The Ottoman Empire, 1700–1922

The Ottoman Empire was one of the most important non-Western states to survive from medieval to modern times, and played a vital role in European and global history. It continues to affect the peoples of the Middle East, the Balkans, and Central and Western Europe to the present day. This new survey examines the major trends during the latter years of the empire; it pays attention to gender issues and to hotly debated topics such as the treatment of minorities. In this second edition, Donald Quataert has updated his lively and authoritative text, revised the bibliographies, and included brief bibliographies of major works on the Byzantine Empire and the post–Ottoman Middle East. This accessible narrative is supported by maps, illustrations, and genealogical and chronological tables, which will be of help to students and non-specialists alike. It will appeal to anyone interested in the history of the Middle East.

DONALD QUATAERT is Professor of History at Binghamton University, State University of New York. He has published many books on Middle East and Ottoman history, including *An Economic and Social History of the Ottoman Empire, 1300–1914* (1994).

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Second Edition

DONALD QUATAERT

Binghamton University,
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To my brothers and sisters
Patricia, Phyllis, Pamela, Michael, Peter,
Robert, and Helen
in the hopes this book will help them to
understand my whereabouts over the years

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Preface

The writing of the history of the Ottoman Empire, 1300–1922, has changed dramatically during the past several decades. In the early 1970s, when I began my graduate studies, a handful of scholars, at a very few elite schools, studied and wrote on this extraordinary empire, with roots in the Byzantine, Turkish, Islamic, and Renaissance political and cultural traditions. Nowadays, by contrast, Ottoman history appropriately is becoming an integral part of the curriculum at scores of colleges and universities, public and private.

And yet, semester after semester I have been faced with the same dilemma when making textbook assignments for my undergraduate courses in Middle East and Ottoman history. Either use textbooks that were too detailed for most students or adopt briefer studies that were deeply flawed, mainly by their a-historical approach that described a non-changing empire, hopelessly corrupt and backward, awaiting rescue or a merciful death.

This textbook is an effort to make Ottoman history intelligible, and exciting, to the university undergraduate student and the general reader. I make liberal use of my own previous research. Moreover, I rely quite heavily on the research of others and seek to bring to the general reader the wonderful specialized research that until now largely has remained inaccessible. At the end of each chapter are lists of suggested readings, not always those used in preparing the section. Given the intended audience, only English-language works are cited (with just a few exceptions). These works, however, each contain substantial bibliographies in many languages that can provide a springboard for further reading. To gain an overview of Ottoman history writing today, examine an annual bibliography, named *Turcology Annual*,[1] that lists hundreds of books and articles – in languages as diverse as English, Japanese, Arabic, French, Russian,

[1] *Turcology Annual/Turkologischer Anzeiger*, published at the Institut für Orientalistik der Universität Wien, Vienna, Austria

Turkish, Spanish, German, Chinese, and Armenian. The bibliography is an indispensable source.

I have tried to give what I believe is a more widely comprehensive presentation – including not only political history, but social, economic, and labor history as well. Too often the state has been overemphasized in Ottoman history writing. In part this is because the sources from which the history is written are those produced by the state itself. This text seeks to give agency to groups in the "civil society," outside the government. Despite my effort to more equally weight the various aspects of the Ottoman experience, there are numerous gaps, a function of both space limitations and my own shortcomings. In preparing this second edition, I continue to underrepresent the field of cultural studies, mainly for fear of not doing it justice. Also, my original treatment of the religious classes, both the Muslim ulema and the Jewish and Christian clergy, also remains basically unrevised. In the end, I concluded that a fuller treatment of these groups would require comparably specialized treatments of various other important elements in Ottoman society such as merchants, soldiers, and artisans and that such analyses belong to a specialized monograph and not a general text. Slavery remains largely excluded. There is, however, some mounting evidence that the issue of economic slavery may need revisiting. Such slavery was not widespread and domestic slavery did dominate; but some slaves were working in manufacture and agriculture and their activities may require further discussion at a later point. In this regard, I also mention the possibly connected presence of Africans in the northern Ottoman Empire during, for example, the nineteenth century.

Some of the revisions seek to correct errors that generously were called to my attention by reviewers or in private correspondence – to both sets of individuals I am very grateful. Most of the changes result from my readings of the literature published since the first section or rethinking points of interpretation.

