

The Role of French Spies in Preparing for the French Campaign on Egypt 1798, Analytical Study

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Abstract: *This research deals with the preludes to the French campaign against Egypt, which are represented by two important elements: French Orientalism and its role in founding the French campaign against Egypt, and the role of French spies in preparing for the French campaign. The occupation of Egypt represented a strong desire of France despite the failure of its multiple campaigns, but its leaders were waiting for the opportunity to fulfill their hopes, and for that, they sent their messengers in the form of merchants and travelers, and their mission was to send reports that described the state of weakness and chaos that Egypt was experiencing during this period. These reports had a role in sending the campaign, as the French spies used to invade Egypt while recording their observations and reporting in the form of a project "Occupying Egypt to control the eastern trade". Among the reports that France has paid for its campaign are the Saint-Priest report: the French ambassador to Istanbul, the François Baron de Tott report, the Claude-Étienne Savary report, the Volney report, and the Charles Maurice Talleyrand report, Napoleon's report, and the report of the French community in Egypt that requested the imposition of a naval blockade and occupation of Egypt, and the report of Magloun, the French consul in Alexandria.*

Keywords: French campaign, Egypt, French spies, Napoleon, Saint-Priest, François Baron de Tott, Savary, Volney, Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand, Magloun.

Introduction: Introductions to the French campaign against Egypt

The arrival of the French campaign against Egypt had many reasons and motives. Perhaps it is important to know the history of relations between Egypt and France, especially since Egypt was under Ottoman sovereignty, as many documents confirm the extent of France's interest - for a long time - in knowing the political, economic and social conditions in Egypt before the arrival of the French campaign [1-2].

If we put the French campaign in its historical context, we find that it was not a new idea that arose in Napoleon's head. Rather, the French colonial thinking had always dreamed of colonizing Egypt. Throughout its history, Egypt was subjected to two crusades during the era of the Ayyubid state, which were led by France: The first was known. The Fifth Crusade led by John of Brienne, which was defeated in 1221. This campaign was an attempt by Catholic Europe to restore control of Jerusalem and the rest of the Holy Land by controlling the Ayyubid state in Egypt.

In the year 1213 the arrangement for this campaign began, and the year 1217 was set as the date for its start, and it was planned to set off from the Italian port of Brindisi, the Crusaders decided to seize Damietta, which was the key to Egypt, and the first Crusader factions arrived there on May 27, 1218 and the siege continued for about a year and a half. On the night of the fourth to the fifth of November 1219, the Crusaders occupied Damietta and plundered it, but the joy of victory was short-lived. After this refusal to confront the Crusaders, he sent the army from Damascus and cut off the path of retreating against the Crusaders and besieged the Crusader forces in large numbers, so they knew that they were in trouble. August 30, 1221 for a period of 8 years, and the Crusaders had to leave Damietta, and they carried out this in early September of the same year and the Crusade failed [3].

The second campaign is a campaign led by Louis IX, King of France, who stripped a campaign whose objectives were to defeat Egypt to get it out of the conflict, to eliminate the Ayyubid state that ruled Egypt and the Levant, and to re-occupy Jerusalem. He descended to Damietta in the year 1249 AD with about fifty thousand fighters, marched to Mansoura and clashed with the Egyptian army in a major battle known as the Mansoura incident that took place from February 8 to 11 of the year 1250 AD [4-5-6], between the Crusader forces and the Ayyubid forces, and resulted in the defeat of the Crusaders by a major defeat that prevented them from sending a new crusade to Egypt, about 30,000 of them were killed and many of them drowned in the Nile, and their king, Louis IX, was captured and imprisoned in Mansoura in Dar Ibn Luqman [7].

The idea was renewed in the seventeenth century during the reign of Louis XIV (1638-1715), when the famous German philosopher Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz [8] advised King Louis XIV to invade Egypt; In 1672, Leibniz was sent, in his capacity as a diplomat, to meet the French King Louis XIV, and he began his talks by sending his famous will to the French king, in which he stated: France must prepare for the invasion of Egypt, as its geographical position is distinguished to control through him the seas of the world, and that Egypt It was in the past the mother of science, and that digging a canal between Bahrain will allow France, through the geographical location of Egypt, to establish the means of communication with the rich countries of the East, and it will link trade between India and France. Although Louis XIV had other interests at that time, he kept Leibniz's advice in his diplomatic archive until the appropriate time, and the aspiration for the occupation of Egypt remained in mind for many years until the French Revolution came. In an attempt to strengthen France's position on England, Napoleon's expedition was sent to Egypt to fulfill Leibniz's commandment.

During the eighteenth century during the reign of Louis XV and XVI, the idea was renewed by some statesmen in France and echoed in their reports and notes. In the end, Napoleon managed to obtain the approval of the administration government for the campaign. The government has defined the campaign goals by saying: It is important to open a new road for the Republic's forces to reach India. And because the French campaign is one of the roles of the conflict that arose between France and England over conquest and colonialism.

