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## **The Ottoman State and the Ezidis: a comparative approach**

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## **PROPOSITIONS**

- **four propositions relating to the subject of the dissertation**

1- Before the 19th century, the Ottoman bureaucracy limited its relationship with its subjects in Mosul to taxation and military recruitment, which led to the emergence of regions that could be considered uncontrolled and almost autonomous. The process of bringing these regions under central control became a source of new problems.

2- The 19th-century efforts toward centralization and bureaucratization did not yield similar results in every province of the Ottoman Empire. As seen in the case of Mosul, prioritizing Muslimization over fiscal, administrative, and military policies led to negative outcomes.

3- Bureaucratic reflexes from before the Tanzimat continued to dominate the state despite modernization and bureaucratization after the Tanzimat. This situation can be observed in two fundamental practices: (1) The imposition of change on citizens rather than the state. (2) The continuation of central control through the manipulation of the provincial bureaucracy

4- In order to resist Ottoman centralization and bureaucratization policies, the Yazidis have had to produce political arguments in addition to the mythological narratives on which they have based their existence for centuries.

- **four scientific propositions relating to the field of the subject of the dissertation-  
contribution of the subject of the dissertation to the field**

1- State formation and violence: Challenges top-down narratives of Ottoman modernization by exposing how centralization policies (e.g., conscription, taxation, Sunni Islamization) relied on uncontrolled violence rather than hegemony or institutional legitimacy.

2- Fragmented sovereignty: The thesis theorizes that Mosul is a microcosm of the Ottoman Empire's inability to homogenize its different regions.

3- Religious identity as political means: Exposes how Sunni Islamization under Abdülhamid II became a substitute for weak state capacity, not just ideological zeal.

4- Subaltern resistance: Positions Yezidis not as passive victims but as actors who weaponized illiteracy, geographic isolation, and international alliances (e.g., British consulates) to resist assimilation.

- ***at least one proposition on one or more subjects of the candidate's choice***

1- The thesis combines Ottoman bureaucratic records, British consular reports, and missionary accounts to present an interdisciplinary archive synthesis, and triangulates state-subject dynamics that are often absent in mono-archival studies.

2- The thesis contrasts the state's rhetoric of reform (Tanzimat as "progress") with local bureaucratic praxis (violence, corruption), revealing gaps between ideology and implementation.

3- The thesis shows the dynamic and unidirectional nature of centralization policies in different geographies. Although the center insisted on a unidirectional policy, the unique religious and social characteristics of the provinces were an obstacle to the success of these policies.