Muhammad Ali’s Conquests :

Muhammad Ali strengthened his position in Cairo by dispatching his son Tosun , at Istanbul’s request, to Arabia in 1811 to free the Holy Cities from its occupiers *Al-Muwahhidin* , better known as *Wahhabis* . Tosun took Mecca in 1812 and Medina in the following year . After this campaign , Muhammad Ali enlarged his holdings by sending troops into northern Sudan . His ambitions required a bigger and better army, so to meet his needs of fighters and laborers , he authorized slave raids in Sudan to acquire men who can be used into a modern army . Thousands of slaves were brought to Egypt , but most of them died from diseases and other causes.

The loss of thousands men and the financial investment that had gone into procuring them, led Muhammad Ali to abandon the experiment. He instituted conscription of Egyptian peasants instead of Sudanese slaves. This was an unheard innovation in Islamic history, and many of the peasants responded by either escaping or armed rebellion. But Muhammad Ali persevered, and by 1824 the Egyptian army was impressive enough that Sultan Mahmood II (r. 1808–39) requested its support against the rebellion in Greece. The success of an army commanded by Muhammad Ali’s son, Ibrahim Pasha, alarmed European powers, who sided with the Greek rebels against Ottoman authorities . The British and French fleets sank a combined Ottoman- Egyptian fleet at Navarino in 1827, and Ibrahim Pasha was forced to withdraw his troops from Greece .