


UDC: 32.; 323.

LBC: 63.3(2)6-6; 63.3 (2)64; 63.3(5 e)64

MJ № 366

 10.33864/2617-751X.2025.v8.i7.242-258

METHODS OF NEWS TRANSMISSION FROM THE OTTOMAN STATE TO THE REGENCY OF ALGIERS IN THE LATE OTTOMAN PERIOD (1771–1830)

Sarhouda Yousfi*

Abstract. This study explores the mechanisms of news transmission from the Ottoman central authority to the Regency of Algiers (1766-1830), examining the intermediaries, routes, and content of exchanged information. Using archival analysis of correspondence between Algiers and its agents in Izmir and Istanbul, the research adopts a historical methodology to reconstruct communication networks during this critical period, as the study particularly focuses on how political and military intelligence was conveyed before and after the French blockade of Algiers. The findings reveal an organized network involving the Mufti, Hajj Ali ibn al-Mufti, and Liman Reis as key intermediaries, as news flowed directly to the Dey initially, but after the French blockade, it was rerouted through Tunis and Constantine, with reports becoming more detailed, where the agents not only transmitted news but also defended Algiers' economic interests. Additionally, their interrogations provided the Porte with intelligence, demonstrating a two-way flow of information that shaped Ottoman Mediterranean policy. The study will address the topic by examining the following key questions: Who were the intermediaries responsible for transmitting news from the central authority (the Sublime Porte) to the Regency? What were the routes taken by the news en route to Algiers? And what was the nature of the news being conveyed?

Keywords: news transmission, the Regency of Algiers, the Ottoman State, Muhammad ibn Uthman Pasha

* Lecturer Professor – Class A, Affiliation: University of Badji Mokhtar; Annaba, Algeria

E-mail: sarhouda.yousfi@univ-annaba.dz

<https://orcid.org/0009-0001-5254-0477>

To cite this article: Yousfi, S. [2025]. METHODS OF NEWS TRANSMISSION FROM THE OTTOMAN STATE TO THE REGENCY OF ALGIERS IN THE LATE OTTOMAN PERIOD (1771–1830). “Metafizika” journal, 8(7), pp.242-258.

<https://doi.org/10.33864/2617-751X.2025.v8.i7.242-258>

Article history:

Received: 27.05.2025

Accepted: 10.08.2025

Published: 03.11.2025




Copyright: © 2025 by AcademyGate Publishing. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the CC BY-NC 4.0. For details on this license, please visit

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>.

УДК: 32.; 323.

ББК: 63.3(2)6-6; 63.3 (2)64; 63.3(5 е)64

МЖ № 366

 10.33864/2617-751X.2025.v8.i7.242-258

МЕТОДЫ ПЕРЕДАЧИ НОВОСТЕЙ ИЗ ОСМАНСКОГО ГОСУДАРСТВА В АЛЖИРСКОЕ НАМЕСТНИЧЕСТВО В ПОЗДНЕОСМАНСКИЙ ПЕРИОД (1771-1830 ГГ.)

Сархуда Юсуфи*

Абстракт. В данной статье исследуются механизмы передачи новостей от центральных властей Османской империи в Алжирское наместничество (1766-1830), включая посредников, маршруты и содержание передаваемой информации. На основе архивного анализа корреспонденции между Алжиром и его агентами в Измире и Стамбуле применяется историко-аналитическая методология для реконструкции коммуникационных сетей этого критического периода. Особое внимание уделяется тому, каким образом передавалась политическая и военная информация до и после французской блокады Алжира. Результаты исследования показывают существование организованной сети, в которой ключевыми посредниками выступали муфтий, хаджи Али ибн аль-Муфтий и Лиман Рейс. Первоначально информация направлялась непосредственно дею, однако после блокады французами сообщения проходили через Тунис и Константинополь, становясь более подробными: агенты не только передавали новости, но и защищали экономические интересы Алжира. Их донесения также предоставляли Порте ценные разведывательные сведения, что свидетельствует о двустороннем обмене информацией, формировавшем политику Османской империи в Средиземноморье. В статье рассматриваются следующие ключевые вопросы: кто были посредники, отвечавшие за передачу новостей из центральных властей (Высокой Порты) в Алжирское наместничество? Каковы были маршруты распространения информации? Каков характер передаваемых новостей?

Ключевые слова: передача новостей, Алжирское наместничество, Османское государство, Мухаммад ибн Усман-паша

* Преподаватель, профессор класса «А», Университет Баджи Мохтара; Аннаба, Алжир

E-mail: sarhouda.yousfi@univ-annaba.dz

<https://orcid.org/0009-0001-5254-0477>

Цитировать статью: Юсуфи, С. [2025]. МЕТОДЫ ПЕРЕДАЧИ НОВОСТЕЙ ИЗ ОСМАНСКОГО ГОСУДАРСТВА В АЛЖИРСКОЕ НАМЕСТНИЧЕСТВО В ПОЗДНЕОСМАНСКИЙ ПЕРИОД (1771-1830 ГГ.). Журнал «Metafizika», 8(7), с.242-258.

