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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### THE SULTANATE OF MURAD II (1421-1451) OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

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#### Abstract

Murad II was the sixth Ottoman sultan reigning from 1421 until 1451. Although his nature of ruling was acclaimed by the Ottoman historians and travelers and chroniclers of his time, research on the sultanate of Murad II was understudied. Franz Babinger, a well-known Ottoman classical history scholar stated that, "No book has been devoted to the life and sultanate of Mehmed's father and predecessor, Murad II." Thus, this study aims to explore the sultanate of Murad II in the Ottoman Empire from 1421-1451. This study employed a qualitative method through historical study and content analysis method. The method of data collection for this study was document research by analyzing textual and visual data from primary and secondary sources. The data were analysed through hermeneutic and descriptive methods. This study discovered that throughout Murad II rule, numerous crises emerged in his realm right after his enthronement and some of them threatened the sustainability of the Ottoman Empire. Nevertheless, he navigated the threats and crises adequately but effectively. As a result, he was able to consolidate and fully recover the Ottoman Empire after the impact of the Battle of Ankara. His nature of rule with justice, moderate tolerance and aggressiveness made him a great ruler, enjoyed by the members of his courts, pleased by his subjects, and admired by his opponents.

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#### Introduction:-

Murad II was born in Amasya, in central Anatolia. According to Kramers (1995: 594), Murad II was born in 806 A.H. that was either in 1403 or 1404. Inalcik (2022) argued that Murad II was born in Zulhijjah of 806 A.H. Based on the Gregorian calendar, Zulhijjah of 806 falls into the year of 1404 where the month Zulhijjah was either in June or July. Inalcik (2022) was confident that Murad II was born in June 1404, as agreed by Agoston (2009: 399) while Salih Gulen (2010: 46) inclined to state that Murad II was born in July 1404. According to the gallery of Edirne City Museum, Murad II was believed to be born earlier in 1402 but this opinion is isolated. His father, Mehmed I was the winner of the interregnum and the fifth sultan of the Ottoman Empire, ruled the Ottoman Empire from 1413 until 1421. On the account of his birth mother, Ottoman scholars have a different opinion. According to Agoston (2009: 399), Murad II was born by one of Mehmed's concubines whose name was unidentified. Lowry (2003: 153) through his study discovered that the mother of Murad II was Emine Hatun, a princess of the Turkish Principality of

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Dulkadirli. Gulen (2010: 46) agreed that the Sultan's mother was Emine Hatun. Inalcik (2022) nevertheless, believed that Murad II's mother was Sehzade Hatun, daughter of Divitdar Ahmed Pasha, after analysing the history of Amasya extensively.

Murad II was the eldest son of Mehmed I. According to Gulen (2010: 46), he had five younger brothers -Mustafa, Kasim, Amhed, Yusuf and Mehmed - and five younger sisters, - Selçuk Hatun, Hafsa Hatun, Ayşe Hatun, Sultan Hatun and İladı Hatun. Nevertheless, based on Edirneli Oruc Bey (Atsız, 1972: 78) and Asikpasazade's (Yavuz & Saraç, 2003: 162) accounts disclosed that Sultan Mehmed I had four sons and seven daughters. Asikpasazade (Yavuz & Saraç, 2003: 162) stated that his younger brothers' names were Mustafa, Mahmud, and Yusuf while the names of his sisters were not recorded by both chroniclers. Although not much was known of his life before his enthronement, there was one specific piece of information found in the account of Edirneli Oruc Bey (Atsız, 1972: 75), Asikpasazade (Yavuz & Saraç, 2003: 158), and Doukas (Magoulias, 1975: 121) of his assistance in resolving the uprising of Borkluce Mustafa when he was 12 of age in 1416. At that time, he was already appointed as the crown prince and resided in Manisa for his training (Atsız, 1972: 75). After he and Bayazid Pasha who was at that time a vizier of Mehmed I successfully annihilated Borkluce Mustafa and his supporters, Murad II was appointed as governor-prince and bestowed to govern the province of Amasya and north-central Anatolia to exercise his ruling skill. This shows that Murad II was involved in the Ottoman administration since he was twelve years old (Magoulias, 1975: 121).

