

VIRGINIA MODEL UNITED NATIONS



WGSS: Ottoman Empire
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1. **Mehmed V (35th Ottoman Sultan)**

- Mehmed V was the 35th and second to last Ottoman Sultan ever. Mehmed spent thirty years confined in the Harem's of the Topkapi Palace in preparation of becoming Sultan. During his time at the palace, Mehmed became well versed in traditional Islamic and Persian literature. Mehmed V became Sultan of the Ottomans in April of 1909, but his position did not come with a great deal of power due to the reinstatement of an Ottoman parliament and constitution the year prior during the Young Turk Revolution. What little political power Mehmed had was even further dissolved after the 1913 Ottoman Coup d'etat which gave rise to the three dictatorial Pashas. Most of Mehmed's power now comes by way of influence and his position as an image for the Ottoman peoples, especially those who follow Islam. It should be noted that Mehmed V is a staunch follower of Islam and sees its interests as paramount. (Declared Jihad against all Triple Entente powers on November 14th, 1914)

2. **Said Halim (Grand Vizier of Ottoman Empire)**

- Said Halim was appointed to his Grand Vizier position by Mehmed V under the pretense that he was the only man Mehmed V truly trusted as, essentially, prime minister, and that he was to stay in his role as Grand Vizier for as long as possible to protect the position. Said serves as the head of the cabinet comprised of the other ministers within the newly created constitutional government present in the Ottoman Empire. In practice, Said Halim is essentially the Minister of Foreign Affairs. While his role in the Ottoman

government is important, Said is kept in check by the Three Pashas, and, unlike Enver and Talaat Pasha, is hesitant to join into the global powder keg's conflict/war.

3. ***Enver Pasha (Minister of War)***

- Enver Pasha was one third of the Ottoman triumvirate the "Three Pashas." He came to power after the 1908 Young Turk Revolution as a member of the Committee of Union and Progress. In the past years Enver has proven himself to be one of the Ottoman's most valuable military commanders mainly due to his performance in the Balkan Wars. Despite his political ranking below Said Halam, Pasha is easily as powerful and is regarded by many as the most powerful man in the empire. Enver has sympathized with Germany and Austria-Hungary in the years leading up to WW1. Additionally, he is a proprietor of the nationalist themed "Pan-Turkism" which serves to unite Turkish peoples in the Ottoman Empire to the detriment of other minority people groups i.e Armenians, Christians, Slavs, etc. Enver Pasha is in command of 1.25 million Turkish soldiers and, if need be, another 1 million reserve soldiers. It's also of note that the Turkish military was an early pioneer of aviation and is in possession of ~90 military aircraft at this time.

4. ***Talaat Pasha (Minister of Interior)***

- Talaat Pasha is the second member of the "Three Pashas" triumvirate. Like the other 2 Pashas, Talaat came onto the political scene after the Young Turk Rebellion in 1908. This of course means that Talaat is heavily entrenched in the CUP political camp. As Minister of Interior, Talaat Pasha is responsible for, among other things, police forces, national security, local governments, immigration, and internal affairs. This puts Talaat in charge of deciding how exactly to deal with the various ethnic groups within the Ottoman

empire whether they geographical (Turks, Bulgarians, Armenians, Syrians) or religious (Islamic, Christian, Jewish, Orthodox.) Additionally, Talaat is in charge of 42,000 “Jandmar” or border security personnel. Talaat has also made remarks, starting in 1910, on the Armenians and how he wishes to rid the country of them with the help of the CUP.

5. ***Ahmed Djemal Pasha (Commander of Constantinople and Minister of the Navy)***

- Djemal Pasha is the third component of the “Three Pashas” triumvirate. Despite being elected Mayor of Baghdad in 1911, Djemal resigned in order to serve the Ottomans as a colonel in the Balkan Wars. After having played a crucial role in the Second Balkan Wars, Djemal aligned himself with the CUP and, following the 1913 coup, found himself appointed to the positions of Minister of the Navy and Commander of Constantinople, the Ottoman Empire’s capital city. During his time in the Balkan Wars, Djemal focused his efforts on retaining Turkish-European resources and land thus proving himself to be a staunch Turkish nationalist. Despite this, Djemal shows early favoritism to the triple entente. As Minister of the Navy, Djemal is responsible for the Ottoman Navy and its 13 warships.

