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Shattering Empires

The break-up of the Ottoman empire and the disintegration of the Russian empire were watershed events in modern history. The unraveling of these empires was both cause and consequence of World War I and resulted in the deaths of millions. It irrevocably changed the landscape of the Middle East and Eurasia and reverberates to this day in conflicts throughout the Caucasus and Middle East. *Shattering Empires* draws on extensive research in the Ottoman and Russian archives to tell the story of the rivalry and collapse of two great empires. Overturning accounts that portray their clash as one of conflicting nationalisms, this pioneering study argues that geopolitical competition and the emergence of a new global interstate order provide the key to understanding the course of history in the Ottoman–Russian borderlands in the twentieth century. It will appeal to anyone interested in Middle Eastern, Russian, and Eurasian history, international relations, ethnic conflict, and World War I.

MICHAEL A. REYNOLDS is Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University.

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Note on transliteration and usage

The transliteration of names and places from multiple non-Latin alphabet sources presents numerous irresolvable difficulties. This is particularly true when one is dealing with imperial sources, wherein the language of a document is often unrelated to the native tongue of the subject mentioned therein, thereby raising the real problem of how best to render that subject's name. Names from Ottoman documents are transliterated into their modern Turkish equivalent. English spellings have been retained for Turkish words that already enjoy standard English spellings, such as pasha. Names cited in Russian documents generally are transliterated according to a modified Library of Congress system. Exceptions include well-known figures such as Trotsky (Trotskii) and Yudenich (Iudenich) and prominent place names, such as Yerevan (Erevan). The final Russian soft sign is dropped for place names such as Sevastopol (Sevastopol') and Aleksandropol (Aleksandropol'). Similarly, *dzh* is dropped for the more straightforward *j* in names of Arabic origin and place names: hence, Najmuddin and Ajaria, not Nadzhmuddin and Adzharia. Because Ottoman as well as Russian sources use the term Transcaucasus (*Mavera-yı Kafkasya* and *Zakavkaz'e*), I have chosen to retain it instead of "South Caucasus," a term that has recently come into more popular use.

As a general, but not inviolable, rule, personal names are rendered in the language of the empire with which they were more closely associated, whether by choice or circumstance. Place names are, again generally, selected according to imperial affiliation prior to 1914, and spelled accordingly: Sarikamish, Elisavetpol, and Batumi rather than Sarıkamış, Gence/Gäncä, or Batum. No claims are made with regard to a subject's ethnicity, identity, or presumed political loyalty, or to a territory's proper affiliation. The sole intent is to make the personal and place names accessible to English-speakers.

The reader unfamiliar with Ottoman and Turkish history should be aware that family names were not adopted until 1934. When pertinent, the family name is placed in parentheses upon first mention of an

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individual, e.g., Halil Bey (Menteşe). The words bey, efendi, and pasha are honorific titles, not last names.

For those readers unfamiliar with Turkish spelling and pronunciation, the following simplified guide may be of use:

C, c	"j" as in "jam"
Ç, ç	"ch" as in "chest"
Ğ, ğ	a soft "g" that generally elongates the preceding vowel
I, ı	a hard "i," something between "i" in "will" and "u" in radium
J, j	similar to the "s" in "treasure"
Ö, ö	same as the German "ö" or the French "eu" as in "seul"
Ş, ş	"sh" as in "should"
Ü, ü	same as the German "ü" or the French "u" as in "lune"

In citations of primary source documents I include two dates. The first is the date found on the document and the second, in brackets, is the conversion to the Gregorian calendar in the form of day, month, and year. The Ottoman empire used three calendars. The dates herein are from the Rumi calendar, which was used for civil matters. The Rumi calendar measured solar years beginning from the *Hijra* and was based on the Julian calendar, which lags thirteen days behind the Gregorian calendar. Hence the Rumi calendar was 584 years and thirteen days behind the Gregorian calendar. In March 1917 the Ottomans eliminated the thirteen-day difference between the Rumi and the Gregorian calendars. Because the Ottoman system for numbering months began not with January but with March, I have written out the names of Ottoman months. Russia used the Julian calendar until 1918 when it switched to the Gregorian. The Transcaucasus made the switch later. For the sake of consistency, I have provided a converted Gregorian date in numerical form, month.day.year, for citations from Ottoman, Russian, and Transcaucasian sources.

