

5th international conference

**Military elites throughout history in the Mediterranean and elsewhere:
Power (s), Action (s) and Mission (s).**

(Tunis : November 18-19-20th 2016)

The monopoly of the use of weapons was always reserved for a social minority that benefited from this advantage to lead, protect or dominate others (for Plato: the heart (the guardians, warriors), opposite head (philosophers) and stomach (artisans and shopkeepers) in the Middle ages. those who fight (bellatores) must protect priores (those who pray) and laboratores (those who work). In the company, it is the elite military that enjoys a special prestige acquired by power and recognized by the rest of society. This prestige is consolidated by a seizure of wealth and control of political power.

Since ancient times, this elite has continued to act on societies and on production. It includes the builders or destroyers of cities, the conquerors or defenders of kingdoms, the creators or plunderers of wealth ... In brief, a good part of the history was traced by the swords of warriors. From Hannibal to Napoleon and from Saladin to Nasser, the Human history was marked by men whose mission was war. Nationalism, expansionism, defending the faith or partisan interests, or simply spoil. All means were suitable for military elites to ascend the heads of states, societies, tribes...

Our research does not include political or military events (battles, strategies), but it is more focused on considering the social dynamics that have emerged these elites and their social, economic and political aspects. We also want to review history of the Mediterranean military elites favoring the following areas whose boundaries are nonrestrictive:

- 1) Military and Social Promotion (slaves, peasants ...) It becomes dignitary not by birth but following the acquisition of skills related to the use of weapons. Where do these people come from? Where are they now? How they managed to win? Can we draw the typical trajectories?
- 2) The mechanisms and procedures that allowed or facilitated the grip of the elite on the means of production and wealth.

- 3) Social Networking and integration of military elites in decisions spheres. (Family, marriage alliances, ethnicity).
- 4) Army and modernity (the experience of Mohammed Ali in Egypt and Ahmed Bey in Tunisia)
- 5) The military elites and the political spheres (uprisings / revolutions / plots / reforms / democracy / dictatorship).

Proposals not exceeding **one page** will be sent to the following address:

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Important dates:

June 10, 2016 : **deadline** to receive proposals (please attach a brief **CV: half a page**).

June 20 , 2016 : **Response from the juries**.

October 10, 2016: sending communications texts.

18 - 19 to 20 November 2016 : holding of the conference . (location to be confirmed).

Note:

The organizers do not support air transport out of Tunisia.