<https://doi.org/10.33864/2617-751X.2025.v8.i7.242-258>

История статьи:

Статья поступила в редакцию: 27.05.2025

Отправлена на доработку: 10.08.2025

Принята для печати: 03.11.2025




Copyright: © 2025 by AcademyGate Publishing. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the CC BY-NC 4.0. For details on this license, please visit

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>.

UOT: 32.; 323.

KBT: 63.3(2)6-6; 63.3 (2)64; 63.3(5 e)64

MJ № 366

 10.33864/2617-751X.2025.v8.i7.242-258

OSMANLI DÖVLƏTİNDƏN ƏLCƏZAIR HAKİMİYYƏTİNƏ POÇT ÖTÜRÜLMƏSİ ÜSULLARI: OSMANLI DÖVRÜNÜN SONU (1771- 1830)

Sərxuda Yusifi*

Abstrakt. Bu tədqiqat Osmanlı mərkəzi hakimiyyətindən Əlcəzair Hakimiyyətinə (1766-1830) xəbər ötürülməsi mexanizmlərini, vasitəçiləri, yolları və məlumat mübadiləsinin məzmununu araşdırır. İzmir və İstanbulda yerləşən Əlcəzair nümayəndələri ilə aparılan yazışmaların arxiv təhlilinə əsaslanaraq, tədqiqat tarixi metodologiya çərçivəsində həmin dövrün kommunikasiya şəbəkələrini bərpa edir. Xüsusilə, siyasi və hərbi məlumatların Fransa blokadasından əvvəl və sonra necə ötürüldüyü məsələsinə diqqət yetirilir. Araşdırmanın nəticələri göstərir ki, Mufti, Həcc Əli ibn əl-Mufti və Liman Reis kimi əsas vasitəçiləri əhatə edən təşkilatlanmış bir şəbəkə mövcud idi. Əvvəlcə xəbərlər birbaşa Deyə çatdırılırdı, lakin Fransa blokadasından sonra marşrut Tunis və Konstantin vasitəsilə dəyişmiş və hesabatlar daha ətraflı xarakter almışdı. Agentlər yalnız xəbərləri ötürməklə kifayətlənmir, həm də Əlcəzairin iqtisadi maraqlarını müdafiə edirdilər. Onların hesabatları həmçinin Osmanlı Portasına kəşfiyyat məlumatı təqdim edir, bu isə iki istiqamətli informasiya axınının Aralıq dənizi siyasətinin formalaşmasında mühüm rol oynadığını göstərir. Tədqiqat aşağıdakı əsas suallara cavab axtarır: xəbərlərin mərkəzi hakimiyyətdən (Ali Porta) Əlcəzair Hakimiyyətinə ötürülməsinə kimlər məsul idi? Xəbərlər hansı marşrutlarla ötürülürdü? Və ötürülən xəbərlərin məzmunu nədən ibarət idi?

Açar sözlər: xəbər ötürülməsi, Əlcəzair Hakimiyyəti, Osmanlı Dövləti, Məhəmməd ibn Osman Paşa

* Müəllim, professor, Baci Muxtar Universiteti; Annaba, Əlcəzair

E-mail: sarhouda.yousfi@univ-annaba.dz

<https://orcid.org/0009-0001-5254-0477>

Məqaləyə istinad: Yusifi, S. [2025]. OSMANLI DÖVLƏTİNDƏN ƏLCƏZAIR HAKİMİYYƏTİNƏ POÇT ÖTÜRÜLMƏSİ ÜSULLARI: OSMANLI DÖVRÜNÜN SONU (1771-1830). “Metafizika” jurnalı, 8(7), səh.242-258.

<https://doi.org/10.33864/2617-751X.2025.v8.i7.242-258>

Məqalənin tarixçəsi:

Məqalə redaksiyaya daxil olmuşdur: 27.05.2025

Təkrar işlənməyə göndərilmişdir: 10.08.2025

Çapa qəbul edilmişdir: 03.11.2025



Copyright: © 2025 by AcademyGate Publishing. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the CC BY-NC 4.0. For details on this license, please visit

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>.

1.Introduction

In this study, we seek to explore the methods by which news was transmitted from the Ottoman State- as the central authority- to its periphery, represented by the Regency of Algiers, as the available archival documents have necessitated a focus on the Algerians' interest in news from the Sublime State, particularly since the archival material at our disposal consists of correspondence addressed to the Regency by its agents in Izmir and Istanbul (Hammash, 1996, p.299), where these documents reveal who conveyed news to Algiers during the final period of Ottoman rule, spanning from the reign of Muhammad ibn Uthman Pasha (1766-1791) to 1830- a pivotal and decisive era in the history of the Ottoman Empire as a whole and the Regency of Algiers in particular, and they provide insight into the mechanisms of news transmission following the French blockade of Algiers.

