

Politics

Sudan's Al-Burhan supplied Haftar with weapons as Sudanese military leaders vie for UAE money



Chairman of the Sovereignty Council of Sudan is supplying Libya's warlord Khalifa Haftar with weapons and ammunition, a Sudanese source has told The Libya Observer.

Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman Al-Burhan, Sudan's de facto head of state, sent three military cargo aircraft laden with weapons and military equipment to eastern Libya last June as per a deal funded by the United Arab Emirates.

According to the source, Al-Burhan has utilized the country's Military Industry Corporation to produce a wide range of defense equipment and sell them to Haftar to make a fortune.

"Al-Burhan and Hemedti are both vying to get more money from UAE-sponsored Haftar; the former sends weapons and the latter sends mercenaries," the source said asking to remain anonymous.

Both leaders are exploiting their tribal influence to gain the upper hand after the UAE promised to pump in hundreds of millions of dollars in support of Haftar.

In June, 122 mercenaries were intercepted while heading for Libya. The source confirmed that the Sudanese Rapid Support Forces detained them because they are linked to former Janjaweed militia leader Musa Hilal who has been detained by Hemedti since November 2017.

Hilal is from Mahamid clan of Rizeigat tribe while Hemedti is from Mahariya clan of the same tribe. Darfur tribes see Libya as a source of income and the tribal military leaders fight one another to benefit from this trade.

Politics

Abu Sahmain calls for unity as he launches "Ya Biladi" political party



The former head of the General National Conference, Nuri Abu Sahmain has called upon all "patriots" to come together and reunite under one umbrella, meant to provide a truly national vision and a decent life for all Libyans.

"I call upon all national figures who believe in this country and its people, to join the new political movement entitled "Ya Biladi" (Oh My Country), that combines, not separates; a movement that builds, not destroys, a movement that unites, not divides," Abu Sahmain said on Monday night.

In a televised speech broadcasted on several Libyan channels, Abu Sahmain addressed the current situation in the Libyan arena, top of which was the aggression on Tripoli.

"The scenes of the displaced people in and around Tripoli after the offensive on the city has been defeated are painful, the civilians are the ones who paid the high price in this war that was a failure from day one," he added.

He expressed sympathy to the families who have lost their beloved ones or property in this war and others who are waiting for news about their missing relatives.

Abu Sahmain also focused on corruption, saying it is the old and new enemy.

He pointed out that the daily life of ordinary citizens is getting tougher, while "the emperors of corruption and warlords" are becoming richer, including those "who think of themselves as revolutionaries and the revolution is innocent of them, they are using patriot slogans as a forefront to commit their crimes."

"The dilemma of electricity outages is a living example of a long crisis that hasn't been solved by those who are fighting for money and bribes," former GNC chief explained.

He renewed his call to hold accountable all those who have occupied a position in the government or in a legislative body, whose role is concerned with oversight and control, including himself.

"The citizens are aware of those who spoiled, looted, and fled out of the country, and who remained among his fellow citizens sharing in their sufferings and burdens," he remarked.

He noted that the income of citizens has declined to less than a quarter or less than one fifth.

"Those who received 400 dinars, before 2014, today earn less than a hundred dinars or 80 dinars, due to the drop of the value of the Libyan dinar against the US dollar by a quarter," he underlined, wondering "what could 100 dinar do for a family these days?"

Abu Sahmain addressed in his speech the oil crisis and the consequences of the forced closure of oil operations, as well as the cash crisis and the so-called balance of trade. The losses estimated by the NOC at more than 6 billion dollars are sufficient to build five new airports, seven modern hospitals, and ten universities, he indicated, regretting that such sum will even affect future generations as they will, unfortunately, pay the price of this collapse by the double.

"This will definitely happen unless we contain this disaster, Abu Sahmain underscored.

He also spoke of what he called "the international conspiracy" from countries which are afraid that Libya will assume its natural economic and commercial position, as he put it.

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"Many countries will leave no stone unturned to take prosperity away from Libyans," he said.

"Also, the fact that Libya's success in the democratic experience will turn it into a model that embarrasses regimes accustomed to injustice, dictatorship and corruption, and regimes that are afraid to see success and hope getting their way to their peoples by living a life of dignity with freedom, justice, and prosperity, Abu Sahmain added.

He expressed his concern regarding confirmed information about international gang networks who are working to spoil this generation via flooding the country with all kinds of drugs.

