

Migrations | Migrations within the Ottoman Empire | Powerbrokers

The Ottoman State's complex and diverse ethnic, cultural and religious fabric included many migrants who succeeded in becoming wealthy and powerful.

Most migrants in the Ottoman Empire built only modest new lives away from home. Some, however, became rich and powerful in their adopted country. Many high-ranking officials in the Ottoman hierarchy came from the ethnically and religiously diverse communities of the Balkans, Anatolia, the Caucasus, the Levant and North Africa. Most remained faithful servants of the system that made them, but others – particularly in North Africa – ended up breaking away and ruling practically unchallenged. Known as pashas, deys, beylerbeyi and beys, these personalities, aided by their military and intellectual elite, did much to advance their countries by introducing reform and improving the local infrastructure while consolidating their power by adopting the customs of and intermarrying with the local population.



Working Number: ET1 003

Name: Muhammad 'Ali Pasha

Holding Museum: Bibliotheca Alexandrina

Date: 19th century

Materials: -

Curator Justification: Muhammad 'Ali Pasha was an Ottoman general of Albanian descent. Dispatched to look after Ottoman interests in Egypt, he soon assumed practically unchallenged power. A great statesman and considered the founder of modern Egypt, he governed between 1805 and 1848 and established the dynasty that was to head Egypt until middle of the 20th century.



Working Number: ET1 002

Name: Ibrahim Pasha

Holding Museum: Bibliotheca Alexandrina

Date: 19th century

Materials: -

Curator Justification: Ibrahim Pasha, Muhammad 'Ali's son, distinguished himself as a military leader. One of his campaigns was aimed at halting and rebuffing the east-west migration of pastoral nomads from the interior of the Arabian Peninsula to Palestine.



Working Number: ET1 001

Name: Khedive Ismail

Holding Museum: Bibliotheca Alexandrina

Date: 19th century

Materials: -

Curator Justification: Isma'il Pasha, viceroy of Egypt from 1867 to 1879, was a determined moderniser. The Suez Canal – inaugurated in 1869 during his reign – opened a vital route for mass migration to Asia.



Working Number: TN 029

Name: L'escalier des lions (painting)

Holding Museum: Palais de la Rose – Musée de l'Armée

Date: 19th century

Materials: Canvas, wood, coloured pigments, gold leaf

Curator Justification: In 19th-century Tunisia, the Husaynid Beys – of Muslim Cretan origin – ably ruled the country from Tunis's Bardo Palace in the face of considerable and complex, political challenges. Here, Muhammad al-Sadiq Bey (1813–82) leaves the palace surrounded by his officials, themselves of varied ethnic backgrounds.



Working Number: TN 046

Name: Portrait of Hammouda Pacha Bey

Holding Museum: Institut Supérieur d'Histoire Contemporaine de la Tunisie

Date: 19th century

Materials: Wood, paint, gold leaf

Curator Justification: Hammuda Ibn Ali, who ruled Tunisia from 1782 to 1814, belonged to the ruling Husaynid family, originating from the island of Crete. Tunisia had had a considerable and diverse Ottoman Turkish population since the 16th century.



Working Number: TN 022

Name: Painting of Ahmed Pacha Bey

Holding Museum: Musée d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine de Kassar Saïd

Date: 19th century

Materials: Canvas, wood, coloured pigments, gold leaf

Curator Justification: The Husaynid Ahmad Pasha Bey, who ruled Tunisia from 1837 to 1855, was a great reformer and thinker. Among his greatest achievements was the closure of the slave market in Tunis in 1841, followed by his declaration in 1846 that all slaves should be set free.



Working Number: TN 017

Name: Tourbet el Bey

Holding Museum: -

Date: 18th–19th centuries

Materials: -

Curator Justification: The tombs of the Husaynid Beys of Tunisia are housed in the royal mausoleum in Tunis. They are further surrounded by their most faithful and loyal officials, ministers and servants. The unity in death belies the personalities' varied and complex ethnic backgrounds and interrelations.



Working Number: TN 062

Name: The Bach Hamba brothers

Holding Museum: Institut Supérieur d'Histoire Contemporaine de la Tunisie

Date: Early 20th century

Materials: Paper

Curator Justification: Muhammad Bach-Hamba and his brother Ali were Tunisians of Turkish origin. Retaining their Ottoman Turkish cultural ties, they were inspired by the reformist ideals of the Young Turks while visiting Constantinople. In 1907, they founded the Young Tunisians party. They also launched the first Tunisian French-language newspaper *le Tunisien*: ses revendications.



Working Number: TN 009

Name: Mohamed Bey Mosque

Holding Museum: -

Date: 19th century

Materials: -

Curator Justification: The only Ottoman-Turkish style mosque in Tunisia, this building symbolises the memories, presence and aspirations of the country's ethnic Turks. In the country since the 16th century, they soon became an integral part of local society, and many rose to key positions in government or even to the position of ruler.



Working Number: TN 007

Name: The Great Mosque and University of Zaytuna

Holding Museum: -

Date: 7th century

Materials: -

Curator Justification: The Great Mosque and University of Zaytuna in Tunis, first built in the 8th century, has been an enduring centre of Arab Muslim culture over the centuries. Rulers and migrating scholars and students from the four corners of the Arab Muslim world have contributed to the endurance of its intellectual impact.



Working Number: TN 056

Name: Palais du Bardo

Holding Museum: Archives Nationales

Date: 19th century

Materials: Paper

Curator Justification: The patronage of the Husaynid Beys encouraged both local and incoming artisans and craftsmen with sophisticated projects focused on their capital city Tunis, including the continuous improvement of

the splendid, Italian-style throne room in the Bardo Palace with its rich furnishings and monumental chandeliers.



Working Number: DZ 118

Name: The interior of Mustapha Pacha's palace

Holding Museum: Musée National des Beaux-Arts

Date: Late 19th century

Materials: Oil on canvas

Curator
Justification: In Algeria the local population was a jigsaw of, among others, indigenous Berbers, Arabs, Andalusian immigrants and Turks, who arrived in the 16th century in the wake of Ottoman conquest. Intermarrying with the local population, the Turks, known as Deys, dominated political life well into the 19th century. This is the palace of the most famous and powerful Dey of the Regency of Algiers, Mustapha Pasha, assassinated in 1805.
