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978-1-107-09077-4 - Mapping the Ottomans: Sovereignty, Territory, and Identity in the Early Modern Mediterranean

Palmira Brummett

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Mapping the Ottomans

Sovereignty, Territory, and Identity in the Early Modern Mediterranean

Simple paradigms of Muslim–Christian confrontation and the rise of Europe in the seventeenth century do not suffice to explain the ways in which European mapping envisioned the “Turks” in image and narrative. Rather, maps, travel accounts, compendia of knowledge, and other texts created a picture of the Ottoman Empire through a complex layering of history, ethnography, and eyewitness testimony, which juxtaposed current events to classical and Biblical history; counted space in terms of peoples, routes, and fortresses; and used the land and seascapes of the map to assert ownership, declare victory, and embody imperial power’s reach. Enriched throughout by examples of Ottoman self-mapping, this book examines how Ottomans and their empire were mapped in the narrative and visual imagination of early modern Europe’s Christian kingdoms. The maps serve as centerpieces for discussions of early modern space, time, borders, stages of travel, information flows, invocations of authority, and cross-cultural relations.

Palmira Brummett is Professor Emerita of History at the University of Tennessee, where she was Distinguished Professor of Humanities, and Visiting Professor of History at Brown University. Her publications include *Ottoman Seapower and Levantine Diplomacy in the Age of Discovery* (1994); *Image and Imperialism in the Ottoman Revolutionary Press, 1908–1911* (2000); *The ‘Book’ of Travels: Genre, Ethnology and Pilgrimage, 1250–1700* (2009), for which she was the editor and a contributor; and *Civilizations Past and Present* (2000–2005), for which she was the co-author of multiple editions. She has also written numerous articles on Ottoman, Mediterranean, and world history. She has been the recipient of NEH and ACLS fellowships, a Phi Beta Kappa Faculty Award for Scholarly Achievement, and a Bunting Fellowship at Radcliff University.

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“Moving beyond the simple cataloguing of European images of the Ottoman other that has characterized previous scholarship, Palmira Brummett shows the nuanced and diverse range of European responses to the Ottomans, as well as illustrating Ottoman self-mapping practices and the ways in which both emerged from a set of shared precedents and fit into a common early modern cartographic culture. *Mapping the Ottomans* is an essential addition to the rich body of literature on early modern maps, as well as to our growing understanding of the complex and interconnected character of early modern European and the Mediterranean worlds.”

– Eric Dursteler, Brigham Young University

“Palmira Brummett’s nuanced account goes well beyond cartography to provide a rich history of how Western Europe viewed Ottoman space. This illuminating study demonstrates how texts and maps together shaped an imaginary of the borderlines between Asia and Europe, Islam, and Christianity. Brummett’s focus on perceptions of space renders the maps she discusses as richly layered and interconnected objects, fully embedded in broader rhetorical, iconographic, and historiographic traditions.”

– Barbara Fuchs, University of California, Los Angeles

For Jim, again.

*And in gratitude for the fellowship of the Folger Institute,
where this book took shape.*

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of Images</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xv
<i>Note on Transliteration and Translation</i>	xvii
Chapter 1 Introduction	I
<i>Mapping Empire, and “Turks” on the Map</i>	
Chapter 2 Reading and Placing the “Turk”	43
Chapter 3 Borders	75
<i>The Edge of Europe, the Ends of Empire, and the Redemption of Christendom</i>	
Envisioning Borders: The Ends of Empire and the Christian–Turk Divide	76
Mapping Transimperial Space	88
The Holy Land Writ Large and the Power of Prophecy	110
Chapter 4 Sovereign Space	128
<i>The Fortress as Marker of Possession</i>	
Chapter 5 Heads and Skins	187
<i>Mapping the Fallen Turk</i>	
Chapter 6 From Venice and Vienna to Istanbul	239
<i>The Travel Space between Christendom and Islam</i>	
Chapter 7 Authority, Travel, and the Map	277
A Typology of Authority	278
Claims to Authority and the ‘Evolution’ of the English Traveler	303

