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0521839106 - The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922 - Second Edition

Donald Quataert

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The Ottoman Empire, 1700–1922

The Ottoman Empire was one of the most important non-Western states to survive from medieval to modern times, and played a vital role in European and global history. It continues to affect the peoples of the Middle East, the Balkans, and Central and Western Europe to the present day. This new survey examines the major trends during the latter years of the empire; it pays attention to gender issues and to hotly debated topics such as the treatment of minorities. In this second edition, Donald Quataert has updated his lively and authoritative text, revised the bibliographies, and included brief bibliographies of major works on the Byzantine Empire and the post-Ottoman Middle East. This accessible narrative is supported by maps, illustrations, and genealogical and chronological tables, which will be of help to students and non-specialists alike. It will appeal to anyone interested in the history of the Middle East.

DONALD QUATAERT is Professor of History at Binghamton University, State University of New York. He has published many books on Middle East and Ottoman history, including *An Economic and Social History of the Ottoman Empire, 1300–1914* (1994).

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Second Edition

DONALD QUATAERT

*Binghamton University,
State University of New York*



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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo
Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press,
New York
www.cambridge.org
information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521547826

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First published 2000 and reprinted five times
Second edition 2005

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN-13 978-0-521-83910-5 hardback
ISBN-10 0-521-83910-6 hardback
ISBN-13 978-0-521-54782-6 paperback
ISBN-10 0-521-54782-2 paperback

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To my brothers and sisters
Patricia, Phyllis, Pamela, Michael, Peter,
Robert, and Helen
in the hopes this book will help them to
understand my whereabouts over the years

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Preface

The writing of the history of the Ottoman Empire, 1300–1922, has changed dramatically during the past several decades. In the early 1970s, when I began my graduate studies, a handful of scholars, at a very few elite schools, studied and wrote on this extraordinary empire, with roots in the Byzantine, Turkish, Islamic, and Renaissance political and cultural traditions. Nowadays, by contrast, Ottoman history appropriately is becoming an integral part of the curriculum at scores of colleges and universities, public and private.

And yet, semester after semester I have been faced with the same dilemma when making textbook assignments for my undergraduate courses in Middle East and Ottoman history. Either use textbooks that were too detailed for most students or adopt briefer studies that were deeply flawed, mainly by their a-historical approach that described a non-changing empire, hopelessly corrupt and backward, awaiting rescue or a merciful death.

This textbook is an effort to make Ottoman history intelligible, and exciting, to the university undergraduate student and the general reader. I make liberal use of my own previous research. Moreover, I rely quite heavily on the research of others and seek to bring to the general reader the wonderful specialized research that until now largely has remained inaccessible. At the end of each chapter are lists of suggested readings, not always those used in preparing the section. Given the intended audience, only English-language works are cited (with just a few exceptions). These works, however, each contain substantial bibliographies in many languages that can provide a springboard for further reading. To gain an overview of Ottoman history writing today, examine an annual bibliography, named *Turcology Annual*,¹ that lists hundreds of books and articles – in languages as diverse as English, Japanese, Arabic, French, Russian,

¹ *Turcology Annual/Turkologischer Anzeiger*, published at the Institut für Orientalistik der Universität Wien, Vienna, Austria

Turkish, Spanish, German, Chinese, and Armenian. The bibliography is an indispensable source.

I have tried to give what I believe is a more widely comprehensive presentation – including not only political history, but social, economic, and labor history as well. Too often the state has been overemphasized in Ottoman history writing. In part this is because the sources from which the history is written are those produced by the state itself. This text seeks to give agency to groups in the “civil society,” outside the government. Despite my effort to more equally weight the various aspects of the Ottoman experience, there are numerous gaps, a function of both space limitations and my own shortcomings. In preparing this second edition, I continue to underrepresent the field of cultural studies, mainly for fear of not doing it justice. Also, my original treatment of the religious classes, both the Muslim ulema and the Jewish and Christian clergy, also remains basically unrevised. In the end, I concluded that a fuller treatment of these groups would require comparably specialized treatments of various other important elements in Ottoman society such as merchants, soldiers, and artisans and that such analyses belong to a specialized monograph and not a general text. Slavery remains largely excluded. There is, however, some mounting evidence that the issue of economic slavery may need revisiting. Such slavery was not widespread and domestic slavery did dominate; but some slaves were working in manufacture and agriculture and their activities may require further discussion at a later point. In this regard, I also mention the possibly connected presence of Africans in the northern Ottoman Empire during, for example, the nineteenth century.

