

The Wahhabi threat in Syria (Billad El-sham) and its influence on appointment of Sulayman pasha on Damascus province

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Abstract: *The Wahhabis had attacked the south of Iraq before Sulayman pasha's rule of Sidon. They controlled their holy cities for shii Muslims, they destroyed everything. Neither the Ottomans nor the governors were able to stop the Wahhabis geographical expansion. Moreover, they controlled the holy cities of Hijaz such as Mecca and Medina. Therefore, it was an obligation to the Ottoman Sultan to secure the safety of pilgrimage and to return the two cities to his direct control.*

The governors of Damascus failed in finishing off the Wahhabis dominance, consequently, the Wahhabis intentionally had attacked the neighboring areas of Damascus. This was considered as blunted

challenge to the power of Ottoman Empire and its governors of Damascus which in forced the Porte to depose the governors of Damascus Abdullah pasha al-Azm and Yusuf Kanj pasha and appointing Sulayman pasha as a governor of Damascus and Tripoli.

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Koury (George John), The Province of Damascus, 1783-1832.

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(16) Ibid.

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(37) Koury (George John), The Province of Damascus, 1783-1832, PhD Dissertation, the University of Michigan 1970, p. 119.

(38) Op. Cit, PP.119-120.

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Koury, Op. Cit, p. 121.

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