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The constitutional revolution of 1908 and its aftermath in Trabzon
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PROPOSITIONS

1. Trabzon was one of the most influential provincial cities in the Second Constitutional Period. Through the efforts of the Unionists, within a short amount of time it became a critical ideological stronghold. The fact that the majority of people in Trabzon adopted the ideas of the Unionists made it easy to disable the opposition, small as it may have been.
2. The defeat in the Balkan Wars influenced the social life in Trabzon. The multicultural character of the city was started to break down after the defeat in the Balkan Wars.
3. If the railway line between Trabzon and Erzurum could be done before the World War I, the results of the battles in the Caucasus front would be different. And that would affect the result of the war.
4. Unionists from Trabzon continued to be dedicated to Enver Pasha, one of the most important Unionists leaders, despite the fact that the Ottomans lost World War I; it is for this reason that they were opposed to Mustafa Kemal Pasha. He did not visit Trabzon until the end of İzmir Assassination Attempt Trials in 1926. He went to Trabzon after the remained Unionists and supporters of Enver Pasha had neutralized.
5. Even though nearly a hundred years have passed, the spirit of the Unionists still reigns on the streets of Trabzon.
6. Sultan Abdülhamid II was neither the “Red Sultan” nor a “Supreme Ruler.” During his reign, he did his utmost to protect the interests of the empire as well as his throne, which, over time, led him to adopt authoritarian modes of rule. Despite that authoritarianism, however, reforms continued. Neither the authoritarian rule of the Sultan Abdülhamid II, nor his reforms did not help to save the borders of the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Empire lost Serbia, Romania, Montenegro, half of Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Egypt, Kars, Ardahan and Batumi during the reign of Sultan Abdülhamid II. Also, Sultan had to accept to establishment of the Public Dept Administration which threatened the economic independence of the Empire.
7. During the Second Constitutional Period, which was brought about through the efforts of the Committee of Union and Progress, the Ottoman Empire underwent transformations and changes at an unprecedented rate.

Through the reforms they implemented, Unionists sought an answer to the question, “How can our empire be saved?” Despite all their goodwill, the Unionists were too inexperienced to direct or save the Empire. Their inexperience, together with the external factors, fastened the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

8. The reforms that the Unionists planned and partially implemented in the Second Constitutional Period were never quite successful first because of the Balkan Wars, then World War I and lastly the War of Independence. In the early years of the Turkish Republic, however, the Kemalists worked to put many of them into practice. There was a continuity between the Unionists and the Kemalists.
9. In the Second Constitutional Period, the press was a crucial source of power. The Committee, which made good use of that power, was able to guide society towards its aims through press-based propaganda.
10. Now more than ever the world needs the slogan “Liberté, égalité, fraternité, justice” to be put into practice.