Some of the revisions seek to correct errors that generously were called to my attention by reviewers or in private correspondence – to both sets of individuals I am very grateful. Most of the changes result from my readings of the literature published since the first section or rethinking points of interpretation.

A caution: the Ottoman experiences were rich, diverse, and sometimes unusual. But they were not *sui generis*, one of a kind. We can understand them by using the same categories of analysis that historians employ to examine states and societies in Ming China, Tokugawa Japan, the Habsburg Empire, and Victorian England. I believe that Ottoman institutions and peoples were particularly fashioned by a special set of historical contingencies. But so too, political and social organizations across the globe each were uniquely fashioned by their own sets of contingencies. When appropriate, I have underscored the unique qualities of the Ottoman experience. But throughout, I also have sought to present the process of change in the Ottoman world as sharing much with those of states, societies, and economies elsewhere. That is, common patterns are to be

expected and, within those, we find the Ottoman particularities formed by specific contingencies.

The first chapter situates Ottoman history in a larger context and its role in the evolution of western Europe. The following three chapters, 2–4, are chronological surveys of the period before 1683, the eighteenth century, and the 1800–1922 era. Chapters 5–10 are thematic in nature, exploring various major issues: international and domestic politics; the economy; society, and popular culture; identity; and the question of inter-subject relations. The final chapter explores the resonance of the Ottoman past in the experiences of people living in the more than thirty states that exist on the lands once Ottoman.

In preparing the first edition of this book, numerous friends and colleagues have offered invaluable guidance that I usually welcomed but sometimes rejected. Thus, errors and misjudgments are my responsibility. Colleagues at Binghamton University and especially the world history group – including Rifaat Abou-El-Haj, John Chaffee, Brendan McConville, Tiffany Patterson, and Jean Quataert – have changed the way I think about history. I also wish to thank Elif Akşit, Lynda Carroll, Eric Crahan, Kasım Kopuz, Thomas Page, and Margarita Poutouridou for reading earlier versions of this manuscript. Faruk Tabak was exceptionally helpful and read two, quite different, drafts of the text; his comments were very useful. The biennial conferences on Ottoman history at Binghamton University have served as a powerful learning device for me. For various specific points, I thank Virginia Aksan, Selçuk Esenbel, Carter Findley, Heath Lowry, Nancy Micklewright, Zafer Toprak, as well as Andreas Tietze. For their criticisms and comments on the published first edition, I especially thank Carter Findley, Fred Lawson, Viorel Panaite, Christine Philliou, Michael Quataert, and Yunus Uğur. More generally, I have found the discussions on H-Turk to be very useful.

Guide to pronunciation of Turkish words¹ and a note on place names

Pronunciation

C, c = “j” as in juice

Ç, ç = “ch” as in cheek

Ğ, ğ = soft “g”, hardly pronounced

I, ı = without a dot, pronounced like the first syllable of “earnest”

İ, i = with a dot, somewhere between “in” and “eel”

Ö, ö = as in the umlaut ö in German or as French eu in peu

Ş, ş = as in “sheet”

Ü, ü = as in the umlat ü in German or as French u in tu

^ = used to denote a lengthened vowel (a, i, and u) or to palatize a preceding g, k, or l

Place names

The issue of place names is a thorny one. To call places as they were in the past can cause confusion for modern readers. The old names often but not always have completely disappeared from the present memory of all but a few devotees of the area or subject. In many areas of the former empire – including the Balkans, Anatolia, and Palestine – a large proportion of the contemporary place names are radically different from their Ottoman labels. To use these past names would be historically accurate but overly confusing for a textbook. Similarly, it does not seem useful to use place names in a form that is known only within the country of origin or to specialists. Throughout this text, therefore, I have preferred to call places according to the general international usage. Hence, for example, I use Belgrade not Beograd and Aleppo not Halep. For the Ottoman capital, I use the current designation of Istanbul even though the Ottomans called it Konstantiniyye or Dersaadet. However, I use Constantinople to denote the Byzantine city before the Ottoman conquest in 1453.

¹After Cornell H. Fleischer, *Bureaucrat and intellectual in the Ottoman Empire: the historian Mustafa Ali (1541–1600)* (Princeton, 1986), xiv.

