

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53517

Date: 25-08-2025

Title: A RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF NIZAM-I CEDID IN THE OTTOMAN MILITARY DURING THE ERA OF MAHMUD II (1808-1839)

Recommendation:

Accept as it isYES.....

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity			✓	
Significance			✓	

Reviewer Name: Syed Mohammed

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

Abstract:

The abstract provides a comprehensive overview of the study's objectives, methodology, findings, and historiographical contribution. It highlights the historiographical gap that emerges when Mahmud II's reforms are seen as entirely new and disconnected from Selim III's Nizam-i Cedid. The research design—historical investigation and content analysis based on documentation—is clearly described, along with the analytical tools of internal and external criticism of historical sources. The findings emphasize the continuity between the Nizam-i Cedid and Mahmud II's reforms, showing how earlier principles influenced formations such as the Segban-i Cedid and Asakir-i Mansure-i Muhammadiye. The conclusion situates Mahmud II's military modernization as an evolutionary process, deeply embedded in political, organizational, and geopolitical contexts, rather than a radical rupture. The abstract successfully situates the study within Ottoman historiography and stresses its interpretive contribution.

Keywords:

The keywords—Ottoman military, Janissary corps, Mahmud II, Selim III, Nizam-i Cedid, Vaka-i

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Hayriye, Asakir-i Mansure-i Muhammadiye—are highly relevant, precise, and capture the essential themes of the manuscript.

Introduction:

The introduction establishes the historical significance of the early 19th-century Ottoman military reforms, situating them in the tension between tradition and modernity. It frames Mahmud II's reforms within the legacy of Selim III's Nizam-i Cedid, challenging the conventional narrative that emphasizes rupture through the Vaka-i Hayriye. By focusing on continuity, the introduction provides a strong rationale for a retrospective analysis. The contextualization of reforms as part of wider governance structures highlights the integrated nature of military and political modernization.

Methodology:

The study adopts a qualitative historical research approach, using documentation and content analysis as primary methods. The emphasis on both internal and external criticism ensures methodological rigor in the interpretation of historical sources. This approach is suitable for the historiographical questions posed by the paper, allowing for nuanced exploration of continuity and adaptation.

Findings:

The findings underscore that Mahmud II's reforms were strategic continuities rather than abrupt innovations. By incorporating Nizam-i Cedid principles into new military structures, the reforms reflected both modernization and pragmatism in dealing with political and organizational challenges. The reference to specific military units such as the Segban-i Cedid and the Asakir-i Mansure-i Muhammadiye supports this claim. The analysis situates reform within the Ottoman Empire's capacity to balance modernization ideals with geopolitical realities and internal political demands.

Contribution to Historiography:

The manuscript makes a significant historiographical contribution by reframing Mahmud II's reforms as part of an evolutionary process rooted in Selim III's vision. It challenges the oversimplified rupture narrative, offering a layered interpretation of continuity, adaptation, and modernization. The conclusion stresses the importance of understanding institutional reforms

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as embedded processes rather than isolated revolutions, aligning with broader historical theories of state development.

Overall Assessment:

The manuscript is coherent, historically grounded, and contributes meaningfully to Ottoman military historiography. By linking Selim III's Nizam-i Cedid to Mahmud II's reformist agenda, it provides an insightful reinterpretation of 19th-century Ottoman military transformation. Its methodological rigor, historical interpretation, and theoretical framing make it a valuable scholarly work in the study of Ottoman state and military modernization.