A caution: the Ottoman experiences were rich, diverse, and sometimes unusual. But they were not sui generis, one of a kind. We can understand them by using the same categories of analysis that historians employ to examine states and societies in Ming China, Tokugawa Japan, the Habsburg Empire, and Victorian England. I believe that Ottoman institutions and peoples were particularly fashioned by a special set of historical contingencies. But so too, political and social organizations across the globe each were uniquely fashioned by their own sets of contingencies. When appropriate, I have underscored the unique qualities of the Ottoman experience. But throughout, I also have sought to present the process of change in the Ottoman world as sharing much with those of states, societies, and economies elsewhere. That is, common patterns are to be

expected and, within those, we find the Ottoman particularities formed by specific contingencies.

The first chapter situates Ottoman history in a larger context and its role in the evolution of western Europe. The following three chapters, 2–4, are chronological surveys of the period before 1683, the eighteenth century, and the 1800–1922 era. Chapters 5–10 are thematic in nature, exploring various major issues: international and domestic politics; the economy; society, and popular culture; identity; and the question of inter-subject relations. The final chapter explores the resonance of the Ottoman past in the experiences of people living in the more than thirty states that exist on the lands once Ottoman.

In preparing the first edition of this book, numerous friends and colleagues have offered invaluable guidance that I usually welcomed but sometimes rejected. Thus, errors and misjudgments are my responsibility. Colleagues at Binghamton University and especially the world history group – including Rifaat Abou-El-Haj, John Chaffee, Brendan McConville, Tiffany Patterson, and Jean Quataert – have changed the way I think about history. I also wish to thank Elif Akşıt, Lynda Carroll, Eric Crahan, Kasım Kopuz, Thomas Page, and Margarita Poutouridou for reading earlier versions of this manuscript. Faruk Tabak was exceptionally helpful and read two, quite different, drafts of the text; his comments were very useful. The biennial conferences on Ottoman history at Binghamton University have served as a powerful learning device for me. For various specific points, I thank Virginia Aksan, Selçuk Esenbel, Carter Findley, Heath Lowry, Nancy Micklewright, Zafer Toprak, as well as Andreas Tietze. For their criticisms and comments on the published first edition, I especially thank Carter Findley, Fred Lawson, Viorel Panaite, Christine Philliou, Michael Quataert, and Yunus Uğur. More generally, I have found the discussions on H-Turk to be very useful.

Guide to pronunciation of Turkish words[1] and a note on place names

Pronunciation

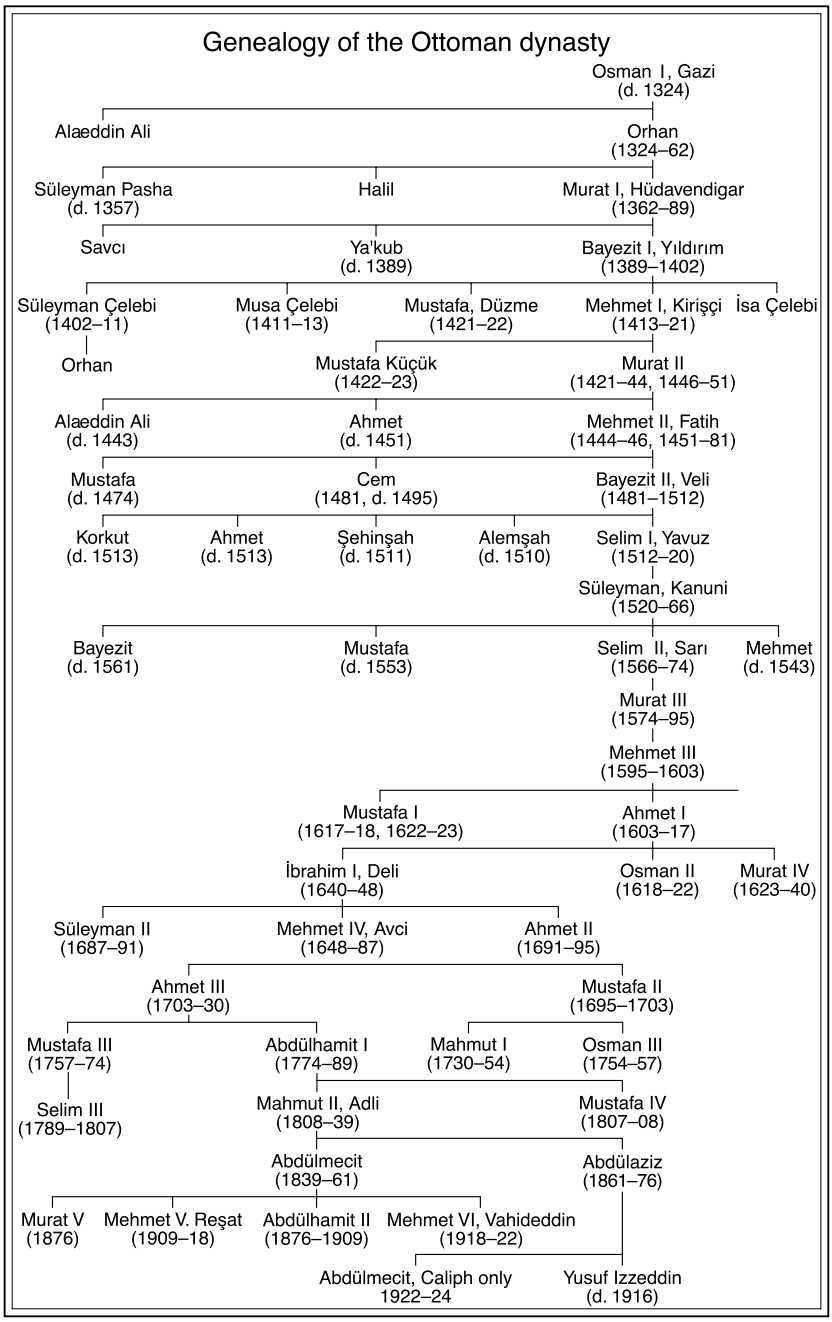
C, c = "j" as in juice
Ç, ç = "ch" as in cheek
Ğ, ğ = soft "g", hardly pronounced
I, ı = without a dot, pronounced like the first syllable of "earnest"
İ, i = with a dot, somewhere between "in" and "eel"
Ö, ö = as in the umlaut ö in German or as French eu in peu
Ş, ş = as in "sheet"
Ü, ü = as in the umlat ü in German or as French u in tu
∧ = used to denote a lenghtened vowel (a, i, and u) or to palatize a preceding g, k, or l