Study Sample:

To address this research problem, we relied on the following archival documents:

- **Collection No. 1642** at the National Library in El Hamma: This collection contains **30 letters** from Ahmed Bey to Hussein Pasha, **five of which** explicitly mention news arriving from Algiers' agent in Tunis- who began receiving correspondence from other agents after the blockade.
- **Collection No. 1903** at the National Library in El Hamma: This set comprises **74 letters** addressed to the Khaznadar (Treasurer), including **12 letters** from the agent in Tunis, covering the period **1239–1245 AH (1823–1830 CE)**. These documents highlight a commitment to forwarding all incoming news from various locations to the Khaznadar, while notably **lacking any dispatches from Istanbul** (National Library of Algeria, n.d.).
- **Collection No. 3190** at the National Library in El Hamma: This collection includes letters from some of the Regency's representatives at the Sublime Porte, such as the **Mufti of Algiers** and other figures residing in the Khan of Izmir, addressed to the Dey and other officials of the Regency. From this corpus, **25 letters** were selected for analysis.

2.The influential figures in Information (news) Transmission :

2.1.Algerian Agents [The term "Wakil" (Agent):A wakīl is an agent who acts on behalf of another, representing them in various matters. In political economy, it refers to a person who works under an agency contract, conducting business in their own name but for another's benefit. The plural form is wukalā' (agents)]. **in the Ottoman Empire:**

The Algerian authorities appointed agents across Ottoman cities, the most prominent being their representative in Istanbul, known as the Kabou Kahyası [**Katkhudāsi:** This was the title given to the agents (wakīls) of Ottoman governors (such as those of Algeria, Tunisia, and Egypt) at the Sublime Porte. They were also known as Kapı

Kâhyası or Kapı Kahyası. Their duties included facilitating communication between the Sublime Porte and the governors they represented, as well as managing their province's affairs within the Ottoman administration in Istanbul. They can be likened to ambassadors or consuls representing their regions in foreign capitals.

For further reading, see:

- Hammash, K. (2016). Documents on the history of Algeria in the Ottoman era (2nd ed., Vol. 1, p. 322). Publications of the Faculty of Arts and Islamic Civilization, Emir Abdelkader University for Humanities.

- Hammash, K. (1988). The relations between the Eyalet of Algeria and the Sublime Porte from 1798 to 1830 [Master's thesis, Modern and Contemporary History, Alexandria University].]

(or Kabou Kahya si), who served as the dey's liaison to the Sublime Porte, overseeing affairs of the eyalet (province), and additional agents were stationed in cities such as Izmir and Alexandria (Hammash, 1988), as these appointments were formalized through an official accreditation document (mishwar), as evidenced by the following decree:

"Since ancient times, your noble person has been entrusted with the affairs of the victorious ocak (military-administrative corps), your sincerity... facilitating its prosperity... and your enduring protection of the ocak by land and sea, as circumstances demand... The expenditures of our ocak in all respects necessitate the appointment of a dedicated agent in Izmir, acting on behalf of our Pasha Dey, to oversee matters about our ocak... Upon receipt of this decree, the aforementioned Pasha Dey... shall appoint a comptroller (khawaja sudur al-muhasaba) to audit his accounts- whether goods, funds, or otherwise- and henceforth, the affairs of the victorious ocak, particularly the mustering of troops, shall demand utmost diligence... You, in your esteemed capacity, alongside other Pasha Days, must safeguard our interests with the Sublime Porte and Christian states, ensuring their consuls remain favorably disposed... This missive, bearing the terms of the agency, is hereby dispatched to your honor, with the expectation of your unwavering commitment..." (National Library of Algeria, n.d.).

Although the document does not name the agent appointed to Izmir, it outlines his duties and authority:

- Auditing the Pasha Dey's accounts with the beylik (treasury) regarding goods, funds, and other liabilities.
- Managing office affairs and recruitment.
- Advocating for Algerian interests with the Sublime Porte, Christian states, and their consuls, alongside overseeing the eyalet's commercial affairs and protecting its trade in their respective cities.
- Providing clarifications about the eyalet to relevant ministers and officials.

- Submitting regular reports to the pasha in Algiers, detailing operational matters and news of Ottoman events deemed critical by the pasha (Hammash, 1988, p.195).

The agents resided in Algeria's wakala (agency) in Izmir, referred to as the Khan. Available records shed little light on its organizational structure or staff size, though repeated requests for personnel suggest its operational demands; for instance, in Safar 1242 AH (1826 CE), Khalil Afandi requested 13 days (officials) to supervise the Izmir Khan (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-a), noting: "...Three to five must be sent... appointed under our authority... Their presence is imperative for duties such as drumming announcements, patrolling streets... Neither I, your servant, nor Khalil Afandi's retinue may neglect this. (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-b); Similarly, Hussein Pasha Dey of Algiers later requested 10 days for Izmir (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-b).

The agents' responsibilities extended beyond official matters to include personal requests, as documented in archival records; for instance, gifts were routinely sent to officials of the Sublime Porte, including the governor of Izmir, in recognition of services rendered to Algeria (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-b).

