The Firman “Decree” 1841 to Keep the Rule of Egypt Generally

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Abstract
This research aims to most important goals that Muhammad Ali pasha sought to achieve his ambitions of establishing a large Arab empire. The Egyptian expansion in the Arabian Peninsula was one of its most important goals of such a goal posed a great danger to Britain because the attempt to control the south and east of the Arabian Peninsula would lead to control of the road of the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf. Due to this reason, the conflict between the Ottoman Sultan and Muhammad Ali pasha began. Britain took advantage of the Egyptian-Turkish crisis in 1839 AD, and the issue ended with the intervention of its forces in Syria, and Muhammad Ali was forced to withdraw from all the provinces he seized following the conclusion of the London Treaty of 1840 AD between the Ottoman Empire and the four European, powers (Britain, Russia, Austria, and Prussia) this study clarified the effects of the issuance of the firman 1841AD and its results limiting his forces, restricting his authority in Egypt within its natural borders and some areas in Palestine and to abide by the conditions of the Ottoman Sultan’s Farman, which led to the weakness of Muhammad Ali as the mentioned countries gave themselves the right to intervene in future to protect this province against any Ottoman interference, which means that the successors of Muhammad Ali pasha must rely on full European support to preserve the independence of their province in the future.
1. Introduction

Every historical era has its sources and documents that highlight the events of the such era, its nature, and its circumstances. The history of Egypt is replete with many historical events, documentary writings, texts and sources. The document is one of the most important sources to rely on in writing history as it is one of the papers issued by an official body or official persons. The document has more than one definition: (orders, decisions, decrees, agreements and treaties) (1).

The historical document bears the spirit of the age, and depicts its style of thinking, action, planning, drawing up public policy, and other civilized manifestations and political, economic or social trends. Therefore, the document has been classified as a living piece of the era, transmitted to us through years and portraying that era for us, thus shedding light on an era that has passed and gone. History is not studied without referring to documents (2).

The word Farman "decree" means the rule or order issued by the Ottoman Sultan to any person under the sovereignty of the Ottoman Empire. In order for the decree or ruling to carry the term Farman, it must contain the following elements:

1- Preamble: mentioned the names of God, the Blessed and Exalted.

2- The tugra: It is the sultan’s seal that is placed at the top of the Farman; it is the signature of the sultan and bears his name, so it varies from one sultan to another.

3- Sultanate titles: The titles and epithets of the Sultan are mentioned, they are many and varied.

4- The body sent to the titles of the addressee is mentioned; there are different expressions for each position holder.

5- Supplication: After mentioning the nicknames of the person to whom the ruling or decree is sent, his name is written, followed by a specific supplication that differs from one person to another, such as: May his highness lasts, may his honor lasts, or may his power grows.

6- Reporting and informing: In this paragraph is mentioned a summary of a letter received by the authorities with a presentation, a request or a petition. It is the most important paragraph of the document, as it is the reason that led to the issuance of the Farman.

7- Ruling or order: The opinion of the Sultan is written here on the topic received or presented to him; it often begins with the word “Byordamka: We have ordered to”; the sultan’s decision is explained in brief.

Warning or confirmation: it confirms to the addressee the importance of the subject and the necessity of implementing what was stated in the ruling, and warning him against negligence or delaying its implementation.

8- Date: The date of issuing the ruling is mentioned, and it begins with the phrase: Written in... Or written down in...

9- Place: The place of the Farman was issued, is mentioned (3).
Historical introduction To Muhammad Ali pasha:

