

# Poland, The Balkans, Turkey, Minor eastern states, China, Japan Volume 24

Henry Smith Williams

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Poland, The Balkans, Turkey, Minor eastern states, China, Japan Volume 24 Henry Smith Williams This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1907 Excerpt: ...by the name of the "chain" of ulemas. "The so-called priests," says Von Hammer-Purgstall,/ "that is to say, the officiators in the mosques, the prayer-criers, the imams, and the preachers, have perhaps less influence in the Ottoman Empire than in any other state; the teaching corps, on the contrary, has an authority and importance which are unexampled anywhere else except in China." The ulemas are not a sacerdotal class; they are a learned and literary body. From them exclusively are recruited the primary civil functionaries, the magistrates, doctors, and professors. The "chain" of the ulemas includes professors and students, officials and candidates. All the officials are graduated from superior schools (medresses), in which are taught grammar, syntax, logic, rhetoric, metaphysics, geometry, astronomy, jurisprudence, and theology; the two last-named sciences the Moslems treat as one. The candidates pass through the successive degrees of thaleb (student), of damishmend (endowed with science), and of mulazim (prepared). The grade of damishmend suffices for obtaining the position of an imam, of an inferior judge (naib), or of a professsor in the primary schools; that of mulazim capacitates the candidate for the position of a muderri (professor), a medresse, of a mollah, or of one of the high officers of the magistracy. Ten degrees are conferred in the class of muderris. These can be gained only successively and always in the order of age. Every passage from one grade to another demands a new diploma (ronus). Arrived at the grade of Suleymanieh, the ulemas pass in the order of age from the corps of muderris to that of mollahs. The Ottoman body of magistrates is divided into five orders distinct in rank, prerogatives, and...



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