The agents' correspondence also reveals personal appeals, as when the wife of the Pasha Dey in Izmir passed away, the mufti emphasized the need to care for her orphaned children (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-b); and later, Hussein Pasha Dey sent a letter requesting support for his children after his wife's death, though no response to these appeals is recorded. It remains unclear whether the state treasury assumed responsibility for them (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-b), however, evidence suggests that the treasury did provide for orphans (*yetim-i yoldaş*). In one instance, the Agha of Mostaganem referenced impoverished *yoldaş* and orphaned children in a letter to Hussein Pasha, urging the disbursement of their stipends (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-b).

Algerian agents did not interact directly with the Ottoman Sultan at the Sublime Porte; instead, the Kapudan Pasha (Grand Admiral), the minister overseeing foreign relations and affairs of the empire's *ocaks* (including Algeria), as well as naval matters- both commercial and military- served as an intermediary. Additionally, the *qa'id al-mana* (chief of the treasury) mediated between the agents and the Algerian rulers (Bin Na'mani, 2013).

3.The Mufti

Though the title "Mufti of Algiers" suggests a purely religious role, his duties overlapped significantly with those of the agents, encompassing the following:

- Administration of the Agency (Khan): During the absence or death of the Pasha Dey, the mufti assumed temporary oversight of the agency, as a document dated 3 Shawwal 1236 AH (1821 CE) notes that after the

death of the Pasha Dey in Izmir, Hajj Khalil Afandi [Bin Na'mani, S. A. (2013). *Wazīfat wakīl al-Jazā'ir ladá al-Dawlah al-'Uthmānīyah wa-ba'd iyālātihā min khilāl ba'd wathā'iq al-rašīdayn al-'Uthmānīyyayn al-mawjūdayn fī al-Jazā'ir* [The function of Algeria's agent (wakīl) in the Ottoman State and some of its provinces through documents from the two Ottoman collections in Algeria]. *Al-Hikmah Journal for Historical Studies*, 20, 205]. supervised the Khan pending the appointment of a new Pasha Dey by the pasha (Hammash, 1996, p. 393).

- Intervention in Provincial Affairs: The mufti involved himself in economic matters concerning the eyalet, such as customs disputes between Algeria and the Ottoman Empire, as Algerian merchants- both Arab and Turkish- who conducted business using loans from the Algerian treasury, sought exemption from Ottoman customs duties and taxes. The mufti advocated on their behalf (Al-Madani, 1980, p.71).
- Liaison with the Sublime Porte: He responded to inquiries from Ottoman ministers regarding the eyalet; for instance, Khalil Afandi once requested information from the pasha about the causes of the war between Algeria and France to address questions posed by the Sublime Porte's officials (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-g).
- Transmission of Information: The mufti's letters served as a channel for relaying news to the pasha of Algiers.
- Diplomatic Facilitation: He demanded gifts for Ottoman officials to smooth the eyalet's dealings with the Sublime Porte (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-g).

These functions underscore the mufti's dual diplomatic and religious role within the Ottoman Empire; notably, as highlighted by Aziz Samih Al-Ter, the Sultan occasionally tasked the mufti with special missions, for example, a former mufti of Algiers, then residing in Izmir, was dispatched back to Algeria to convey Ottoman directives urging a negotiated settlement with France, however, his efforts proved futile, and the delay ultimately favored the French Royal Council (Altun, 1989, p.638).

The mufti attempted to persuade Dey Hussein using a Sultanic firman, which stated:

"...Without resorting to force or arms, thereby avoiding the perils of war and devastation, the Ottoman State guarantees the protection of French interests and ensures they suffer no harm from Algerians..." (Hakima, 2014, p.116).

4.Additional Sources of Information Transmission to the Eyalet

Beyond the official channels, other individuals played a role in conveying news to Algiers. One such example is documented in a letter sent by "**Al-Hajj Mahmoud**" from Istanbul to **Hussein Pasha**, in which he recounts his

personal history, as he had previously served as "**Bash Tabji**" (chief artillery officer) in Constantine, and fearing reprisals from **Bey Mohamed El-Mili**, he fled to Tunis, then embarked on the Hajj pilgrimage, on his return journey, he was captured and held prisoner for four years, and after his release, he returned to the **Sublime Porte** and, through familial connections, secured a position under the **Grand Vizier**.

Following this introduction, Mahmoud provides a detailed report on Ottoman affairs, resembling an intelligence dispatch. His letter includes critical updates on the empire, such as:

- The arrival of the **Russian ambassador** in Istanbul.
- The **Iranian offensive** against Russian territories.
- **Russia's military incursions** into Ottoman lands.
- The dispatch of an **Ottoman diplomatic mission to Austria**.
- **Sultan Mahmud II's two-day spiritual retreat** in a mosque, praying for divine intervention to save his empire.
- The ongoing **recruitment of soldiers** for the **Nizam-i Cedid** (modernized military corps).

In closing, Mahmoud expresses his joy at being able to relay this information to Algiers, writing:

"...I see it as my duty, in service to the victorious ocaq, to deliver this report with pure devotion... May your grace bestow mercy upon this humble servant by accepting this missive, so that I may remain ever grateful and heartened... It is my deepest honor to be but the dust beneath your exalted feet, my master, my refuge..." (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-g).