Since the Treaty of Kuchuk-Kainarji of July 21, 1774 [9-10], between Sultan Abdul Hamid II and Russia [11], the doors opened for European intervention in the affairs of the Ottoman Empire [7]. As this treaty was the beginning of the end of the Ottoman influence on the Crimean peninsula [11-12-13].

Therefore, the objectives of the French campaign were numerous; among its goals were: revenge for the failure of the Fifth Crusade in 618 AH (1221 AD) at the hands of al-Malik al-Kamil, and revenge for the disgrace that befell them in the Battle of Mansoura in 648 AH (1250 AD). One of its goals was the French desire to punish the Mamluks who had previously contributed to breaking the French vanity. And also looking for another trade route after the British seized the Cape of Good Hope road and restricted them to French ships to sail on it, so a French desire was generated to confront the increasing British influence, with the aim of disrupting British trade routes and eliminating their commercial centers in the Red Sea, and from The objectives also France's desire to work on the construction of the Isthmus canal. Among the goals was their desire for Egypt to be a strategic base and nucleus for the French Empire in the Levant [1-14].

The idea of controlling Egypt and making it a French colony has been under discussion since Baron de Turgot undertook a secret mission to the Levant in 1777, to examine the feasibility, and his report was positive, but no steps were taken by France at the time, and Egypt became the subject of discussion after that between Charles Talleyrand [15-16] and Napoleon, and in 1798, Napoleon submitted a proposal to the government of managers to launch a campaign to control Egypt, with the aim of preserving French interests, and reducing Britain's ability to reach India and harm its trade, due to Egypt's good position between trade lines, and Bonaparte wanted to establish a French colony in Egypt Ultimately, they sought to link with France's allies in southern India [17-18-19].

First: French Orientalism and its role in establishing the French campaign on Egypt

Voltaire's writings [20] had a great impact on Napoleon, even though Voltaire had indicated that the Arabs, who wanted nothing but the sciences except the Qur'an, tried to show that their genius extends to all fields, but Napoleon understood it based on the imagination of the Arabs distinguished in building civilization, spreading science and knowledge, and making This is a way to reach the desired goals, and by his leadership of an army of scholars - later - Napoleon tried in vain to imitate the character of the Prophet Mohamed (May God bless him and grant him peace), but the character that Voltaire drew believes that the "invading" Arabs, behaving as if they are European empire builders. The stage of exploitation, which is mainly based on the establishment of an infrastructure for transport, and that the Arab of the first invasions resembles in many features the European invader, and this analogy is not only limited to practical practice, but also to scientific research, that is how Napoleon understood what Voltaire wrote.

In fact, the concept of "enlightened oriental despotism" dominated during the eighteenth century Montesquieu's writings [20] and opinions, since his publication in 1748 of his author The Spirit of Laws, and despite these writings on the Prophet Mohamed (May God bless him and grant him peace), Voltaire's writings are what It aroused the enthusiasm of the readers, and influenced them, due to the fact that the author's fame and the multiplicity of his publications promoted the "works on the Prophet Mohamed", even if they were not identical to the new image of Islam and his Messenger. In fact, Voltaire talks about the Messenger, as if he was talking about the figure of Machiavelli - which is the figure of Napoleon later -. There are two writers no less important than Voltaire, who started from his concept of that, and made "Mohamed" and his religion their striking force, and thanks to him they gained wide fame, they are Savary and Count de Volney, both of whom reflect the contradictions of Voltaire's picture, played a crucial role in transmitting the purely philosophical debate towards the implementation of the project of the conquest of Egypt [21-22-23]. Thus, Napoleon's admiration for Mohamed (May God bless him and grant him peace) arose mainly from the influence of the writings of Voltaire, Volney and Safari, as it will pass by us.

Napoleon's inclusion of a large number of specialists in his Egyptian campaign is so fame that it does not require elaboration, and his idea was to establish a kind of living record of the archives of his campaign, in the form of studies on possible topics, carried out by members of the Egypt Institute that established him. Perhaps less well known is the reliance of Napoleon, prior to the campaign, on the studies of Volney, a French traveler who published his book (A Journey to Egypt and Syria) in two volumes in 1787. He saw in Volney a scientist whose mission has always been to record the existential state of the things he sees. Volney's views on Islam, as a religion and a system of political institutions, are hostile, legalistic, yet Napoleon found this work, and Volney's other book: Reflections on the Current War of the Turks, 1788, of special importance. In the last account Volney was a wise Frenchman. He viewed the Near East as a place in which French colonial ambitions would likely be fulfilled, and what Napoleon said of Volney's work was to enumerate the obstacles that any French campaign in the East would face, on an ascending ladder depending on the degree of difficulty [21-24-25].

