



HISTORY OF THE SELJUKS

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INTRODUCTION

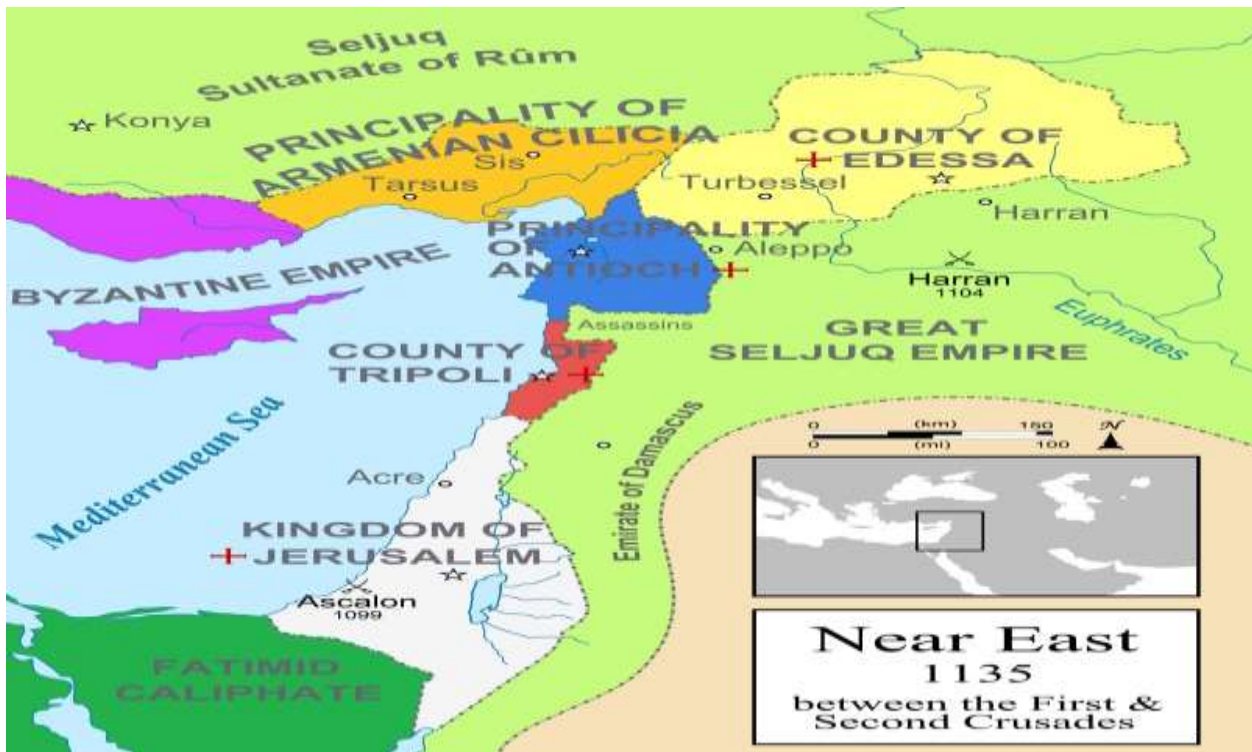
The Seljuk Turks (Seljuk, Seldjuq or Seljuq) is a major branch of the Oghuz Turks and a dynasty that ruled parts of Central Asia and the Middle East from the 11th through 14th centuries AD. The Seljuk migrated from the north of Iran to the border of Anatolia (Turkey). Upon conversion and embrace of Islam, they have become the self-appointed missionaries of Islam and did not hesitate to use their steppe warfare techniques and weapon knowledge they have gained from other nomads. They were fierce and deadly warriors. This coincided with declining power of Abbasid and Fatimid Caliphate, who had exercised some degree of influence and control. If Turks would have taken a different path, the Islam as a religion would not have spread as it did now. One of the main attractions of Islam is the rights bestowed upon men to plunder, loot, kill at will and capture slaves. The women are relegated as sex slaves. These rights bestowed upon by the religious ideologies. Other inducement is a fanciful notion of martyrdom and afterlife pleasure and indulgence of all kinds. These are political ideologies and not religious theologies [1].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Turks adopted Islam during 9th through 10th century AD. Karakhanids and Seljuk Turks both are regarded as the ancestors of Ottoman. The Seljuk founded the great Seljuk Sultanate; an empire centered in Baghdad after 1055 AD and controlled Iran, Iraq, and Syria. They conveniently adopted Sunni orthodoxy, that fetch them rights of passing judgements on what is pious and what is not. This adoption prevented the Fatimid caliphate of Egypt from making Shiite Islam dominant religion throughout the Middle East. Shiite Islam was moderate version and most likely the original faith of Islam, promulgated by their Prophet and his grandson Ali [2].