5.Methods of Transmitting News to Algiers

Regarding the channels used to convey information from the Ottoman Empire to Algiers, the following methods were employed:

First- Sending Letters via Algerian Merchants: Official correspondence intended for the Algerian authorities was often entrusted to merchants traveling to the port of Algiers, among these couriers was Ali bin al-Mufti, who carried numerous letters to the Dey, as referenced in several dispatches:

"...It is our constant duty to offer prayers for your prosperity, a testament to the sincerity of our friendship... The esteemed merchant of Algiers, Ali bin al-Mufti, renowned for his service to Your Excellency, has arrived in the Sublime Porte to settle certain affairs. Seizing this opportunity, we hasten to relay news through this trusted intermediary, demonstrating our loyalty and devotion- a bond strengthened by such acts of fidelity..." (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-g).

Another document notes: "... Before the date of this letter, your servant Hajj Ali bin al-Mufti arrived bearing items as specified, following the noble

directives of Your Excellency and the esteemed Kapudan Pasha, along with a distinguished gift. (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-g).

However, limited information survives about this individual's background or role beyond these references.

Second- Dispatch via Foreign Consuls: Algerian agents also relied on foreign consuls to transmit messages, particularly after the French blockade of Algiers. For instance, Ali bin al-Mufti sent a report containing updates about high-ranking Ottoman officials to the Wakil al-Kharj (Treasury Agent), including letters forwarded by both the former and current Kapudan Pasha (Grand Admiral). He writes:

"...A *çavuş* (imperial courier) from the new Kapudan Pasha is en route to your side via Malta... As for the communications from the former Kapudan Pasha, we have dispatched them to you through Malta, entrusted to the Consul of the Netherlands (or another consular authority). Additionally, we are sending you our missive..." (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-g).

This method highlights the adaptability of Algerian agents in leveraging neutral diplomatic channels during geopolitical disruptions.

4.The Nature of Transmitted News

Having examined the intermediaries who conveyed news from the Ottoman Empire to Algiers, we now turn to the content and significance of these reports—particularly their political and strategic value, as information was a key tool of statecraft during this period.

4.1.Political and Military News:

The archival documents reveal that Algerian agents meticulously documented Ottoman affairs in their dispatches. Among the most critical updates were:

- Appointments and Dismissals in the Ottoman Government
- Agents closely monitored high-ranking appointments, as seen in a letter from Salim Thabit, Algeria's representative at the Sublime Porte:

"...In the year 1242, on the 12th of Rajab, His Excellency the former Kapudan Pasha, Khosrew Mehmed Pasha, was reassigned as governor of the Anatolian coast, charged with overseeing the Anatolian Eyalet... Meanwhile, the honorable Izzet Mehmed Pasha was appointed Kapudan Pasha with authority over the Algerian Eyalet... He has since undertaken comprehensive reforms, including the reorganization of the imperial arsenal and the dispatch of ships from the Sublime Porte's fleet to the Mediterranean... Tahir Bey was promoted to the rank of miralay (admiral)... We relay this news to affirm our loyalty and to ensure Your Excellency is informed of these developments, which may necessitate the preparation of gifts for these officials..." (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-g). [For more information, see: Letter from Hajj Khalil, Mufti of Algeria in Izmir, to Hussein Pasha on 23 Rajab 1242 AH, in which he refers to

the change of Muhammad Khusraw's position from captain of Darya to governor of Kutayya. Document No. 200. (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-g).]

Such updates were crucial for Algiers to maintain diplomatic relations, as gifts were often expected for newly appointed Ottoman officials.

4.2 Janissary Affairs:

Reports on the Janissaries were categorized into:

- Revolts in Istanbul: Instability within Janissary ranks.
- Military Reforms: Efforts by Hasan Pasha, governor of Izmir, to modernize the army.
- Recruitment Challenges: Ottoman permission for Algerian recruitment of volunteers, hampered by the Nizam-ı Cedid reforms.

As noted by Hajj Khalil:

"...I previously informed you of the mustering of troops, but due to blockades and logistical delays, their salaries were withheld... Now, they have been discharged, and a new Muhammadan military order has been instituted... Approximately fifty recruits have gathered here under revised regulations..."(National Library of Algeria, n.d.-g). [For more information, see: Letter from Hussein Pasha Dey of Algeria in Izmir dated 13 Jumada al-Thani 1242 AH (National Library of Hama, Algeria)]

4.3. Ottoman Wars:

The documents detail conflicts such as:

- The Ottoman-Russian and Ottoman-Austrian wars. [A letter from Hajj Othman, the Algerian agent in Izmir, to Muhammad ibn Othman Pasha on 27 Muharram 1203 AH / corresponding to 28 October 1788 AD, Collection 3190, Document No. 51. (National Library of Hamma, Algeria)]
- The Greek War of Independence (1821), including its major events.
- The Russian naval blockade of the Bosphorus (1828) disrupted supply routes to Istanbul.