Egypt provides a tangible example of the state of the East, and then it is a target for major European ambitions, in the late eighteenth century, and its geographical position plays a great role in this choice, but its political, economic and social situation is what prompts more attention to it, and then the idea that was the century The eighteenth of this country is an important element that must be defined, and the travelers built in their depths a special perception of Egypt, which is viewed as part of the cultural

heritage of the West, and biblical memories only reinforce this feeling, Egypt was in the past a country worthy of admiration Today, it is a country worth studying.

Napoleon explicitly refers, in his meditations on the Egyptian campaign, to Volney, when he was on the island of Saint Helena, saying: that Volney saw that there were three barriers to French control in the Levant, and that any French force must fight - therefore - three wars: The first against England, the second against the Ottoman Sublime Porte, and the third, which is the most difficult one, against the Muslims. Volney's estimate was a shrewd, seasoned estimate, and very difficult to err, as it was clear to Napoleon - as it will be to everyone who reads Volney - that his journey and his looks, were two useful texts for any European who would like to be successful in the East. In other words: Volney's work constituted a biblical guide to alleviate the human trauma that the European might have felt at the moment of his direct experience of the Levant.

It seems that Volney's thesis was the following: Read both two books, and instead of being disappointed with the Levant, you will pull the Levant to you [26-27-28].

The orientalist productions - not only historical - of the campaign of Egypt were based in various ways, starting with the country of memories and making of glory, and ending with the idea of ridding of the Levantine tyranny, on which Volney and Safari based their ideas on it, and then the monarchy becomes - as is the case in France - another picture Despotism must be eliminated. Military rule from Napoleon's point of view is - in certain ways - more republican than royal, which is a very dangerous justification on the part of Napoleon, considering that the Mameluke regime is an authoritarian royal rule, which would have caused a great disappointment in the memories of Egypt's civilization, Photographed by the works of travelers.

Napoleon Volney understood almost literally, but in a way that distinguished her in terms of tenderness and gentleness, and since the first appearance of the French army on the Egyptian horizon, Napoleon made every effort to convince the Muslims that (we are the true Muslims), and armed with a team of orientalists, sitting in the command ship called (L'orient) and took advantage of the Egyptians' hostility to the Mamluks, and the attractiveness of the French revolutionary idea of equal opportunities for all, to wage a war against Islam that was unique in its time and selection, and what left the deepest impact on the same algebra, Napoleon relied on researchers to manage his contacts with The local population, and Napoleon tried every time and place to prove that he was fighting for Islam, and he translated what he said into Quranic Arabic, just as the French army commanders had urged their soldiers to always remember the Islamic sensitivity [29-30-31].

These ideas encouraging colonialism do not appear suddenly on the eve of the campaign, as he studied all the letters of the consuls and the reports of travelers, and Bonaparte's attempt would not have been completed unless there was a conviction of the possibility and opportunity of such a project, and the case is that the sad image that Egypt shows, or that is being presented about Egypt, It can only be understood within a perspective like this: that of saving a people from tyranny.

This can be concluded by reading the Arabic story written by Napoleon, which clearly shows his perceptions of the Levant, Islam and the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). In particular, Bonaparte wrote this story either in 1788 AD or 1789 AD, and it follows in essence the text of Marini , Who himself does nothing but quote from the French orientalist Herbelot [32-33].

“In the year 160 AH, the Abbasid Caliph Al-Mahdi was in control of Baghdad, and this great prince, generous, enlightened, and chivalrous, witnessed the prosperity of the empire under the shadow of peace and security. But the tranquility was confused by Ibn Hakim, who, from the depths of Khurasan, initiated the formation of his patriarchs in all parts of the empire. The hearts of the masses: Equality in positions and wealth was the main slogan of his speeches, and the people organized under his banners, and Ibn Hakim had an army.

The caliph and the experts felt the need to suffocate in the cradle this grave and dangerous uprising, but their forces suffered defeat several times, and throughout all days, Ibn Hakim was winning after he was victorious.

However, a terrible disease, which resulted from the suffering of the war, led to the distortion of the Prophet's face. This prophet is no longer the most beautiful of the Arabs, because these noble and proud features, these broad and burning eyes, have been distorted, and Ibn Hakim became blind. This shift could have dampened the enthusiasm of his supporters, and it occurred to him that he would wear a silver mask.

And he appeared among his gods, Ibn Hakim did not lose anything of his eloquence, and his words had the same strength. He spoke to them and persuaded them that he only wears this mask to prevent the light that floods from his face from blinding people.

