The Second Ottoman Empire

Although scholars have begun to revise the traditional view that the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries marked a decline in the fortunes of the Ottoman Empire, Baki Tezcan’s book proposes a radical new approach to this period. Concurring that decline did take place in certain areas, he constructs a new framework by foregrounding the proto-democratization of the Ottoman polity in this era. Focusing on the background and the aftermath of the regicide of Osman II, he shows how the empire embarked on a period of seismic change in the political, economic, military, and social spheres. It is this period – from roughly 1580 to 1826 – that the author labels “The Second Empire” and that he sees as no less than the transformation of the patrimonial, medieval, dynastic institution into a fledgling limited monarchy. The book is essentially a post-revisionist history of the early modern Ottoman Empire that will make a major contribution not only to Ottoman scholarship but also to comparable trends in world history.

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The Second Ottoman Empire

Political and Social Transformation in the Early Modern World

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In memory of Abdülbaki Tezcan

(1895, Kulfalar [Razvigorovo] – 1955, Istanbul)
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Notes on abbreviations, dates, pronunciation, and transliteration

I use the following abbreviations:

BnF: Bibliothèque nationale de France
BOA: Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivleri
KK: Kamil Kepeci
MM: Maliyeden Müdevver
NA: The National Archives, London
SP: State Papers
IA: İslâm Ansiklopedisi
IA2: Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslâm Ansiklopedisi

The dates are mostly given in CE (Common Era) although most of the relevant primary sources are dated according to the hijri calendar. That calendar has twelve lunar months in a year of about 354 days, with the year 1 AH (after hijra) corresponding to 622 CE when Muhammad and his followers left Mecca for Yathrib. When a given hijri date does not have enough precision to convert it to a single year in CE, then I supply the hijri year first and indicate which CE years it corresponds to, such as 1007/1598–9. Rarely, such as in publication dates of books published in the Ottoman period, I only indicate the hijri year.

I use the Anglicized versions of most Ottoman Turkish and Arabic words rather than writing them in italics or transliterating them, the criterion being inclusion in the Oxford English Dictionary; hence, agha, bey, ghazi, kiblah, mufti, pasha, Sharia, timar, ulema, vizier, wakf – but efendi instead of effendi and kadi instead of cadi. In place names I prefer English spellings as well, except for place names that constitute part of the name of a publisher in the footnotes; hence, Istanbul, but İstanbulÜniversitesi.

When I transliterate Ottoman terms, I try to stay as close as possible to modern Turkish spellings. In the main body of the text and in the identification of authors, I avoid all the diacritics associated with transliteration, except for ‘ayn and hamza when they appear in the middle of a word, which I indicate with an apostrophe [‘]. In reproducing titles of references in the footnotes, however, I use the circumflex to indicate long vowels in Ottoman Turkish. Because the orthography of modern Turkish is still in flux and sometimes
Notes on abbreviations, dates, pronunciation, and transliteration

differs from the transliteration of Ottoman Turkish, readers may find that the
same word is spelled differently in different footnotes, such as Tarih, Tarih,
and Ta’rîh. If a work did not originally have a title, I write the retrospectively
given title in square brackets. In transliterating Arabic and Persian names and
titles, I follow the conventions of the International Journal of Middle East
Studies.

There are some Turkish letters that do not appear in the English alphabet
and others that are pronounced differently from their English counterparts:

\begin{itemize}
  \item C, c: “j” as in “joy”
  \item Ç, ç: “ch” as in check
  \item G, ğ: When preceded or followed by e, i, ö, ü, the “soft g” sounds like “y” as in “lawyer;” when preceded and followed by a, i, o, u or it is in final position, it lengthens the preceding vowel; thus dağ is pronounced “daa.”
  \item I, i: “e” as in “halted”
  \item İ, ı: “i” as in “bit”
  \item Ö, ö: “eu” as in French “deux,” or “ö” as in German “hören”
  \item Ş, ş: “sh” as in “shade”
  \item Ü, ü: “ü” as in German “über” or “u” as in French “tu”
\end{itemize}