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-09077-4 - Mapping the Ottomans: Sovereignty, Territory, and Identity in the Early Modern Mediterranean

Palmira Brummett

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

Contents

Chapter 8 Afterword 325
Mapping the Fault Lines of Empire and Nation

Bibliography 329

Index 359

Color Plates follow page 174

List of Images

Map 1	The Ottomans in the Mediterranean world, c. 1600	page xviii
1.1	Giacomo Gastaldi, “Natolia,” Venetia [1564, 1566].	14
1.2	F.I. Maire, “Carte générale des Limites entre les trois Empires et leurs variations successives depuis l’année 1718 jusqu’à ce jour, ou Théâtre de la Guerre présente,” cartouche, Vienna, 1788.	15
1.3	Vincenzo Coronelli, “Parallelo Geographico Dell’Antico Col Moderno Archipelago,” <i>Isolario [dell’ Atlante Veneto]</i> , v. 1, Venetia, 1696.	16
1.4	Vincenzo Coronelli, “Parallelo Geographico Dell’Antico Col Moderno Archipelago,” detail, <i>Isolario [dell’ Atlante Veneto]</i> , v. 1, Venetia, 1696.	17
1.5	The Battle of Prevesa. Anonymous, “La dimostrazione del luogo . . . Artha” [n.p.], [c. 1538].	20
1.6	A.S. [Antonio Salamanca], “Algeri,” [Rome], 1541.	21
1.7	The Ottoman army. Antonio Lafreri, “Ordine con il quale l’esercito turchesco suole presentarsi in Campagna,” Rome, 1566.	24
1.8	The Siege of Sighetvar. Antonio Lafreri, “Il Vero ritratto de Zighet,” Rome, 1566.	26
1.9	Siege of Sighetvar. Seyyid Lokman, <i>Hünername (Book of Accomplishments)</i> , H. 1523, İstanbul, c. 1588.	27
1.10	The Battle of Lepanto. Giovanni Camocio, “Il vero ordine delle due potente armate . . . (Christiana e Turchesca),” <i>Isole famose porti, fortezze, e terre maritime sottoposto all Ser.ma Sig.ria di Venetia</i> , map 38, Venetia, [1574?].	29
1.11	Thomas Fuller, <i>Historie of the Holy Warre</i> , frontispiece, Oxford, 1639.	31