Murad II reigned the Ottoman Empire twice. His first reign began when Murad II was enthroned after around 50 days of his father's death. There are arguments among Ottoman scholars on the date Murad II ascended to the throne. Based on Kramers (1995: 594), Murad II ascended to the throne in May 1421 (Jumada al-Ula 824). According to Agoston (2009: 399), Murad II was proclaimed as the Ottoman sultan around June of 1421. Inalcik (2010: 133) stated a specific date which is 25 June of 1421. Babinger (1978: 3) however claimed that Murad II was crowned in early July of 1421. During his first reign, he ruled the Ottoman Empire until 1444 when he decided to abdicate his throne in favour of his son, Shahzade Mehmed, the future conqueror of Constantinople. Nevertheless, his abdication was cut short due to the demand of the Janissaries who revolted against his son requesting his return to the throne. According to Ottoman chroniclers, this rebellion was plotted by Grand Vizier Halil Pasha as an excuse to bring back Murad II to the throne. Hence Murad II returned to Edirne and back to the throne discreetly in September of 1446 (Babinger, 1978: 45-46). He ruled the Ottoman Empire until his death in 1451.

Murad II passed away on the first of Muharram 855 A.H. equivalent to February 1451. Prior to his death, according to Babinger (1978: 61), Murad II retired to the Island of Tunca after attending his son's wedding ceremony. He remained in the island for several days based on Doukas' (Magoulias, 1975: 189) account, and up to a month, according to Babinger (1978: 61). While residing on the island, based on Asikpasazade's (Yavuz & Saraç, 2003: 215-216) account, Murad II met a dervish who had warned him that his death was near so he should repent for his sins. Later, Murad II returned to his palace in Edirne when he suffered intense headache. Murad II suffered his illness for only four days before he passed away. He died a peaceful death on his bed in Edirne.

Doukas (Magoulias, 1975: 188-189) expressed that, "Murad's death was not the result of manifold diseases nor was it painful. He suffered less than his father because God, I suppose, judged the man according to the good deeds he performed for the benefit of the common folk, and the sympathy he expressed for the indigent, not only for those of his own nation and impious faithfuls but also for Christians. The treaties which he sealed on sacred oath he kept inviolate and intact to the end. If some Christians resorted to the violation of treaties and the infraction of oaths, they did not escape the infallible eye of God. They were justly punished by the judgment of the Avenger. Murad's wrath was not intemperate. After a victory, the barbarian would not set out in hot pursuit of the fleeing enemy. Moreover, he did not thirst after the complete destruction of the fallen nation, but as soon as the vanquished sued for peace, he eagerly accepted their terms and dismissed the ambassadors in peace. He truly despised warfare and loved peace, and the Father of Peace meted out in turn a peaceful death to the barbarian instead of death by the sword".

### **The Reign of Murad II (1421-1451)**

Murad II ruled the Ottoman Empire for nearly 30 years. As previously stated, his first reign lasted from 1421 to 1444, and his second reign lasted from 1446 to 1451. His first reign was marked by a series of crises that threatened the Ottoman Empire's demise. This is because, at the time of his coronation as Ottoman sultan, the Ottoman Empire was still frail as a result of its defeat in the Battle of Ankara in 1402 and the era of power transition (Interregnum Period) that lasted until 1413. The Ottoman Empire's defeat in the Battle of Ankara resulted in the loss of Ottoman

control over the Anatolian principalities. During the interregnum period, there was a power struggle among Bayazid II's sons, namely Suleyman, Isa, Musa, and Mehmed. This had an impact on the liberation and independence of the Ottoman Empire's conquered territories in Rumelia (Hupchick, 2012: 114). This weakened the Ottoman Empire's position in Anatolia and Rumelia even more. Although his father, Mehmed I, was able to end the interregnum period and unify the Ottoman Empire in order to restore Ottoman sovereignty, his 8-year reign was insufficient to complete the task. As a result, Murad II faced numerous external and internal threats right after his enthronement.