Muhammad Ali was born in the Albanian city of Qawala in 1182 AH / 1769 AD. He was the only son of his father, Ibrahim Agha, head of the country guard. When his father died, his uncle Toson sponsored him, and when his uncle died, he was sponsored by the governor of the city named Al-Shurbaji. When he grew up he married one of his relatives. Muhammad Ali worked in tobacco trade, and this was the reason for his acquaintance with a French merchant named Monsieur “Leon”. He traveled with him to France. Then, when the High Porte wanted to fight the French to expel them from Egypt, Al-Shorbagy sent him as an officer of the Albanian division sent for this purpose to Egypt in 1801 AD. He was promoted to the rank of column commander, then remained in Egypt after the departure of the French, and was promoted to the rank of: Chief of the Saray Guard. How he accessed to power as soon as the French left Egypt, chaos reigned in Egypt again, and Egypt witnessed a state of chaos between (1801 and 1805 AD) as the three forces (the English, the Mamluks, and the Turks) contested for power. These three forces fought the French for their interest and greed in the Nile Valley, whose strategic importance was very great. The Turks tried to exterminate the Mamluks and eliminate them so that they wouldn’t contest them for power, and the Mamluks coveted after the departure of the French campaign to restore their rule in Egypt on the pretext that they were the oldest rulers to whom the country had succumbed, and the English coveted to occupy some important sites on the shores of the Red Sea to guarantee sovereignty in the seas. This resulted in an agreement between the Mamluks and the English against the Ottomans, but a fourth force appeared that spoiled such situation; it was the force of the Egyptian people, who wanted to be liberated and was led by the leader Omar Makram. It was the force that appeared in the field during the years the French army spent, however, the three forces ignored this national factor and did not reckon with it, but one man realized the impact of this new factor on the fate of the country and saw with his insight that victory is assured for those who seek his help and guarantee his support in the field of struggle and strife; this man was Muhammad Ali Pasha. When Muhammad Ali came to Egypt, he found the field fertile for the emergence of his talents and genius and participated in the last battles that took place between England and the Turks on one side and the French on the other side. Muhammad Ali kept observing the conflict between the three forces that were contesting over power and saw on the horizon that these forces are doomed to demise. He set for himself a plan indicating the genuineness of his opinion and his far-sightedness, a plan that was not preceded by a leader or a political ruler in that era, which was to be endeared to the people, to get closer to their leaders and use them to reach the top of power.

The Objectives of the Study

- Describing, publishing, and studying one of the most important documents of the Ottoman Empire (Farman 1841 AD).

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(4) Ahmed Shafiq, Basha, Holilites Masr Al-siyasa, Al-hilma el-masriya waala l-lkatb, Al-fahre, 2012, ج1, ط2, ص57


(6) Abdel Rahman Al-Rahami, Tarih Al-Al-Qomia Wa-Tawdor Al-Hum Al-Masry, Mihriya Al-fahre, Al-fahre, 1929م, ط1, ج2, ص311

(7) Abdel Rahman Al-Rahami, Al-Wajh Al-Sayyid, ص ص311-313
To highlight the importance of a sample of the documentary collection preserved in the Museum of Historical Documents to show the historical importance of these collections.

The scarcity of researchers and scholars interested in studying documents written in the Ottoman Turkish language, due to the language barrier and the difficulty of the script in which they were written.

**The Importance of the Study**

- To shed light on the intervention of the European countries and their alliance with the Ottoman Sultan to limit the powers of Muhammad Ali, to protect their interests and achieve their ambitions.

- To shed light on an important period in modern history of Egypt, and change of the regime in Egypt.

**Methodology:**

The researcher relied on the documentary historical research method, which includes the analysis of the external and internal characteristics of this document through the following steps:

1. The archival study through applying the standards of the International Council of Archival Description: the international description standard of an entity responsible for the preservation and acquisition of documents, and the international standard for archival description.
2. Documentary study to analyze the form or pattern in which the document was formulated.
3. Study of linguistic and calligraphic characteristics.
4. Translating, publishing and verifying the document.