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Myth of Panturanism," *Past and Present*, no. 203 (May 2009), 137–79, and is reprinted with kind permission.

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Abbreviations

OTTOMAN ARCHIVAL SOURCES

ATASE GENELKURMAY ASKERÎ TARİH VE STRATEJİK ETÜT BAŞKANLIĞI ARŞİVİ

Unless otherwise noted, all citations are from the First World War Collection (Birinci Dünya Harbi Koleksiyonu).

BDH	Birinci Dünya Harbi
BHK	Balkan Harbi Koleksiyonu

BOA BAŞBAKANLIK OSMANLI ARŞİVİ

BEO	Bab-ı Âlî Evrak Odası
DH.İD	Dahiliye Nezareti İdarî Kısım
DH.İ.UM	Dahiliye Nezareti İdâre-i Umumiye
DH.KMS	Dahiliye Nezareti Kalem-i Mahsûs Müdüriyeti
DH.MUİ	Dahiliye Nezareti Muhaberat-ı Umumiye İdaresi
DH.ŞFR	Dahiliye Nezareti Şifre Kalemi
DH.SYS	Dahiliye Nezareti Siyasî Kısım
HR.HMŞ.İŞO	Hariciye Nezareti Hukuk Müşavirliği İstişare Odası
MV	Meclis-i Vükelâ Mazbataları

K.	Klasör
D.	Dosya
S.	Sıra
F.	Fihrist
B.	Belge

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RUSSIAN ARCHIVAL SOURCES

AVPRI	ARKHIV VNESHNEI POLITIKI ROSSIISKOI IMPERII
GARF	GOSUDARSTVENNYI ARKHIV ROSSIISKII FEDERATSII
RGVA	ROSSIISKII GOSUDARSTVENNYI VOENNYI ARKHIV
RGVIA	ROSSIISKII GOSUDARSTVENNYI VOENNO-ISTORICHESKII ARKHIV

f.	fond
o.	opis'
d.	delo
l., ll. (pl.)	list', listy (pl.)

GERMAN ARCHIVAL SOURCES

PA-AA	POLITISCHES ARCHIV DES AUSWÄRTIGES AMTES

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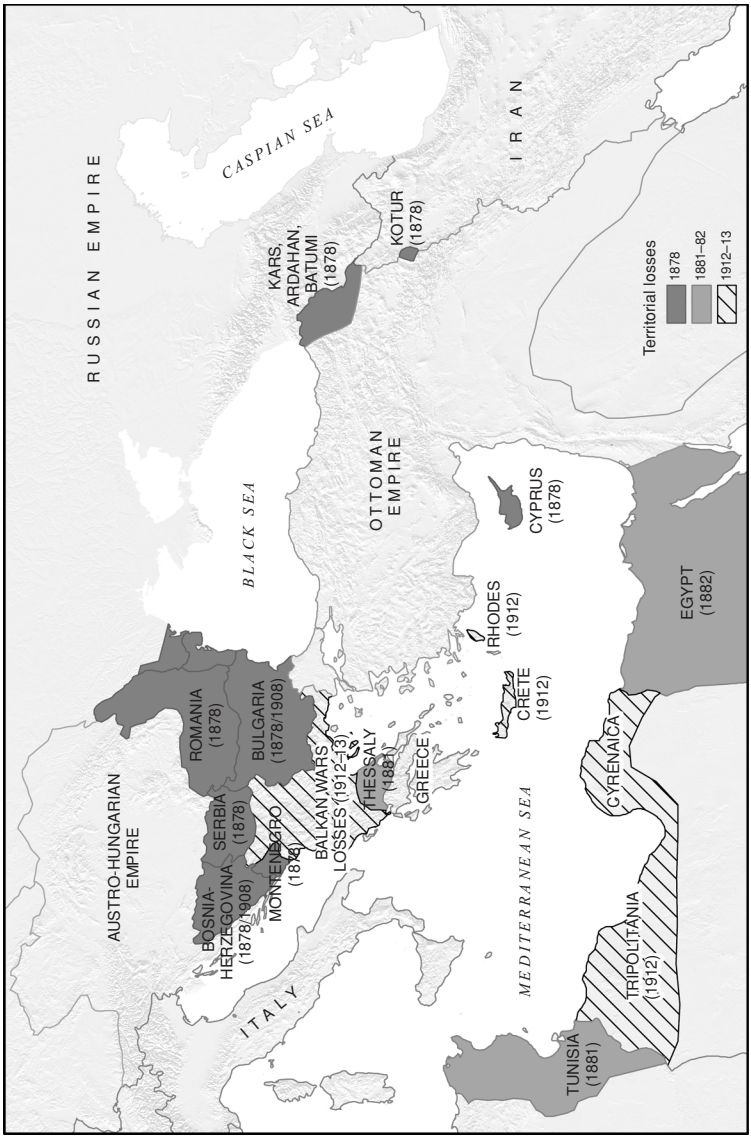