The first crisis Murad II faced was a succession crisis between him and his uncle, Mustafa (Duzme Mustafa or Mustafa the Impostor), and his younger brother, Mustafa (Kucuk Mustafa or Mustafa the Young), which lasted three years from 1421 to 1423 (Ciociltan, 2008: 41). The first succession crisis began when The Byzantine Empire dissatisfied with the actions of Bayazid Pasha (Grand Vizier and beylerbeyi of Rumeli) who did not carry out Mehmed I's wish to send two of Mehmed I's sons to the hand of the Byzantine Empire (Magoulias, 1975: 132). As a result, Emperor Manuel II of the Byzantine Empire released his uncle and his companion, Izmiroglu Juneid, from their custody and supported his uncle to renew the civil war in the Ottoman Empire. While Murad II was busy dealing with his uncle, his younger brother's usurpation occurred incited by the rulers of the Karaman and Germiyan principalities who denounced the Ottoman suzerainty. At the same time, the Karaman and Germiyan principalities had inspired the rest of Anatolian principalities to join the rebellion (Yavuz & Saraç, 2003: 169). This had returned the Ottoman Anatolian region to its post-the Battle of Ankara state (Kilic, 2013: 259). In addition to the intervention of the Byzantine Empire which also supported his younger brother's rebellion to attain peace agreement with the Ottoman Empire through his younger brother, this threatened Murad II's throne and the Ottoman disintegration.

The second crisis that Murad II had to deal with was the crisis of rivalry with the Hungarian Kingdom during King Sigismund's reign. This rivalry crisis arose when Prince Stefan Lazar, ruler of the Moravian Kingdom of Serbia (ruling the northern region of Serbia), died in 1427 with no heirs to the throne. As a result, both the Hungarian Kingdom and Ottoman Empire competed for control over the Serbia's Moravian territories, as the kingdom was the client state of the Hungarian Kingdom and the Ottoman vassal state. Despite the fact that Prince Stefan had appointed George Brankovic, as his replacement, the delay in George Brankovic's arrival in Belgrade provided the Hungarian Kingdom with an opportunity to occupy the fortress first. Thus, Murad II took the same step as the Hungarian Kingdom and advanced to Serbia's Moravian realm. In general, the Serbian Moravian kingdom acted as a buffer state between the Hungarian and Ottoman state, with Belgrade and Golubac serving as important defensive fortresses between Hungary and the Ottoman territory. As a result, the Hungarian Kingdom desired both fortresses. Despite their capture of Belgrade, the ruler of Golubac surrendered the fortress to the Ottoman Empire to avoid being ruled by the Hungarian Catholicism. The desire of the Hungarian Kingdom to obtain the city of Golubac caused this rivalry crisis to last until King Sigismund's death on December 9, 1437 (Jefferson, 2012: 146). The coronation of King Wladislas III as ruler of the new Hungarian kingdom in 1440, however, brought a more serious crisis between the Ottomans and the Hungarians. The crisis was the formation of an anti-Ottoman coalition, which led to the third crisis, which was the Crusaders' strike.

Pope Eugene IV sought to raise a Crusader army to oppose the Ottoman Empire and expel them from Europe (Jefferson, 2012: 266). However, his ambitions were not realised because the Christian kingdoms could not respond to his summon because each had its own internal conflict, and they were aware of the Ottoman Empire's power. The success of John Hunyadi, the Voivode of Transylvania who was now appointed as Captain of Belgrade by King Wladislas III in 1441, who defeated the Ottoman army led by Ishak Bey on the Sava River in the first quarter of 1441, gave Pope Eugene IV new hope (Jefferson, 2012: 258-259). The victory of John Hunyadi over the Ottoman army sent by Murad II in March 1442, led by Mezid Bey to avenge the defeat of Ishak Bey, inspired both the Hungarian and European Christian Kingdoms that the Ottoman army could be defeated. As a result, Pope Eugene IV called for a Crusade against the Ottoman Turks led by John Hunyadi and King Wladislas III in 1443. In 1444, Pope Eugene IV pushed for a Crusade again after learning that Murad II had abdicated from the Ottoman throne and given Shahzade Mehmed, who was still young (12 years old), to rule the Ottoman Kingdom; on Murad II's belief that the peace treaty signed with the Hungarian government on June 12, 1444, would be obeyed by them. The declaration of the Crusades against the Ottoman Empire posed a significant challenge to Murad II, given that the occurrence of both attacks was unfavourable.

