirs who were trying to get back the range and the mansion which his father having deserted his hometown of Limni Island due to the invasion of the Russians - had to give to the Lemnos Voivode the deceased Abdülkerim Ağa by the seizure of late Gazi Hasan Pasha the Capitan Pasha. The heirs took the case to the court by applying to the law with the sons of the deceased in accordance with the five pieces of fatwa-i sheriff given to them. A document signed by Musted'î Anton was sent in order to resolve the disturbance regarding this case (Document-26).

It was also documented that Abdülkerim Ağa had the Merchant of Venice imprisoned to the extent that resulted in the intervention of foreign ambassadors who were on duty in the Ottoman Empire. The document dated 29 August 1791 (29 Zilhijce 1205) reveals that the Limnian Voivode Abdülkerim Ağa not only seized the ship full of 581-kuruş belongings of Zantali Nikola Palarino, who was one of the inhabitants of the Zanta Island that was subject to Venice, at the Lemni Pier, but he also put the person in prison. Asserting that the merchant was "Muscovy" who was going to load supplies to be unloaded on the islands in the Mediterranean on the ship of the chief known as Black Dimitry (Kara Dimitri) and ignoring the securities showing that purveyance and ammunition were being shipped, the Agha seized all the goods of the merchant and kept them in the shipyard, causing damage. The partner of the merchant in İzmir heard about this situation and he had the İzmir Sanjak Mütesselimi and the Customs Representative sent a separate copy of the document in a letter to Abdülkerim Ağa, stating that what was done to his partner was unfair. The partner, who went to Lemnos, got his partner out of prison through the İzmir Sanjak Mütesselimi and had him sent to Istanbul. The situation was reported to the Capitan pasha in order to clear the goods brought and received from the shipyard (Tersaneyi Amire) from customs. Although Abdülkerim Ağa did not care about the situation, the document through which the Venetian ambassador demanded compensation for the loss of his own merchant was sent separately (Document-27). As made clear in the abovementioned documents in the archive, the Lemnos Voivode Abdülkerim Ağa abused his power to protect both himself and those who did people injustice like him. Especially since the administrators failed to establish the necessary justice to everyone who was supposed to have it, the property of the aghas would be seized soon, and the complaint of the people would result in the death of the agha.

4. Judgment and Exile to Rhodes

The table is the tangible asset that comes out as a result of the registry made in the person's home. The inventory of the immovable properties on the original copy is a very detailed book, which goes beyond the subject of our article. On April 23, 1796 (15 Shawwal 1210), the swordsman (si-

lahşöran) Hassa Ağası Hasan Ağa provided the inventory certifying that the heritage of Abdülkerim Efendi, who was murdered while he was the Lemnos Voivode, was confiscated by the state (Document-28). As seen in document, it is also noteworthy that Abdülkerim Ağa had two wives.

