

## ***The Gerays and Ottomans: Two Dynasties in Alliance and Rivalry***

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*Abstract:*

The Crimean Khanate was one of the successor states of the Golden Horde. Its royal dynasty was the Geray house, which asserted its descent from Chinghis Khan. In 1475, the Crimean Khanate entered into an alliance with the Ottoman Empire which gradually evolved into a vassalage. The Ottoman protectorate over the Crimean Khanate lasted exactly three centuries (1475-1774). During this period, vital mutual interests bound both states together and they surely benefitted from each other's existence. The Ottomans, thanks to the Crimean Khanate, secured their hold over the Black Sea basin and its vast northern hinterland and made extensive use of the distinguished Crimean Tatar cavalry in their numerous wars. The Crimean Khanate, on the other hand, enjoyed the powerful support of the Ottoman Empire against its own regional enemies.



The dynasties of the two states also developed a peculiar relationship. On the one hand, the symbiotic nature of the bonds between their states was augmented by mutual and strong respect to each other. There had even been widespread belief among the population and high circles that, if the Ottoman dynasty would ever cease to exist, the Gerays would be the first, if not the only house, to replace them in the Ottoman Empire.

On the other hand, these factors only covered the deep-seated and reciprocal feelings of dynastical preeminence and ensuing rivalries. While the Ottoman sultans were wary of the Crimean khans, the latter were uncomfortable about the intervention of the Porte into the affairs of the khanate.

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1:15 pm - 2:30 pm EST

Thomas Chan-Soo Kang Room, S050 CGIS-South

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