



OSMANLI BELGELERİNDE  
**filistin**

**PALESTINE**  
IN OTTOMAN DOCUMENTS



## PREFACE

The lands of Palestine, which include Jerusalem, a holy city for Muslims, Christians, and Jews, are of particular importance. For this reason, this region has for centuries attracted the World's attention.

Since the Ottoman conquest of Jerusalem in 1517, Palestine has witnessed its longest period of stability and peace stretching for 400 years, ending only in 1917. The Ottoman administration has always paid a great deal of attention to the administration of Palestine which includes Jerusalem, a city which they recognized as the third holy city after Mecca and Medina. The Ottoman State has adopted a policy which ensured the free practice of religion in holy places for every religious group. Furthermore, the Ottomans have also paid a great deal of attention to ensure the different religious groups and sects did not to interfere each others freedom of practice.

Starting in the last quarter of the 19th century, despite increased international interference in the region and intensified efforts to extend their influence over it, the Ottoman State did not waiver in its efforts to maintain the peace and stability in Palestine doing all means necessary whether they were administrative, military or economic. During this period, the Ottoman State continued to observe international law and regulations, and to act in accordance with international norms. In cases that were considered in conflict with the policies of the Ottoman State, they were careful to only interfere with the boundaries of the laws.

As it is commonly known, archival records provide the most reliable source of information to bring the past to life. In order to explain the administrative practice of the Ottoman State to the international community, it is important to protect, value, make available and publish from the rich heritage of archival records which we have inherited.

As the General Directorate of the State Archives, we are aware of this valuable treasure. We have been publishing information concerning the Ottoman administrative relations in what is now state falling in three different continents. With this study under the name of Palestine in Ottoman Documents, our General Directorate's aim to provide an important service to the international community by giving information on the Ottoman careful administration of the holy sites. In this study, it has been especially chosen sample documents about the social and administrative services taken to the region and the military precautions for insuring security at the top level in Palestine under the Ottoman administration.

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