Dersaadet (Istanbul) appointed Capitan Pasha (Kaptan-ı Derya) Hüseyin Pasha to investigate the situation upon the complaints about Abdülkerim and his brother. The document dated 27 July 1796 (21 Muharrem 1211) reveals that Capitan Pasha had come to the Bosphorus Fortress to investigate the situation on site since the people of Lemnos were complaining about the oppression and persecution of the Voivode Abdülkerim and his brother Yusuf. Moreover, complaints made about Abdulkerim and Yusuf were accepted in the assembly, in which the rayah of Lemnos Island were present. When Capitan Pasha Hüseyin Pasha came to Lemnos with the Navy, he was greeted by Rhodes governors and officers. Almost four days later, the court was held on the 25th day of Muharram upon the complaints about the cruelty of Abdülkerim and his brother Yusuf, who were the voivodes of the island. It was reported to the center that the punishment was given, that his properties and belongings were identified and registered, and that this ledger was also presented (Document-29). After completing the procedures of Abdülkerim Ağa and his brother, it was time to complete the unfinished state services. The Capitan pasha, who came back to the port with the completion of the operation of the ship, which was planned to be launched, listened to the rayah consisting of 500-600 people and the people of Islam, by convening the council (divan). Crying to be freed from the persecution, the people expressed their claims with petitions for three or four days. Subsequently, the allegations made were found to be justified, and the two brothers were pardoned with a commitment to pay 220 bags of akçe to the state, on the condition that they paid 80 bags in cash and the remaining 140 in installments. The voivodship carried out by the two of them was asked to undertake by the person named Ahmet Ağa. It was also decided that the individuals would be exiled to Rhodes on the condition that they never set foot on the island again. The documents presented by the Rayah and the people in the council (divan) were also sent to Istanbul; the construction expense book of the ship was given to the captain by appointing the captain so that the ship, which was under construction, was not left unfinished. It was decreed that this ship, whose construction had been completed, would be launched quickly and that the Abdülaziz Ağa, who had built the ship, would not be paid extra for the construction. Considering the services of agha, who had a 60 to 70-thousand debt log to the state, the cost of the ship corresponding to 300-bag akçe was recorded on the debt given to the capitan pasha, and the alteration was recorded accordingly (Document-30).

The document dated August 9, 1796 (4 Safer 1211) reveals that Istanbul ordered the book of all property, estate and cash for the registry of the inheritance of the former voivode of Lemnos, Abdülkerim and his brother Yusuf, who were sent to exile to Rhodes due to atrocities and pressure and whose decapitated heads were sent to Istanbul (Document-31). Sixteen days later, the book recording the inheritance of Abdülkerim and his brother, which was confiscated by the state, was also given (Document-32).

Items found in his household	Number
Sim sagir enam zarf ³ (small silvery envelope)	2
Gold watch with diamonds	1
Snuffbox	1
Golden hatim (seal) ⁴	1
Mecub masar	14
Müzezziye İslambul	12
Müzezziye masar	15
Bir boğçe İslambol	1
İslambol fındık altın	52
Gilding gold	3
Mecup İslambol	12
Bacaklı altun⁵	3
Eski incirli altın (old fig gold)	1
Vertek kebir altın (Vertek old gold)	1
Nems ikili altın (Nems double gold)	1
Köhne kemer kuşağı (old-fashioned belt)	1
Köhne kavuk fesli (old-fashioned quilted turban)	1
Tur akçe kesesi (Tur coin purse)	2
Sagir enfiye kutu (small snuffbox)	1
Köhne kise (old-fashioned purse)	1
İncili altun harisli tespih inci (pearl rosary with pearls)	13
Harisli tespih (Harisli rosary)	1
Şal cibrim (shawl)	1
Beyaz yelek (white vest)	3

³ Zarf: Container, sheath, Enclosure-It means the cover paper in which the letter is placed.

⁴ Hatim: Seal.

⁵ Bacaklı: Dutch gold.

Kültür Araştırmaları Dergisi, 13 (2022)

