

DECLARATION OF WAR ON EMPEROR LEOPOLD

Sultan Mehmed IV (1648–1687)

20 February 1683

Mohamed, son of emperors, son to the famous and glorious God, Emperor of the Turks, King of Graecia, Macedonia, Samaria, and the Holy Land, King of Great and Lesser Egypt, King of all the inhabitants of the Earth, and of the Earthly Paradise, obedient prince and son of Mohamed, Preserver of the towns of Hungaria, possessor of the sepulcher of your God, Lord of all the emperors of the world from the rising of the Sun to the going down thereof, King of all kings, Lord of the Tree of Life, Conqueror of Melonjen, Itegly, and the city Prolenix, Great Pursuer of the Christians, Joy of the flourishing world, Commander and Guardian of the crucified God, Lord of the multitude of heathens.

We command you to greet the Emperor Leopold (in case he desire it) and you as our friends, and a friend to Our Majesty, whose power We will extend very far, thus,

You have for some time past acted to Our prejudice and violated Our friendship, although We have not offended you, neither by war or any otherwise; but you have taken private advice with other kings and your councils how to take off your yoke, in which you have acted very indiscreetly, and thereby have exposed your people to fear and danger, having nothing to expect but death, which you have brought upon yourselves. For I declare unto you, I will make myself your master, pursue you from east to west, and extend my majesty to the end of the earth; in all which you shall find my power to your great prejudice. I assure you that you shall feel the weight of my power; and for that you have put your hope and expectation in the strength of some towns and castles, I have given command to overthrow them, and to trample under feet with my horses all that is acceptable and pleasant in your eyes, leaving nothing hereafter by which you shall make a friendship with me, or any fortified places to put your trust in. For I have resolved without retarding of time to ruin both you and your people, to take the German Empire according to my pleasure, and to leave in the Empire a commemoration of my dreadful sword, that it may appear to all, it will be a pleasure to me to give a public establishment of my religion and to pursue your crucified God, whose wrath I fear not, nor his coming to your assistance to deliver you out of my hands. I will according to my pleasure put your sacred priests to the plow and expose the breasts of your matrons to be sucked by dogs and other beasts.

You will therefore do well to forsake your religion, or else I will give order to consume you with fire. This is enough said unto you, and to give you to understand what I would have, in case you have a mind to know it.

The Great Turks Declaration of War Against the Emperour of Germany (London: 1683).