In the 11th century AD, Fatimid rulers of Egypt ordered Kurdish born Sunni Muslim Vizier Saladin to lead a fight against the crusaders who were trying to reconquer Christendom's holycity of Jerusalem. The first encounter was a military draw as uneasy peace prevailed between Christians and Muslims. The struggle lasted for a long period of time leading to withdrawal of crusaders.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



Seljuk Empire

Seljuk Turks resided in the former Persian lands and Persian Culture played a dominant role over their original nomadic Culture. Seljuk Sultans gathered steam during the reign of sultan Alp Arslan (1063-72 AD) and Maliki Shah (1072-92 AD) after fall of Sassanian Empire at the hands of Muslim armies. They revived orthodox Sunni religion and adopted Persian administrative practices. They developed the armies of slaves (Africans, Asians, and North Europeans from Baltic states). The children were captured with their mothers. Men will be slaughtered thereby wiping out all family ties. The women will be inducted in harem as sex slaves and children will be given the military training and religious teaching of martyrdom with promise of various fringe benefits in afterlife. The slave's armies thus created were often referred to as "Mamluk Gazi" by the historians. They always formed the front line of battles to take the first blow while brave Turkish nobles led from behind. These armies swept from Spain to the Central Asia. The slaves learned nomadic training of slaughter and military tactics. After Malik Shah's death, a decline in the quality of the leadership and division among military nobles weakened the power of the Seljuk Turks. The last of their line died in battle against the Khwarizmi-Shah in 1194 AD. A branch of the Seljuk managed to establish its own state in central Asia, until it was overrun by the Mongols in 1243 AD. Despite several attempts to reunite the Seljuks in the centuries

following Malik Shah's death, the Mongols prevented them from regaining their former empire. Then Seljuk tribes migrated west to Anatolia. From previous Seljuk confederacy, only the Sultanate of RUM of Anatolia survived the Mongol onslaught. The sultanate of RUM was far away for Mongol hordes. The Mongols Turkish tribe's nomadic association with Huns and Mongols gave them extensive horse riding and combat skills. The word "Rum" stands for "Rome" [4].

One of the tribe was called Beylik-Kayi tribe, where Osman was born to a Gazi warrior named Ertuğrul. Ertuğrul's younger son was Osman. Ertuğrul father's name was Sullivan Shah. Osman was also called "Autman" or "Uthman" and similar pronunciations and derivatives. Later his successor named his kingdom as "Ottomans" of the history. They came from Turkish Seljuk branch. This branch of Turks, who spread as far as the Aegean sea formed the cluster (Beylik) or Principalities. Ertuğrul and his followers joined the army of the Seljuks of Rum, for which he was rewarded with dominion over the town of Söğüt on the frontier with the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantine border have shrunk over the time since the rise of Islam and crusader's defeat at Jerusalem and withdrawal [5].

Ertuğrul is recognized as an important historical figure in Ottoman's history. The Ottoman Empire named its navy frigate named after Ertuğrul in 1863. The Ertuğrul Gazi Mosque stands tall in Ashgabat,



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Turkmenistan was named in his honor. A Turkish TV serial depicts his legendary deeds for his tribe.

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