Approaching Ottoman History
An Introduction to the Sources.

Suraiya Faroqhi is one of the most important economic and social historians of the pre-modern Ottoman empire writing today. Her scholarly contribution to the field has been prodigious. Her latest book, *Approaching Ottoman History: An Introduction to the Sources*, represents a summation of that scholarship, an introduction to the state-of-the-art in Ottoman history, or as the author herself describes it, 'a sharing' of her own fascination with the field. In a compelling and lucid exploration of the ways that primary and secondary sources can be used to interpret history, the author reaches out to students and researchers in the field and in related disciplines to help familiarise them with these documents. By considering both archival and narrative sources, she explains to what ends they were prepared, encouraging her readers to adopt a critical approach to their findings, and disabusing them of the notion that everything recorded in official documents is necessarily accurate or even true. Her critique of the handbook treatments of Ottoman history, quite often the sources students rely on most frequently during their undergraduate years, provides insights into the broader historical context. While the book is essentially a guide to a rich and complex discipline for those about to embark upon their research, the experienced Ottomanist can expect to find much that is new and provocative in this candid and sophisticated interpretation of the field.

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Approaching Ottoman History

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SOURCES

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To Tuğlay Artan and Halil Berktay,
pursuing a common project of knowledge . . .
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NOTE ON TRANSLITERATION

Modern Turkish spelling has been used whenever the place, institution or person in question belonged to the Ottoman realm or pre-Ottoman Anatolia, albeit in a marginal way. Only when dealing with Arab or Iranian contexts has the EI’s transliteration been adopted; this concerns primarily
the names of modern archives and sections of archives. The Turkish letter (ı)
has been retained, except in personal names and geographic terms occurring
in isolation, (thus: İnalcık, İzmir). The titles of journals contain the (ı) where
appropriate.