"We cannot stand up to all of this without uniting our efforts and supporting state institutions to be the impenetrable dam that safeguards our people for its morals, religion, identity and customs," he went on.

Abu Sahmain believes the new political movement "Ya Biladi" will contribute to guiding the country out of the "dark tunnel".

He called on all Libyans to join this national "Ya Biladi" Movement.

"I have decided after several consultations with different parties to launch a round of meetings and extended gatherings without excluding any village or city, party or any social component, in order to get together to form a strong organized structure to achieve the desired objectives and preserve the values, so the movement is later convened in its final form in a gathering that suits the sacrifices of our people in Tripoli soon," he concluded.



Al-Sarraj takes part in opening of immigration coordination center in Malta

The Head of the Libyan Presidential Council Fayez Al-Sarraj met in Valetta Malta's Prime Minister Robert Abela and attended opening of an immigration coordination center as per an agreement signed by the two countries last May, when the Maltese PM was in Tripoli.

Al-Sarraj told Times of Malta the visit to Valetta was part of the frequent visits carried out with friendly neighbouring countries.

He said there were many mutual subjects on which Malta and Libya could work together, adding that they need to work together for the benefit of their peoples.

Al-Sarraj added that he hoped it would be a fruitful visit, beneficial for the people in both countries, stressing that his government is determined to defeat the aggression of Haftar's forces so that stability can prevail in Libya.

Speaking to the same newspaper, Abela said Malta has always enjoyed good relations with Libya, adding that his country continued to build on the mutual trust enjoyed between the two countries in an effort to crack down on human trafficking and intensify mutual investment.

He said all partners, in both Africa and the EU, recognised the need for better border protection, adding that this is also Malta's vision, which entails better protection, less human smuggling, less criminal activity, and most importantly, less loss of lives.

The Maltese PM also pledged his country would continue to support Libya's rebuilding process.

Al-Sarraj arrived in Malta on Monday with the Interior and Foreign Ministers: Fathi Bashagha and Mohammed Sayala respectively



Politics
Cavusoglu accuses France of aiding Haftar with various military support

The Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, accused France of supporting Haftar and providing a variety of military support to him.

Cavusoglu stated in a joint press conference with the European Union (EU) Foreign Policy Official, Josep Borrell, in Ankara that France began attacking Turkey after Haftar lost major strategic ground in Libya, partly due to Turkey's support of forces aligned with the Government of National Accord (GNA).

He went on to point out that France was not sincere regarding the Libyan issue, noting that Turkey continues to cooperate with the EU regarding all matters relevant to Libya.



Politics
Turkey's Defense Minister: We won't stop supporting Libya

The Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said that Turkey's presence in Libya is to do whatever the international law and justice require, adding that Turkey is together with the Libyan brothers.

"No one should doubt it, we will not give up on it," Hulusi Akar said as he met Turkish military personnel in Tripoli.

Akar and Chief of General Staff Gen. Yasar Guler, who are on an official visit to Libya, met Turkish security forces in the country, saying at a meeting with them that Ankara's task in Libya is providing military training, cooperation and consultancy and that it will try to contribute to Libyans in these areas as much as possible.

Akar pointed out that Turkish Armed Forces in Libya fulfilled their duty in a "distinguished" way, adding that what they do in Libya will definitely have an important place in history.

The top Turkish officials also visited the Turkish Maritime Task Group ship on duty off the coast of Libya in the Central Mediterranean.

Speaking about the recent tensions with France over a claim of vessel harassment in the Mediterranean, Akar said those were plots pursuing some political, not military interests, adding that France should apologize to Turkey.

He also talked about the mass graves found in Tarhouna and south Tripoli, saying they are crimes against humanity.

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Economy

Bloomberg: 'Libya is preparing to export 1.2 million barrels of oil in July'



Bloomberg reported that the National Oil Corporation (NOC) is preparing to export 1.2 million barrels of oil during the month of July, which equates to two-thirds of the amount recorded for the month of June, amounting to 1.8 million barrels.

The report added that the supply will be shared by the offshore Farwa and Jurf fields, at the rate of 600,000 barrels each.

Bloomberg also reported that production of oil by the NOC fell to 100,000 barrels per day, whilst other data indicated a larger decrease in production which dipped to 84,000 barrels, earlier in 2020.