6. ***Nicolae Constantin Batzaria (Minister of Public Works)***

- Nicolae Batzaria was a well-respected journalist for most of his life, up until 1908 when he aligned himself with the Young Turk movement and became a senator following their revolution in 1908. Despite his slavic roots and Alomanian heritage, Batzaria was given the position of Minister of Public Works by the Three Pashas after their coup in 1913. Additionally, Nicolae served important roles as a diplomat to the U.K, and a liason to the

Ottoman Empire's Alomanian populace. As Minister of Public Works, Batzaria is responsible for Ottoman infrastructure and its continual growth as a means to promote recreation, health, employment, and transportation. Batzaria is not a supporter of the pan-turkism becoming popular in the Ottoman Empire.

7. ***Pirizade Ibrahim Hayrullah Bey (Minister of Justice)***

- Bey is a well-connected statesman who served as Governor of Istanbul in 1912, and was appointed to the position of Minister of Justice in 1913 by the Three Pashas. As Minister of Justice, Bey is in charge of correctional services, law-making and reform, legal aid and resources being provided to courts, and the legal services of all departments of state. Bey is Turkish and a follower of Islam.

8. ***Ürgüplü Mustafa Hayri Efendi (Minister of Pious Foundations)***

- Efendi is currently the "Shaykh al-Islam" or ultimate religious authority in the Ottoman Empire (due to the fact that Islam is the predominant religion and the one followed by the Three Pashas, leading to it being the religion whose doctrine carries the most weight politically and socially.) Efendi plays a crucial role by having to reconcile the actions of the Three Pashas with the Quran and ensure the two entities are always in agreeance, or, atleast appear so. Efendi has the power to publish "fatwas" which are authoritative/precedent-setting legal opinions respected by most all followers of Islam.

9. ***Mehmed Celal Bey (Minister of Agriculture)***

- Mehmed Bey was Minister of the Interior from 1911 until the 1913 Coup D'etat which saw Bey relegated to the position of Minister of Agriculture despite being a member of

the CUP. Despite Bey's Turkic roots he is not a proprietor of pan-Turkic nationalism. As Minister of Agriculture, Bey is responsible for the implementation of agricultural, farming, and fishing projects and the development and subsidization of farmland and rural areas. During his time as Minister of Agriculture, Mehmed Celal Bey was also the governor of Aleppo (in modern day Syria) which had a population more heavily constituted of Christians, Sunni Kurds, and Jews.

10. **Ahmet Şükrü Bey (Minister of Education)**

- Another member of the CUP who gained his political position after the 1913 Ottoman coup d'état, Ahmet Sukru Bey is currently the Minister of Education. Ahmet is of Turkic heritage. The Minister of Education has historically played an important role in the Ottoman empire due to the fact that they are one of few empires historically to have public education systems throughout their territories. This in the past has been a point of great pride and excellence in the Ottoman Empire. As Minister of Education, Ahmet is responsible for creating, implementing, overseeing, and evaluating programs and resources for the school and education systems of the Empire.

11. **Oskan Mandikyan (Minister of Posts, Telegraph, and Telephone)**

- Mandikyan is a member of the CUP who was appointed by the Three Pashas in 1913. His duties as Minister of Posts, Telegraph, and Telephone include establishing new telegraph, telephone, and postal infrastructure as well as the maintenance of pre-existing structures. His position also grants him the right to establish or abolish new or existing radio, print, or telecommunication institutions.

12. ***Fritz Bronsart von Schellendorf (Chief of Staff)***

- Though German born, Schellendorf is an integral part of the Ottoman empire as chief of staff of the Ottoman army. Schellendorf came to the empire as an already accomplished military officer and politician. His roles include filtering information, appointing staff and military commanders, negotiating across branches of service/chains of command, and communicating the actuality of events to Enver Pasha.

13. ***Mehmet Esat Bülkat (Military Commander of III Corps in Gallipoli)***

- After being released from a Greek Prison after the Balkan Wars in 1913, Bulkat was put in command of the war-hardened III Corps in Gallipoli - a regiment which had just finished fighting in the Balkans. With ~75,000 troops under his command and crucial positioning on the Dardanelles / Gallipoli Peninsula, Bulkat is expected to be ready for whatever may develop in the northwestern reaches of the Ottoman Empire.

14. ***Ziya Gökalp (Ideological Figurehead (Influencer))***

- Ziya Gokalp is a sociologist, writer, poet, and political activist. Becoming most active after the Young Turk Rebellion of 1908, Gokalp promoted Pan-Turkism and Turanism. These ideologies highlight the importance of promoting Turkish values, culture, and literacy throughout the Ottoman Empire and giving less credence to religion as national identifiers. Gokalp is extremely influential as a writer and has great influence on the Turkish populations of the Ottoman Empire.

