

# What to Remember? Narrativity and Historical Thinking in Mehmed Giray's Crimean Tatar and Ottoman History (1683-1703)

A01 (Strand "Narrating History")

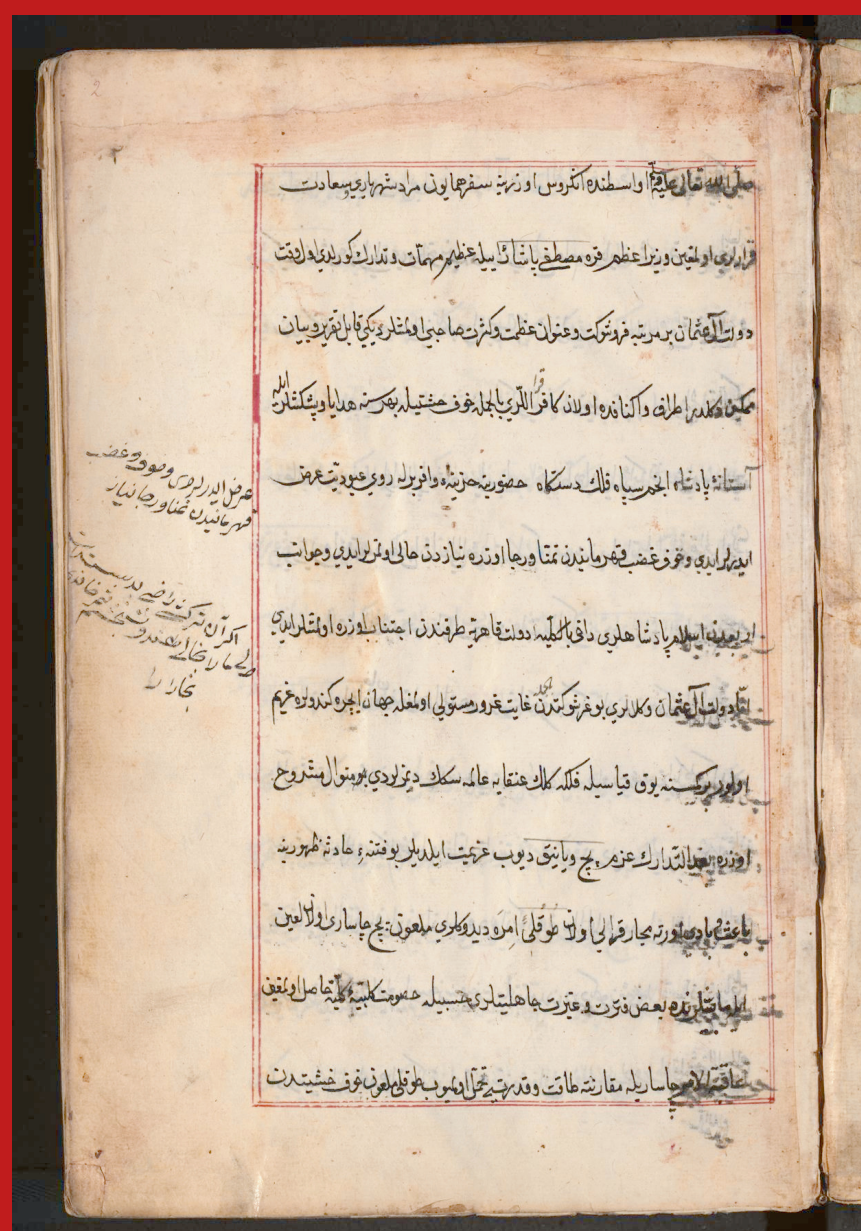
## Summary

Mehmed Giray (d. after 1703) wrote his *Ta'riḫ-i Meḥmed Girāy* while living in one of the places of exile reserved for members of the Giray family in Ottoman Rumelia. His history records Ottoman and Tatar history from the failed second siege of Vienna in 1683 through the 1703 "Edirne Event" (a revolt by the sultan's household troops) that contributed to the Ottoman ruler's loss of power. The author of our text was likely the brother of Khan Murad Giray, one of the leaders blamed for the Vienna disaster. This defeat was a turning point in Crimean history and figures prominently in Tatar and Ottoman historical imagination and in public memory until today. Mehmed offers a unique view and assessment of this critical moment of both Tatar and Ottoman history. The codex preserved in the Austrian National Library seems to be the autograph. We assume that the history conveyed through this text is a construct of authorial imagination through the narrativity indispensable to the representation of past events.

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Page 7 from the manuscript of the *Ta'riḫ-i Mehmed Giray*; Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, H.O. 86

## Objectives

- What is the overall narrative presentation of the chronicle? How does the author want his work to be understood and by whom?
- What genre does he use for it and how does he realize his intention narratologically?
- What does the narrative text repertoire look like?
- What has been selected, what is culturally relevant?

The combination and relation of the selected elements are to be discussed on a syntagmatic axis. What are the narrative configurations and other macrostructural types of relationing in this chronicle like? Are they chronological? Are there biographical sections? On a discursive axis, the communication of the narrative is addressed. How is the narrative conveyed and put into perspective in the texts? How is the narrative conveyed narratively? What role do discourse, focalization, and multiperspectivity play?

## Project Plan

This project is concerned with

- the philological analysis plus an editing, transliteration and translation of an important Ottoman Tatar chronicle
- the expansion of knowledge about historiographical continuities in the Ottoman Tatar region
- the compilation of an inventory of narrative devices for the realization of authorial intention
- getting insights into the factors that determine the selection and ordering of narrative units in Ottoman Tatar chronicles