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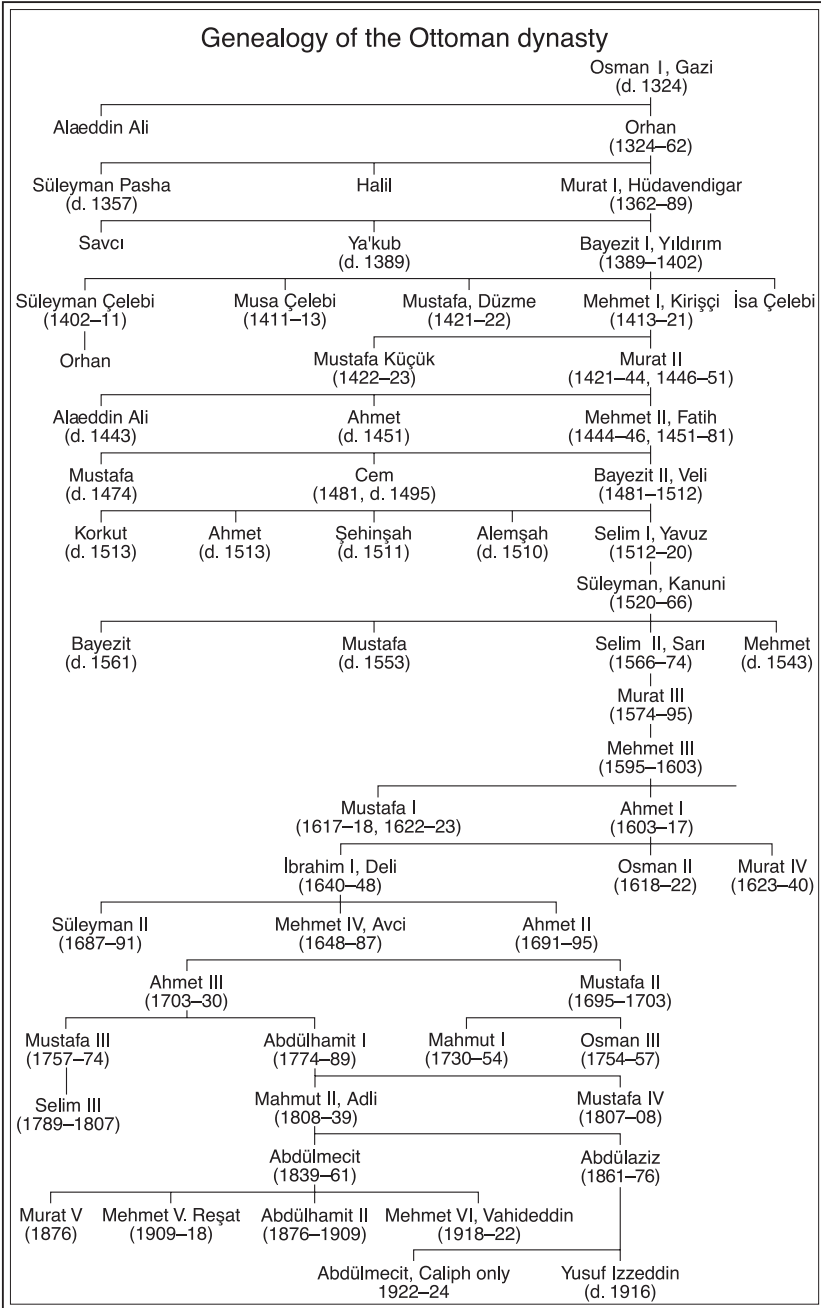
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Guide to pronunciation

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The convention for place names used in this textbook has the advantage of clarity and is not intended necessarily to endorse the policies of those who changed the name. It should enable students to refer to standard international atlases and readily find the places mentioned in this work.



Adapted from Halil İnalçık with Donald Quataert, eds., *An economic and social history of the Ottoman Empire, 1300-1914* (Cambridge, 1994), xvii

Chronology of Ottoman history, 1260–1923

- 1261–1300 foundation of the principalities of Menteşe, Aydın, Saruhan, Karesi, and Osmanlı (Ottoman) in western Anatolia
- c. 1290–1324 Osman I**
- 1324–62 Orhan**
- 1326 Ottoman conquest of Bursa
- 1331 Ottoman conquest of Nicaea (İznik)
- 1335 fall of the Mongol empire in Iran
- 1354 Ottoman occupation of Ankara and Gallipoli
- 1361 Ottoman conquest of Adrianople
- 1362–89 Murat I**
- 1363–65 Ottoman expansion in southern Bulgaria and Thrace
- 1371–73 Ottoman victory at Chermanon; Byzantium, the Balkan rulers recognize Ottoman suzerainty
- 1385 Ottoman conquest of Sofia
- 1389 Ottoman victory at Kossovo-Polje over a coalition of the Balkan states
- 1389–1402 Bayezit I, Yıldırım**
- 1396 battle of Nicopolis
- 1402 battle of Ankara, collapse of Bayezit I's empire
- 1403–13 civil war among Bayezit's sons for sultanate
- 1413–21 Mehmet I**
- 1421–44 Murat II**
- 1446–51**
- 1423–30 Ottoman–Venetian war for Salonica
- 1425 Ottoman annexation of Izmir and the reconquest of western Anatolia
- 1439 Ottoman annexation of Serbia
- 1443 John Hunyadi invades the Balkans

Adapted from Halil İnalcık with Donald Quataert, eds., *An economic and social history of the Ottoman Empire, 1300–1914* (Cambridge, 1994), xviii–xxiv.