1. The Farman which keeps viceroyalty of Egypt successively to Muhammad Ali pasha and his successors dated 1841 AD:

1.1 Text of the Farman:

The honorable constitution, the eminent Marshal, the director of the republic's affairs, by a penetrating thought, completing tasks of the people with the right opinion, facilitating works of the state, with motivation setting up the pillars of happiness and reverence, fraught with the passions of the supreme king, keeping in your custody viceroyalty of Egypt under the following conditions: My Minister, Muhammad Ali Pasha, may God Almighty honors you, this is to inform you, upon arrival of my high-ranking Shahani signature to you, that the I am, the sultan, fully aware of the obedience you have recently shown, and the goodwill and sincere loyalty you have displayed, whether to my royal self or to the benefit of my supreme state. This was one of the reasons for my royal pleasure, and therefore, given that you were inclined to jealousy and contest, and that you have experienced conditions of the province of Egypt, and you are aware of its matters and affairs during the long period in which you took over the reins of the administration of this province, and because you will work to be worthy
of the honor and trust that the Sultan has given you, that is, you will appreciate the value of all this, and you will take the procedures and means that will make your sons and grandsons worthy to bequeath this special advantage to them, the province of Egypt will remain in your custody, with its old borders indicated on the map sent to you by the Grand Vizier and stamped with his seal, with the privilege of succession under the following conditions see Figure No.1(8)

When you occupy the position of viceroy after today, the viceroyalty will pass from your eldest male son and grandson to the eldest of them directly, and my supreme state will assign him. And if, by fate, your male sons become extinct, then my supreme state would direct the position of viceroyalty to another viceroy, and the male sons born of your daughters will not have any right to this privilege. The rulers of Egypt had been granted this privilege by inheritance, each of them in terms of rank and in terms of progress and default on an equal basis with all ministers. The treatment of the ministers of my supreme state, as well as the titles and ranks they are given, must apply to the rulers of Egypt

1.2 Laws and Treaties:

Also, according to the Sultanate Farman’s text regarding veneration (Ketabkhaneh), to fulfill security and maintain honor and properties in this province, and to respect and implement all concerned treaties that will be concluded between my supreme state and friendly countries, and to put into practice all the laws and set regulations that will be applied in all states of my Sanniah authority, provided that this is done in accordance with justice and equity, and that taxes and fees are collected in my Sultan's name. Since the people of Egypt are subjects of my supreme state, the collection of tithes, taxes and fees must be done with the same principles and fair systems followed in my Supreme state so that no one will be harmed at any time with injustice and unfairness, and to pay in the appointed times, the annual returns payable by the province of Egypt including customs imports, tribute, tithes, and imports of crops as stipulated by the last most important Farman. And to send to the Two Holy Mosques the grains and fruits and whatever the province of Egypt used to send there in kind, and since my Sanniah authority has decided that the coins will be stamped with the Ottoman tughra, the coins that are the basis of transaction between people will have their fixed status starting from today so that they cannot be changed in terms of caliber or in terms of price, and the gold and silver coins that my Sanniah will allows to be cut and coined in my Sultan's name in Egypt must be identical to the coins of this entity, whether in their caliber, price, shape or description. Since a military force of 18,000 soldiers is sufficient to maintain internal security in Egypt in peacetime, it is not permissible for the state of Egypt to exceed this number, and since Egypt’s land and naval forces have only been prepared for the service of my supreme state, it is permissible in this case to increase the number of these forces during war. As it had been decided that the period of military service throughout my Sanniah authority would be five years, whereby the soldiers who spend this period in service shall be replaced by others, the province of Egypt should follow these principles, provided that the issue with regard to the military service period in Egypt is to take into account the preparedness of the people and to treat the situation
with justice, also the province of Egypt must send four hundred soldiers to my honor every year in the process of replacing the soldiers, provided that there is no any difference of the insignia and flags of the Higher State soldiers. The insignia of the officers who will serve must have the same insignia and flags used on the ships of the Supreme State. Viceroyos of Egypt are entitled to promote till the rank of Amiralay of those chosen from among the land and naval officers, as for the ranks above this rank, which is the rank of pashas of princes, generals, and lieutenant-general they must be granted by a permission from my supreme state and the issuance of my Sanniah will by agreeing to grant it. It is not permissible for the viceroyos of Egypt as well to build any warship unless they obtain permission to do so from my supreme state and get a definitive license. Since each of these basic conditions is related to the privilege of succession, the failure to perform any of them nullify the privilege of succession immediately according to what I decreed by my Sultanate will. Therefore, you and your son and grandsons must appreciate my Sultanate generosity, and to fulfill these basic conditions. You must also protect the people of Egypt from injustice and abuse, provide them security and stability, and to avoid violating that. You must write to me and seek permission in important matters and issues. For this reason, I have issued this solemn decree, adorned by my sultanate script, and to give it to you through His Excellency the great Saeed Moheb, the overseer of the Supreme Sultanate Court, and one of the officials of my supreme and greatest state, may God maintain his highness, in order for you to fulfill the work in the manner explained when you are informed of it. And when you receive it you must act according to the provisions of this Farman, so be aware of this and do the most honorable work...written in early Rabie Al-Akhar, 1257 AH See Figure No.2 (9).