He relied more than before on the delirium of the peoples, which aroused their enthusiasm, when the loss of a battle led to sabotage of his works, reduced his supporters and weakened their faith. He was besieged, and the garrison was few in number. Oh Ibn Hakim, you must perish, otherwise your enemies will take you prisoner! Then he would gather his mourners and say to them: “O believers, who have been chosen by God and Mohamed to revive the empire and restore honor to our nation, why do the number of our enemies discourage you? Hear: Last night, while you were all in sleep, I prostrate and called to God:“ O my guardian, my ruler, You have protected me for many years, and I or those with me must be guilty of your right, because here you are leaving us! ”Then, briefly, I heard a voice saying to me:“ Oh son of a wise man, those who did not forsake you are your sincere friends, and they are the only ones who are the chosen ones”. And they will share with you the riches of your proud enemies. Wait for the new moon, dig deep trenches, and your enemies will fall into them like smoky flies. ”Soon the trenches were dug, one was filled with lime, and barrels full of wine were placed on the edge. After they finished all of this, they ate a collective meal, and everyone drank. From the same wine, they died with one symptom.

Then Ibn Hakim dragged their corpses to the lime, where they had decomposed into them, set fire to the alcoholic drinks, and threw himself in them. On the next day, the Caliph's forces were about to march, but they stopped when they saw the gates open. She entered cautiously and found only a woman, who is the mistress of Ibn Hakim, who was written to her after him.

That was the end of Ibn Hakim, who was called al-Burqi, whose Shiites believed he had been raised to heaven with his group. This example is strange and almost unbelievable. How far can the madness of fame go!"

This is how the Egyptian image (the Levant) can be depicted in the imagination of Napoleon and the French, in a manner with great precision, observing the great transformations witnessed by the stereotype, until it became stable in Napoleon's mind, after Islam was an unseen monster in the imaginations of the Europeans, especially before the wars The Crusades, and those myths that appeared about the inability to defeat an army of Muslims, we see the image changed and transformed during the Crusades, and afterwards, then that image continued to change, especially after the text campaigns represented by the travelers who explored the Levant closely, and the picture began to take A more dangerous form than it used to be, after it was an image based on backwardness and barbarism, it became, thanks to Voltaire, based on skilled intelligence, but at the same time hostility, and Napoleon realized from all this that he should improve the equation, so he chose to be a Muslim, and that is better than being their enemy [34].

Second: The role of French spies in preparing for the French campaign

French spies used to patronize Egypt while recording their observations and reporting therein in the form of the project "Occupation of Egypt to control the Levant trade", and the reports mention: "The Egyptians are completely crushed, the Ottoman ruler is a puppet, the Mamluk princes between a constant conflict and satiety with riches and surrender to luxury and lax in duty, the garrison The Ottoman Empire is small in number, its weapons are primitive, and its personnel are not trained in the arts of modern warfare, in addition to their involvement in forcing the Egyptians and extorting their money.

The occupation of Egypt was a strong desire of France despite the failure of its multiple campaigns, but its leaders were waiting for the opportunity to fulfill their hopes, and for that, they sent their messengers in the form of merchants and travelers, and their mission was to send reports that described the state of weakness and chaos that Egypt was experiencing during this period. These reports had a role in sending the campaign, and among the most important of these reports that had a role in the occupation of Egypt [7]:

1. The report of Saint-Priest

He was the Ambassador of France in Istanbul from 1768 to 1785, and in his report he simplified the state of the Ottoman Empire, advised his country's government to abandon the policy of friendship and occupation of Egypt, and explained in it the path of the near collapse of the Ottoman Empire [35]. His book to the ambassador that Russia has become close to Constantinople, and may have been able to eliminate Turkey in Europe before a country can help it, so France should hasten to occupy Egypt, which does not cost difficulty, because it is devoid of any fortification and there are no armies in it more. Of the five or six thousand Mamluks, they did not stand in the field of organized warfare, nor did they have single cannon [36].

2. The report of François Baron de Tott

He is a French military engineer and diplomat who worked in it as an assistant to the French ambassador [37] and a military trainer in the Turkish army. He returned from Constantinople in 1776 after explaining in his report the state of weakness that Turkey was in, and he talked about the ease of opening Egypt and its occupation in his memoirs, which he published in four parts in 1784 [38], asserting that Egypt is full of wealth and can be easily conquered.

His apparent purpose of his visit to Egypt was to carry out scientific and astronomical research for the scientific complex, but he was tasked with conducting military surveys, and testing the state of the coasts and castles located on the Mediterranean Sea, and he was assigned to make maps of the shores of Egypt and Syria, especially the area on the coast of Egypt between Alexandria and Abu Qir, and to know What point is suitable for landing, that the seizure of Egypt will only be a peaceful occupation of a defenseless country, and that he sees a publication that reassures the people that the French have come as friends and allies of the Sultan, liberating them from the power of the Mamluk [36-39-40] clan If not, then England will.