Economy

UK calls for resumption of Libyan oil production, warns of its militarization



British Embassy
Tripoli

The embassy of the United Kingdom (UK) said in a statement it was concerned by the ongoing oil blockade and reports of foreign interference in Libya's oil fields.

"The oil blockade has cost Libya over USD 6 billion since January, with negative economic consequences for the Libyan people." The UK embassy in Libya added, saying that the blockade also resulted in damage to Libya's oil infrastructure, saying that reports of interference by foreign mercenaries in Sharara oil field are troubling.

"Militarization of Libya's energy sector is unacceptable and risks further damage. As Libya's main source of income, the energy sector is vital to Libya's post-conflict recovery and reconstruction." The embassy added, explaining that the sector should not be used as a political bargaining chip.

The UK reaffirmed its support for the National Oil Corporation (NOC) as Libya's sole independent oil company charged with the stewardship of Libya's oil, adding that the NOC should be allowed to resume production unimpeded for the benefit of all Libyans.

It also called on all parties to constructively engage in the UN-led political dialogue, reiterating that foreign interference only undermines these efforts.

On Monday, the NOC said there were talks aiming at resuming oil production and lifting the blockade, indicating that the talks included regional countries, which are behind the shutdown of Libyan oil, under the auspices of the UN.

Economy

Turkey's expected exports to Libya are worth \$10 billion



A Turkish economy official said that Ankara's exports to Libya could amount to 10 billion dollars in the upcoming period.

The Head of the Turkish and Libyan Businessmen Association, Murtaza Karanfil, said the Government of National Accord in Libya and the business atmosphere are ready for investments, according to Anadolu Agency.

He also said that for Libya to return to normal and be stable, it should have speedy investment projects.

Murtaza Karanfil indicated that Turkish exports to Libya are flowing smoothly and could soon reach 10 billion dollars.

Economy



Souq Al-Jumaa on track for more development projects including green spaces

The Municipal Council of Souq Al-Jumaa announced it will remove all old and dilapidated buildings adjacent to the Municipal Council and the Civil Registry HQ, for expanding the car parking space, as the area includes several service buildings that are frequented by local citizens.

The municipal council clarified that the new parking site is part of a larger project which includes a playground for children and a green space specifically intended for recreational use.

It explained that its view is to repurpose abandoned structures to much-needed service facilities and increase green spaces within neighbourhoods to improve the landscape of the city.

Economy

NOC Chief: Decision to lift Libyan oil blockade in the hands of regional countries



The Head of the Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) Mustafa Sanallah said the decision to lift the blockade on Libyan oil seems to be awaiting an overseas call from regional countries that are taking advantage of the status quo in Libya.

Sanallah told Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper that force majeure on oil fields and ports cannot happen until the ones who closed them make a decision, denying that there will be a new mechanism to distribute our revenues via three banks (west, east and south branches).

"The idea we have is to resume oil production and exports and then freeze the revenues at the NOC bank accounts for a while until negotiations on financial transparency via monitoring spending across Libya and reconstruction of security arrangements to secure all oil facilities so they cannot be used as military targets or bargaining chip." Sanallah added.

He reiterated that Libya had lost so far 6.4 billion dollars after 167 days of oil blockade as the infrastructure was being damaged, adding that attempts to reach an agreement to reopen oil production had been hindered by the party that closed the fields and ports.

"We don't know why the regional countries are delaying the lifting of oil blockade, but we are sure they are happy that Libyan oil is absent from world markets, knowing that Libya will find it hard to regain the same production capacity as before the blockade." He added

Opinions

With US sidelined, Macron's hubris and hypocrisy are on full display

By **Sasha Toperich and Derbra Cagan**

Credit: This article was first published by The Hill on July 03, 2020



President Emmanuel Macron is facing daunting economic problems at home, and his party's recent foray into local elections has led to some stunning defeats. With German Chancellor Angela Merkel's long-time European leadership phasing out, Macron's cozying up to Vladimir Putin and embarking on foreign adventures is designed to solidify yet another bid to place France fully at the helm of Europe. The lack of strong U.S. leadership has left a glaring void on the global stage — and Macron sees this as an opportunity to join in the fray of countries eager to fill it.

His actions to date — which inevitably will impinge on U.S. interests and policy — are anything but heartening. Take Libya as prime example.

If there is a European country to be singled out for its destructive efforts in pushing Libya towards the abyss of collapse, it is France.