- xviii Chronology of Ottoman history, 1260–1923
- 1444 revival of Serbian despotate, battle of Varna
1444–46, Mehmet II, Fatih
1451–81
- 1448 second battle of Kossovo-Polje
 1453 conquest of Constantinople; fall of Pera
 1459 conquest of Serbia and the Morea
 1461 conquest of the empire of Trabzon
 1463–79 war with Venice
 1468 conquest of Karaman
 1473 battle of Başkent
 1475 conquest of the Genoese colonies in the Crimea
1481–1512 Bayezit II
 1485–91 war with the Mamluks of Egypt
 1499–1503 war with Venice; conquest of Lepanto, Coron, and Modon
1512–20 Selim I
 1514 Selim defeats Shah Ismail at Çaldıran
 1516 conquest of Diyarbakir; annexation of eastern Anatolia;
 defeat of the Mamluks at Marj Dabık
 1517 battle of Ridaniyya, conquest of Egypt; submission of the
 sharif of Mecca
- 1520–66 Süleyman I, Kanuni**
 1521 conquest of Belgrade
 1522 conquest of Rhodes
 1526 battle of Mohács; Hungary becomes a vassal
 1529 siege of Vienna
 1534 conquest of Tabriz and Baghdad
 1537–40 war with Venice
 1538 siege of Diu in India
 1541 annexation of Hungary
 1553–55 war with Iran
 1565 siege of Malta
1566–74 Selim II
 1569 French capitulations; first Ottoman expedition against
 Russia; siege of Astrakhan
 1570 Uluç Ali captures Tunis; expedition to Cyprus; fall of
 Nicosia
 1571 battle of Lepanto
 1573 peace with Venice and the emperor
1574–95 Murat III
 1578–90 war with Iran, annexation of Azerbaijan
 1580 English capitulations
 1589 Janissary revolt in Istanbul

- 1591–92 further Janissary uprisings
 1593–1606 war with the Habsburgs
1595–1603 Mehmet III
 1596 Celali rebellions in Anatolia
 1603–39 Iranian wars
1603–17 Ahmet I
 1606 Peace of Sitva-Torok with the Habsburgs
 1609 suppression of the Celalis in Anatolia
 1612 extension of capitulations to the Dutch
 1613–35 rebellion of Ma'noğlu Fahreddin
 1618 peace with Iran, Ottoman withdrawal from Azerbaijan
1618–22 Osman II
 1621 invasion of Poland
 1622 assassination of Osman II
1617–18, 1622–23 Mustafa I
1623–40 Murat IV
 1624–28 rebellion in Asia Minor; anarchy in Istanbul
 1632 Murat takes full control of the government
 1635 siege of Erivan
 1624–37 Cossack attacks on the Black Sea coast
 1624–39 war with Iran, fall of Baghdad
 1637 fall of Azov (Azak) to Cossacks
 1638 Ottoman recovery of Baghdad
1640–48 Ibrahim I
 1640 recovery of Azov
 1645–69 war with Venice; invasion of Crete; siege of Candia
 1648–56 Venetian blockade of the Dardanelles
 1648 deposition and assassination of the sultan
1648–87 Mehmet IV
 1648–51 the child sultan's mother Kösem in control
 1649–51 Janissary dominance in Istanbul and Celali pashas in the Asiatic provinces
 1651–55 anarchy in Istanbul, Venetian blockade continues
 1656 Köprülü Mehmet appointed grand vizier with dictatorial powers
 1656–59 re-establishment of the central government's control over the Janissaries and in the provinces
 1657 lifting of Venetian blockade
 1658–59 re-establishment of Ottoman control over Transylvania and Wallachia
 1661–76 Köprülü Fazıl Ahmet's grand vizierate