A letter from Khalil, Mufti of Algiers, to Hussein Pasha (19 Jumada II 1244 AH) highlights:

- The dismissal of the Kapudan Pasha and Grand Vizier for failing to repel the Russian advance.
- The Russian Emperor's capture of Ottoman diplomats.
- Preparations for war across the empire. [For more information, see: Collection 3190, Document No. 239 (National Library of Hamma, Algeria)
- Collection 3190, Document No. 212 (National Library of Hamma, Algeria)]

4.4. Economic Updates: Wheat Prices and Customs

Algerian authorities occasionally exported wheat to Ottoman markets, but faced challenges, as seen in a shipment to Izmir:

- Price Collapse: Wheat prices fell to 10 qirsh per kile.
- Spoilage: Part of the cargo rotted, emitting a foul odor.
- Market Saturation: Oversupply in Izmir led to further price drops (fatahat al-aswam) (National Library of Algeria, 1827/1242 AH).

In another letter (19 Rajab 1244 AH), Khalil Afandi informed Hussein Pasha of resolved trade disputes:

"...At present, merchants have paid freight and customs duties to ship goods to Algiers, earning a 33% profit... However, a 3% deficit remains on certain commodities due to tax discrepancies..."(National Library of Algeria, n.d.-a).

4.5. News Of the Eyalet

The documents also provide insights into matters specifically concerning the Algerian Eyalet, including:

First- Appointments of Representatives at the Sublime Porte: A letter from Khalil Afandi (Jumada II 1244 AH) notes:

"...The aforementioned Kapudan Pasha, Ahmed Pasha, has intervened regarding the interests of Algiers (Dar al-Jihad) in Izmir. Originally, the agent responsible for the ocak's affairs in Tunis was Hajji Dawood Zade al-Hajj Hussein Afandi, however, a dispute arose among Istanbul merchants trading via Tunis, leading to complications when the goods arrived in Izmir, where they remained stalled for some time..."(National Library of Algeria, n.d.-a).

Second- Updates on the Khan (Algerian Agency) in Izmir

Agents and the mufti submitted detailed reports on the Khan's operations, highlighting:

- Depletion of funds in the Khan's treasury.
- Gifts dispatched to the Grand Vizier and other officials, in line with tradition, to secure their assistance in resolving the Eyalet's affairs(National Library of Algeria, n.d.-a).
- Gifts received by the Kapudan Pasha (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-a).
- Delivery of letters and gifts sent by Hussein Pasha from Algiers to Ottoman officials in Istanbul, alongside mentions of an Algerian envoy stationed in the capital(National Library of Algeria, n.d.-a).

Third- Legal and Diplomatic Matters at the Sublime Porte

In one dispatch, Khalil Afandi alerts the Dey to a critical development:

"...The French representative at the Sublime Porte has submitted a memorandum to the Bab-i Ali, asserting that a state of war already exists between France and the Algerian ocak, as the document claims this as a fact, necessitating urgent clarification, where he has requested an official corrective statement from the Bab-i Ali to refute these claims, pending Your Excellency's directives..." (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-a).

5. Routes of Information Transmission After the French Blockade of Algiers

Following the French naval blockade, the established channels for conveying news from the Ottoman Empire to Algiers underwent significant modifications, whereas previously correspondence from agents and informants would arrive directly at the port of Algiers through Liman Reis (port authorities) for immediate delivery to either the Dey or the Wakil al-Kharj (Treasury Agent), the blockade necessitated alternative routing through Tunis, [Abdul Jalil al-Tamimi pointed out that the Deys of Algeria were agents, or consuls, in a number of countries. In Thessaloniki, for example, there was the agent of al-Kharj Muhammad; in Izmir, there was Qadi Khalil; in Alexandria, there was the agent Hajj Muhammad Agha and the agent Hajj Mustafa Karmos; and in Tunis, there were several agents of Algeria, including Muhammad ibn Ahmad, then Qaid Ali Khoja, then Si Ali ibn Issa, and Hajj Umar Muhammad Umar. See: Abdul Jalil al-Tamimi: *A Brief History of the Arab and Turkish Registers in Algeria*, Publications of the Higher Institute of Documentation, Tunis, 1983, p. 28. For more information, see: Khalifa Hamash: *Relations between the State of Algiers and the Sublime Porte*, op. cit., pp.194-196]. as evidenced in the correspondence between Ahmad Bey and Dey Hussein:

"...Your representative in Tunis, Hajj Ammar, has forwarded to us several dispatches including communications addressed to Your Excellency... The aforementioned agent indicated in his report the arrival in Tunis of Mustafa Rais, accompanied by twenty-nine yoldaş (crew members)..." (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-a).

The Algerian agent stationed in Tunis assumed a pivotal role as a communications intermediary, as in a dispatch dated 23 Ramadan 1244 AH, while acknowledging delays in receiving updates from Istanbul, he nevertheless guaranteed the prompt forwarding of all intelligence received from other regions (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-a).

On the other hand, Hajj Ammar's report to Ibrahim, the Wakil al-Kharj, documented the arrival in Tunis of vessels from Genoa and Livorno, whose crews provided firsthand accounts of the ongoing Ottoman-Russian conflict, and the British naval intervention against Russian ships blockading Istanbul (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-a)., while Mustafa bin Saber, the deputy agent in Tunis, recorded the incident of an Ottoman warship from Izmir carrying Algerian volunteers being intercepted by French naval forces and compelled to return to Tunis (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-a).

