



Dr. Blosa Science

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The Science Foundation College
Uganda East Africa
Senior one to senior six
+256 778 633 682, 753 802709
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Syrian Question, 1831-1841, causes and consequences

Questions to ponder

1. Examine the causes and consequences of Syrian Question 1831-1841.

Approach

- a. Give a brief introduction of the Syrian Question
- b. Identify and explain the causes and consequences of Syrian Question 1831-1841
- c. The give a generalized conclusion

Summary of the Syrian war/Question 1831-1841

The **Syrian Question** (1831-1841) refers to the political and military conflicts involving the Ottoman Empire, Egypt, and European powers over control of Syria. Here's a brief summary:

1. **Egyptian Invasion:** In 1831, **Muhammad Ali of Egypt**, seeking to expand his territory, invaded Syria, which was then part of the Ottoman Empire.
2. **Ottoman Response:** The Ottoman Empire, weakened and unable to effectively respond, struggled to regain control over Syria.
3. **European Intervention:** European powers, particularly Britain and France, became involved due to their strategic interests in the region and concerns over the balance of power.
4. **Treaty of Unkiar Skelessi:** The conflict led to the **Treaty of Unkiar Skelessi** in 1833, which temporarily resolved the immediate crisis but did not address the underlying issues.
5. **Second Ottoman-Egyptian War:** The situation escalated again in the late 1830s, leading to the **Second Ottoman-Egyptian War** (1839-1841). The war ended with the **Convention of London** in 1840, which forced Muhammad Ali to withdraw from Syria and return control to the Ottoman Empire.

Causes of Syrian war/Question, 1831-1841

The **Syrian Question** (1831-1841) was driven by several key factors:

1. **Egyptian Ambitions: Muhammad Ali of Egypt** sought to expand his territory and influence by invading Syria, which was part of the Ottoman Empire.
2. **Sultan Mphmood Hamid refusal to compensate Mehmet Ali of Egypt against the Greek rebels** was another factor.
3. **Ottoman Weakness:** The Ottoman Empire was weakened and struggling to maintain control over its territories, making it vulnerable to external threats and internal revolts.
4. **European Interests:** European powers, particularly Britain and France, had strategic interests in the region and were concerned about the balance of power in the Middle East.
5. **Treaty of Unkiar Skelessi:** The **Treaty of Unkiar Skelessi** in 1833 temporarily resolved the immediate crisis but did not address the underlying issues, leading to further conflicts.
6. **Second Ottoman-Egyptian War:** The conflict escalated again in the late 1830s, resulting in the **Second Ottoman-Egyptian War** (1839-1841), which ended with the **Convention of London** in 1840, forcing Muhammad Ali to withdraw from Syria.
7. **The collapse of the Congress system.** The European powers were divided and unable to diplomatically resolve the Turko-Egyptian crisis.
8. France support to Mehmet Ali of Egypt encouraged Mehmet Ali of Egypt to attack Ottoman Empire.
9. **Russian imperialism and its threat to other European power.** The Russian desire to disintegrate the Ottoman Empire for its own interest encouraged the intervention of Britain and France causing the conflict.
10. **The Prussian military support to Turkey;** gave Turkey confidence to fight Egypt.

Consequences of the Syrian War/question 1831-1841

Negative impact of the Syrian war 1831-1841

The **Syrian War** (1831-1841) had several negative impacts:

1. **Humanitarian Crisis:** The war caused significant loss of life, displacement of populations, and widespread suffering among civilians.
2. **Economic Burden:** The conflict placed a heavy economic burden on both the Ottoman Empire and Egypt, exacerbating existing financial difficulties.
3. **Political Instability:** The war and subsequent conflicts weakened the Ottoman Empire, contributing to its on-going decline and internal instability.
4. **Social Disruption:** The war disrupted local economies, destroyed infrastructure, and led to social unrest and divisions within Syrian society.
5. Increases weakness of the Ottoman Empire.

6. **Foreign Intervention:** The involvement of European powers, particularly Britain, France, and Austria, highlighted their strategic interests in the region and their influence over Ottoman affairs, which further complicated the situation.
7. **The Syrian War contributed to the downfall of Louis Philippe.** The support of France Mehmet Ali of Egypt drained French financial and military resources weakening France influence in Europe and partially causing downfall of Louis Philippe.
8. **It antagonised European peace for about 10 years.**

Positive impact of the Syrian war 1831-1841

9. **Restoration of Ottoman Control:** The war resulted in the restoration of Syrian territories to the Ottoman Empire, reinforcing its sovereignty over the region.
10. **European Diplomatic Cooperation:** The conflict led to increased diplomatic cooperation among European powers, such as Britain, France, Austria, and Russia, which worked together to resolve the crisis.
11. **Stabilization of the Region:** The resolution of the conflict helped stabilize the region, reducing the immediate threat of further military confrontations.
12. **Recognition of Muhammad Ali:** The **Convention of Alexandria** in 1840 recognized Muhammad Ali and his descendants as the legitimate rulers of Egypt, which helped to legitimize his rule and stabilize Egypt.
13. **Shift in Power Dynamics:** The conflict altered the balance of power in the region, with European powers gaining more influence over Ottoman territories and affairs.

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