The government of Louis XVI dispatched Baron de Tut to Egypt to draw up a comprehensive plan for the conquest of Egyptian lands, and before de Tut embarked on his trip to Egypt, the French government informed its Ottoman counterpart that the Baron was coming to the Egyptian lands to do astronomical and scientific research in favor of the Academy of Sciences, and the Ottomans agreed without hesitation. As soon as de Tut landed in the port of Alexandria, although he was tasked with conducting military surveys, and testing the state of the coasts and castles located on the Mediterranean Sea, he was tasked with making maps of the shores of Egypt and Syria, especially the area on the coast of Egypt between Alexandria and Abu Qir, and knowing which point is suitable for landing. To land, because the conquest of Egypt will only be a peaceful occupation of a defenseless country, and that he sees a publication that reassures the people that the French came as friends and allies of the Sultan, liberating them from the Mamluk clan [36-39].

De Tutt began to implement his original plan, studying the point located on the coast of Egypt, between Alexandria and Abu Qir, to determine the suitable point for landing the French soldiers to land. He was accompanied by an officer from the French Navy to measure the depth of points near the coast to know what is suitable for the movement of ships. While the traveler was assigned to Sonnini, a naturalist and officer in the French Navy and the best man who wrote about Egypt before the French campaign, and was another escort to the baron, to travel to Suez for other war investigations. Sonnini then traveled to Cairo, making an accurate map of it, focusing on its defense capabilities. This was at the time of the ongoing war between the Mamluks in Egypt: Murad Bey and Ibrahim Bey on one side, and the Sheikh of Al-Balad Ismail Bey on the other side.

Baron de Tutt and his companions completed their intelligence mission with distinction, without being hindered or asked by anyone about the measurements and studies that they urged to complete. Then they left Egypt on a frigate and took it back to Paris. And they handed over a report on the work of the trip to the French government, the most important of which was that

Egypt is free of any defensive fortification and that there are no more than five or six thousand armies in it, they do not have one cannon, and they have not practiced regular war before. The report concluded with the ability of 15 thousand French soldiers to occupy the mainland of Egypt completely without much resistance.

Louis XVI attempted to turn de Tut's plan into reality in 1781, and had already prepared 28,000 soldiers for the occupation of Egypt. But accidents of the war between the British and the French in North America disrupted the travel of this campaign. Then the French Revolution took place in the year 1789, and overthrew Louis XVI and the entire French monarchy, and the file of the Egyptian invasion fell into oblivion until Napoleon Bonaparte rose to the top of the events in Paris.

Historians have narrated that Napoleon, during peace negotiations with Austria in the year 1797, used to gather his commanders and portray them to the conquest of Egypt, and to take this home as a war base to send a large force to India, to eliminate the authority of England in it. At the same time, he wrote to the government of France a lengthy letter explaining the importance of the campaign against Egypt, among which was: "If reconciliation with England decides to give up the Cape of Good Hope, then we must oppose it in Egyptian homes, which have never fallen into possession. A European state ... and in our ability to send twenty-five thousand soldiers to seize those lands, and I have that Egypt is not now subordinate to the Ottoman state".

Bonaparte based his plan to invade Egypt on the same report that Baron de Tut made after he removed it from the archives of the French Foreign Ministry. And when he went with the soldiers of the campaign to the Egyptian lands, it was the hearty remarks contained in the report, about the Mamelukes, about the fortifications, and about the strategic sites, that enabled Napoleon easily to control Lower Egypt and Cairo as if he were on a picnic. It was England, not the Ottoman Empire, that would end the French presence in Egypt, in order to preserve its impressive colonies in India.

3. Claude-Etienne Savary report

He was at the forefront of the travelers who came to Egypt during the Middle Ages, he came to Egypt in 1776 at the age of twenty-six, he stayed there for about three years and described its effects and social life, and this is what the Turks did in Egypt, and he accurately described the secret life of Egyptian women, and published what he wrote in the form of letters in three volumes between 1785-1789 [41].

The safari traveler says after seeing the Pharaonic antiquities, "Whoever sees the antiquities that Egypt maintains can imagine any people whose monuments defied the events of time, for he did not work except for immortality, and it is he who provided Homer, Herodotus and Plato with the treasures of their knowledge that they bestowed on their countries, and that Unfortunately, science has not yet been able to reveal the secrets of the "hieroglyphic" pharaonic inscriptions that fill this rich country. Knowing these secrets sheds light on ancient history and dispels the darkness that encompasses the first ages of history.

It is remarkable that this French traveler noticed the ruinous effects of the Ottoman invasion of Egypt because he had studied the prosperous history of Egypt before the Ottoman conquest, saying: "The Turkish invasion was the conclusion of the glory of Egypt, and that the rule of the pashas eliminated science and literature, ruined commerce, industry and agriculture, and gave a veil of pardon. Comprehensive for all the greatness and prosperity of Islamic Egypt.