1.12	Thomas Fuller, "A Table showing ye variety of Places names in Palestine," <i>Historie of the Holy Warre</i> , plate between pp. 38 and 39, Oxford, 1639.	33
1.13	Giuseppe Rosaccio, "Antica Siria," <i>Viaggio da Venetia a Costantinopoli</i> , 52v, Venetia, 1598.	34
1.14	Henri Chatelain, "Chaine de l'Histoire Sacrée," "Chaine de l'Histoire Prophane," <i>Atlas Historique, ou Nouvelle Introduction à l'Histoire . . .</i> , 3rd ed., v. 1, pl. 3, Amsterdam, 1739.	36
1.15	Vincenzo Coronelli, "Asia, divisa nelle sue Parti," cartouche, <i>Atlante Veneto</i> , v. 1, Venetia, 1690.	37
1.16	Battle of Keresztes, 1596. Talikizade Mehmet Subhi, <i>Şahname-i Sultan Mehmet III</i> , H. 1609, fol. 50b–51a, İstanbul, [c. 1596–9].	41
2.1	Mounted Turk. Pius II [<i>Epistola ad Mahomatem II</i>], Pii Papae Secundi <i>Epistola ad Morbisanum Turcarum Princepe[m]</i> , frontispiece, Coloniae, 1532.	45
2.2	Henri Chatelain, "Turc Amoureux," <i>Atlas Historique, ou Nouvelle Introduction a l'Histoire</i> , 3rd ed., v. 5, after p. 41. Amsterdam, 1739.	51
2.3	John Hamilton Moore, "The Grand Seignior," <i>A New and Complete Collection of Voyages and Travels</i> , v. 2, opp. p. 1159, London, [1785].	63
3.1	Johann Baptist Homann, "Imperii Persici," Nuremberg [c. 1724].	86
3.2	Arab and Persian Iraq. Matrakçı Nasuh, <i>Beyan-ı Menazil-i Sefer-i Irakeyn-i Sultan Süleyman</i> , fol. 42b, İstanbul [c. 1537].	89
3.3	Pieter van der Keere, "Nova et Recens Emendata Totius Regni Ungariae Una Cum Adiacentibus Et Finitimis Regionibus Delineatio," detail, [Amsterdam], 1620.	91
3.4	Jacob Sandrart, "Neue Land Tafel von Hungarn," Nuremberg, 1657.	92
3.5	Giovanni Camocio, "Zarra et Contado," <i>Isole famose porti, fortezze, e terre maritime sottoposto all Ser.ma Sig.ria di Venetia</i> , map 7, Venetia [1574?].	95
3.6	Vincenzo Coronelli, "Contado di Zara. Parte della Dalmatia," inset, Venetia, 1688.	96
3.7	Boundary of Europe. John Fielding, "Turkey in Europe," detail, London, 1783.	98
3.8	Louis Brion de la Tour, "Théâtre itinéraire de la Guerre actuelle entre les Turcs, d'une part, les Russes et les Impériaux," inset, Paris, 1788.	99
3.9	Surveyors. Jacob Hoffman, from Georg Matthäus Vischer, "Archiducatus Austria Inferioris Geographicae et Noviter Emendata Accuratissima Descriptio," cartouche [Vienna], 1697.	100

List of Images

ix

- | | | |
|------|---|-----|
| 3.10 | Frontiers of Europe. Nicolas de Fer, “L’Asie,” inset, Paris, 1696. | 101 |
| 3.11 | Nicolas de Fer, “L’Asie,” detail, Paris, 1696. | 102 |
| 3.12 | William Berry, from Nicolas Sanson, “Dominions or Empire of the Great Turke in Europe, Asia, and Africa, divided into all its Beglerbeglicz or Governments,” cartouche, London, c. 1689. | 104 |
| 3.13 | Hubert Jaillot, from Nicolas Sanson, “Estats de l’Empire du Grand Seigneur des Turcs,” Paris, c. 1708. | 106 |
| 3.14 | Herman Moll, “Turky in Asia,” London, c. 1736. | 107 |
| 3.15 | F.I. Maire, “Plan de Constantinople,” supplement to “Carte générale des Limites entre les trois Empires et leurs variations successives depuis l’année 1718 jusqu’à ce jour, ou Théâtre de la Guerre présente,” Vienna, 1788. | 109 |
| 3.16 | Antonio Lafreri, “Disegno de l’Isola di Cypro con li confini della Caramania, Siria, Giudea et Egitta,” inset, Rome, 1570. | 113 |
| 3.17 | Giovanni Camocio, “Miracolo Apparso in Costantinopoli,” <i>Isole famose porti, fortezze, e terre maritime sottoposto all Ser.ma Sig.ria di Venetia</i> , map 67, Venetia, [1574?]. | 116 |
| 3.18 | <i>Strange Newes</i> , title page, London, 1606. | 122 |
| 3.19 | [Ludovico Cortano], <i>Good Newes to Christendome</i> , title page, London, 1620. | 126 |
| 4.1 | Giuseppe Mitelli, “Allegorie auf die GröÙe Kaiser Leopold I,” [Bologna], 1687. | 130 |
| 4.2 | Georg Matthäus Seutter, from Johann Baptist Homann [et al.], “Nova et Accurata Hungariae cum Adiacentib. Regn.,” [<i>Weltatlas</i>], map 98, cartouche, [n.p.], [17–]. | 132 |
| 4.3 | Mehmet II’s Siege of Belgrade. Seyyid Lokman, <i>Hünername (Book of Accomplishments)</i> , H. 1523, 165a, İstanbul, c. 1588. | 134 |
| 4.4 | Matrakçı Nasuh, “Tata Fortress,” <i>Tarih-i Feth-i Şikloş ve Estergon ve Estolnibelgrad (History of the Conquest of Siklós, Esztérgom, and Székesfehérvár)</i> , H. 1608, 113b, İstanbul, c. 1545. | 135 |
| 4.5 | L.P., “Agria, fortezza nel paese di Ongheria nel modo che al presente si trova,” [Venice], 1568. | 141 |
| 4.6 | “Agria, Eger, O Erla,” [Rome?], [1683?]. | 142 |
| 4.7 | List of Victories. Vincenzo Coronelli, “Dalmatia and Istria,” detail, <i>Isolario [dell’ Atlante Veneto]</i> , v. 1, Venetia, c. 1696. | 143 |
| 4.8 | Siege of Hatvan. J.S., “Abris Der Vöstung Hadtwan,” [n.p.], c. 1596. | 144 |
| 4.9 | Siege of Raab. Heinrich Ullrich, “Der Christen Belägerung Der Vesten Raab” [n.p.], c. 1597. | 145 |

