

## **The Impact of Industrial Revolution on Ottoman Empire: A Case Study of Military Factory**

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### **Abstract**

Industrial Revolution that started in the UK and expanded its impact area in Western European countries later launched a large-scale transformation by changing Europe's existing socio-economic structure. Because of the transformation that started with the realization of surplus value in the agricultural sector in the UK firstly, urban centres have developed intensively and it created a market for this surplus value in rural areas. Industrialization has affected Europe quickly due to such reasons as increasing demand, capital accumulation is enough, social structure adapted to change. Transformation of the weaving industry became the first soul of industrialization then with the invention of machines running with steam power, the first phase of the Industrial Revolution was completed. While the number of factories operating in cotton weaving industry in Europe in the 18<sup>th</sup> century was around 900, it reached about 1.500 in 19<sup>th</sup> century.

With the existence of becoming technical, knowledge accumulation and the capitalist thought, labour-intensive production decreased and the share of capital-intensive production increased. European states of which economies developed with the industrialization started to use neighbouring countries as market. Countries like The Ottoman Empire, India and China that were in the outer space first with the existence of a trade flow from the centre toward to neighbour were began to be seen as the neighbouring countries and these countries have sought to integrate to the industrialization.

Industrialization movements in the Ottoman Empire that form the subject of study did not occur in a structure similar to that in Europe. While Industrial Revolution was expressing the essence of the transition from agricultural production to machine technology, this process was manifested in different areas in the Ottoman Empire. It was possible to control the geography that was owned sovereign in the Ottoman Empire that has wide range of geographical borders with a solid and working structure of military and financial power. Hence, the factories and mills located within the state were built to be used more in the manufacturing of military tool. The defeats in the wars in the 18<sup>th</sup> century unrolled that Ottoman cannonballs were insufficient; European states went into becoming technic in military area. Shipyard, armoury, gunpowder factory and arsenal are considered as heavy industry in the Ottoman and these were usually formed in such cities as İstanbul, Thessaloniki, Gelibolu, Bor, İzmir.

In the study, to what extent industrialization took place in the military field in the Ottoman Empire contributed to the Ottoman economy was examined by taking plant production data of that period into consideration.

**Keywords** : Industrial Revolution, Ottoman Empire, Military Industry.

**JEL Classification Codes** : N13, N43, N63.