Beyaz dizlik* (white knee pad) Bir necek gömlek (Necek shirt) 2 Beyaz entari ⁷ (white dress) 3 Demir kuşaklı varil (iron belted barrel) 2 Hurç hararı (saddlebag) 1 Bir necek ma uçkur (belt) 5 Şal beyaz cibrim (white shawl) 2 Göz çukanış 1 Kirpaslı entari (dress) 1 Mısır boğça (parcel) 3 Simli piştov ⁸ (silvery pistov) 1 Sagir su taşı (small boiling scale) 4 Cura 4 İşleme yüz peşkiri (embroidered face towel) 5 Ahmediye Şal (Ahmediye shawl) 2 Beyaz şal (white shawl) 1 Enfiye (snuffbox) 3 Göz germeli fesli nafir cebir kürek (shovel) 1 Sulu 3 Kırmızı cezve (red coffee pot) 1 Enfiye yeni (new snuff) 1 Ayak yeni (new stand) 1 Fincan (cup) 12 Sim zarf (silvery envelope) 2 Tunif zarf (Tunif envelope) 1 Fincan yeni (new cup) Köhne ibrik (Old-fashioned pitcher) 2 Meşin kavuk yeni (new leather hood) 1 Fişek² (cartridge) 2 Dühan kesesi (snuff purse) 1 Bir miktar dühan tubire derununda (a little snuff) 5 Çakmak kesesi (lighter pouch) 1 Çakmak kesesi (lighter pouch) 1		Τ_
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Enfiye yeni (new snuff) Ayak yeni (new stand) Fincan (cup) Sim zarf (silvery envelope) Tunif zarf (Tunif envelope) Fincan yeni (new cup) Köhne ibrik (Old-fashioned pitcher) Meşin kavuk yeni (new leather hood) Fişek° (cartridge) Dühan kesesi (snuff purse) Harç demiri (mortar bar) Kilis I Bir miktar dühan tubire derununda (a little snuff) Şal saat (shawl clock)	Sulu	3
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Tunif zarf (Tunif envelope) Fincan yeni (new cup) Köhne ibrik (Old-fashioned pitcher) Meşin kavuk yeni (new leather hood) Fişek ⁹ (cartridge) Dühan kesesi (snuff purse) Harç demiri (mortar bar) Kilis Bir miktar dühan tubire derununda (a little snuff) Şal saat (shawl clock) 2 Dühan kesesi (snuff purse) 1 Little snuff) Sal saat (shawl clock)	Fincan (cup)	12
Fincan yeni (new cup) Köhne ibrik (Old-fashioned pitcher) Meşin kavuk yeni (new leather hood) Fişek ⁹ (cartridge) Dühan kesesi (snuff purse) Harç demiri (mortar bar) Kilis Bir miktar dühan tubire derununda (a little snuff) Şal saat (shawl clock) 1	Sim zarf (silvery envelope)	2
Köhne ibrik (Old-fashioned pitcher) 2 Meşin kavuk yeni (new leather hood) 1 Fişek° (cartridge) 2 Dühan kesesi (snuff purse) 1 Harç demiri (mortar bar) 1 Kilis 1 Bir miktar dühan tubire derununda (a little snuff) - Şal saat (shawl clock) 1	Tunif zarf (Tunif envelope)	2
Meşin kavuk yeni (new leather hood) Fişek ⁹ (cartridge) Dühan kesesi (snuff purse) Harç demiri (mortar bar) Kilis Bir miktar dühan tubire derununda (a little snuff) Şal saat (shawl clock) 1	Fincan yeni (new cup)	1
Fişek ⁹ (cartridge) 2 Dühan kesesi (snuff purse) 1 Harç demiri (mortar bar) 1 Kilis 1 Bir miktar dühan tubire derununda (a little snuff) - Şal saat (shawl clock) 1	Köhne ibrik (Old-fashioned pitcher)	2
Dühan kesesi (snuff purse) Harç demiri (mortar bar) Kilis Bir miktar dühan tubire derununda (a little snuff) Şal saat (shawl clock) 1	Meşin kavuk yeni (new leather hood)	1
Harç demiri (mortar bar) 1 Kilis 1 Bir miktar dühan tubire derununda (a little snuff) - Şal saat (shawl clock) 1	Fişek ⁹ (cartridge)	2
Kilis 1 Bir miktar dühan tubire derununda (a little snuff) - Şal saat (shawl clock) 1	Dühan kesesi (snuff purse)	1
Kilis 1 Bir miktar dühan tubire derununda (a little snuff) - Şal saat (shawl clock) 1	Harç demiri (mortar bar)	1
Şal saat (shawl clock)	Kilis	1
Şal saat (shawl clock)	Bir miktar dühan tubire derununda (a little snuff)	-
Çakmak kesesi (lighter pouch) 1	·	1
	Çakmak kesesi (lighter pouch)	1

⁶ Dizlik: It means knee-high socks-underwear-shalwar.

