




TURKISH MINORITY EDUCATION IN BULGARIA

Its history and tragedy

# TURKISH MINORITY EDUCATION AND LITERATURE IN BULGARIA

In 1875 there were in Thracian Villages 2700 Turkish primary schools (shayan mektebi), 150 medreses and 40 ribatya schools. Although precise figures are not available, it is nevertheless estimated that in the part of Thracian Villages which is now inside Bulgarian borders, there were approximately 2300 Turkish schools.

The Turco-Russian War of 1877-1878 was a major setback for the Turkish education in Bulgaria. During this war, about 1500 Turkish schools were burned and destroyed in the Balkans, hundreds of Turkish teachers were scattered or forced to emigrate to Anatolia, and revenues of the Turkish schools were  major pious foundations (vakıflar) were destroyed.

However, after 1883, the Turkish minority education in Bulgaria began to recover itself. School buildings were partly repaired, teaching posts were filled and education was adapted to the new conditions. Turkish minority in Bulgaria was now under the protection of the Berlin Peace Treaty of 1878, and the Turkish constitution and laws.

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According to the Berlin Peace Treaty of 1878, there were in Bulgarian territory 1300 Turkish schools in which 100,000 Turkish children were educated by 1,500 teachers. There was an apparent improvement and development. The following year the number of Turkish schools in the country reached the figure of 1,361 in which now 75,100 Turkish children were educated by 1,542 teachers.

To conform with Ottoman practice, Turkish schools in Bulgaria were considered as private bodies, their administration, appointment of teachers, preparation of curriculum were the responsibility of the Turkish community. All Turkish primary schools in Bulgaria were

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### Its history and tragedy

The history of modern Turkish education in Bulgaria dates from the time of the Ottoman Empire. Tanzimat reform in the Empire was first tested in Danube (Tuna) Vilâyet, today the north part of Bulgaria. In this part of the Ottoman Empire modern secondary schools named rüşdiye were created in mid XIX th century.

In 1875 there were in Tuna Vilâyet 2.700 Turkish primary schools (sıbyan mektebi), 150 medresse and 40 rüşdiye schools. Although precise figures are not available, it is nevertheless estimated that in the part of Edirne Vilâyet which is now inside Bulgarian borders, there were approximately 2.500 Turkish schools.

The Turco-Russian War of 1877-1878 was a major setback for the Turkish education in Bulgaria. During this war, about 1.500 Turkish schools were burned and destroyed in the Balkans, hundreds of Turkish teachers were scattered or forced to emigrate to Anatolia, and revenues of the Turkish schools were diminished because major pious foundations (awkafs) were destroyed.

However, after 1885, the Turkish minority education in Bulgaria began to recover itself. School buildings were partly repaired, teaching posts were filled and education was adapted to the new conditions. Turkish minority in Bulgaria was now under the protection of the Berlin Peace Treaty of 1878, and under that of Bulgarian constitution and laws.

According to the Bulgarian statistics, in 1895 there were in Bulgarian Principality 1.300 Turkish schools in which 72.582 Turkish children were educated by 1.516 teachers. There was an apparent improvement and development. The following year the number of Turkish schools in the country reached the figure of 1.341 in which now 75.160 Turkish children were educated by 1.549 teachers.

In conformity with Ottoman practice, Turkish schools in Bulgaria were organised as private bodies; their administration, appointment of teachers, preparation of the curriculum were the responsibility of the Turkish community. All the Turkish minority schools in Bulgaria were