Instead of mobilizing the European Union to support Libya's hard won and challenging quest for freedom, France opted to align with the United Arab Emirates and Russia in support for renegade military colonel Khalifa Haftar's quest to "conquer Libya" by force and rule the country as a "new Gadhafi." Libya's post-2011 revolution brought challenging internal and external power struggles mostly fueled by the rivalry of two not very attractive political concepts in the Arab world: political Islam and autocratic rule. The Arab spring and demand of people to share in the wealth previously reserved for the political elite has proven to be a serious threat to elites in a number of Middle Eastern countries — including significant U.S. allies — who fear revolution demanding real change, transparency, and freedom of expression. Their support for a military coup in Libya is both bold and clear — but France should know better.

French policy in Libya may well damage the EU's reputation. Hypocritically named Operation IRINI, (Greek for "Peace"), the EU blockade only succeeded in helping to secure Haftar's military victory over western Libya and allowed heavy weapons to transit to Haftar's bases in the east. Not surprisingly French missiles were discovered last year on a base loyal to Haftar. While French oil giant Total has been a significant presence in Libya for over 60 years, it is a good bet that Haftar promised much greater economic rewards to France for its backing.

By the fall of 2019, Haftar (76) started to lose both on the battle ground and in the court of international public opinion, where reputable Libya experts from both sides of the Atlantic revealed the true nature of his thirst for power which has little to do with "fighting terrorism" but much to do with money and power for him, his heir-apparent sons and his backers.

In November 2019 Macron — apparently not pleased with the U.S. withdrawal from Syria and permitting Turkey a free hand — called NATO "brain dead." Macron accused Turkey of a "historic and criminal responsibility for a NATO member" and of Turkey's "obstruction of the Berlin process" for Libya. The fact is, Turkey safeguarded Idlib, preventing its fall into Assad's and Putin's hands. Moreover, if Turkey had not heeded the call for military help to the GNA (Libya's internationally recognized government), Russia's Libyan foray could well have succeeded, and the world would have witnessed more mass graves and crimes committed by Haftar's militias, such as those recently discovered in Tarhuna after Haftar's forces fled the city.

What a hypocrisy for Macron to call the Libyan crises "increasingly complex due to foreign interventions," especially since he continued to support Haftar even after he launched last year's military attack on Tripoli. Add to this Macron's ill-advised dalliance with Russia, which could have endangered NATO's southern flank by giving Russia yet another base to put its forces in the region.

Macron's hubris is on full display when he blames the U.S. for "weakening" NATO while expressing "confidence" of progress in French ties with Russia following his recent video conference with Putin, dedicated to Libya.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Libya Observer



Anti-coronavirus Supreme Committee reviews pandemic situation in the country

The Anti-coronavirus Supreme Committee convened a meeting to review the country's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and discuss the situation in the south.

The meeting was chaired by the Presidential Council head, Fayez al-Sarraj in the presence of the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Health.

The committee evaluated the measures taken to stem and contain the disease, and the readiness of hospitals, isolation sites, and quarantine centres, according to the PC head media office.

Sarraj was briefed on the equipment provided to health facilities, such as laboratory diagnostic devices, ventilators, preventive medical supplies, and the arrangements put in place for following-up the Covid-19 developments at the local and international level.

The attendees also reviewed the compliance with the national response plan within the framework of the general strategy established to combat this epidemic.



NOC donates testing devices to Al-Thawra Hospital of Al-Bayda

The Sustainable Development Department of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) donated a testing PCR device with 5,000 test strips, in addition to temperature measuring devices to the Al-Thawra Central Teaching Hospital in Al-Bayda, in response to the Coronavirus crisis.

"The NOC's support comes within the framework of its continued cooperation aimed at helping the population and local community to contain and limit the spread of COVID-19," NOC said in a statement.

This handover ceremony was attended by Abdul Rahim Mazek, Director General of Al-Thawra Hospital, Issa Omar, head of the laboratory team of the Medical Advisory Committee in the Green Mountain, and Mohammed Al-Juhani, representative of the Sustainable Development Department.

Health

Health officials in southern region sound alarm on virus infections

The Director of the National Center for Disease Control, Sabha branch, Abdul Hamid Al-Fakhiri sounded an alarm cautioning that the Covid-19 outbreak in the southern region is getting worse, after the infection has begun to spread rapidly among the medical and healthcare workers.



