

Nişancı Abdurrahman Abdi Paşa

Nişancı Abdurrahman Abdi Paşa (Nişancı 'Abd al-Rahmān 'Abdī, d. 1103/1692) was an Ottoman administrator and historian, and the author of *Vekayiname* (*Veqā'i'-nāme*, sometimes *Vaq'a-nāme*, "History of events"), a narrative centred around palace events from the beginning of the reign of Mehmed IV (Mehmed, r. 1058-99/1648-87) until 1093/1682. He served as private secretary to Mehmed IV, then as *nişancı* (affixer of the sultan's *tuğra*, *ṭiğhrā*, monographic signature), and subsequently in various high-level administrative posts in Istanbul and, from 1093/1682, in the provinces. As *nişancı*, he probably compiled two *kanunnames* (*qānūnnāmes*, collections of non-*shari'a* regulations), dated 1084/1673 and 1087/1676.

The date of his birth in the Bosphorus district of Anadolu Hisarı is unknown, as is his family background. As recorded in his *Vekayiname*, Abdurrahman was educated in the Ottoman palace in the early years of the reign of Mehmed IV. By 1069/1659, he had progressed to the *has oda* (*khāss oda*, privy chamber) and, in 1079/1668, he was appointed *sır katibi* (*sırr kātibi*, private secretary) to the sultan. He left the inner palace service in 1080/1669, when he was appointed as *nişancı*, the senior official in charge of affixing the sultan's *tuğra* to imperial documents; with this post he was also given the rank of vizier. Following his appointment as *kaymakam* (*qā'im-maqām*, deputy governor) of Istanbul for the duration of the Polish campaign of 1089/1678, Abdurrahman Abdi Paşa held several high-level administrative posts, including those of fourth and second vizier. In 1093/1682, he was appointed

governor of the province of Basra. Further regional governorships followed, including Kandiye (Crete) in 1101/1690. He died in Receb (Rajab) 1103/March 1692 as governor of Sakız (Chios). Nişancı Abdurrahman Abdi Paşa—otherwise known as *Tevki'i* (*Tevqī'i*), also meaning affixer of the sultan's signature—is not to be confused with his contemporary of Albanian origin, Abdurrahman Abdi Paşa (1025-98/1616-86), the last Ottoman governor of the Hungarian province of Buda.

Nişancı Abdi Paşa began to compile his *Vekayiname* at the request of Mehmed IV, probably in 1074/1663, while he was a member of the sultan's privy chamber. The palace-centred work can be considered in three sections. For the initial period (1058-74/1648-63), Abdi Paşa relied on existing sources, such as *Tarih-i gilmani* (*Tārīkh-i ghilmānī*, "History of the slaves") by Mehmed Halife (Mehmed Halife, d. 1109/1697), along with some personal observations. Most valuable is the long second section, from 1074/1663 to 1089/1678, when Abdi Paşa became *kaymakam* of Istanbul. This is a detailed court chronicle, compiled by a close associate of the sultan, often under the sultan's direction, and sometimes supported by transcripts of official documents and dialogue narratives (e.g. Murphey repr., 106-7; Finkel, 270). A short third section, compiled when the author was no longer so closely connected to the palace, concludes in Ramazan (Ramadān) 1093/September 1682, when Abdi Paşa was appointed to Basra. The *Vekayiname* was a source for the official history by Mustafa Naima (Na'imā, 1065-1128/1655-1716), who is usually considered the first Ottoman *vakanüvis* (*vaq'a-nüvis*, official historian). Nişancı Abdi Paşa may have been