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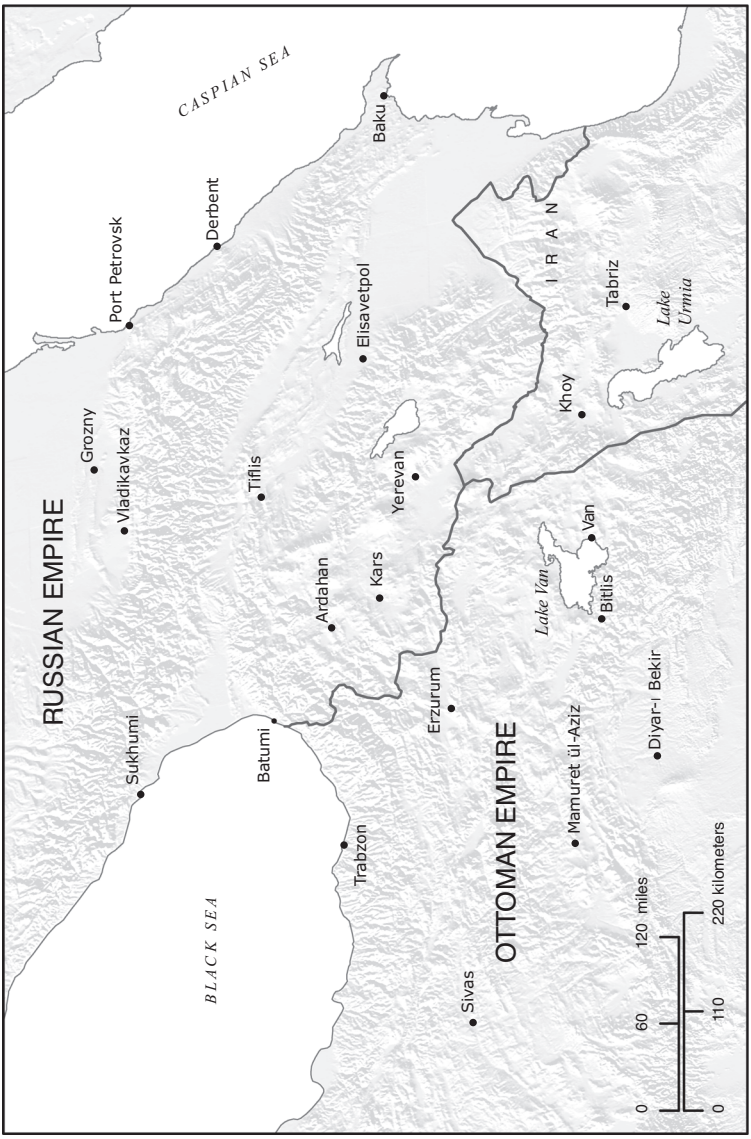