A particularly revealing communication from Hajj Ali bin al-Mufti (24 Dhu al-Qa'dah 1242 AH), transmitted via Livorno to Ibrahim, the Wakil al-Kharj, contained detailed intelligence regarding the impending arrival of an Ottoman envoy to Algiers via Malta, in addition to official correspondence from the

Kapudan Pasha being conveyed through the Dutch consulate in Malta, as well as recent administrative changes within the Istanbul bureaucracy, and naval engagements between Ottoman and Greek forces (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-a).

The case of Khalil Afandi, an Ottoman envoy to Algiers, proved particularly illustrative of the challenges posed by French naval dominance, as after being intercepted by French vessels and forced to divert to Tunis, he composed an urgent dispatch noting: "...We have maintained constant vigilance in service of Your Excellency; intelligence shall be conveyed through Alexandria, Tunis, or Livorno without the slightest delay... The recent arrival of a Marseille vessel confirms French preparations, with over 200 merchant ships mobilized... Reliable sources confirm Muhammad Ali Pasha's troop movements toward Tripoli... Our deputy, Hajj Ammar, has apprised you of these developments... French forces openly discuss establishing bases at Raziu, Cherchell, and Sidi Fredj, clearly intending these as staging grounds for offensive operations..." (National Library of Algeria, n.d.-a).

7. Conclusion

This study reveals that the authority of the Regency of Algiers established an organized network for the transmission of information from the central Ottoman state to the peripheral administration of the Regency, as the process typically began with a letter or report authored by the Mufti or the agent in Izmir, which was then delivered to Hajj "Ali ibn al-Mufti," who was responsible for conveying it to the Regency.

This network operated in a coordinated manner with "Liman Reis" and was tasked with safeguarding the Regency's interests in the Sublime Porte, where most of the documented correspondence indicates that the Mufti, in particular, frequently intervened in favor of the Regency on economic matters, such as customs disputes.

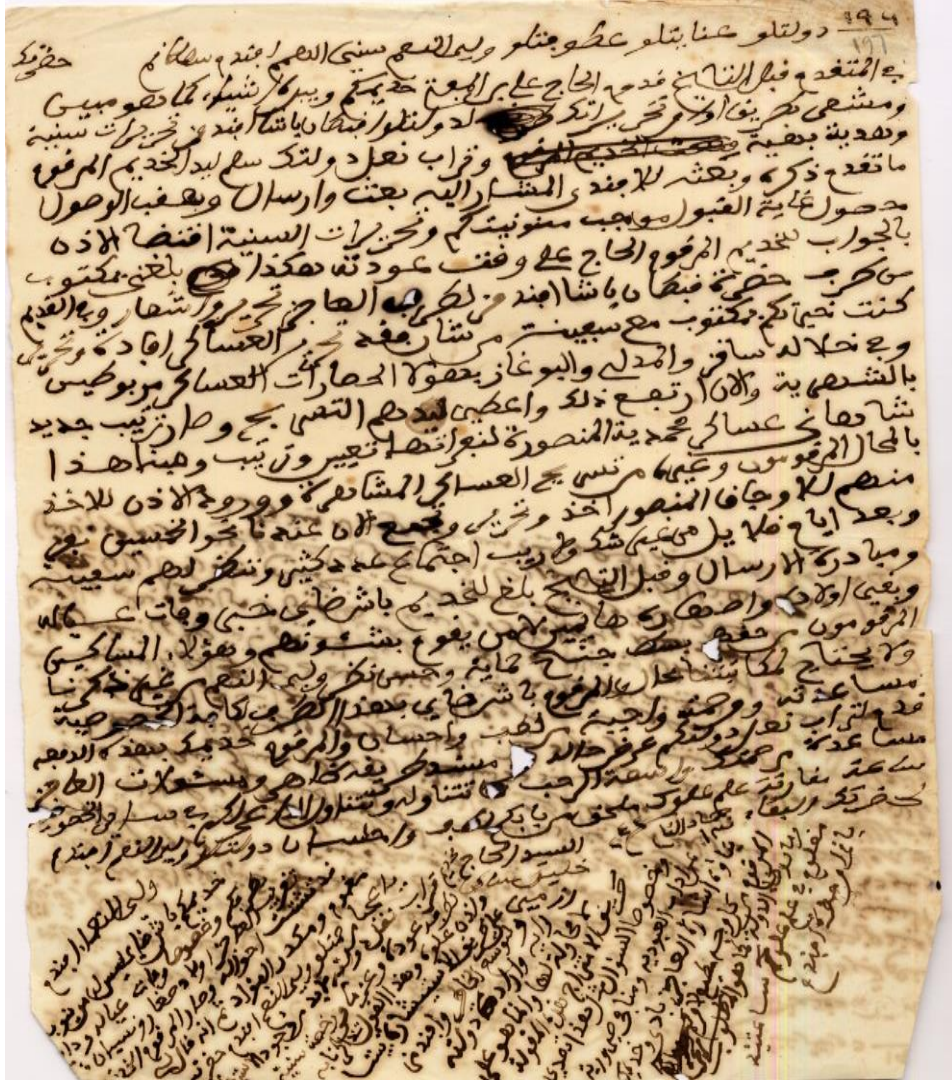
The Mufti faced interrogations by the ministers of the Sublime Porte, for which he prepared meticulously- a fact well-documented in the archival records, and while news was transmitted to Algiers via letters and reports, the Ottoman state, in turn, gathered intelligence through these interrogations, as its ministers compiled their reports to the Sultan based on the responses provided by the Regency's agents.

