

consent of the Porte, and without the intervention of the European Powers he would have taken Constantinople and proclaimed himself Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. The Powers, however, intervened, the Empire was saved for the moment, Egypt was declared to be a tributary state with an hereditary ruler, termed the Khedive, in the family of Mahomet Ali. In law Egypt was thus a part of Turkey, although it was an autonomous, that is to say self-governing, community. In fact it was practically independent of Turkish control, and, while the legal relation existed after as before the British occupation in 1883, Egypt was from that date in fact, though not in law, a dependency of Great Britain. From and after December 17, 1914, Egypt has become, and probably will remain, a protected state of Great Britain, or in the rhetorical language of Kipling, of the "far flung Empire."

ANNEXATION OF CYPRUS BY GREAT BRITAIN

On November 5, 1914, the British Foreign Office published the following notice in the London Gazette: "Owing to hostile acts committed by Turkish forces under German officers, a state of war exists between Great Britain and Turkey as from today." At the same time Great Britain declared the conventions of June 4, July 1, and August 14, 1878, between Great Britain and Turkey, by the terms of which Great Britain acquired the right to occupy and administer Cyprus, to be annulled by the war, and formally annexed Cyprus, as appears from the following extract from the Order in Council of November 5, 1914: "From and after the date hereof the said island shall be annexed to and form part of His Majesty's Dominions, and the said island is annexed accordingly."

It is common knowledge that Great Britain threatened, in 1878, to intervene in the Russo-Turkish war; that Great Britain objected strenuously to the terms of peace which Russia had dictated to Turkey at San Stefano; that, by a brilliant stroke, Disraeli transported Indian troops to Cyprus and persuaded Russia to yield to a revision of the Treaty of San Stefano of February 19/March 3, 1878, without resort to arms. It is further common knowledge that Russia was obliged to refer the Turkish situation to a congress called for that purpose at Berlin, where the Treaty of Berlin was negotiated and signed on July 13, 1878, which so profoundly affected the destinies of the Balkan peninsula.

From the convention of defensive alliance between Great Britain and Turkey, signed June 4, 1878, the following article is quoted:

ART. I. If Batoun, Ardahan, Kars, or any of them shall be retained by Russia, and if any attempt shall be made at any future time by Russia to take possession of any further territories of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan in Asia, as fixed by the definitive treaty of peace, England engages to join His Imperial Majesty the Sultan in defending them by force of arms.

In return, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan promises to England to introduce necessary reforms, to be agreed upon later between the two Powers, into the government, and for the protection of the Christian and other subjects of the Porte in these territories; and in order to enable England to make necessary provision for executing her engagement, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan further consents to assign the Island of Cyprus to be occupied and administered by England.¹

In the annex to this convention, dated July 1, 1878, the following occurs:

VI. That if Russia restores to Turkey Kars and the other conquests made by her in Armenia during the last war, the Island of Cyprus will be evacuated by England, and the convention of the 4th of June, 1878, will be at an end.²

On August 14, 1878, Turkey and Great Britain added the following additional article to the convention of June 4, 1878:

It is understood between the high contracting parties, without prejudice to the express provisions of the Articles I, II, and IV of the Annex of the 1st July, 1878, that His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, in assigning the Island of Cyprus to be occupied and administered by England, has thereby transferred to and vested in Her Majesty the Queen, for the term of the occupation and no longer, full powers for making laws and conventions for the government of the island in Her Majesty's name, and for the regulation of its commercial and consular relations and affairs, free from the Porte's control.³

In law, Cyprus remained a part of the Ottoman Empire, occupied and administered by Great Britain; in fact, it became a British province. Great Britain has taken advantage of the war with Turkey to regard the conventions concluded with that country as annulled by the war, and thus, having got them out of the way in accordance with international law, Great Britain has annexed the Island of Cyprus.

¹ Holland, *European Concert in the Eastern Question*, p. 354.

² *Ibid.*, p. 356.

³ Hertzslet, *Commercial Treaties*, Vol. XIV, p. 1177.