x	List of Images	
4.10	Siege of Belgrade. Arifi Fethullah Çelebi, <i>Süleymanname</i> , H. 1517, 108b, İstanbul, c. 1558.	148
4.11	Siege of Vienna. M.G. [Giovanni Giacomo] Rossi, “[Dimostrazione de confini delle principale Città dell’ Austria et Ungaria]” or “Vienna assediata dalle Armii Ottomane . . . ,” detail [Rome], [c. 1683].	149
4.12	Navarino and Modon. [Anonymous], “Nova di Corfu . . . ,” Rome, 1572.	153
4.13	Giovanni Camocio, “Soppoto fortezza,” <i>Isole famose porti, fortezze, e terre marittime sottoposto all Ser.ma Sig.ria di Venetia</i> , map 28, Venetia, [1574?].	155
4.14	Margaritino and Sopoto. Giuseppe Rosaccio, <i>Viaggio da Venetia a Costantinopoli</i> , 32r, Venetia, c. 1598.	157
4.15	“Clissa,” <i>Molina Atlas</i> , table 6, no. 5 [n.p., mid 17th century].	158
4.16	Christaforo Tarnowski, “Clissa” [n.p.], c. 1605.	160
4.17	Christaforo Tarnowski, “Castelnovo” [n.p.], c. 1605.	162
4.18	Giovanni Camocio, “Castel novo,” <i>Isole famose porti, fortezze, e terre marittime sottoposto all Ser.ma Sig.ria di Venetia</i> , map 20, Venetia [1574?].	163
4.19	Giovanni Camocio, “Golfo di Venetia,” <i>Isole famose porti, fortezze, e terre marittime sottoposto all Ser.ma Sig.ria di Venetia</i> , map 12, Venetia [Alla libreria del segno di S. Marco] [1574?].	164
4.20	Giovanni Camocio, “Tine, insula et citta,” <i>Isole famose porti, fortezze, e terre marittime sottoposto all Ser.ma Sig.ria di Venetia</i> , map 56, Venetia [1574?].	166
4.21	Giovanni Camocio, “Famagosta,” <i>Isole famose porti, fortezze, e terre marittime sottoposto all Ser.ma Sig.ria di Venetia</i> , map 71, Venetia [1574?].	168
4.22	Simon Pinargenti, “Nicosia,” <i>Isole che son da Venetia nella Dalmatia, et per tutto l’Archipelago</i> , Venetia, 1573.	170
4.23	Domenico Zenoi, “L’Ultimo disegno de l’isola di Malta” [Venice], 1565.	172
4.24	Jerba. “Disegno dell’ Isola de Gerbi” [n.p., n.d.].	174
4.25	“Algeri” [n.p.], c. 1590.	175
4.26	Bolognini Zaltieri [“Tunis and Goletta”], Venetia, 1566.	177
4.27	Johan Bussemecher, “Sclavonia, Croatia, Bosnia & Dalmatiae Pars Maior,” Cologne, 1596.	180
4.28	Johan Bussemecher, “Thracia et Bulgaria Cum Viciniis,” Cologne, 1596.	182
4.29	Ioannes van Deutecum and Lucas van Deutecum, after Matthias Zündt [“Hungariae totius”], inset [Antwerp], [1593].	183