The documents further demonstrate that the agents and the Mufti reported directly to the Dey, with information initially reaching him without intermediaries. However, following the French blockade, the trajectory of communication shifted, with news first being routed to Tunis, then to the Bey of Constantine, and finally to the Khujah agent. Notably, the reports directed to the latter were more detailed and precise than their predecessors, particularly regarding updates on the French campaign against Algiers.

From the foregoing, it can be argued that Algiers’ agents in the Ottoman Empire formed a vital postal link, ensuring the flow of critical information to the Regency, as the significance of this channel is further underscored by its role in disseminating news related to the Ottoman Empire’s Mediterranean conflicts- such as the war against Greece- which directly impacted maritime navigation in the region.

Appendices:

Appendix No. (01): News of the recruitment of volunteers for the Algerian Janissary Army in the Ottoman Empire (National Library of Algeria, n.d.).



List of sources and references:

1. Archived documents:

Collection Number	Document Number
Collection 1903	Document No. 1
Collection 3190	Document No. 159

Collection 3190	Document No. 176
Collection 3190	Document No. 146
Collection 3190	Document No. 186
Collection 3190	Document No. 196
Collection 3190	Document No. 197
Collection 3190	Document No. 230
Collection 3190	Document No. 235
Collection 3190	Document No. 216
Collection 3190	Document No. 177
Collection 1903	Document No. 33
Collection 3190	Document No. 196
Collection 3190	Document No. 239
Collection 3190	Document No. 212
Collection 3190	Document No. 219
Collection 3190	Document No. 294
Collection 3190	Document No. 239
Collection 3190	Document No. 201
Collection 3190	Document No. 196
Collection 3190	Document No. 201
Collection 3190	Document No. 230
Collection 1642	Document No. 03
Collection 1903	Document No. 07
Collection 1903	Document No. 54
Collection 3190	Document No. 353

REFERENCES

1. Hammash, K. (1988). The relations between the Eyalet of Algeria and the Sublime Porte from 1798 to 1830 [Master's thesis, Modern and Contemporary History, Alexandria University].
2. Hammash, K. (1996). Index of documents on the history of Algeria in the Ottoman era. *Arab Historical Journal for Ottoman Studies*, 13-14, 299. Publications of Al-Tamimi Foundation for Scientific Research and Information.
3. Bin Na'mani, S. A. (2013). The function of Algeria's agent (wakil) in the Ottoman State and some of its eyalets through documents from the Ottoman archives in Algeria. *Al-Hikma Journal for Historical Studies*, 20, 205.
4. Al-Madani, A. T. (1980). From Algerian-Ottoman documents: The issue of the Diwaniyya between Algeria and the Ottoman lands. *History Journal*, 71. National Center for Historical Studies.
5. Al-Tamimi, A. (1983). A summary of Arabic and Turkish registers in Algeria (p. 28). Publications of the Higher Institute of Documentation.
6. Hammash, K. (2016). Documents on the history of Algeria in the Ottoman era (2nd ed., Vol. 1). Publications of the Faculty of Arts and Islamic Civilization, Emir Abdelkader University for Humanities.
7. Zohra, Z. (2015). Franco-British rivalry over Algeria and the stance of the Sublime Porte (1792-1830). Al-Qafila Publishing and Distribution.
8. Altun, A. S. (1989). The Ottoman Turks in North Africa (M. A. Amer, Trans.; 1st ed.). Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabiya.
9. Hakima, M. (2014). The Ottoman Sultan Mahmud II and the issue of the occupation of Algeria (1808-1839) (1st ed.). Alpha Publications.
10. National Library of Algeria. (n.d.-a). Document No. 176, Collection 3190 . El Hamma, Algeria.
11. National Library of Algeria. (n.d.-b). Document No. 146, Collection 3190 . El Hamma, Algeria.
12. National Library of Algeria. (n.d.-c). Document No. 186, Collection 3190 . El Hamma, Algeria. [This report refers to the corruption of the deys sent from Algiers to manage the affairs of the Khan and their neglect of these duties]
13. National Library of Algeria. (n.d.-d). Document No. 186, Collection 3190 . El Hamma, Algeria.
14. National Library of Algeria. (n.d.-e). Document No. 196, Collection 3190 [Unpublished archival manuscript]. El Hamma, Algeria.
15. National Library of Algeria. (n.d.-f). Document No. 197, Collection 3190 . El Hamma, Algeria.
16. National Library of Algeria. (1828). Collection 3190 dated 1244. El Hamma, Algeria.