

Section 4. History

Секция 4. История

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An effort by Pope Alexander VII to organize broader anti-Ottoman coalition in the year of 1666.

Abstract: This report discusses an attempt of Pope Alexander VII to incorporate the Swiss Catholic cantons in alliance with Venice against the Ottomans in 1666. Venice was at that time in an exhausting war with the Ottoman Empire because of Crete. This war has hindered the position of the St. Mark republic, particularly its business, which was based fairly on a trade with the Ottoman state. Crete was an important trading destination in the Mediterranean and the only remaining stronghold of Venice in the East. The Swiss did not join this alliance and Venice had lost Crete in a peace accord which they signed in 1669.

Keywords: Alexander VII (1655–1667), Venice, Switzerland, Ottoman Empire, Cretan War.

Christian Europe has not managed to unite against the Ottoman invasion for several centuries. Europe was not united, not even when it was twice been compromised, the very capital of the Holy Roman Empire, Vienna. This issue has not drawn much attention of researchers in European historiography to date. Contemporary researcher of relations between Islam and Christianity in the Mediterranean region, Jeremy Jones, rightly points out that the modern Western historiography largely ignored the great danger when the West was threatened by the Ottoman Empire between the 15th and 17th centuries, reducing it to regional conflicts [9, 220].

In addition to all efforts to organize the broad European coalition to stop the threat of further progression of the Ottoman Empire in the West, it was never organized to the full extent. During the ferment for the foundation of such alliances Roman popes played a central part. On one such attempt of the Vatican to arrange a broader coalition against the Ottomans we are treating with this clause. This thought came to Pope Alexander VII (1655–1667), at the peak of the Cretan war between Venice and the Ottoman state. On this occasion, the Pope wrote from Sienna to Catholic Swiss cantons, asking them to help Venice in the war against the Ottomans. This letter from the Pope to Catholic cantons is kept in the State Archives of Fribourg in Switzerland [1]. Among other things, Siena is the hometown of Pope Alexander VII,

the seat of his banking family of Chigi. Before being elected for the Pope, Alexander Chigi was nuncio in Cologne and therefore near to the Habsburg policy, and how the French were opposed to his election as Bishop of Rome, the Vatican and France relations in his time, became worse [8, 72–73; 6, 283–284]. In the war against the Ottoman Empire as an ally of Venice the Papal State was involved, but also other European countries. Long-term Cretan war has greatly weakened the economy of the Republic, which has largely benefited from the lucrative trade with the Ottoman Empire [4, 124–126]. On the other hand, the economy of the Ottoman Empire did not rest solely on commercial affairs, and in the very conflict Ottomans were able to strengthen their authority on the island mainly due to the strong leadership of the great vizier of Köprülü family. All this resulted in a major offensive in 1666 against Venice. The offensive, which endured for two years is believed to be the bloodiest and most vicious part of warfare, and ended the peace negotiation, according to which the whole island and the urban center of Iraklion came under Turkish rule [10, 539–542]. For the most part the war was waged in the Levant and Venetian lands on the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea. Just in 1665/66 Ottomans sent in significant military forces to Crete for the purpose of the occupation of the whole island [5, 292–203].

Alexander VII had the idea that the Swiss Catholic cantons, which have maintained excellent relations

with the Vatican, could provide military assistance to Venice, which was on the defensive in conflict with the Ottomans [1]. Venice was during the 16th century, almost completely driven out of the eastern Mediterranean and left with only one stronghold, Crete. That Venetian post was a thorn in the eye of the Ottomans, who wanted to completely suppress the Republic of St. Mark's to the west. Venice now remained only the holdings on the eastern Adriatic coast, and who have themselves been exposed to Ottoman pressure. Alexander VII supported the Jesuits at the time he sought help from Venice in Crete against the Ottoman Empire. The Pope in turn extorted a promise that the Jesuits will be able to return to the Venetian territory, where they were driven out in the early 17th century. Candian war was exhausting for the Republic and lasted from the year of 1645 until the 1669. Venetian trade was to a large extent focused on the business of with the Ottoman state and the war seriously jeopardized its economy [10, 543–547; 12, 30–35].