List of Images

xi

- 4.30 John Speed, “The Turkish Empire,” *Prospect of the Most Famous Parts of the World*, pl. 18, inset, London, 1627. 184
- 4.31 Vincenzo Coronelli, “Golfo Di Corinto,” *Isolario [dell’Atlante Veneto]*, v. 1, map 14, Venetia, c. 1696. 185
- 5.1 Wenceslaus Hollar (1607–77) [“Turk’s Head”], Antwerp, 1645. 190
- 5.2 [Du Vignau, sieur des Joanots] Person of Quality, “Soliman ye III.d” [*Secrétaire turc*. English] *A New Account of the Present Condition of Turkish Affairs*, frontispiece, London, 1688. 191
- 5.3 Janissary. Nicolas de Nicolay, “Janissaire allant à la guerre,” *Les navigations peregrinations et voyages*, fol. 137, Antwerp, 1576. 192
- 5.4 John Senex, from G. de l’ Isle, “A Map of Turkey, Arabia and Persia,” cartouche, London, 1721. 193
- 5.5 Sighetvar Campaign, Heads Presented to Grand Vezir Sokollu Mehmet. Ahmet Feridun Bey, *Nüşet ül-Esrar ul-Ahbar fi Sefer-i Szigetvar*, H. 1339, fol. 41b, İstanbul, [n.d.]. 197
- 5.6 Conquest of Lipova, Heads Presented to Sokollu Mehmet. Anonymous, *Fütühat-ı Cemile*, H. 1592, fol. 9a, İstanbul, 1556. 198
- 5.7 Triumph in the Tent of the Grand Vezir. Romeyn de Hooghe, Nicolas Visscher, “Overwonnen Turken knielen voor Leopold I,” Amsterdam, 1684. 200
- 5.8 Coat of Arms. John Smith, *The True Travels, Adventures, and Observations*, frontispiece verso, London, 1630. 205
- 5.9 John Smith, “Three Turks Heads,” *The True Travels, Adventures, and Observations*, foldout map before p. 1, London, 1630. 208
- 5.10 Lazzaro Soranzo, *L’ottomano*, frontispiece, Ferrara, 1598. 210
- 5.11 John Capistrano Pulpit, mounted on Stephansdom, Vienna, exterior wall, with blue tarp. 212
- 5.12 Giovanni Battista Chiarello, “Pianta Della Fortezza Di Nayahysel,” cartouche, *Historia degl’ avvenimenti dell’ armi imperiali contro a’ ribelli, et Ottomani*, map following p. 346, Venetia, 1687. 215
- 5.13 Theodor de Bry, “Vertutissimi, Potentissimique Hungariae Regni,” cartouche, Frankfurt, 1596. 217
- 5.14 Justus Danckerts /Danckerum, “Regni Hungariae, Graeciae, et Moreae,” cartouche [Amsterdam] [c. 1688]. 218
- 5.15 Frederick de Wit, “Regnum Hungaria,” cartouche [Amsterdam] [c. 1680]. 219

