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).
NEW APPROACHES TO EUROPEAN HISTORY

Series editors
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New Approaches to European History is an important textbook series, which provides concise but authoritative surveys of major themes and problems in European history since the Renaissance. Written at a level and length accessible to advanced school students and undergraduates, each book in the series addresses topics or themes that students of European history encounter daily: the series will embrace both some of the more “traditional” subjects of study, and those cultural and social issues to which increasing numbers of school and college courses are devoted. A particular effort is made to consider the wider international implications of the subject under scrutiny.

To aid the student reader scholarly apparatus and annotation is light, but each work has full supplementary bibliographies and notes for further reading: where appropriate chronologies, maps, diagrams, and other illustrative material are also provided.

For a list of titles published in the series, please see end of book.
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 intersubject 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 Aksoy, 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 Phililiou, Michael Quataert, and Yunus Uğur. More generally, I have found the discussions on H-Turk to be very useful.
Guide to pronunciation of Turkish words
and a note on place names

Pronunciation

C, c = “j” as in juice
Ç, ç = “ch” as in cheek
G, ğ = soft “g”, hardly pronounced
İ, i = without a dot, pronounced like the first syllable of “earnest”
İ̇, i̇ = 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 umlaut ü in German or as French u in tu
∧ = used to denote a lengthened vowel (a, i, and u) or to palatalize 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.

Guide to pronunciation

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.
Genealogy of the Ottoman dynasty

Adapted from Halil İnalcık with Donald Quataert, eds., An economic and social history of the Ottoman Empire, 1300–1914 (Cambridge, 1994), xvii
Chronology of Ottoman history, 1260–1923

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>1261–1300</td>
<td>Foundation of the principalities of Menteşe, Aydın, Saruhan, Karesi, and Osmanlı (Ottoman) in western Anatolia</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>c. 1290–1324</strong></td>
<td><strong>Osman I</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td>1324–62</td>
<td>Orhan</td>
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<td>1326</td>
<td>Ottoman conquest of Bursa</td>
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<td>1331</td>
<td>Ottoman conquest of Nicaea (İzник)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1335</td>
<td>Fall of the Mongol empire in Iran</td>
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<tr>
<td>1354</td>
<td>Ottoman occupation of Ankara and Gallipoli</td>
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<tr>
<td>1361</td>
<td>Ottoman conquest of Adrianople</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1362–89</strong></td>
<td><strong>Murat I</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1363–65</td>
<td>Ottoman expansion in southern Bulgaria and Thrace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1371–73</td>
<td>Ottoman victory at Chermanon; Byzantium, the Balkan rulers recognize Ottoman suzerainty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1385</td>
<td>Ottoman conquest of Sofia</td>
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<td>1389</td>
<td>Ottoman victory at Kossovo-Polje over a coalition of the Balkan states</td>
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<td><strong>1389–1402</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bayezit I, Yıldırım</strong></td>
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<td>1396</td>
<td>Battle of Nicopolis</td>
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<td>1402</td>
<td>Battle of Ankara, collapse of Bayezit I’s empire</td>
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<td>1403–13</td>
<td>Civil war among Bayezit’s sons for sultanate</td>
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<td><strong>1413–21</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1421–44</strong></td>
<td><strong>Murat II</strong></td>
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Adapted from Halil İnalcık with Donald Quataert, eds., *An economic and social history of the Ottoman Empire, 1300–1914* (Cambridge, 1994), xviii–xxiv.
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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 Baškent
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 Diyarbakır; 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
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'no˘ glu Fahreddin
1618 peace with Iran, Ottoman withdrawal from Azerbaijan
1618–22 **Osman II**
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1622 assassination of Osman II
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1623–40 **Murat IV**
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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 Köprüülü 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 Köprüülü Fazıl Ahmet’s grand vizierate
Chronology of Ottoman history, 1260–1923

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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 Phanaríote 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
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

1736–39 war with Russia and Austria
peace treaty with Austria and Russia; recovery of Belgrade
extension of French capitulations; Ottoman–Swedish alliance against Russia

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 Abdüllhamit I
treaty of Kucuk 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 Mahmut 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
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1833  Treaty of Hünkâr-İskeseli with Russia
1838  Anglo-Turkish Convention
1839  battle of Nezib
1839–61  **Abdülmeclî I**
1839  Tanzimat begins with Imperial Rescript of Gülhane
1853–56  Crimean war
1856  Imperial Rescript
1856  Treaty of Paris
1861–76  **Abdülazîz**
1875  *de facto* Ottoman bankruptcy
1876  first Ottoman Constitution
1876–1909  **Abdülmecit 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