⁷ Entari: Usually one-piece women's clothing.

⁸ Piştov: It is a short-barreled, single-shot pistol that was used for a while in the Ottoman army; ignites the shred-compressed gunpowder with a flint on the rooster and fires the lead ball.

⁹ Fişek: It is ammunition consisting of a shell containing gunpowder and a bullet placed at the end of the round, which is driven for light firearms such as rifles and pistols.

Sim güzlek zarf (glitter envelope)	1
Köhne kemer kuşak (outdated belt girdle)	1
Sim harimli mercan tesbih (coral rosary)	1
Elmas taşlı altın yüzük (gold ring with diamonds)	1
Sagir beyaz kutu derununda bir miktar para (a little	
money in a small box)	
Çakı (pocketknife)	1
Bir miktar mumu kat (a little wax)	1
Çuka kırmalı (pleated cuka)	1
Defa Ahmediye şalı (Ahmediye shawl)	2
Köhne Cezayir kuşağı (outdated Algeria belt)	1
Defa beyaz dizlik ma uçkur (knee pad and waistband)	3
Taş mütetin (stone mütetin)	1
Sim hatim (silver ring)	1
Köhne fes (outdated chechia)	2
Enfiye yeni (new snuff)	1
Cure ¹⁰	1
Uçkur (waistband)	1
Simli çifte bacak (silvery double-legged stand)	1
Köhne paraman (outdated paraman)	2
Sagir cebir kürek (small shovel)	1
Göz çuka niş	1
Bir necek gömlek (shirt)	8
Çifte boğçe (double bundle)	1
Çuka mintan ¹¹ (shirt)	1
Bir necek döşek çarşafı (bed sheet)	1
Defa beyaz dizlik ma uçkur ¹² (knee pad and waist-	1
band)	
Beyaz şal (white shawl)	1
Defa cure	2
Defa enfiye yeni (new snuff)	2
Kirmasur kıllı cebr kürek (shovel)	1
Necas sulu	1
Kıl yekbe	1
Mısır boğçe (budle)	3
İç dizlikli ma uçkur (knee-pad waistband)	2
Omuz peşkir (shoulder towel)	2

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 $^{^{10}}$ Cure: It is a folk instrument with two or three strings played with a plectrum.

¹¹ Mintan: Collarless, long-sleeved men's shirt- It also means a sleeved vest worn over a shirt.

 $^{^{12}\}mbox{Uckur:}$ It is used to tie the shalwar to the waist or to wear a bag, pouch, etc.

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İbrik sulu (pitcher)	1
Defa dizlik paçalı (long johns)	1
Kamaş mütetin ma yelek (waistcoat)	2
Göz cuka küpür (guipure)	1
Defa mısır boğça (bundle)	1
Siyah lahuri(eski) şal (old black shawl)	1
Meşin yekbe (leather yekbe)	1
Beyaz akçe alınarak nükud mevcud aded (cash mon-	134 Kuruş 26 para
ey)	

Table 1. The List of the Inheritance of Abdülkerim Ağa Confiscated by the State

As can be seen in the table, the jewelery items such as gold, pearls and diamonds, which are particularly valuable, were carefully registered, while the clothes and kitchen utensils were just listed. The document dated 10 August 1796 (5 Safer 1211) reveals that the officers who were assigned on behalf of the state for the registration and seizure of inheritance of Limni Voivode Abdülkerim and his brother Yusuf died as a result of the sinking of their ship, and subsequently Selahattin, who was assigned for the registration, and Mehmet Ağa, who placed the seal on the registration book, passed away. In order for the work not to be left unfinished, it was ordered that other persons be sent in the documents written to the Chief Accountant (Document-33).¹³