xii	List of Images	
5.16	Henri Chatelain, <i>Atlas Historique, ou Nouvelle Introduction à l'Histoire . . .</i> , 3rd ed., v. 4, frontispiece, Amsterdam, 1739.	220
5.17	Georg Matthäus Seutter, Johann Baptist Homann [et al.], "Peloponnesus hodie Morea," map 102, cartouche [<i>Weltatlas</i>] [n.p.] [17–].	221
5.18	Vincenzo Coronelli, "Fortezza di Santa Maura," Venetia [c. 1685].	223
5.19	Vincenzo Coronelli, "Fortezza di Santa Maura," detail, Venetia [c. 1685].	224
5.20	Nicolas Visscher, "Magni Turcarum Domini Imperium in Europa, Asia, et Africa," cartouche, Amsterdam [1680?].	227
5.21	Siege of Raab. Alexander Maier, "Iavarinum sive Raab à Christianis captum 29 die Martij Anno Christi 1598" [Augsburg] [1598].	229
5.22	Vincenzo Coronelli, "Parallelo Geographico Dell'Antico Col Moderno Archipelago," cartouche, <i>Isolario [dell'Atlante Veneto]</i> , v. 1, Venetia, 1696.	231
5.23	Cornelis de Jode, "Croatia & circumiacentium Regionum versus Turcam nova delineatio," from <i>Speculum Orbis Terrae</i> , Antwerp, 1593.	234
5.24	Cornelis de Jode, "Croatia & circumiacentium Regionum versus Turcam nova delineatio," insets, Antwerp [c. 1594].	235
5.25	Nicolas Sanson, "Estats De L' Empire Du Grand Seigneur des Turqs," cartouche, Paris, 1654.	237
6.1	Imam Husein Mosque, Karbala. Matrakçı Nasuh, <i>Beyan-ı Menazil-i Sefer-i Irakeyn-i Sultan Süleyman</i> , fol. 62b, İstanbul [c. 1537].	242
6.2	Marie-Gabriel-Auguste-Florent Choiseul-Gouffier, <i>Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce</i> , v. 1, frontispiece, detail, Paris, 1824.	245
6.3	Paolo Forlani (fl. 1560–71), derived from Giacomo Gastaldi, "Disegno particolare di Regni e Regioni che son da Venetia a Costantinopoli e da Costantinopoli a Vienna d'Austria . . .," Venice segment, cropped, Venetia, 1566.	261
6.4	Vienna to Constantinople. Stefano Scolari, "Viagio Da Vienna Sino Petro Varadino, Con La Distanza Di Miglia Da Una Citta Al Altra. Viagio Da Carlovitz Sino A Costantinopoli Con La Sua Distanza Di Miglia Da Una Citta Al Altra," map divided into two parts [Venice?] [c. 1717, from 1590 original].	263
6.5	Vienna to Constantinople. Paulus Fürst, "Abbildung Des Königreich Ungarn Durch Türckey Bis Nach Constantinople," Nuremberg [c. 1658].	265

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-09077-4 - Mapping the Ottomans: Sovereignty, Territory, and Identity in the Early Modern Mediterranean