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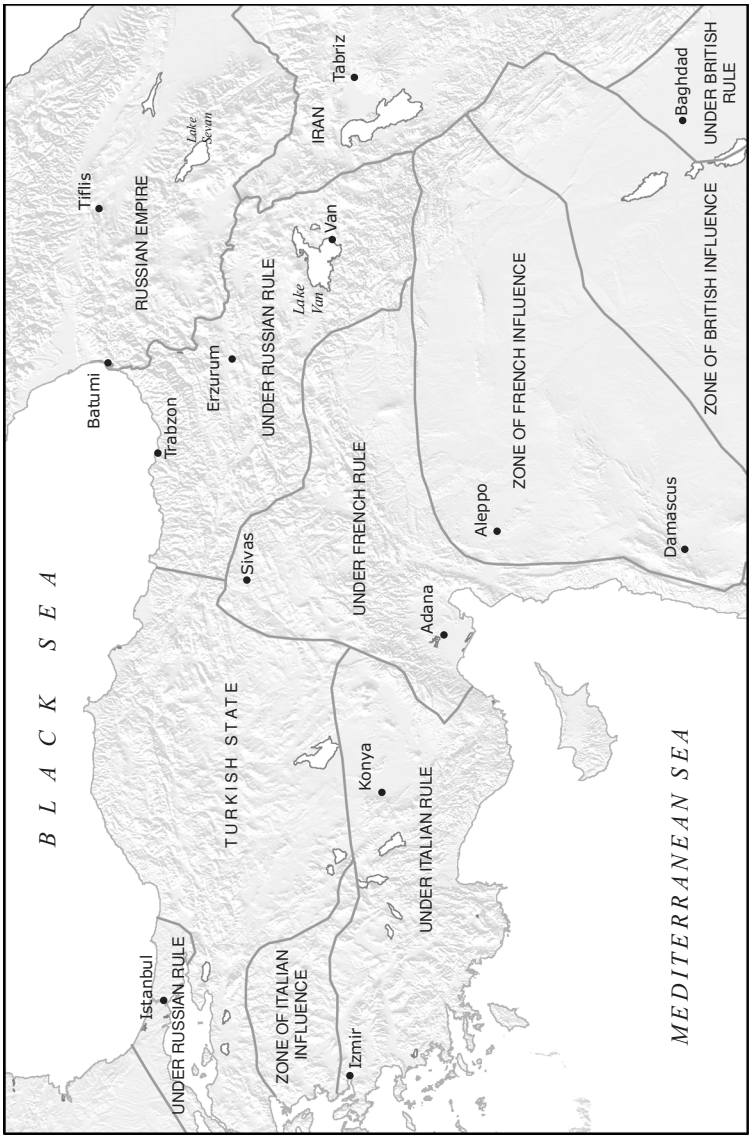

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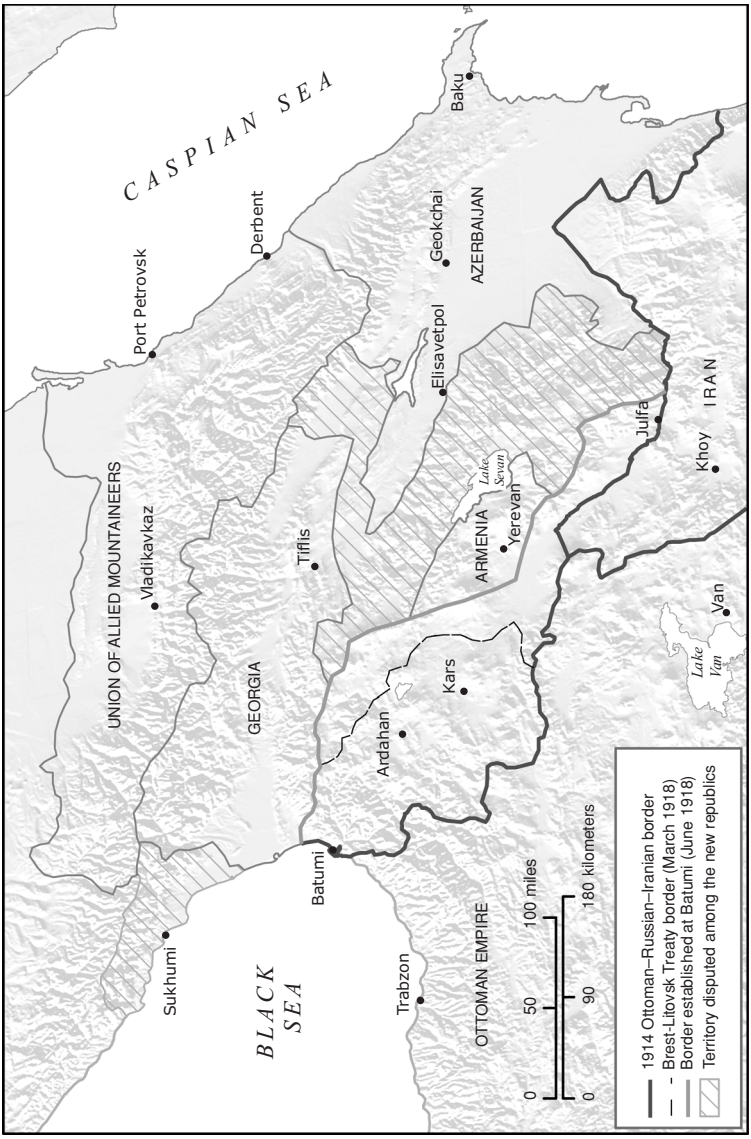

