Scholars and Sultans in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire

During the early Ottoman period (1300–1453), scholars in the empire carefully kept their distance from the ruling class. This changed with the capture of Constantinople. From 1453 to 1600, the Ottoman government coopted large groups of scholars, usually more than a thousand at a time, and employed them in a hierarchical bureaucracy to fulfill educational, legal, and administrative tasks. Abdurrahman Atçıl explores the factors that brought about this gradual transformation of scholars into scholar-bureaucrats, including the deliberate legal, bureaucratic, and architectural actions of the Ottoman sultans and their representatives, scholars’ own participation in shaping the rules governing their status and careers, and domestic and international events beyond the control of either group.

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ABDURRAHMAN ATÇİL
To my parents,
Hakkı Atçıl and Sevim Atçıl
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Notes on Usage

Arabic, Persian, and Turkish words listed in the *Oxford English Dictionary* appear in this book without italics – hence, Qur’an, ulema, shah, Sunna, hadith, sheikh, sharia, ghazi, hajj, pasha, and vizier. However, madrasa (set in roman), *vakf* (italics), and *fetva* (italics) are used instead of madrasah, waqf, and fatwa.

Arabic and Persian terms, texts, and book titles are fully transliterated without macrons and diacritics, except that *hamza* (ُ) – when it is in the middle of a word – and ’ayn (١) are shown with ’ and ’ respectively. Thus, Al-Shaqa’iṣq al-Nu’maniyya, Qamus al-Muhit, and *mihna*. Ottoman Turkish texts and terms are rendered according to modern Turkish orthography: *kanun*, *kadıasker*, *mevali*, *ilmiye*, and *mülażemet*. Long Turkish vowels (ā and ī) are used only in cases where confusion may occur, such as *vāktf* and Mustafa Âlı. As for those terms that may be used in both Arabic and Ottoman Turkish contexts, Turkish renderings are given in the text (e.g., *vakfiye*, *fetva*, *vakf*, *kadi*, *müfti*), and both Arabic and Turkish appear in the Glossary and Index. Plurals of non-English terms use the English plural suffix *s* (e.g., *kasabat kadis*, *kadıaskers*, *mülazims*, and *vakfiyes*), except for the plural word *mevali*, the singular form of which (*mevala*) never appears in this study.

Arabic and Persian personal names are normally fully transliterated – for instance, Abu Hanifa, al-Mu’ayyad, and Ibn ʿArabi. However, if the context relates to Anatolia or the Ottoman dynasty, all personal names appear in their modern Turkish rendering, as in Molla Hüsrév, Ebussuud, Seyyid Şerif Cürcani, and Sadeddin Taftazani. The modern Turkish version of place-names is used (e.g., Konya, Ankara, and Manisa) unless there is an established anglicized form, as there is for Istanbul, Cairo, Damascus, Medina, Mecca, Aleppo, Anatolia, Nishapur, Merv, Samarkand, Baghdad, Herat, Khorasan, and Transoxiana.

All dates are given according to the Common Era. In cases of lunar dates for which the month is not known, the lunar year may extend
Notes on Usage

into two years of the Common Era. Then, the two years are shown with a virgule (/). For example, 1548/49 is given for the lunar year 955.

The following abbreviations are used throughout the book:

- **EI²** *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 2nd ed. (online)
- **KANUNNAME** *Kânûnname-i Âl-i Osman*, ed. and transliterated by Abdulkadir Özcan (İstanbul: Kitabevi, 2003)
- **MECDI** Mecdi Mehmed Efendi, *Hadaʾiq al-Shaqaʾiq*, ed. Abdulkadir Özcan (İstanbul: Çağrı Yayınları, 1989)
- **SK** Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi
- **TDVIA** *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi* (online)
- **TSMA** Topkapı Sarayi Müzesi Arşivi (Topkapı Palace Museum Archive)
- **TSMK** Topkapı Sarayi Müzesi Kütüphanesi (Topkapı Palace Museum Library)
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