

## Comprehension

### Read the text then do the following activities.

From 1525 Algiers became the principal center of Ottoman authority in the Maghrib and the main base from which the Turks carried out their war against the Spaniards in the western Mediterranean, expanded their control into the interior of Algeria, and invaded Morocco. *Khair al-Din* laid the foundations of the military organization of the regency. until 1587 the ruler of Algiers and its dependencies was an officer carrying the title of *beylerbey* and appointed by the sultan. Besides governing the parts of Algeria which the Turks gradually came to possess, the *beylerbey* exercised the authority of suzerain in the name of the Ottoman sultan over the pashas of Tunis and Tripoli. As such he was the supreme Ottoman authority in the western Mediterranean, and responsible for conducting the war against the Christian enemies of the empire in this area, especially Spain.

Adventurers and renegades played an important part in the political and military life of the regency from the start. These men were usually from the poorer parts of the Mediterranean area, often Sicily and Corsica sometimes they came to Algiers as captives of the *Algerine* corsairs and gained admittance to the *ta'ifa* (society) of seamen through conversion and by virtue of their knowledge of the ports which the corsairs were to raid. The prosperity and prestige of the regency depended to a great extent on the exploits of the corsairs. For this reason, although the majority were non-Turkish Ottomans, they came to wield considerable power which the *beylerbeys* often used to counter the unruliness of the Turkish infantry corps. The infantry, almost entirely recruited from Anatolia, were organized along the lines of the famous Ottoman Janissary corps. they possessed a high sense of group solidarity and egalitarian spirit in the ranks, and elected their commander-in-chief, the *agha*, and a *diwan* which They protected their group interests. Being Turkish, they enjoyed a privileged position in the state: they were not subjected to the regular system of justice in the regency, and were entitled to rations of bread, meat, and oil, to a regular salary and to a proportion of the yields of piracy.

Source; Jamil M. Abun-Nasr, **A History of the maghrib**, Cambridge university Press, 1975, p.166

1) Give a suitable title for the text :

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2) what field does the text belong to? :

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3) what military rank did the Turkish rulers hold in Algeria?:

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4)what were the military achievements made by the Ottoman Turks from Algeria ?

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5)According to this Text, was the presence of the Ottoman Turks in Algeria positive or negative?

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6)What is the origin of the Turkish pirates? And what were their characteristics

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7) Why did the *beylerbeys* recruit these pirates into the army? :

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8) What is your assessment of the author in this text?:

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Write an paragraph about the history of the Ottoman pirates (The sea fighter) in the western Mediterranean,

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