2.3. Analysis of the Firman

**Firman type:** Shahani firmans

**Date:** Early Rabi` al-Akhir in 1257 AH / 1841 AD.

**Number of papers:** 4 sheets, number of document lines: 109 lines

**Language, script, and symbols of the document:** Ottoman Turkish, Dewani script

**Subject of the document:** Keeping viceroyalty of Egypt by succession in the era of Muhammad Ali pasha.

**Direct source of document acquisition:** Museum of Historical Documents at Abdeen Palace.

**Sender:** Sultan Abdulmecid I

**Sent to:** Muhammad Ali Pasha

**Condition:** Good

**Presentation:** Good
The effects of the issuance of the Farman and its analysis:

3.1 The Political influences of the firman:

The conflict between Muhammad Ali pasha and the Ottoman Sultan Mahmud II

Muhammad Ali fought many battles and wars, which led to the fear and anxiety of the Ottoman Sultan and Europe of Muhammad Ali’s ambition. The conflict between Muhammad Ali and the Ottoman Sultan began after Mora War, which is a turning point in Muhammad Ali’s wars. Muhammad Ali fought these wars hoping that the Sultan would reward him and grant him viceroyalty over the Levant in return for his help in putting down the revolution, but the Sultan disappointed him and gave him the island of Crete in the end, which Muhammad Ali considered a small compensation for the great loss he had incurred in the war of Mora. Muhammad Ali had previously asked the Ottoman Sultan to grant him viceroyalty over the Levant in exchange for a sum of money to be paid to the High Porte, but the Sultan refused his request out fear of Muhammad Ali’s ambitions and the expansion of his influence which became a danger to the Ottoman authority itself. It seems that Muhammad Ali decided to add Syria to his viceroyalty despite the objection of the Sultan, so he resorted to using some excuses that allow him to reach his goal without a direct confrontation with Astana, As the Egyptian peasants had fled to the Levant to escape from paying taxes or from military service which Muhammad Ali made compulsory to form his new regular army.

(Sultan Mahmud II (1785-1839) was born in 1785 and took power from 1808 until 1839 AD. He was born in the Topkapi Palace, the youngest son of Sultan Abdul Hamid I, the Sultan who initiated radical and permanent reforms in the last century of the empire’s existence. The Ottoman Sultanate was in a state of confusion and confusion. The Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent was the last of the Ottoman sultans who led his armies himself, and they retired after him from marching to the war arena, leaving the leadership of the soldiers to their ministers and statesmen, and this is what disrupted the state’s conditions. It was his responsibility to carry out these tasks, and the life of the Sultan was a series from the hard struggle to achieve something for his country, and from some of his works, he built many new schools, and during his reign, modern buildings were built, and all the mosques of Istanbul were also renewed, and he died in 1839.

For more see Kate Fleet, Gudrun Kramer, Denis Matringe, The Encyclopedia of Islam Three, Brill, Leiden Boston, 2021, p 110
Muhammad Ali asked the governor of Akka to return the fleeing Egyptians, who numbered 6 thousand. His viceroyalty included all the land of Palestine and some of Syria and Lebanon, but he refused, considering that they, as subjects of the Ottoman Empire, had the right to reside in any province in this country, such logic did not suit Muhammad Ali, who was working on the independence of the Egyptian country from the Ottoman Empire. (16)

