its process of national reunification. As a result, it took a much more party-oriented and dictatorial path in its process of state building.

_Hulasa_: the procedural patterns in the late 18th century
Ottoman chancery system

by Yōichi Takamatsu

_Hulasa_, a document-style in the Ottoman Empire, is a résumé of letters and reports sent from local administrators to the Sublime Porte. Though less investigated, it is the most important source material for the study of decision making process of the Ottoman Empire and _modi operandi_ of its scribal service. It is not the original document but the _hulasa_ that shows in what way the original documents were dealt with and informations of them were appraised.

There are two types of _hulasas_. One is a collective outline of all original documents sent in one correspondence. It contains a series of articles, each of which is a single verbal noun clause, usually written in two columns on a large sheet of paper, with comments written in red ink.

The other is the topical outline of original documents. It contains one or several articles extracted from the former one, and is written in a single column on a small sheet of paper.

The former type of _hulasa_ was submitted by the Grand Vizir to the Sultan together with original documents in order to help him understand the contents of original documents. The latter type of _hulasa_, an extraction from the former type, circulated in the offices where each result of scribal procedures was added into the margin, e.g. Grand Vizir’s _buyurulu_ (order), _der-kenar_ (extracts) from the registers preserved in relative offices, _defterdar_ (chief treasurer)’s _telhis_ (abridged report) to the Grand Vizir. In the end of this procedure, a _ferman_ (imperial order) was to be
issued.

Composing the *hulasas* is the duty of the office of *kethûda* (steward) of the Grand Vizir. *Kethûda*, initially one of the personal servants of the Grand Vizir's household in origin, became the primary officer of the Sublime Porte in the 18th century and all documents sent from local administrators were addressed to him. His office played an important role in the Sublime Porte through composing *hulasas*.

The development of scribal procedures like composing *hulasas* coincided with the evolution of the Ottoman bureaucracy in the late 18th century.