15. ***Djelal Munif Bey (Ambassador to the United States)***

- As ambassador to the United States, Djelal Bey is responsible for conducting negotiations, meetings, or any other diplomatic task which may be deemed necessary by the Ottoman Empire. Furthermore, he is responsible for representing the Ottoman Empire to the United States government and relaying information from his work in the U.S back to the Empire.

16. ***Hüseyin Hilmi Pasha (Ambassador to Austria-Hungary & German Empire)***

- As ambassador to Austria-Hungary and the German Empire, Hilmi Pasha is responsible for conducting negotiations, meetings, or any other diplomatic task which may be deemed necessary by the Ottoman Empire. Furthermore, he is responsible for representing the Ottoman Empire to the Austria-Hungarian government and relaying information from his work in Austria-Hungary back to the Empire.

17. ***Ahmet Tevfik Pasha (Ambassador to Russia)***

- Tevfik Pasha is responsible for conducting negotiations, meetings, or any other diplomatic task which may be deemed necessary by the Ottoman Empire. Furthermore, he is responsible for representing the Ottoman Empire to the Russian government and relaying information from his work in Russia back to the Empire.

18. **Ahmet Riza (Ambassador to France)**

- Riza is responsible for conducting negotiations, meetings, or any other diplomatic task which may be deemed necessary by the Ottoman Empire. Furthermore, he is responsible for representing the Ottoman Empire to the French government and relaying information from his work in France back to the Empire.

19. **Damat Mehmed Adil Ferid (Ambassador to the United Kingdom)**

- Ferid is responsible for conducting negotiations, meetings, or any other diplomatic task which may be deemed necessary by the Ottoman Empire. Furthermore, he is responsible for representing the Ottoman Empire to the British government and relaying information from his work in the UK back to the Empire.

20. **Boghos Nubar (Chairman of Armenian National Assembly)**

- Boghos Nubar is the current leader of the Armenian National Delegation (AND) as well as President of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU.) Boghos has strong ties to Egypt due to his father being the Prime Minister of Egypt in the late 19th century. Due to his prominent position in Armenian culture and politics, Boghos is responsible for the interests, safety, and representation of some 2 million Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire. It's important to note that Turkish-Ottoman Nationalism is on the rise due to the likes of the Three Pashas and Ziya Gökalp. Boghos is currently trying to secure reforms in the Ottoman Empire to secure further rights for Armenian citizen. This stems from meetings with French and Russian diplomats the previous year (1912) who are working with their governments to help out the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire.

21. ***Hafiz Hakki (Major General of the Ottoman Army)***

- Hafiz Hakki went to military academy with Enver Pasha and served as general during the Balkan wars. After the fact, he wrote multiple books on military theory and how to lead effectively. As a fellow member of the CUP, Hakki found himself made Major General of the Ottoman Third Army in 1913 following the Three Pashas' climb to power. The Third Army unit was stationed in the Caucasus and had ~120,000 soldiers. The Caucasus is the northeastern region of the Ottoman empire which borders with Russia (Modern day Armenia, Georgia, etc.)

22. ***Mustafa Kemal (Colonel of Balkan Forces)***

- Mustafa Kemal was given the task of organizing and commanding the Ottomans' forces in the Balkans after showing great promise through his performance in the 1st and 2nd Balkan Wars. Mustafa Kemal is currently the commander for some 30,000 Ottoman Soldiers (primarily Syrian Arabs) serving on the very front-lines of Balkan territory - essentially the Ottomans' first line of defense from possible European aggressors.

23. ***Stepan Zorian (Leader of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation)***

- Stepan Zorian is the founder and leader of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF.) This group is extremely important in the plight of Armenians against the oppressive Three Pasha regime. Zorian has in the past set up Armenian schools, published pro-armenian news-letters, and lobbied for reforms in the Ottoman Empire for

better treatment of Armenians. He is a very influential force to the Armenians living in the Ottoman empire.

24. ***Halil Kut (Governor of Baghdad)***

Kut is the current governor of Baghdad (modern day Iraq and Kuwait.) This puts him in a position of great influence over a municipality of the broader empire. Just as his nephew, Enver Pasha, Halil Kut has spent extensive amounts of time in prior Ottoman war efforts as general and commander for armed forces. Halil now has the final say in most all matters of public policy, military maneuvers, and social well-being in the Baghdad region.

25. ***Rıza Tevfik Bölükbaşı (Deputy to Erdine)***

- Rıza is the CUP's deputy in Erdine, one of the Ottoman Empire's most north-westerly cities. As such, he is responsible for the documentation, oversight, and decision making with regards to the party's presence and actions in this area. It should be noted that Erdine borders Greece. Additionally, Rıza is an intellectual and largely secular with an outspoken stance against Turkey's involvement in the seemingly inevitable war.

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