



DMES PUBLIC TALKS

History of the Ottoman Public Education and Paradigm Shifts

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Orhan Ghazi was the first sultan to establish a *medrese* in the Ottoman Empire, in the town of Iznik (Nicaea), in 1331. Classical *medrese* education continued for centuries without much change and served its purpose: graduating new members for the prestigious *ulama* and the judiciary. Although the Sahn-ı Seman and Suleymaniye *medreses* represented the peak of investment in this field, there were numerous *medreses* around the empire. Following the Industrial Revolution and major developments in the 18th century, the Ottoman Empire had to focus on formal military education by opening up new institutions. However, Sultan Mahmud's bureaucratic reforms and the establishment of new governmental institutions required different types of civil servants who could read, understand and more importantly implement the new regulations. The Tanzimat period had to rethink public education and redesign it with a new concept. They began by taking it under full control of the government.

This presentation will expound on the changes that occurred throughout the 600-year history of the Ottoman Empire from its beginning to its end. Special reference will be given to the concept of education from the first centuries of Islam.

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Room 8/9

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