A safari traveled around Egypt from Alexandria to Rosetta and spent a long time in his journey, describing Rosetta and her family to us, writing that life has a seductive witch, and then he went to Cairo on a Nile cruise in a sailboat, and Cairo, the capital, did not like him and did not dazzle him as the views of Alexandria dazzled him. That is because Cairo, which during the Middle Ages was the greatest city of Islam, ended in the late eighteenth century in a modest city surrounded by hills and ruins. Safari describes the plans of Cairo at that time and the narrow streets and alleys of Cairo, but Cairo was nonetheless drawing attention to its three hundred mosques, and presented a sad picture of Islamic Egypt. The brutal Turkish rule damaged all of her former grandeur and splendor.

He described the Egyptian social life very professionally and devoted a lot to it. He also described Al-Masry with laziness and justifies that by saying that the atmosphere affects his resolve and then he tends to soft life, and he spends his day at work and in his home, and the Egyptian does not know the hustle and bustle of European life.

The traveler Safari singled out part of his books about the Egyptian woman, that is, about her conditions in that era, stating that she was like a slave and did not play any role in public life, and if the European woman controlled the thrones and led morals and customs, then the role of women in Egypt does not go beyond the harem and has nothing to do with affairs. The public, and its greatest aspiration is to have children, and its most important duty is to raise them, and the harem is the cradle of childhood and its school and in which children are raised up to seven and eight. Women are also concerned with household affairs and they do not participate in the appearance of men, and they do not eat food with them except in special opportunities and spend leisure time between slave girls And singing and tanning, and they are allowed to go out to the bathroom once or twice a week, and here he describes for us the bathrooms of Cairo and scenes of recreation and adornment, and how women are eager to go to the bathroom with their maidservants and there they spend time between adornment and amusement, and they listen in the luxurious pomp to singing and love stories.

The woman receives her female visitors politely and warmly, and the maidservants carry coffee, talk and browns, and during that fruit and when they finish eating, the maidservants carry the rose water garment and the female invitees wash their hands, then the ward is burned and the maidservants dance. During these women's visits, the husband is not allowed to approach the harem. As it is a place of private hospitality, and this is a right that Egyptian women are keen on, and they may sometimes benefit from it to achieve a romantic wish, as the lover can penetrate into the harem disguised as a woman, and if he does not discover his matter he wins his mischief and if he finds out about his matter then his reward is death, and the Egyptian woman is excessive in Love and Joy are excessive in hatred and revenge, and romance novels often end in horrific tragedies.

Thus, brilliantly, he describes Egyptian social life at the end of the eighteenth century, as if he were an informed researcher who studied and witnessed by himself, careful and balanced.

Savary's writings were undoubtedly one of the most powerful sources that the French campaign against Egypt and its scholars later benefited from, especially when they put their famous envelope in "Description of Egypt".

Safari mentioned a report on the fertility of the land of Egypt, the abundance of its yields and the ease of its conquest. He called for the conquest of Egypt. How will its conditions be when it becomes in the hands of enlightened when this country becomes in the hands of a lover of art, it will be the center of world trade and the bridge that connects Europe with Asia, this preserved country will return to become again an institute of science and the best places in the world to reside, and these projects are not illusions, sir, as mentioned in the description, of state systems and conditions of trade and agriculture" [39-40].

4. The Lazovsky Report

He is a colonel in the engineering corps who was dispatched by the Republic as a trainer for the Ottoman army, in his memoirs, on January 4, 1798, he emphasized the military decline of the Ottoman Empire and made it clear that the conquest of Egypt would extract, the Egyptian glory from the slavery that has been submitting to it for a long time [42].

5. Volney report

He is the author of the famous trip, which was published in 1787, as it gained wide fame, and it is considered an important reference for knowing the conditions of Egypt in the late 18th century A.D [43]. Volney mentioned in his report the ease of conquering Egypt and the weakness of the Mamluk position in it, and their ignorance in ways Modern warfare, stressing that the campaign does not require only a small number of men [44], as he said, "Egypt has no war value and does not have any fortifications, and its lantern is neglected and its protection does not improve the shooting with the inferior cannons available to it, and its Janissary soldiers have reduced their number by almost half, and emphasized on The necessity of conquest, even if it is in order to save the monuments buried in the sand, as he said: "If Egypt had a nation that loves fine arts, we would find in it the most valuable sources for knowledge of antiquity that we cannot find anywhere else in the sciences. In his report, Volney stressed that the conquest of Egypt satisfies all tastes and satisfies politicians and soldiers, just as it pleases explorers, scientists, artists and lovers of humanity [39].

6. Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand's report

He wrote his report to the administration government, on February 14, 1798, in which he presented the history of French-Egyptian relations since ancient times, explained the weak Ottoman system of government, and the emergence of the Mamluks on the political stage. The complaints of French merchants, and the plundering and plundering of their shops and caravans, highlighting the extent of the evils committed by the Mamluks, and he said: "The hour of their sentence has approached, which the government of the executive administration can postpone [39-40]", and stressed that the seizure of Egypt is part of the policy of the French state, and in a letter he sent. To the Executive Council in June 1798, in which he asserted that the French campaign against Egypt would destroy the British sultan in India, and he mentioned a set of arguments that could take revenge against the Mamluks' niches, saying: "When the administration government takes revenge for the insults directed at the republic, it liberates the inhabitants of Egypt. From the tyranny that torments them". And Talleyrand assured Napoleon in his speech on September 13, 1798: "Egypt is a trade route that will give us India's trade. The trade-off is dependent on time, and with the seizure of Egypt, we can make five trips as opposed to three on the usual route around the Strait of the Cape of Good Hope" [45-46].

7. Napoleon's report

The idea of invading Egypt sank in his mind after he managed to control parts of Italy, and he had great ambitions in the entire Levant, and he mentioned in his report that France could make Egypt a warehouse for the world's stores and thus compensate France for what it lost from its colonies, He also presented arguments represented in the fact that it was the most fertile country in the world, and that it was the storehouse of grain in the ancient world [47]. Napoleon was the political purpose that he aimed to organize the campaign, so he said, "The first purpose of the French campaign is to break the English's thorn in the Levant, as there is no way but the Nile Valley [48], and it was evident that the seizure of Egypt would lead to the loss of all English colonies in America and India The Mediterranean has inevitably become a French lake [49], as he said, "Six years would suffice for me to go to India, even if things went normal".

Napoleon wrote to Talleyrand, describing to him the advantages of the French campaign against Egypt, indicating that "if France finds itself obliged to accept its loss in other parts of the world, it must possess Egypt." And he said: "The day will soon come when it will have to the conviction that Egypt must be occupied in order to destroy England" [50].

- The report of the French community in Egypt: Even the French community sent a petition to the French Constituent Assembly, and the Chamber of Commerce in Marseille to suggest the imposition of a naval blockade on Egypt, which would provide the opportunity for France to seize the route to India, and in 1793 another petition was sent to Paris, and this time it was not a request to impose a blockade. Al-Bahri, rather the occupation, and the signatories asserted that six thousand citizens will be expelled in Cairo's niches, and its invasion will not cost any blood [39].

Napoleon's influence over France depended from the start on his success in the war; After his conquest of northern Italy in 1797 and the dissolution of the First Coalition, he aimed to invade Britain, a century-old rival of France and the last remaining fighter. He concluded that French naval power could not afford a naval invasion, except that the government sent Napoleon on a military expedition to Egypt instead, hoping to choke off the main road to the British Indian Empire [51].

8. Magloun, the French Consul in Alexandria

Magloun [35] dispatched in February 1798 a detailed report, in which he described the state of Egypt and the extent of the damage inflicted on merchants in Egypt at the hands of the Mamluk tribes, and it was his opinion that the French could work

directly from Egypt to expel the English from India And to be convinced of disrupting the British trade and taking advantage of this trade without them, as he asserted in his saying, "The occupation of Egypt can take place with a small number of 20-25 thousand combatants, and I do not think that the Sublime Porte will be angry at this act in anger that affects our friendly relationship with him because he is in Reality has no authority over the Mamelukes". Then he advised that the project of this campaign, if it was decided to carry out it, should remain a hidden secret [49].

And he wrote to Qarninak, the ambassador of Paris to Constantinople, saying: "Please, citizen, do not be complacent in helping Egypt to give France these most beautiful gifts that you can give it, the French people will find in this gain enormous resources", and also focused on a claim to the occupation of Egypt because there are no fortifications. Sufficient militarism, in addition to the weakness of arming the Mamelukes, as in this regard he said: "If the republic wants to take care of French trade and wishes to benefit from it to the maximum extent, then it must seize the Egyptian country, I repeat that when we became masters of the sea It is not long for us to impose our will on the British and expel them from India, and from Suez we can transfer a huge number of soldiers to India in a period not exceeding 60 days instead of the six months required by this transfer through the Cape of Good Hope [39].

Before the French campaign against Egypt, Charles Magloun, the French Consul in Egypt, presented a report to his government on February 9, 1798, inciting it to occupy Egypt, showing the importance of his country's seizure of Egyptian products and its trade, and enumerating for it the advantages that France is expected to gain from behind this, and the importance of its seizure. His country is dependent on Egypt's products and trade, and a number of advantages that France is expected to reap from this. He talked about the weakness of the Ottoman Empire, and that it is on the way to dissolution, but the French government hesitated and did not take their advice, preserving its policy based on the ostensible friendship and friendship of the Ottoman state.

