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978-0-521-51949-6 - The Second Ottoman Empire: Political and Social Transformation in the Early Modern World

Baki Tezcan

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The Second Ottoman Empire

Although scholars have begun to revise the traditional view that the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries marked a decline in the fortunes of the Ottoman Empire, Baki Tezcan's book proposes a radical new approach to this period. Concurring that decline did take place in certain areas, he constructs a new framework by foregrounding the proto-democratization of the Ottoman polity in this era. Focusing on the background and the aftermath of the regicide of Osman II, he shows how the empire embarked on a period of seismic change in the political, economic, military, and social spheres. It is this period – from roughly 1580 to 1826 – that the author labels “The Second Empire” and that he sees as no less than the transformation of the patrimonial, medieval, dynastic institution into a fledgling limited monarchy. The book is essentially a post-revisionist history of the early modern Ottoman Empire that will make a major contribution not only to Ottoman scholarship but also to comparable trends in world history.

BAKI TEZCAN is Associate Professor of History and Religious Studies at the University of California, Davis. He has received research fellowships from the Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Cornell University's Society for the Humanities. He coedited *Identity and Identity Formation in the Ottoman World: A Volume of Essays in Honor of Norman Itzkowitz* (2007) and has contributed articles to numerous books and journals.

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*Political and Social Transformation in the
Early Modern World*

BAKI TEZCAN

University of California, Davis



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*In memory of Abdülbaki Tezcan
(1895, Kulfallar [Razvigorovo] – 1955, Istanbul)*

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Marigold Acland at Cambridge University Press was the best editor I could hope to find. She made sure that the length of the book was manageable, which required me to cut various sections of the first draft that have since appeared as articles; hence, the references to my own work in the footnotes. I am thankful to Sarah Green, Amanda Smith, Shelby Peak, Larry Fox, and Peggy Rote for overseeing the production process and making sure that everything was in place. I owe special thanks to Gail Naron Chalew for copyediting the book, and thus saving me from many an embarrassment, and to Jim Farned for preparing the index.

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Notes on abbreviations, dates, pronunciation, and transliteration

I use the following abbreviations:

BnF:	Bibliothèque nationale de France
BOA:	Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivleri
KK:	Kamil Kepeci
MM:	Maliyeden Müdevver
NA:	The National Archives, London
SP:	State Papers
İA:	<i>İslâm Ansiklopedisi</i>
İA2:	<i>Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslâm Ansiklopedisi</i>

The dates are mostly given in CE (Common Era) although most of the relevant primary sources are dated according to the *hijri* calendar. That calendar has twelve lunar months in a year of about 354 days, with the year 1 AH (after *hijra*) corresponding to 622 CE when Muhammad and his followers left Mecca for Yathrib. When a given *hijri* date does not have enough precision to convert it to a single year in CE, then I supply the *hijri* year first and indicate which CE years it corresponds to, such as 1007/1598–9. Rarely, such as in publication dates of books published in the Ottoman period, I only indicate the *hijri* year.

I use the Anglicized versions of most Ottoman Turkish and Arabic words rather than writing them in italics or transliterating them, the criterion being inclusion in the *Oxford English Dictionary*; hence, agha, bey, ghazi, kiblah, mufti, pasha, Sharia, timar, ulema, vizier, wakf – but efendi instead of effendi and kadi instead of cadi. In place names I prefer English spellings as well, except for place names that constitute part of the name of a publisher in the footnotes; hence, Istanbul, but İstanbul Üniversitesi.

When I transliterate Ottoman terms, I try to stay as close as possible to modern Turkish spellings. In the main body of the text and in the identification of authors, I avoid all the diacritics associated with transliteration, except for *‘ayn* and *hamza* when they appear in the middle of a word, which I indicate with an apostrophe [’]. In reproducing titles of references in the footnotes, however, I use the circumflex to indicate long vowels in Ottoman Turkish. Because the orthography of modern Turkish is still in flux and sometimes

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differs from the transliteration of Ottoman Turkish, readers may find that the same word is spelled differently in different footnotes, such as *Tarih*, *Târih*, and *Ta'rih*. If a work did not originally have a title, I write the retrospectively given title in square brackets. In transliterating Arabic and Persian names and titles, I follow the conventions of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*.

There are some Turkish letters that do not appear in the English alphabet and others that are pronounced differently from their English counterparts:

- C, c: “j” as in “joy”
 Ç, ç: “ch” as in “check”
 Ğ, ğ: When preceded or followed by e, i, ö, ü, the “soft g” sounds like “y” as in “lawyer;” when preceded and followed by a, ı, o, u or it is in final position, it lengthens the preceding vowel; thus *dağ* is pronounced “daa.”
 İ, ı: “e” as in “halted”
 İ̇, i̇: “i” as in “bit”
 Ö, ö: “eu” as in French “*deux*,” or “ö” as in German “*hören*”
 Ş, ş: “sh” as in “shade”
 Ü, ü: “ü” as in German “*über*” or “u” as in French “*tu*”