The documents make it possible to see that the issue of the collection of Abdülkerim and his brother's debts to the state were still being discussed although it had been three months since their death. As can be seen in the document dated 15 November 1796 (14 Cemazeyilevvel 1211), Lemnos Voivode Abdülkerim and his brother Yusuf owed a 40.000-kuruş debt to the state and their 6000-kuruş dept was guaranteed by the local government officer to be paid by Abdülkerim's children (eytam) to the state. However, problems arouse due to the non-payment of the dept, which was more than 112.000 in total. Capitan Pasha Hüseyin Pasha (Kaptan-ı Derya), asked that the remaining 75 thousand kuruş out of the 110 thousand kuruş upon the subtraction of worth of the frigate they had built in their lifetimes be paid by his brother-in-law, who was among the relatives of the family in Istanbul. It

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¹³ One of the methods used by the state to collect its receivables was to seize the inheritance. Murabitzade Hacı Hüseyin and Murabitzade Hasan Kaptan in Rhodes, who built ships for the Navy, got rich financially during their administration and their estates were confiscated by the state after the death of the two of them (Baykara Taşkaya, 2021b: 337).

had also been stated that if the fee was given to the treasurer, 55 thousand kuruş would remain with the money obtained from the inheritance with the mercy of the state. It was made clear that 10 thousand kuruş of this debt would be arranged in cash and the remainder would be paid in installments. Abdulaziz Ağa's brother-in-law conveyed to the Treasurer that they wanted 50 thousand kuruş to be paid in cash and the remainder to be paid in the next year, and he particularly emphasized that it would not be possible to pay as the state demanded. The family was suggested to pay 10.000 kuruş in cash and pay the remaining 17,500 kuruş by collecting from the island inhabitants. Although six months had passed since this negotiation, the family stated that they would arrange some of the debt next year, and registered it with the Chief Accountant with the debt security (temessük) they had given and informed the inheritance bailiff of the situation (Document-34).

Non-payment of the debts to the state did not delay the state's seizure of the inheritance of individuals. As can be seen in the document dated July 23, 1797 (28 Muharrem 1212), the fact that the state-seized inheritance of Abdülkerim and his brother Yusuf, who were executed during his office as the Lemnos Voivode, was not delivered to his family posed a problem. Many properties inherited by the father-in-law and mother-in-law of the individuals were also seized. Inns, baths, mansions, ranges, many vineyards, gardens and fields were thus left to the state. While the transfer of 32,500 kuruş of the entire inheritance, which would be given to the inheritors in return for 50 thousand kuruş, was sent, the remaining money was ordered to be sent, and the properties were confiscated because this payment was not made (Document-35).

Despite the fact that more than a year had passed, the debts of the deceased persons to the state could not be collected. The document dated September 13, 1797 (21 Rabiulevvel 1212) reveals that all belongings, real estate and farms seized and registered by the state of the former Limni Voivode Abdülkerim and his brother Yusuf, who were murdered, were returned to his inheritors in return for the deed they committed to the Treasury. Therefore, it was ordered that the remaining amount in the inheritors debit to be delivered to the treasury in return for 2000 kuruş, and the remaining 22,500 kuruş to the İrad-ı Cedid Treasury until the end of the year. Again, considering the time period that had elapsed, a draft judgment was sent to the Lemnos Qadi and Minister for the payment of 12,500 kuruş to the Treasury of İrad-ı Cedid very urgently since it exceeded five months (Document-

36). As can be seen in the documents, the inheritance of Abdulkerim and his brother was handed over to their families following almost two years after the execution. The document dated 4 November 1798 (25 Cemazeyilevvel 1213) reveals that the Chief Accountant was informed that the inheritance of Abdülkerim, who was executed on the island of Lemnos and whose property and land were seized by the state, were returned to his inheritors in return for 55 thousand kuruş (Document-37).