The Levant Wars:
Muhammad Ali took advantage of the refusal of the governor of Akka to return the Egyptians and decided to attack the Levant. It is clear that Muhammad Ali took this excuse to enter into a war with the Levant for reasons related to his own ambitions and his desire to expand his viceroyalty and establish his independent rule in Egypt. The sultans of the Ottoman Empire always changed the viceroys of the provinces, and Muhammad Ali feared that he would be banished from Cairo, especially after he had eliminated the Mamluks, and Egypt united under his authority, and his army became superior than the army of the Sultan himself. Muhammad Ali also realized after the Mora War the beginning of the collapse of the Otman family and the disintegration of its provinces in Europe through independence and liberation movements, so he, too, wanted to be independent by the rule of Egypt and even to add to it what he could control of the Levant before Astana falls in the hands of the European allies. (17)

Before Muhammad Ali went to war against the Ottoman Empire, he took into consideration the European countries that were immersing themselves in any problem in which the Ottoman Empire was a party, so France tried to tempt him to go to Algeria instead of the Levant, as that would not anger the Ottoman Sultan nor the European countries, but Britain insistently refused any policy or plan that would lead to supporting France’s influence in the property of the Ottoman Empire, so Muhammad Ali realized that his policy might encounter many and difficult obstacles at the same time, thus Muhammad Ali prepared his plan to march towards Syria after he succeeded in winning friendship of France and his alliance with the Prince of Lebanon paved the way for him to achieve his desire. (18)

3.2. Reasons of the firman:
Conclusion of the Treaty of London:
After the Ottoman army was defeated in Syria, the Ottoman Sultan became cautious and reorganized the Ottoman army in response to the occupation of Syria in 1839 AD. The Ottomans moved to restore the region, but they returned again with defeat, and at this stage the European powers intervened, and forced the Egyptians to withdraw from Syria in 1840 AD (19) under the Treaty of London, which was made by the four powers (Russia - Britain - Austria and Prussia) in agreement with Turkey, except for France, which refused to interfere with them and was excluded from the agreement. London

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(16) معيز غبور، أحمد عثمان، محمد علي باشا (عودة الذاكرة المصرية)، مدبولي، القاهرة، 2011، ص101
(17) نفسه، ص102
(18) هدى علي بلال، الصراع العثماني المصري على بلاد الشام والموقف الدولي منها (1830-1841)، مجلة أبيات كلية التربية الأساسية، مج 10، ع 4، جامعة الموصل، العراق، 2011، ص345
(19) Gabor Agoston, Encyclopedia of The Ottoman Empire, Facts on File, New York, 2009, p205
Treaty, which consisted of three parts, was concluded and started by stating that the contracting countries had reached an agreement with Turkey to calm the situation in the east and work together to force Muhammad Ali Pasha to accept the conditions that he must receive and in case of refusing to accept it, the authorities pledge to force him to do so. The summary of the conditions of this treaty is to give Muhammad Ali and his successors the rule of Egypt successively and the rule of Palestine (Akka), provided that this is accepted in a period not exceeding ten days of being informed of this decision and that his acceptance be accompanied by issuing his orders to withdraw his soldiers from the island of Crete, Hijaz and Adalah and from every land he seized by force, and the Arabian Peninsula is in the first place, and in the event of rejection, the offer would be limited to Egypt only, and in the event that his forces are not withdrawn within ten days, he will be denied Egypt, to pay to the Sultan an annual tribute commensurate with the lands under his hand, that Mohammad Ali would abide by applying all the treaties concluded by the Ottoman Empire with the European countries, that Muhammad Ali’s land and the sea force would become part of the Sultan’s forces, if Muhammad Ali refuses these conditions, the allies would resort to using force against him, and their commitment to protect the throne of the Sultan.

3.3. Firman results:
Muhammad Ali’s submission to the terms of the treaty
At first, Muhammad Ali did not accept any of these conditions, so the High Porte announced his removal and besieging of the Egyptian and Levantine shores. On the one hand, Muhammad Ali was still hoping for France to help him and relied on the army of his son Ibrahim, and on the other hand, France believed in the greatness of Muhammad Ali’s armies and that he could resist the countries until they are ready with their army, but the incidents showed otherwise; France refused to help Muhammad Ali, so Muhammad Ali preferred to withdraw his army and administration from the Levant, the Arabian Peninsula and its coasts, and the Egyptian issue, or what was known as the Eastern issue, was settled.

