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THE FORMATION OF EDIRNE OLD PALACE AND ITS SPATIAL COMPOSITION -
STUDY OF PREMODERN OTTOMAN CAPITAL CITIES(2) –

This paper discusses the emergence of Edirne Old Palace and its importance in the history of pre-modern Ottoman palace. First, the approximate date of the relocation of capital-city functions from the old capital Bursa to Edirne is determined by analyzing the location of successive sultans through several Ottoman chronicles. It was likely in the beginning of the fifteenth century when the capital-city functions were relocated to Edirne, after the catastrophic defeat at Ankara and subsequent Ottoman interregnum.

The next step is to analyze the spatial features of Edirne Old Palace. Although the palace itself does not remain, we have two European travelers' descriptions of the palace during the reign of Murad II. According to the reports, the palace complex was surrounded by a wall and contained a ceremonial courtyard which he describes as the site of his audience and banquet with the sultan. The throne of sultan was arranged under a gate which lead toward the private quarter. The advent of the ceremonial courtyard, such as that at Topkapı Palace later, was the first step for the Ottoman palace away from the traditional Turco-Mongolian mode of ceremony in the garden-pavilion palace.