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HERMAN TEULE

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Chyhyryn campaign

The town of **Chyhyryn** (Ott.T.: Çehrin; Pol.: Czehrin; Russ.: Çigirin) was of military and political significance in the later eleventh/seventeenth century as the stronghold and administrative centre of the Ukrainian Right-Bank Cossack state. It is situated approximately 250 km south-east of Kyiv in the present day Ukrainian *oblast'* of Čerkasy and lies on the Tyasmin river, a small west-bank tributary of the Dnipro, opposite a point approximately 500 km from the latter's mouth. The Ottoman campaign undertaken by the grand vizier Kara Mustafa (Qara Muştafa) Paşa in 1089/1678 against the fortress of Chyhyryn raises many problems for both Ottoman and Ukrainian history, such as

the "shifting chronology" of the Chyhyryn campaign according to the Muslim calendar, most of which have yet to be adequately investigated.

The campaign launched in 1089/1678 by the Ottomans against Chyhyryn is historically significant for a number of reasons. Firstly, it marked the culmination of five years of campaigning designed to deny west-bank Ukraine to Muscovy. A bloody campaign in 1085/1674 in which Kara Mustafa Paşa, at the time third vizier, and the Cossack *hetman* (supreme commander) Doroshenko played a major role (in the destruction of *palankas* (fortified settlements) such as Ladizhin and 'Umman and the massacre or deportation of their population, together with the laying waste of much of the *Ukrayna memleketi* (the land of Ukraine)) led to the downfall of Doroshenko in 1087/1676 and the occupation of Chyhyryn by Muscovite forces. In a campaign launched in 1088/1677 against Chyhyryn the Ottomans failed to capture it, but the successful campaign of 1089/1678, under its *serdar* (*serdār*, "commander"), the grand vizier Kara Mustafa Paşa, prefigures, in its combination of impetuous force and impulsive violence, in the size of the Ottoman armament, and in the skill of its mining and siegeworks, his much better known campaign undertaken only five years later against Vienna. The inconclusive outcome of the Chyhyryn campaign, which failed to gain any territory for the Ottomans despite the fall of the bitterly defended fortress, which was razed to the ground, also suggests what might have been the outcome had the Ottomans succeeded in taking Vienna in 1094/1683.

Secondly, the Ottoman campaign of 1089/1678, together with the less successful attempt in 1088/1677, mark the furthest point reached by the Ottomans

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Abstract: This dissertation presents two seventeenth-century Ottoman historical sources of the type called gazaname. This genre of writing appeared in the mid-fifteenth century and lasted to the Crimean war, but despite its popularity, the gazaname has not been the subject of rigorous study.

Two gazanames are presented here: the anonymous Cehrin Seferi and the Ahval-i Icmal-i Sefer-i Cehrin attributed to ('c)Abd'ul-Kerim Efendi, secretary to the Crimean khan, Selim Giray. These concern the Ottoman campaign against Chyhyryn in the Ukraine in 1678, an event which marked the apogee of Ottoman expansion in Eastern Europe, and they add significantly to our knowledge about this event.

Both works have been preserved in unique copies in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris, the Cehrin Seferi in an eighteenth-century copy made by a French scholar, Sieur LeRoux, and the Ahval-i Icmal-i Sefer-i Cehrin in an eighteenth-century Ottoman copy. Because of their location these works have remained unknown to Turkish scholars, and neither has been used in the study of Ottoman history. This dissertation gives a critical edition and an annotated translation of both sources with a discussion of the manuscripts, the style of the works and their probable authorship. The final chapter evaluates their historiographical significance, and compares them with other contemporary accounts of the Chyhyryn campaign, both Ottoman and European.

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