A few days after the presentation of Majaloun's report, the government of France received another report from Talleyrand, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and this report occupies a great place in the history of the French campaign against Egypt, in which it presented the relations that had existed from ancient times between France and Egypt and the extension of opinions calling for the advantages of seizing Egypt. He presented the arguments that show that the opportunity has become available to send a campaign against Egypt and open it. He also addressed the means of implementing the invasion project in terms of preparing men and equipping the ships necessary to carry them and the military invasion plan, and he called for observing the traditions, customs and religious rituals of the people of Egypt, and to win them over and gain their affection by revering their scholars and sheikhs. And respect for opinion-holders among them; because these scholars hold a great position among the Egyptians.

As a result of that, the issue of the conquest of Egypt gained the attention of the administration government that was established after the French Revolution, and went out of the stage of consideration and thinking into action and implementation, and issued its historic decision to place the Levant army under the command of Napoleon Bonaparte on April 12, 1798. The decision included an introduction and six articles, The introduction included the reasons for the administration's government to send its campaign to Egypt, foremost among which is the punishment of the Mamluks who mistreated the French and assaulted their money and souls, and the search for another commercial route after the British seized the Cape of Good Hope road and restricted them to French ships to sail in it, and the decision included Bonaparte was tasked with expelling the British from their possessions in the Levant and in the places they could reach, eliminating their commercial centers in the Red Sea, and working on digging the Suez Canal.

The French armies attacked Egypt in 1798 under the leadership of Bonaparte, with the aim of making Egypt a strategic base that would be the nucleus of the French Empire in the Levant, and a very important document about Bonaparte's dream of digging the Suez Canal and not wasting a single drop of the Nile water if he was to rule Egypt for a long time, And to make it a base for an enormous empire east of Suez that extends to Iran and Afghanistan, and as he said: "I am no less than Alexander the Great despite my great sadness because Alexander invaded Egypt at the age of twenty-six while I was twenty-eight".

Conclusion

- The research confirmed the great role of French Orientalism in the founding of the French campaign against Egypt, based on the writings of Voltaire and the writings of Montesquieu and his views that Napoleon used to suggest that building civilization and spreading science and knowledge are among the goals that prompted this campaign. On the pretext of controlling the concept of enlightened despotism the Levant.
- There are two writers no less important than Voltaire, who proceeded from his concept, Savary and Comte de Volney, who played a decisive role in transmitting the pure philosophical debate towards the implementation of the project of the conquest of Egypt.
- This motivated Napoleon to include in the campaign a large number of specialists, and his idea was to establish a kind of living record of the archives of his campaign, in the form of studies on possible topics, carried out by members of the Egypt Institute, which he established.
- Napoleon, in his reflections on the Egyptian campaign, prompted that any French power must fight three wars: the first against England, the second against the Ottoman Sublime Porte, and the third, which is the most difficult of them, against the Muslims, based on Volney's words.
- The research confirmed that Napoleon studied all the consuls 'letters and travelers' reports,
- The French traveler spies had an important role in preparing for the French campaign and who roamed Egypt in the form of merchants and travelers, while they recorded their observations and reported them in the form of the "Occupation of Egypt to control the Levant trade" project. Their mission was to send reports that described the state of weakness and chaos that

was Egypt lives in this period, and these reports had a role in sending the campaign, and among the most important of these reports that had a role in the occupation of Egypt:

- Saint-Priest demanded in his report that France hasten the occupation of Egypt, which does not cost difficulty, because it is devoid of any fortification and there are no more than five or six thousand Mamluks in it who did not stand in the field of organized war and do not have a single cannon.
- François Baron de Tott spoke in his report about the ease of conquering and occupying Egypt, stressing that Egypt is full of wealth and can be easily conquered, and he developed a comprehensive plan for the conquest of the Egyptian lands, on which Bonaparte relied for the conquest of Egypt.
- The writings of the traveler, Claude-Etienne Savary, were undoubtedly one of the most powerful sources that the French campaign against Egypt and its scholars later benefited from, especially when they put their famous expansion in "Description de l'Égypte".
- Lazowski mentioned in his report the military decline of the Ottoman Empire and made it clear that the conquest of Egypt would extract "the Egyptian glory from the slavery under which he has been submitting for a long time".
- Volney mentioned in his report the ease of conquering Egypt and the weak position of the Mamelukes there, and their ignorance of the methods of modern warfare, stressing that the campaign does not require only a few men.
- Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand emphasized in his report that the seizure of Egypt was part of the French state policy, and that the French campaign against Egypt would destroy the British sultan in India.
- Napoleon mentioned in his report that France could make Egypt a repository for the world's stores and thus compensate France for what it lost from its colonies, and he presented arguments that it was the most fertile country in the world, and that it was the loftiest store in the world.
- The French community demanded the imposition of a naval blockade on Egypt, but rather the occupation and its invasion would not cost any blood.
- Magloun described the state of Egypt and the extent of the damage inflicted on merchants in Egypt at the hands of the Mamluk tribes. He also submitted a report to his government inciting it to the necessity of the occupation of Egypt.

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