Palmira Brummett

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

	List of Images	xiii
6.6	Nicolas de Fer, “Le Theatre De La Guerre Sur Les Frontieres Des Deux Empires de puis Vienne jusques à Constantinople,” Paris, 1705.	268
6.7	Pierre Du Val, “Itineraire de Paris à Constantinople,” “Chemin de Constantinople par la Servie, et par la Bosnie,” in <i>Diverses Cartes et Tables pour la Géographie Ancienne, pour la Chronologie et pour les Itinéraires et voyages modernes</i> , Paris [c. 1665].	269
6.8	Pierre Du Val, “Le Voiage D’Amasie de Mr. Busbequius,” “Chemin de Smirne a Bourse,” in <i>Diverses Cartes et Tables pour la Géographie Ancienne, pour la Chronologie et pour les Itinéraires et voyages modernes</i> , Paris [c. 1665].	270
6.9	Giuseppe Rosaccio, “Jerusalem,” <i>Viaggio da Venetia a Costantinopoli</i> , 53r, Venetia, 1598.	275
7.1	Thomas Salmon, Herman Moll, “The Whole Turkish Empire,” <i>Modern History or the Present State of All Nations</i> , v. 1, London, 1737.	281
7.2	Thomas Salmon, Herman Moll, “A Turkish Gentleman, a Turkish Gentlewoman,” <i>Modern History or the Present State of All Nations</i> , v. 1, after p. 414, London, 1744.	282
7.3	Thomas Salmon, Herman Moll, “Habit of a Grecian Man, [and] Habit of a Grecian Woman in the Islands of the Archipelago,” <i>Modern History or the Present State of All Nations</i> , v. 1, after p. 575, London, 1744.	283
7.4	Vincenzo Coronelli, “Canale Di Costantinopoli,” <i>Atlante Veneto</i> , v. 1, pl. 24, Venetia, 1690.	289
7.5	Olfert Dapper, <i>Description exacte des isles de l’archipel</i> , frontispiece, Amsterdam, 1703.	294
7.6	Nicolas de Nicolay, “Femme de l’isle de Chio,” <i>Les navigations peregrinations et voyages</i> , fol. 71, Antwerp, 1576.	300
7.7	Nicolas de Nicolay, “Fille de l’isle de Chio,” <i>Les navigations peregrinations et voyages</i> , fol. 72, Antwerp, 1576.	301
7.8	Henri Chatelain, based on Cornelis de Bruyn, “Habillements Des Dames De Constantinople,” <i>Atlas Historique</i> , v. 5, pl. 15, Amsterdam, 1739.	319
7.9	Marie-Gabriel-Auguste-Florent Choiseul-Gouffier, “Dames De L’Ile De Tine,” <i>Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce</i> , v. 1, pl. 25, Paris, 1824.	320
7.10	John Hamilton Moore, “Genius of the Work Instructing Youth,” <i>A New and Complete Collection of Voyages and Travels</i> , v. 1, frontispiece, London [1785].	322

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Palmira Brummett

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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No person living or dead, except myself, bears any responsibility for errors contained herein. This is a literary convention that I think bears repeating. It is important to keep in mind, however, that in the early modern era, the publishing industry careened wildly beyond any fixed rules governing accuracy, censorship, copyright, or propriety!

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Note on Transliteration and Translation