In addition to the three crises that emerged, Murad II faced rebellions that were common in the Ottoman government during his first reign. Besides the massive rebellion in Anatolia during the succession crisis he faced at the beginning of his coronation, there were other rebellions which occurred in the Ottoman Empire. Among these rebellions were

the Arianiti and Kastriot families' rebellion in Albania from 1433 to 1435, the Karaman principality rebellion in Anatolia in 1443 and 1444, and the rebellion of Iskandar Bey, also known as George Skanderbeg, in Albania in 1443, which continued until the second reign of Murad II (Jefferson, 2012: 310-311 372-373, 366-367). Furthermore, there are external threats to the security of the Ottoman Empire's territories and vassal states. Among them were the invasions of the Voivode of Wallachia in Danube in 1423 and the attack of Constantine XI Dragas against the Ottoman protectorate in Greece in Athens in 1444 until the second reign of Murad II. Nonetheless, with his judgment, emerging crises and threats had been effectively addressed (Zachariadou, 1983: 869; Babinger, 1978: 48).

In order to resolve the succession crisis, Murad II first sent two of his viziers, Bayazid Pasha, in 1421, and then Chandarli Halil Pasha, in 1422, to negotiate with the Byzantine Emperor, John VIII, to stop the empire's support for his uncle crusade, but they failed. Despite the fact that the second negotiation mission failed, Chandarli Halil Pasha was able to obtain information about Duzme Mustafa's advance to Bursa (Chalcocondyles, 2015: 373). With this, Murad II was able to plan the interception of Duzme Mustafa's advancement in Ulubad and the arrest of his uncle. With the help of Giovanni Adorno (a Genoese who served as podesta in New Phokaia) and the Frankish army, Murad II successfully crossed to Gallipoli and recaptured the port and then advanced to Edirne hunting Duzme Mustafa (Magoulias, 1975: 150-160). His uncle was apprehended and sentenced to death in February 1423 after being tracked down in Kızılağaç Yenicesi (Yavuz & Saraç, 2003: 169). Soon after Murad II had arrived in Edirne, he dispatched commander Mihaloglu to attack Constantinople and another contingent of his army to siege Thessaloniki as a punishment and a lesson to the empire that aided his uncle's cause.

On June 10, 1422, Mihaloglu began bombarding the wall of Constantinople. As a result, the Byzantine Emperor supported his younger brother, Kucuk Mustafa, in his rebellion. On September 6, 1422, Murad II lifted the siege and halted the attack on Constantinople, and advanced to Anatolia to hunt his younger brother while the siege of Thessaloniki continued (Virgil Ciociltan, 2008: 44). His younger brother was discovered taking refuge in Iznik with the assistance of Kucuk Mustafa's tutor, Lala Sarabdar Ilyas. Murad II and his army, led by Mihaloglu, attacked the city, but the city's defender responded strongly. Kucuk Mustafa was taken into the hands of Murad II once more with the help of Lala Sarabdar Ilyas, and according to Inalcik (2010: 137), his younger brother was executed on February 20, 1423, when he was thirteen years old, according to Laonikos Chalkokondyles (Kaldellis, 2015: 387). Following the resolution of the succession crisis, Murad II suppressed the Anatolian rebellion and dispatched a portion of his army to attack Wallachia to halt the Voivode's invasion on the Danube border. Murad II's actions were successful in stopping the invaders, who then requested a peace treaty with the Ottoman Empire (Zachariadou, 1983: 869).