Last week, the anti-coronavirus committee of Sabha made an urgent distress call to all government officials, urging them to provide medical staff for the only Covid-19 isolation center in the region, noting the centre is providing Covid service to around 16 Libyan municipalities in the south.

"There are only six doctors in the centre who have been working for 30 continuous days, the medical staff must be replaced at least every 20 days as a protective measure to preserve their lives and prevent the transfer of infection," the committee stated.

It also confirmed that all southern municipalities who are currently using the isolating centre of Sabha have confirmed that they have received the necessary equipment to establish isolation sites, but these facilities lack doctors and healthcare workers.



"Doctor At Your Home" carried out more than 1,300 medical checkups since April

The Emergency and Ambulance Service of Misrata conducted during the period April 3 until June 30, around 1,356 medical examinations through the "Doctor At Your Home" service, which provides home medical visits and telehealth consultations.

Reporting on the performance of the response, detection, and disinfection teams of the anti-coronavirus committee in the city, the emergency service stated that its teams had diagnosed various kinds of illnesses during their work, including 66 suspected Covid-19 cases.

Calls for assistance were received by the monitoring, detection, and response centers distributed across the city, the report noted. Meanwhile, a squad from the Emergency and Ambulance Service has carried out anti-coronavirus spray in 346 sites. Its medical team have also contributed to receiving and conducting check-ups for travelers returning from Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia, the Czech Republic, Germany, and Saudi Arabia, according to the report.

It is noteworthy that the "Doctor At Your Home" service was launched by the Health Ministry and the National Center for Disease Control after reporting the first Covid-19 infections last March.

Health

Boy survives after stray bullet struck his head in social event

Doctors at the Tripoli University Hospital have succeeded in removing a bullet from the head of a nine-year-old child who was injured during a social event, despite the orders banning such events on the background of the Coronavirus outbreak.

The hospital stated that the bullet pierced the child's head hitting a sensitive area and almost took his life.

The child was transferred to the hospital where he was rushed to the operating theater to undergo an urgent operation to have the bullet removed.

The operation which lasted more than an hour was conducted by the head of the Neurosurgery and Spine Department consultant, Faisal Bin Talib.

Dr. Bin Talib confirmed that the child is recovering well and has been moved out of the intensive care unit, noting that he is receiving full care and might be discharged from the hospital soon.

Sport **Libya participates in 65th session of Arab Ministers for Youth and Sports**



The head of the Youth and Sports Authority, Bashir Al-Qantari participated in the 65th session of the Council of Arab Ministers for Youth and Sports that was held via video conference on Thursday.

The session took up a set of topics that address Arab youth issues, atop of which is convening the Youth Economic Empowerment Conference.

Thursday's meeting also approved several projects aimed at enhancing areas of youth sector development in the Arab world, such as launching online workshops and courses, including a course on legislation and regulations concerning sporting activities.

The head of Libya's Youth and Sports Authority, Bashir Al-Qantari, stressed in his address the need to embrace young people, look into their demands, and foster their capabilities and creativity.

"The Youth and Sports Authority in Libya will spare no effort in harnessing all its capabilities to support the efforts seeking to develop, upgrade, and protect young people," said Al-Qantari.

The Council of Arab Ministers for Youth and Sports will hold tomorrow the works of its 43rd session to discuss a number of important issues, including the impact of the international changes on Arab sport during the Coronavirus pandemic and the visions of the Arab countries on the ways of dealing after this pandemic.

Education

Libya participates in ALECSO course on education in emergencies



Libyan experts and specialists took part in a regional training course on education during emergencies organized by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO). The course was held via zoom during the period from 23-25 June under the title "Qualifying middle and higher education graduates to practice education profession in emergency situations (crises - conflicts).

The participants included teaching staff from the University of Tripoli and the University of Jafara, in addition to secondary education teachers.

Conflicts, natural disasters, and epidemics are among the main factors that keep children and youth out of school, which makes them vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Many organizations around the world have dedicated their work to promote lifelong quality education for all people especially in crisis-affected countries, as education in times of crisis is considered part of the emergency response, in addition to its role in fostering resilience and social cohesion within the community.

Life

National Center for Disease Control launches Covid-19 awareness campaign in the south



The National Center for Disease Control, in cooperation with UNICEF, has launched a campaign in the southern region to raise awareness and educate the community about the threat of the novel coronavirus and the precautionary measures that should be taken.

The organizers set up a Facebook page to inform the public of their action plan to contain the spread of the virus and what people can do to protect themselves, emphasizing that their goal is to mitigate the threat to people by disseminating "facts not fear".