Abdülkerim and his brother Yusuf Ağa's debts to the state were paid by borrowing from their spouses Fatma and Ayşe Hanım's lands and assets in surrounding areas. The document dated June 3, 1799 (29 Zilhijce 1213) reveals that after the debts of the deceased to the state were paid, the creditors on the island confiscated the family's property. Seeing the death of the former Lemnos Voivode as an opportunity, the rayah occupied vineyards, gardens, and many other places, taking advantage of the situation by applying to the chief doorkeepers to collect Abdülkerim's debt of 12,500 kuruş to the state in accordance with the imperial title (mülknameyi hümayun), and the property of the families was seized in this way. In order for the statesmen and the officers to prevent this occupation, an order was written addressing the janissary aghas and the Lemnos Voivode. It had been reported that the property and lands remaining from their inheritance were unjustly seized (Document-38). Related to the seizure, the document dated 12 October 1800 (23 Cemazeyilevvel 1215) reveals that an imperial order (hatt-ı hümayun) was arranged about the applications to be made to the Chief Accountant by those attempting to seize the real estate and land on the basis of the imperial title (mülknameyi hümayun) on the property deed taken from the children of the former Lemnos Voivoda Abdülkerim and his brother Yusuf would only be heard before the Grand Vizier in the Chamber of Petition (Arz Odası). The order was also demanded to be registered by the Chief Accountant in order to be given the certificate with an annotation (Document-39). This is how the last document about the agha came following his death. No further document is available in the archive and it remains unclear what exactly happened about the situation of the families whose properties were unjustly occupied. Captain Hüseyin Pasha was sent from the center to conduct an investigation on the voivodes of Lemnos, whom the people were fed up with their oppression, and the inhabitants of the island were listened to, confirming that extrajudicial executions were not carried out in the formed public assemblies. The voivodes were found guilty as a result of the investigation and they were exiled to Rhodes Island.

After the trial held here, the brothers were executed. Following the execution, the state seized the inheritance in order to collect its receivables.

Conclusion

Abdülkerim Ağa, one of the inhabitants of the island of Lemnos, first served as a shareholder of the mukataas in the state, and then he was given by the state the task of collecting the jizya together with the voivode and mukataas. In addition to his services to the state, he also carried out the shipbuilding activities of Lemnos Island. It is also evident that some of the ships built by the Ottoman Empire in the shipyards were built on the island. Also personally responsible for paying the mukataa income and the salaries paid to the guards of Bozcaada and Lemnos castles, Abdülkerim Ağa ensured the security of the region by controlling the passage of the part of the straits on the Archipelago. On July 5, 1796, due to the cruelty and persecution the voivode exerted on the people during the reign of Selim III (1789-1808), the state first sent Capitan Pasha Hüseyin Pasha (Kaptan-ı Derya) to the island to investigate the situation. In order to listen to the cries of the people, a divan (council) was established to investigate the incident and it was ensured that the complaints were conveyed to Istanbul with the collectively created book. As a result of the investigation, the voivodes were exiled to the famous Rhodes Island as Kalebent Island upon the two brothers gave their word that they would not set foot on the island again. As a result of the decision taken by the court on Rhodes Island, the two brothers were executed and their decapitated heads were sent to Istanbul. After their death, great difficulties were experienced in order to pay the debts of the individuals to the state, and some rayah seized the lands of the family on the island. Two years after their death, the debts to the state were finished, and yet the issue of the seized lands remained unsolved in the following 4 years. Another issue that can be seen from the archive documents is the continuation of the shipbuilding activities with the revenues obtained from the mukataas with the appointment of a new voivode after the deaths. It is easily evident that the perpetuity of the state went on despite the change of officers. With the written records and archive documents, this study places a particular emphasis on the story of Abdülkerim Ağa, who started his duty as a voivode with his struggle against the persecutors to serve the state and the public, and yet made the same mistakes, earning him the enmity of the people. Aside from his journey, which started with his services to the state but ended tragically, the social and cultural life of the Ottoman State in that period was discussed throughout this study.

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