During the Ottoman-Hungarian crisis, which lasted from 1427 to 1437, Murad II never shied away from attacking the Hungarian Kingdom, even though other threats necessitated the dispatch of military expeditions. As soon as King Sigismund died, Murad II resumed the Ottoman Empire's expansion policy, which had been put on hold by his father, Sultan Mehmed I, due to the Ottoman Empire's weakness, which had not yet fully recovered from the defeat in the Battle of Ankara and the era of Interregnum. Murad II assigned Ali Bey to lead the Ottoman army in raiding Hungarian territory and scouting the path to the kingdom (Yavuz & Saraç, 2003: 195-196). In 1438, a large military expedition to Hungary was led by the Voivode of Wallachia, which was then an Ottoman vassal state. Several Hungarian fortresses were successfully attacked and, in 1439, Murad II and his army captured Smederevo, the last Serbian capital city, forcing George Brankovic to flee to Hungary (Cirkovic, 2004: 103-104). Even so, the Ottoman Empire failed to capture Belgrade during a military expedition in 1440 (Jefferson, 2012: 240).

The crisis of the anti-Ottoman coalition and the Crusades in 1443 and 1444 was a challenging time for Murad II because there were rebellions occurring simultaneously in Anatolia and Rumelia. After putting down the Karamanid rebellion in Anatolia in 1443 which instigated by the Byzantine Empire, Murad II returned to Edirne to fight the Crusaders. Although it was difficult to assemble an army to fight because it was already autumn and the Ottoman people were busy preparing for winter, Murad II did not waver and led his army to face the Crusaders while waiting for the standing army formed through his decree calling for  *jihad*  against the Crusaders (Imber, 2006: 54). Many Ottomans answered Murad II's call. The Ottomans were able to defend their empire's sovereignty and drive the Crusaders from the Ottoman territory in the Battle of Zlatitsa 1443 through the brilliant strategy of commander Turahan Bey by attacking the Crusaders from the high ground (Jefferson, 2012: 341). For the Crusaders' attack in 1444, due to Murad II abdication in Manisa, Anatolia, Venice and Ragusa contributed fleets in this Crusade to prevent Murad II and the Anatolian armies from crossing the Bosphorus and Dardanelle Straits. Again, with the

assistance from Genoese merchant fleets in Pera and the anticipation of Murad II strategizing by lining up cannons along the coast of the Bosphorus Strait on the Anatolian side and ordering Halil Pasha to do the same on the Rumelia side, a land attack could be launched to constrain the infidel's fleets. Finally, on October 18, 1444, Murad II with the Anatolian army successfully crossed to Rumelia and continued to the meeting point with the Rumelia army in Aydos, thanks to a strong wind that changed the direction of the Crusader fleets from blocking the Genoese ships (Jefferson, 2012: 427-440). The Ottoman army then marched towards Varna to fight the crusaders, led by Murad II and his commanders. A fierce battle ensued, and the Ottoman army found itself in a disadvantageous position. However, due to the arrogance of King Wladislas III, who left his position and advanced towards Murad II, who only had 300 janissaries, King Wladislas III was successfully beheaded by Koca Hizir, resulting in the Ottoman army's victory (Imber, 2006: 100).

Murad II returned to Manisa after successfully defeating the crusader coalition until 1446, when he was summoned to the Ottoman throne. Murad II exhibited the Ottoman Empire's strength in his second reign by fighting Constantine XI Dragas and restoring Athens as an Ottoman protectorate and captured the Peloponnese region in 1446, as well as putting an end to George Skanderbeg's rebellion in Albania in 1448. However, George Skanderbeg's rebellion was not completely put down because John Hunyadi marched against the Ottoman Empire again. As a result, Murad II rushed to confront John Hunyadi in Kosovo. The Kosovo War began on October 17, 1448, and lasted two days, ending when John Hunyadi was forced to flee when the Wallachian army deserted him and supported the Ottoman army (Hupchick, 2012: 118). Murad II continued to suppress George Skanderbeg's rebellion in 1450. He was able to retake Albania's territory but was unable to apprehend George Skanderbeg, who was confined in the Kruje fortress. This was Murad II's final expedition as Ottoman ruler before his death (Imber, 2002: 27).

