In one of the first environmental histories of the Ottoman Empire, Alan Mikhail examines relations between the empire and its most lucrative province of Egypt. Based on both the local records of various towns and villages in rural Egypt and the imperial orders of the Ottoman state, this book charts how changes in the control of natural resources fundamentally altered the nature of Ottoman imperial sovereignty in Egypt and throughout the empire. In revealing how Egyptian peasants were able to use their knowledge and experience of local environments to force the hand of the imperial state, *Nature and Empire in Ottoman Egypt* tells a story of the connections of empire stretching from canals in the Egyptian countryside to the palace in Istanbul, from Anatolian forests to the shores of the Red Sea, and from a plague flea’s bite to the fortunes of one of the most powerful states of the early modern world.

Alan Mikhail is Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Yale University. His articles have appeared in journals such as the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, the *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, *Akhbār al-Adab*, and *Wijhāt Nazar*. 
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NATURE AND EMPIRE IN OTTOMAN EGYPT
AN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

Alan Mikhail
Yale University
To my parents, Adib and Nadia
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NOTE ON TRANSLITERATION AND DATES

In transliterating Ottoman Turkish and Arabic source materials, I have used the system of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. Because of the high degree of overlap between Ottoman Turkish and Arabic in the early modern period and because writers often used an amalgam of the two, one can face many difficulties when choosing how to transliterate a particular text. In general, I have transliterated according to the language of the original source. Words of Arabic origin used in texts that are otherwise Ottoman Turkish are transliterated as Turkish, and likewise words of Turkish origin found in Arabic texts are rendered with their Arabic transliteration. This is true of place-names and titles as well. When I use terms and titles in a general sense apart from a particular text, I have rendered the word on the basis of its language of origin. Ottoman Turkish words commonly found in modern Turkish are given with their modern Turkish spelling. In cases where I have thought it useful, I have given both Arabic and Turkish transliterations. Ottoman Turkish and Arabic words that have made their way into English are given with their standard English spelling.

Common Era dates are used throughout the text. In citing archival documents, I give the full *hijri* date followed by the Common Era date.
ABBRUVATIONS

AHR American Historical Review
AI Annales Islamologiques
AO Archivum Ottomanicum
BOA Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi
DKM Dâr al-Kutub al-Miṣriyya
DWQ Dâr al-Wathâ’iq al-Qawmiyya
EHR Egyptian Historical Review
HAT Hatt-ı Humayun
IJMES International Journal of Middle East Studies
IJTS International Journal of Turkish Studies
JESHO Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient
JTS Journal of Turkish Studies
MM Mühimme-i Misr
NPT New Perspectives on Turkey
OA Osmanlı Araştırmaları
PHR Pacific Historical Review
SK Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi
TSMA Topkapı Sarayı Mûzesi Arşivi
TSMK Topkapı Sarayı Mûzesi Kütüphanesi

Ottoman Turkish Islamic Month Abbreviations (Arabic in parentheses)

M Muḥarrem (Muḥarram)
S Safer (Ṣafar)
## Abbreviations

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Map 1. Egypt and the Ottoman Empire
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Map 3. Middle Egypt
Map 4. Upper Egypt
Map 5. Cairo and Surroundings, 1801