

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Abbreviations, Transliteration, and Dates</i>	xv
Introduction	1
Ottoman History and Historiography	5
Natural Disasters in Human Record	9
The Harshness of Plague and Famine	12
Plague, Famine, and Other Devastations	14
Book Structure	19
1 The Black Death and the Rise of the Ottomans	21
Natural Disasters in Muslim Societies before the Ottomans	22
The Black Death and Its Aftermath	28
The Black Death in Europe: A Closer Look	32
Why Was the Middle East Different?	40
The Black Death and the Rise of the Ottomans	48
Pluralism and Social Welfare: The Apogee of Ottoman Power	53
2 Natural Disasters and the Ottoman State	61
Famines and Plagues	64
Earthquakes and Fires	87
Urban Planning, New Opportunities	105
3 Natural Disasters and Ottoman Communities	109
The Religious Community: The Quintessence of Social Life?	111
Why Give?	123
Communities Face Crisis	127
4 Individuals Face Disasters	134
The Problem of Flight	135

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-07297-8 - Natural Disasters in the Ottoman Empire: Plague,
Famine, and Other Misfortunes
Yaron Ayalon
Table of Contents
[More information](#)

vi

Contents

Explaining Disaster Behavior	151
Economics	154
Information	157
Psychology and Biology	160
A New Perspective on Ottoman Society	167
5 Natural Disasters at the End of Empire	171
An Age of Reform	173
Quarantine and Health Policy	183
City Planning	192
Natural Disasters and the End of Empire	197
Conclusion	208
<i>Bibliography</i>	215
<i>Index</i>	239