### **Murad II as A Ruler**

The reign of Murad II rule was full of crises which mostly arose during his first reign. However, he successfully resolved the crises with minimal effort but effectively. He distributed his resource wisely and know what to prioritise in managing the problems in his empire. Due to this, Babinger (1978: 5) acclaimed that, Murad II "... was an able statesman, with a clear understanding of the political situation of the times, but by no means a man who found satisfaction in war". Murad II, whenever he waged war, most of the time to defend his empire and vassal states and send out a warning to other kingdoms that they should not take the Ottoman Empire and his rule lightly even he is a young new ruler. Whenever peace was called, he accepted them almost every time (Babinger, 1978: 62). For instance, in the case of Isfendiyar Bey who participated in Anatolian revolt called for peace, he accepted it. In 1424, where he received ambassadors from around his realm to negotiate peace treaty, Murad II acknowledged the peace treaty with the various kingdoms with the exception to Venice who had a hidden agenda against the Ottoman Empire. This means he was aware of the political situation at that time even when he just began his rule. For every treaty he signed, he abided by that agreement except when the other party broke the treaty for example prior to the crusade of Varna in 1444 where the Hungarians broke the treaty ratified shortly before the war broke. Thus, he waged war against the crusaders. Because of this according to Babinger (1978: 5), "Not only his compatriots, co-religionaries, and court analysts but the Byzantine historians as well spoke of him as a loyal, forthright, and trustworthy man".

Murad II way of ruling was pleasant to the members of his courts and contented by his subjects. His personality and his rule were also acknowledged by his enemies. Based on the information gathered by Bertrandon de la Broquiere - counsellor and first esquire-carver to Philippe Le Bon, the Duke of Burgundy - during his pilgrim from Jerusalem back to France overland where he joined the entourage of Sir Benedict de Fourlino - the Ambassador of Duke of Milan - to the Ottoman Empire to meet Murad II in 1433, he reported that the person at the court of Murad II informed him that the sultan was "...kind, good, generous, and willing to give way, lands and money", showing how his subjects were satisfied with his rule (Johnes, 1807: 245). On top of that, on the account of Brocquire's impression of Murad II, he wrote that, "...every now and then, he makes great and remarkable examples of justice, which procures him perfect obedience at home and abroad" (Johnes, 1807: 248-249). This can be seen through his action punishing the Byzantine Empire, who supported to renew a civil war in the Ottoman Empire shortly after his coronation, by sieging Constantinople and Thessaloniki in 1422. Thus, the Byzantine Empire did not make any visible move against the Ottoman Empire later. On top of that, Brocquire observed that, "He likewise knows how to keep his country in an excellent state of defence, without oppressing his Turkish subjects by taxes or other modes of extortion" (Johnes, 1807: 248-249). This behaviour of Murad II was even shown during the first strike of the crusaders ten years later in 1443. Even though there was an insufficient army due to the end of war season, Murad II

did not force his subjects to fill the ranks. Rather, he issued a decree appealing his subjects to join his campaign against the infidels.

On top of that, based on the account of Broquire in regard of Murad II's answer for Duke of Milan's ambassador, on the negotiation of his master made on behalf of King of Hungary, Murad II spoke that if he was willing, he could push his conquest further into Hungary easily, but he frequently abstained the desire (Johnes, 1807: 253-254). This statement proves that he was not a man of war and rather embraced peacefulness. Thus, Doukas (Magoulas, 1975: 188-189) stated that Murad II death was a peaceful death for he was a peaceful man.