4. Conclusion
-Muhammad Ali, through his wars with the Ottoman Empire in the Levant, tried to establish an Arab empire by virtue of his control over the Arab part of the Ottoman Empire, but he did not declare his independence or declare his Arab state because the major states, led by England, rejected it his argument, and for independence was that the successive setbacks of the Ottoman Empire, made it an easy prey for European states.

-Muhammad Ali did not read well the international situation, and the British policy in particular, as he rushed a lot with his expansionist ambitions, especially in the regions of the Arabian Gulf, which were areas of British influence, and the Levant, which meant a great loss for the Ottoman Empire, a loss that the international powers did not accept at that time, in addition to his policy that caused in the lack of support of the peoples of the areas that he controlled, so he found himself alone when the world converged against him, thus he lost his ambitions and failed to achieve his policy, contrary to what


[22] عمر الإسكندري، سليم حسن، تاريخ مصر من الفتح العثماني إلى قبيل الوقت الحاضر، هندawi, القاهرة, 2012، ص187

[23] Letitia W. Ufford, op. cit, p99
he wanted to do, and was chosen by the people to rule Egypt; his soft policy made him a viceroy of Egypt with a choice of its people.

-The European countries were given the opportunity to cause the downfall of the Ottoman Empire, to divide its property, and prevent it from concluding any agreement with Muhammad Ali, in order to increase the dispute between the Ottoman Empire and Egypt, and the obligation to pretend to preserve the entity of the Ottoman Empire, which was in a state of weakness, especially without an army or fleet, and the presence of the Egyptian state with its strength on the international scene has become a threat to the interests of those countries in the region, especially Britain, which found in Muhammad Ali's policy a threat to its sovereignty in the Mediterranean and the Red Seas, and a threat to its interests on the way to India. Therefore, Britain worked hard to keep Egypt subjugated to the collapsed Ottoman Sultanate, which is easy to impose its will on.

-The Treaty of London led to a clear increase of the British influence in Egypt and the Arab region after the exclusion of Muhammad Ali from the region, and the Ottoman Sultan's feeling of gratitude to it for its support against Muhammad Ali.

-The Farman of 1841 AD. carried restrictions from the High Porte that were not mentioned in the treaty; this might have been to protect the throne of the Ottoman Empire, to limit the power of Muhammad Ali, and restore Egypt to its original borders before its wars, and the imposing of annual tribute and taxes, and in terms of determining the number of soldiers and replacing them from the High port every five years in order to ensure that they are not loyal to Muhammad Ali, and the great interest in the subjects of the Ottoman Empire to win the affection of the Egyptian and Ottoman people residing in Egypt.

-This Farman led to a general stagnation in this period. Schools were neglected and a number of them closed, which led to a shortage of educated people. Many factories were closed, and others were neglected, the commercial movement has weakened, and the state of agriculture has worsened.

Recommendations:
This document has not been previously published but has been referenced in some reference and its displayed in the Museum of historical document in Abdeen palace

The museum’s administration should review the document’s label card’s because it has historical errors, as it is written on the card that it was sent from Abdulmecid 11 to Muhamad Ali pasha but the Ottoman sultan at that time is Sultan Abdulmecid 1.

The dimensions of the document must be added to the label card, as it is considered an antique, like the rest of the pieces that are displayed in other museums and the corresponding museum display must be applied to all museums that contain antiquities, as the museum includes a documentary collocation that represents an important historical era Egypt’s modern history.
The decree keeping Muhammad Ali in the state of Egypt in his custody of inheritance was issued by Sultan Abdul Majeed in 1841 AD. (Preserved in the Museum of Historical Documents in Abdeen Palace) Photograph by the researcher.
Annex (2) Clause of laws and pledges attached to Farman 1841 A.D. to preserve Muhammad Ali’s mandate in Egypt by inheritance (preserved in the Museum of Historical Documents in Abdeen Palace) (photo by researcher)
Appendix (2) the rest of the provisions of the Farman 1841 AD
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