

4 Chapter 7 Appendix

4.1 Ottoman Harem Politics

We can tally up Ottoman wars by the reigns of the 31 sultans who ruled the empire between 1400 and 1909 and identify them by geographic region—that is, fought in the East against non-Europeans versus fought in the West mainly against the Christians. Then, we can obtain the impact of ethnic identities on Ottoman military conquests by estimating this equation:

$$\text{Ottoman-European Wars}_i = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \text{European Mom}_i + \gamma_2 \text{Other Controls}_i + \epsilon_i, \quad (\text{A.7.1})$$

where *Ottoman-European Wars_i* is number of newly-initiated conflicts between the Ottoman Empire and European powers during Sultan *i*'s reign and *European Mom_i* is a dummy variable for whether sultan *i* had a European maternal genealogical link.

If matrilineal genealogical links did matter for the Ottomans' conquest patterns, then we would expect γ_1 to be negative and statistically significant for specifications in which Ottomans' European military engagements are the dependent variables. As a corollary, we would expect γ_1 to be positive and statistically significant, or at least, insignificant, for specifications in which Ottomans' conflicts in the east and elsewhere are the dependent variables.

In the empirics below, the other control variables often include the length of reign of sultan *i*; the year of ascension of sultan *i*; estimates of the average Ottoman and European population levels during *i*'s sultanate; and an indicator variable for each of the three centuries during which sultan *i* ruled. Depending on the parsimony of the empirical specification I employ and various alternative estimates, our other control variables are: the age at which the sultans ascended the throne; a dummy variable to denote whether *i* ruled before or after the Lepanto Sea Battle in 1571; a dummy for whether or not the sultans' reign overlapped at all with his mother's tenure as Valide Sultan and the number of years during which the sultans' reign overlapped with his mother's tenure as Valide Sultan (i.e., when the queen mother was alive).

Consistent with our approach in the previous chapter, we include the year and century when the sultan began to rule in my estimates because there has

been a secular decline in warfare in Europe since the 15th century. We will include the dummy for the year of the Lepanto war to examine if the Ottomans' patterns of military activity were altered following their first decisive defeat against European allied forces in 1571. We shall also control for the age at which the sultan ascended the throne as well as his length of reign to identify if those had systematic discernible effects on Ottoman military activities.

4.2 Main Results

Table A.7.1 summarizes our key findings based on equation (A.7.1). The dependent variable involves the total number of newly-initiated conflicts between the Ottomans and continental Europeans during the reign of a given sultan. The first regression is the most-parsimonious, univariate estimate. The indicator for a European matrilineal link comes in with the predicted negative sign and with a statistical significance at the five percent level. What is more telling is that the European matrilineal link dummy alone can explain more than 40 percent of the variation in Ottomans' European engagements. Even when the European matrilineal genealogy variable is added to the regressions last, the fit of the regressions, as measured by the R^2 measure, increases by at least four percentage points and at a maximum by more than 27 percent.

The next two regressions in columns (2) and (3) add three attributes of the reign of each sultan. Specifically, in column (2), we control for the reign of each sultan on account of the arithmetic that sultans that ruled longer might have engaged the Europeans more often. In column (3), we also include the year and century in which the sultan ascended his throne. In both regressions, the European matrilineal link dummy continues to enter with a negative and statistically significant coefficient, although its magnitude is roughly cut in half from the baseline regression in column (1).

Of the other explanatory variables considered, we see—without much surprise—that reign length does raise the likelihood of a European military engagement. But neither the year nor the century in which the sultan took the helm has any bearing on Ottoman's European confrontations. Column (4) then includes two demographic variables related to the Ottoman and European territories: the levels of population in continental Europe and territories under Ottoman control. The inclusion of these two controls does render the dummy for European

matrilineal link statistically insignificant, although it still comes in with the right sign and registers a p-value of 19 percent. Column (5) incorporates three more variables related to the reign of sultans and their maternal links: the year in which the sultan took the throne, an indicator of whether the sultan's rule overlapped at all with his mother's life, and the number of years the sultan's rule and Valide Sultan's life overlapped. With this specification, we are back to a statistically significant and negative European matrilineal effect, with none of the controls besides the length of reign exerting an influence on Ottomans' European campaigns.

Table A.7.1: Cross-Sectional Results, 1400 CE – 1909 CE

Dependent Variable: No. of Ottoman-European Wars during Reign of Sultan						
OLS Regressions						
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>European Mom_i</i>	-7.06*	-3.50*	-3.25**	-2.67	-2.91**	-2.52**
	(2.20)	(1.66)	(1.73)	(2.00)	(1.59)	(1.35)
<i>Reign Length_i</i>	...	.257*	.259*	.269*	.239*	.224*
		(.047)	(.050)	(.050)	(.071)	(.066)
<i>Ascension Year_i</i>	...	...	.0039	-.0088	.025	.043
			(.015)	(.017)	(.031)	(.031)
<i>Ascension Century_i</i>	...	...	-.754	-.852	-2.22	-2.70
			(1.57)	(1.62)	(2.06)	(2.07)
<i>Ottoman Population_i</i>	...	...	...	.083	-.155	.040
				(.129)	(.214)	(.209)
<i>European Population_i</i>	...	...	...	.023	.001	-.011
				(.013)	(.020)	(.019)
<i>Ascension Age_i</i>	...	...	...	...	-.137	-.185
					(.111)	(.112)
<i>Mom Overlapped Dum_i</i>	...	...	...	...	1.73	2.11
					(1.72)	(1.39)
<i>Reign w. Mom Alive_i</i>	...	...	...	...	-.150	-.172
					(.131)	(.125)
<i>Lepanto War Dummy_i</i>	...	...	...	...	...	-7.01*
						(2.42)
No. of obs.	31	31	31	31	31	31
<i>R</i> ²	.401	.695	.704	.724	.771	.810

Note: * and ** respectively denote significance at the 5 percent and 10 percent levels. Heteroskedasticity-corrected, robust errors reported. Dependent variable: total no. of new Ottoman-European conflicts

that were initiated during the sultan's reign. Source for the conflict data: Brecke (1999). Source for population data: McEvedy and Jones (1978).

Finally, in column (6), I add the dummy for the Lepanto war, which indicates whether or not i ruled before or after the Lepanto Sea Battle in 1571. Doing so retains European matrilineal descent as negative and statistically significant at the ten percent level. It also produces two statistically significant variables in the length of reign (positive) and the Lepanto-war dummy (negative).

As well, the impact of a European matrilineal descent on Ottomans' military activities is very large: taking the lowest statistically significant coefficient shown in column (6) and the average of 4.4 European-Ottoman wars per sultan, for example, we infer that European matrilineal descent lowered Ottomans' European conflict propensity by about two-thirds.

For further details, please see Iyigun (2013).