Proposal for the 3rd MMHN Conference

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Ottoman Naval Code and Regulations (1701-1733)

It is known that high-board- and sailing vessels was used in Ottoman navy before the midst of XVIIth century. Then galleons had appeared as battle ships of Ottomans.

Although ended up with the conquest of island, the long Ottoman siege of Crete at the second half of seventeenth century, had shown the necessity of the gradual retreat of the Mediterranean-type galley from the actual stage of sea war as they seemed then to be old-fashioned and were loosings their significance as instruments of war.

With the Naval Code of 1701, Ottoman navy was adopted to contemporary demands which mean that galleons would become the main body of the navy as battle ships and their number would be increased. Issues like promotion and retirement of commandants and officers was regulated with this new Code. Naval knowledge and abilities were taken as objective measures of their career line. After the Naval Code of 1701, seven regulations were enacted till 1733 about the management of Imperial Dockyard and other related issues.

These regulations aimed to adopt the Ottoman marine to new conditions through overcoming problems by issuing certain rules. The effort for the preparations of these regulations shows us that Ottomans have tried at that time to formulate an official policy of maritime.
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