

**“PERFIDIOUS ALBANIANS”
AND “ZEALOUS GOVERNORS”:
OTTOMANS, ALBANIANS, AND TURKS
IN THE GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE**

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On the eve of the Greek Revolt, Ottoman rule in Albania was tenuous. In a decade that roughly corresponded to the Greek War of Independence, but actually preceding and succeeding it, the Ottoman government moved with great energy to bring Albania into the centre's orbit. It might be that the 'rebellion' of Ali Paşa preceded and precipitated the Greek Revolt, but it is even truer that the Greek Revolt enabled the Ottomans to control Albania more tightly than ever. There was conflict of opinions, interests and sometimes arms between the Ottomans and Albanians. In fact, Albania's reconquest by the Ottomans emerges as a parallel history to that of the Greek Revolt. My aim here is not to reconstruct this history in full, nor to assess the Albanian role or military performance in the Greek War of Independence but to explore into the tripartite relationship among the Ottomans, Albanians, and Turks.

Perhaps a few words of explanation are not out of place as to my usage here of the terms Ottoman, Albanian, and Turk for the sake of clarity. The term Ottoman is used to denote either the central government or the founding dynasty of the Ottoman Empire, or somebody, whether of free or slave origins, in the service of the Ottoman government and, in a wider sense, a person culturally participating in the ethos and pathos of being an Ottoman. I use Albanian much as the Ottomans did, to denote a conglomeration of tribes and communities regardless of religious affiliation. I consciously avoid using the word Turk interchangeably with the term Ottoman. Whenever the word Turk makes an appearance, it is either a direct quotation from Ottoman documentation or in a discussion built on such documentation.

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