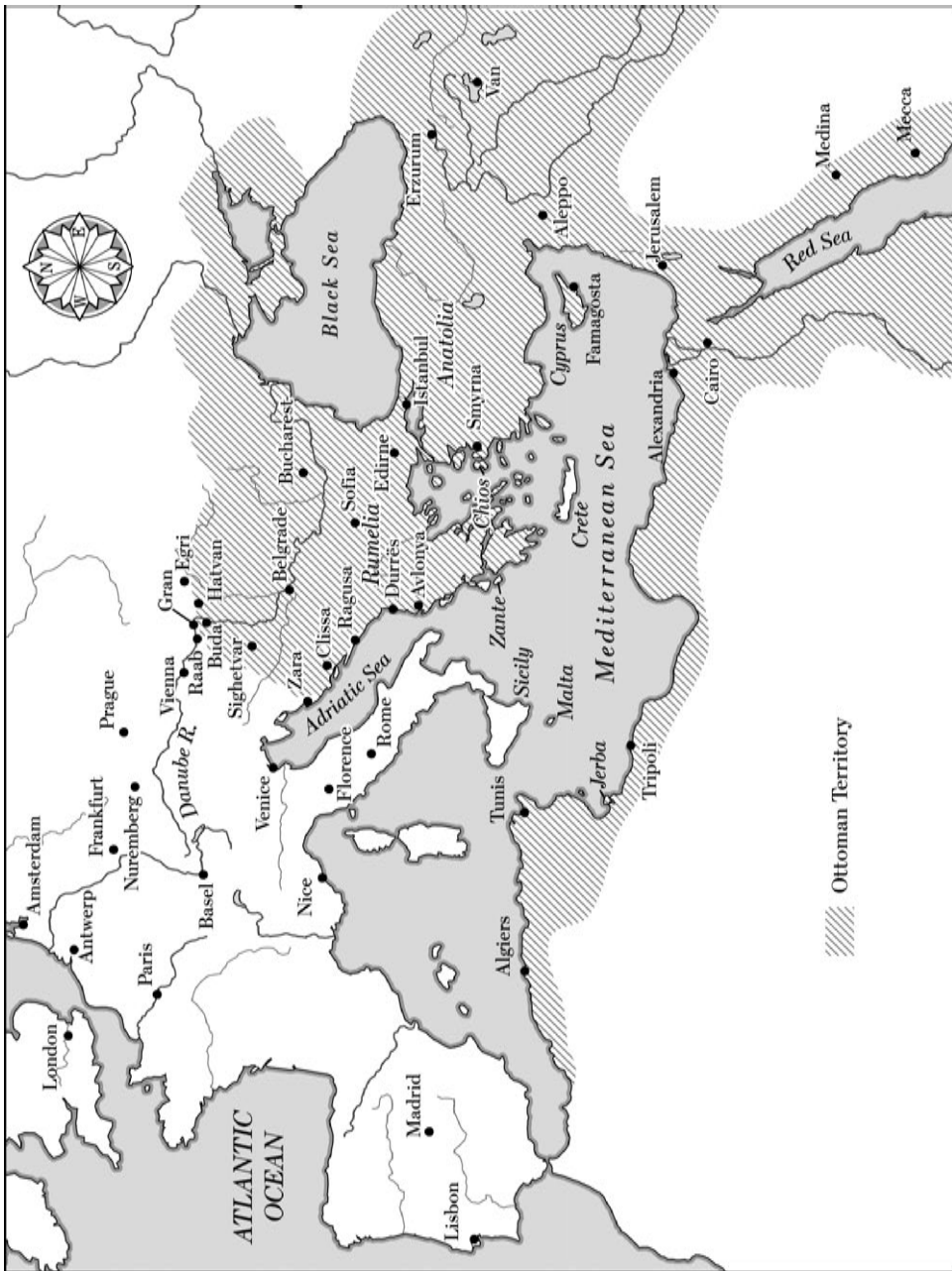
There is no one standard transliteration for Ottoman Turkish. That phenomenon is illustrated by the sources cited here in the footnotes, which employ at least four variations on Ottoman transliteration. Further, the style employed for indicating diacritical marks in modern Turkish has evolved since the language reforms of the 1920s and 1930s. This volume generally employs the transliterations used in the *Redhouse Türkçe/Osmanlıca–İngilizce Sözlük* (Redhouse Turkish/Ottoman–English Dictionary), with certain modifications and simplifications. Words such as ‘tugh’ (horsetail standard) and ‘pasha’ are not transliterated, as they have become standard in English language usage. English plurals have occasionally been used for select Turkish words in the text, for example *kadıs* (Islamic judges) rather than *kadılar* and *beyliks* (provinces) rather than *beylikleri*. For the few Arabic names employed, diacritics have been omitted (e.g., al-Malik al-Kamil rather than al-Malik al-Kāmīl). İstanbul, with a dotted “I,” is used only for citations of works published in that city; I have preferred “Istanbul” in the text. I have used both “Constantinople” and “Istanbul” to refer to the Ottoman capital because that is what early modern sources (including Ottoman sources) did. For other city names, which have multiple variants depending on the language (or time) of designation, I have preferred either the most familiar (but still relevant) English name or the contemporaneous name employed in the sources. Some cities are glossed with Italian, Turkish, and Slavic variants. Quotations for the most part employ the (often highly variable) spelling, diacritical marking, and capitalization found in the original sources, except when preserving the original proves unduly confusing or gives the appearance of a typographical error. In particular, because of the flexibility of spelling in early modern English sources, when one word might be confused with a similar word, I have updated the English spelling. The use or omission of accent marks in Italian and French works generally conforms to the usage in the original. It is important to note that I have preserved the capitalization used on the maps themselves and in early modern titles. Translations are mine except where otherwise indicated.

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Frontmatter

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Map 1. The Ottomans in the Mediterranean world, c. 1600.