- xx Chronology of Ottoman history, 1260–1923
- 1663 war with the Habsburgs
 1664 battle of St. Gotthard, peace of Vasvar
 1669 fall of Candia, peace with Venice
 1672–76 war with Poland, annexation of Kaminiec with Podolia,
 Treaty of Zuravno
 1676–83 Kara Mustafa's grand vizierate
 1677–81 rivalry over Ukraine with Russia
 1681 French attack against Chios
 1683 siege of Vienna
 1684 Holy League against the Ottomans between the emperor,
 Polish king and Venice
 1686 fall of Buda, Russia joins the coalition; Venetians in the
 Morea
 1687 second battle of Mohács; army's rebellion; deposition of
 Mehmet IV
- 1687–91 Süleyman II**
 1688 fall of Belgrade
 1689 Austrians at Kosovo; Russians attack the Crimea
 1689–91 Köprülü Fazıl Mustafa's grand vizierate; tax reforms
 1690 recovery of Belgrade from Austrians
- 1691–95 Ahmet II**
 1691 battle of Slankamen; death of Fazıl Mustafa
- 1695–1703 Mustafa II**
 1695 fall of Azov
 1696 Ottoman counter-attack in Hungary
 1697 Ottoman defeat at Zenta
 1698–1702 Köprülü Hüseyin's grand vizierate
 1699 Treaty of Karlowitz
 1700 peace with Russia
 1703 army's rebellion; deposition of Mustafa II
- 1703–30 Ahmet III**
 1709 Charles XII, king of Sweden, takes refuge in Ottoman
 territory
 1711 battle of Pruth, Ottoman victory over Peter I of Russia,
 insurrection at Cairo, realignment of Mamluks; Shihabi
 supremacy over Mount Lebanon
 1713 peace treaty with Russia: Azov recovered, Charles XII
 returns to Sweden; introduction of Phanariote rule in
 principalities
 1714–18 war with Venice, recovery of the Morea
 1716 war with Austria
 1717 fall of Belgrade

- 1718–30 Ibrahim Pasha's grand vizierate
 1718 peace treaty of Passarowitz with Austria and Venice: Morea recovered, large parts of Serbia and Wallachia ceded to Austria
- 1723–27 war with Iran, Ottoman occupation of Azerbaijan and Hamadan
- 1730 Patrona Halil rebellion; deposition of Ahmet III; end of Tulip period
- 1730–36 Iran's counter-attack; loss of Azerbaijan and western Iran
1730–54 Mahmud I
 1736–39 war with Russia and Austria
 1739 peace treaty with Austria and Russia; recovery of Belgrade
 1740 extension of French capitulations; Ottoman–Swedish alliance against Russia
- 1743–46 war with Iran under Nadir Shah
1754–57 Osman III
1757–74 Mustafa III
 1768–74 war with the Russian empire
 1770 Russian fleet in the Aegean; Ottoman defeat on the Danube
- 1771 Russian invasion of the Crimea
 1773 Ali Bey's rebellion in Egypt
1774–89 Abdülhamit I
 1774 treaty of Küçük Kaynarca, independence of the Crimea and northern coasts of the Black Sea from the Ottoman Empire
- 1783 Russian annexation of the Crimean khanate
 1787 war with Russia
 1788 Sweden declares war against the Russian Empire
1789–1807 Selim III
 1792 Treaty of Jassy
 1798 Napoleon invades Egypt
 1804 Serb revolt
 1805–48 Muhammad Ali as ruler of Egypt
 1807 Selim's reform program crushed by revolt
1807–08 Mustafa IV
1808–39 Mahmud II
 1808 Document of Alliance
 1811 Muhammad Ali massacres Mamluk remnant in Egypt
 1812 Treaty of Bucharest
 1826 destruction of the Janissaries
 1832 battle of Konya

xxii	Chronology of Ottoman history, 1260–1923
1833	Treaty of Hünkâr-İskelesi with Russia
1838	Anglo-Turkish Convention
1839	battle of Nezib
1839–61	Abdülmecit I
1839	Tanzimat begins with Imperial Rescript of Gülhane
1853–56	Crimean war
1856	Imperial Rescript
1856	Treaty of Paris
1861–76	Abdülaziz
1875	<i>de facto</i> Ottoman bankruptcy
1876	first Ottoman Constitution
1876–1909	Abdülhamit II
1878	Treaty of Berlin
1881	formation of Public Debt Administration
1885	occupation by Bulgaria of eastern Rumelia
1896–97	insurrection in Crete; war with Greece
1908	Young Turk Revolution and the restoration of the Constitution of 1876
1909–18	Mehmet V
1911	war with Italy
1912	Balkan war
1914	World War I begins
1918–22	Mehmet VI
1920	establishment of French mandate over Syria and Lebanon and British mandates over Iraq and Palestine
1923	proclamation of the Republic of Turkey