The circumstances that compelled Alexander VII to turn to the Swiss Catholics were practical. Switzerland, during the 16th century, was shaken by the process of the Reformation, which permanently divided its society. Then there was the time of the reforms of the Roman Catholic Church, the resistance against Protestant expansion and struggle with their own weaknesses. Swiss Catholics were trying to resist primarily Protestant expansion [13, 171–180; 8, 31–44]. In the historiography, this period is known as the Confederation of thirteen cantons de facto independent community and de jure part of the Holy Roman Empire, until the Peace of Westphalia in 1648. The Confederation of thirteen cantons, were the following cantons: Zurich, Bern, Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz, Obwalden, Zug, Glarus, Fribourg, Solothurn, Schaffhausen, Basel and Appenzell, as well as a certain number of federal states and cities. Divided Swiss society, turned to its traditional allies. Catholics were strongly influenced by the Vatican and Catholic countries. The Swiss were at that time still considered to be one of the best soldiers in Europe [13, 134–137]. The Swiss has traditionally been in the service of France and received significant funding and it's all accompanied by a separate pension system. So they poured significant funds into the Confederacy from outside [3, 54–63; 7, 235–236; 14, 73–87]. An unknown chronicle from the 18th century, referring to the Swiss mercenaries in the French army, saw them as a significant economic benefit to the Cantons because the French kings were

paying considerable resources for mercenaries from the time of the 15th century. It says that Switzerland is a mountainous country and it does not provide sufficient household income from agriculture which is offset by revenues from military service [2].

Alexander VII in his letter addressed “a wise and beloved sons of the Church”, expressing great appreciation to the Swiss Catholics, who were through Christian wisdom firmly attached to the Roman Catholic Church. They, according to him, have defended the essence of “Holy Church”, keeping it from the onslaught of heresy. After that, the pope addressed the Assembly of Catholic cantons: Uri, Switzerland, Unterwalden, Lucerne, Zug, Fribourg and Solothurn. The letter was written with sophisticated diplomatic terms, and does not contain strictly concrete policy proposals [1]. Please note that during the 17th century, through the action of the so-called Golden League and the Spanish Catholic League, Catholic Switzerland became a separate entity which held separate assemblies in Lucerne. This entity comprised seven Catholic cantons, followed by Appenzell (internal Roden), the abbot of the monastery of St. Gallen, Vale and the Bishop of Basel. Support was sought from the Pope, Spain, the Habsburgs, Savoy and other Catholic centers of power [13, 211–212].

Alexander VII called Swiss Catholics “witnessed Catholics”, asking them to support the rescue famous Venetians, threatened by Ottoman forces. He points out that other Christians at this moment have decided that with dignity and heroic stand in order to defend the glorious Christian republic, and thus to defend the holy faith. So he, as head of the Roman Catholic Church, addressed the Swiss as the greatest of Catholics who follow the church and accept each assignment that is focused on the defense of her being. Pope further illustrates great faith of Catholics, which comes from God, who strengthens them in defense of the Papal States, which has a “multitude of enemies.” Pope emphasizes that there is no doubt in the commitment of Swiss Catholics in the Christian faith and its defense. It calls on them to join the alliance of Christians, which is necessary to protect the Republic of Venice, which is their friendly neighbor. Alexander VII announces to them, that from Veneta, will be sent apostolic messenger that will assist them in church matters. The letter ends with a prayer to the Creator, to strengthen them in the faith and is written in Siena on 25 December in 1666 [1]. As can be seen from the letter, the Swiss Catholics were able to maintain precisely with the help of the Vatican.

Italy and Rome were not far from the Confederation, the papacy through the large urban and ecclesiastical center of Milan sought to strengthen its presence in the cantons. A century ago, such papal policy begun by Cardinal Carlo Borromeo, Papal Secretary of Milan who became a major opponent of the Reformation in Switzerland. Support for the catholic cantons has not ceased to come from Italy, not even during the 17th century [8, 127–128; 13, 205; 11, 383–385].

For the generous support of the Swiss Catholics, the Vatican expects that these fighters are eager for Catholicism and papal policy, which at the time sided with Venice in the war against the Ottomans. However,

Alexander VII project was doomed to fail, Swiss Catholics were deaf to his initiative. As we pointed out, Europe has never recognized the danger which threatened her with the Ottomans, everyone hoped that they would not knock on their door. The Swiss were sure that the Ottomans will never cross the Alps. They were oriented mainly towards an alliance with France, with whom Alexander VII had bad relationships. The Ottomans once again triumphed, Venice is completely suppressed from the eastern Mediterranean. The Ottoman army through less than two decades, will be at the gates of Vienna, the imperial capital, which will be saved from falling precisely that Christian unity.

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Hermeneutical interpretation features polyethnicity Siberian society pages of newspaper presses in the region of the second half of the XIX century

Abstract: The article discusses problems and peculiarities of interpretation polyethnicity society Siberian regional newspaper press the second half of the XIX century. Conducted an intent-analysis of the publications of the regional press in order to identify specific features descriptions Siberian identity.

Keywords: the Periodic Law, humanities, interdisciplinary approach.