

The Contributions of Mehmet 'Ali the Wali of Egypt, the reforming and architectural works that remain in the city of Heraklion on the Island of Crete (1830-1840 AD/ 1246-1256 AH)

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Abstract

The Greek island of Crete played an important historical role in the future of the Ottoman Empire (1669-1898 AD/1080-1316 AH), which included a ten-year period (1830-1840 AD/1246-1256 AH), during which the island was under Egyptian administration.

From the beginning, Mehmet Ali Pasha realized the importance of the island's strategic location; he found an opportunity to achieve his military and political aims for complete independence of Egypt. So Mehmet Ali Pasha developed a comprehensive and organized modernization program for the Cretan society, through specific axes: such as taking care of public health, civil and military infrastructure, renovating forts, castles and ports in the four island cities in general. Water projects were one of the most important axes of the Egyptian reform program in the cities of the island, so the Egyptian administration adopted a major water architectural project, relying on canals and water bridges that were constructed in previous periods, after renovating them and adding some architectural works to deliver water to the city, so he rehabilitated the Fundana Canal and built the Egyptian bridge at Agia Irini, which is considered the most important surviving architectural work of Mehmet Ali on the island.

This paper aims to study Mehmet Ali Pasha's reformist additions to the community and the remaining water architectural works in the city of Heraklion and to determine the architectural characteristics of the bridge built by Mustafa Nayel Pasha in (1839 AD/ 1255 AH), as a continuation of the Fundana Canal rehabilitation project. The water architectural elements follow historically and architecturally in the ages prior to the period of Egyptian rule of the island (1830-1840 AD/1246-1256 AH). And the inventory of the different influences on these facilities, comparing them with similar aqueducts and water bridges, and identifying the types used by the Ottomans on the rest of the Greek lands, based on the field study of these remaining works that are used until now.

Keywords:

Crete, Watercolor, Muhammad Ali, Heraclio, Mustafa Nail Pasha.