### **Contribution of Murad II in the Ottoman Empire**

The greatest contribution made by Murad II in the Ottoman Empire was consolidating the Ottoman Empire shortly after his rule around 1425 and fully recovering the empire from the impact of the Battle of Ankara by the end of his rule. Murad II took several actions to strengthen the Ottoman Empire. One of these was reimplementing the centralised government policy established during his grandfather's rule, Bayazid I, which was unsustainable and contributed to the defeat in the Battle of Ankara. This was due to the aggressiveness of Sultan Bayazid I in implementing the policy (Sugar, 1996: 21). Murad II attained the centralized government through a traditional way which was in a more gradual manner. Thus, this centralization could be sustained overtime. Besides, Murad II reconstructed the *kapikulu* shortly after he was enthroned (Hupchick, 2012: 128). Mehmed I, his father, revived the *kapikulu* after the interregnum by repurposing the *pençik* system and rebranding it into *devsirme* system. However, by institutionalizing *devsirme* system, Murad II successfully harnessed the full power of *kapikulu* hence strengthening the empire. According to Vryonis Jr. et al. (1965: 434) and Babinger (1978: 6), this system was institutionalised in 1438. According to Agoston (2009: 296), Murad II also introduced the use of firearms Ottoman for the first time during his reign around 1440s which strengthened the Ottoman military.

Apart from that, Murad II paid considerable attention towards the economy of his empire. There was a misconception about the Ottoman disinterest in trades and commerce due to the excessive military expeditions, which overshadowed other interests of the Ottomans. Nevertheless, based on Fleet and Boyar (2010: 15), some of the conquest expeditions made by the Ottoman were driven by economic considerations either to secure the trade routes or to obtain materials for trading. For example, the recapture of Kastamonu and the siege of Novo Brdo by Murad II both to obtain copper mines and silver mines respectively. Another example was shown through Murad II's willingness to compromise with the Venetian for trade purposes. A treaty signed on 4 September 1430, shortly after he conquered Thessaloniki from Venice, granted all Venetian Republic subjects and merchants with freedom to travel and trade in the Ottoman territory (Babinger, 1978: 10). This increased the Ottoman Empire's revenue which helped to recover the Ottoman Empire's economy.

With the stability of the Ottoman Empire economy, Murad II developed Ottoman cities especially the Ottoman capital city of Edirne by building bridge, mosques, and palaces. Besides that, he also rebuilt walls of Thessaloniki after conquering the city. In Anatolia, he built a madrasah complex with a mosque and a soup kitchen for the poor. On top of that, he became the patron of the arts and literature which caused the development of the Ottoman culture in his empire. Thus, Kiel (2009: 176-190) stated that, by the end of his rule, the south-eastern Balkans had become fully integrated into the Ottoman culture.

### **Conclusion:-**

The sultanate of Murad II was filled with numerous setbacks and crises which he inherited from his father's period and experienced during his reign. As the Ottoman Empire was not fully recovered after the Battle of Ankara, the enemies took advantage of this condition to suppress the empire with the rise of a young new ruler. Thus, the Byzantine Empire instigated to renew the civil wars in the Ottoman Empire by releasing Sultan Bayazid I's son, Duzme Mustafa to compete with Murad II. The Karamanid and Germiyanid also took advantage of the situation by initiating revolts and inspired Kucuk Mustafa, Murad II's younger brother, and principalities of Anatolia to join their movement. The other neighbouring Christians Kingdoms did not miss the opportunity to inconvenience the Ottoman Empire, be it the Wallachian Kingdom or Hungary. Albeit with the rise of the new sultan, Murad II, the setbacks, and crises terminated successively. With his ability and the wisdom of his viziers, the safety of the Ottoman Empire was secured. Under Murad II's rule, the Ottoman Empire was consolidated around 1425 and, by the end of his rule, fully recovered from the impact of the Battle of Ankara 1402. The Ottoman power was revived, and the Ottoman expansion policy was renewed. In conclusion, the sultanate of Murad II rule witnessed the resurrection of the Ottoman Empire

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