The campaign will provide guidance and advice for the public through all available media in the region, including local TV stations and radio, as well as social media.

Director of the National Center for Disease Control, Dr. Badredine Al-Najjar, said that the campaign will target as a first stage the city of Sabha, where the highest numbers of Covid-19 cases in the country were reported.

Al-Najjar expressed his concern that the situation in the south is getting from bad to worse, despite the technical efforts made, but the lack of cooperation of the people and their skepticism about the existence of the disease in the first place remains an obstacle in any efforts to combat the epidemic.

Crimes

Protests in Hun as Haftar mercenaries kill a local citizen



Sources from the Al-Jufra region in central Libya confirmed that angry protests, involving armed citizens, have taken place in the town of Hun against Sudanese and Chadian mercenaries and others belonging to Haftar.

These protests came as a result of the shooting dead of a local citizen last Thursday, while he was attempting to prevent a drunken Janjaweed mercenary from stealing his motor vehicle from in front of his house in Hun.

The situation escalated to the setting of fire to residences, which were being used by Haftar to house the foreign mercenaries in retaliation for the murder of the innocent citizen, who has been identified as Ziyad Al-Huni.

weather



Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 10	33°/22°	Sunny	0%	ENE 22 km/h
Sat 11	33°/22°	Sunny	0%	ENE 21 km/h
Sun 12	33°/23°	Sunny	0%	ENE 20 km/h
Mon 13	33°/23°	Sunny	0%	NE 21 km/h
Tue 14	33°/23°	Sunny	0%	NE 22 km/h
Wed 15	33°/23°	Sunny	0%	ENE 23 km/h
Thu 16	33°/24°	Sunny	0%	ENE 23 km/h

Photo of the Week



Features



Libya and the Ottoman Empire

The Spaniards seized Tripoli in June 1510. The human cost of resisting the new invaders was enormous. Around 5,000 local people were killed and thousands more were taken captive. A letter from the Spanish fleet commander stated: "Bodies were scattered throughout the city, there was no place to set your foot on."

Tripoli was later ceded to the Knights of St. John in 1530, with an aim to use it as a base to further attack the Muslims in the north coast of Africa, but the knights had run into the determined resistance of the local people.

The people of Tripoli took refuge in the castle of Tajoura, some 20 kilometers to the east, and began to fight the crusaders.

In 1551, Libyans wisely sought help from the Ottoman Empire, which was the Islamic Caliphate at the time. This step was to change the tides of the war.

The Ottoman administration sent Murad Ağa, a military official, to Tajoura -an eastern suburb of Tripoli- with a mighty fleet and thousands of soldiers.

He settled in Tajoura and waged relentless combat against the crusaders.

Though he laid siege to Tripoli, he could not capture the city, the massive defensive fortifications of the castle made it difficult to conquer. Murad Ağa requested reinforcements from the Ottoman administration to liberate the region.

Sultan Kanuni, the ruler of the Ottoman Empire at the time, sent Turgut Reis, one of the greatest figures in Turkish naval history. In August 1551, the crusaders surrendered and the massive citadel fell after Turgut Reis imposed a blockade on the fortress.

Before the Ottoman rule, Libya lacked a unitary system of government. As the Ottomans expanded into the rest of Libya's provinces Barqa, and Fezzan, there was a concept of a modern state developing.

The Ottomans era persisted for more than 3 centuries, in which Libya underwent a series of stages, mostly marked by success.

Education and development came about, as the new rulers encouraged learning and worked in developing cities and agriculture, as well as settling Bedouins. They also revived the caravan trade across the desert, which stimulated growth and prosperity.

The Ottoman architecture is still evident in mosques, schools, traditional markets, such as the famous Souq al-Mushir in Tripoli, in addition to other official and private buildings.

In 1878 the Ottomans Empire was challenged by the growing western Europe powers, meanwhile, Italy set its eyes on Libya, but Sultan Abd al-Hamid II stayed vigilant of the Italian greed.

He sent weapons, military assists and 15,000 soldiers to assist the troops on Libyan territory; his moves caused Italy to postpone its invasion of Libya.

Later, Libya was occupied by Italy in 1911 during the period of the European-backed "Committee of Union and Progress" which came to power in a coup against the Ottoman Empire on 27 April 1909, after isolating Sultan Abdul Hamid II.

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