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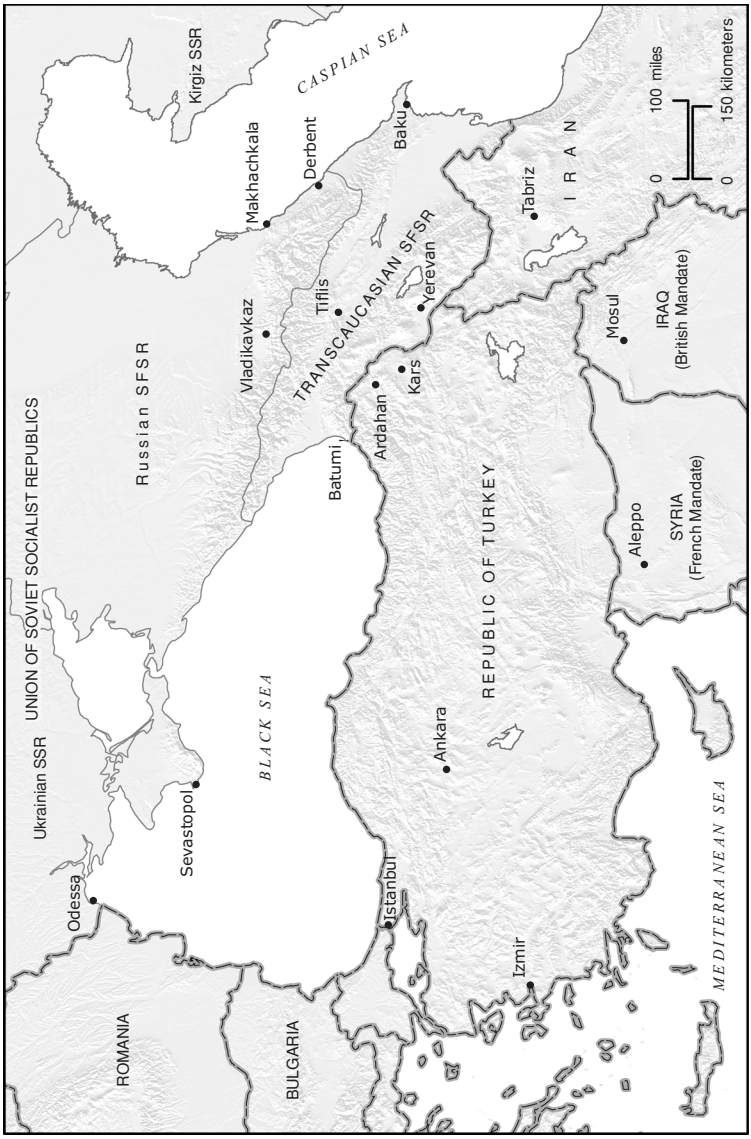

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