Place names

The issue of place names is a thorny one. To call places as they were in the past can cause confusion for modern readers. The old names often but not always have completely disappeared from the present memory of all but a few devotees of the area or subject. In many areas of the former empire – including the Balkans, Anatolia, and Palestine – a large proportion of the contemporary place names are radically different from their Ottoman labels. To use these past names would be historically accurate but overly confusing for a textbook. Similarly, it does not seem useful to use place names in a form that is known only within the country of origin or to specialists. Throughout this text, therefore, I have preferred to call places according to the general international usage. Hence, for example, I use Belgrade not Beograd and Aleppo not Halep. For the Ottoman capital, I use the current designation of Istanbul even though the Ottomans called it Konstantiniyye or Dersaadet. However, I use Constantinople to denote the Byzantine city before the Ottoman conquest in 1453.

[1] After Cornell H. Fleischer, *Bureaucrat and intellectual in the Ottoman Empire: the historian Mustafa Ali (1541–1600)* (Princeton, 1986), xiv.

The convention for place names used in this textbook has the advantage of clarity and is not intended necessarily to endorse the policies of those who changed the name. It should enable students to refer to standard international atlases and readily find the places mentioned in this work.



Adapted from Halil İnalcık with Donald Quataert, eds., *An economic and social history of the Ottoman Empire, 1300–1914* (Cambridge, 1994), xvii

Chronology of Ottoman history, 1260–1923

1261–1300	foundation of the principalities of Menteşe, Aydın, Saruhan, Karesi, and Osmanlı (Ottoman) in western Anatolia
c. 1290–1324	**Osman I**
1324–62	**Orhan**
1326	Ottoman conquest of Bursa
1331	Ottoman conquest of Nicaea (İznik)
1335	fall of the Mongol empire in Iran
1354	Ottoman occupation of Ankara and Gallipoli
1361	Ottoman conquest of Adrianople
1362–89	**Murat I**
1363–65	Ottoman expansion in southern Bulgaria and Thrace
1371–73	Ottoman victory at Chermanon; Byzantium, the Balkan rulers recognize Ottoman suzerainty
1385	Ottoman conquest of Sofia
1389	Ottoman victory at Kossovo-Polje over a coalition of the Balkan states
1389–1402	**Bayezit I, Yıldırım**
1396	battle of Nicopolis
1402	battle of Ankara, collapse of Bayezit I's empire
1403–13	civil war among Bayezit's sons for sultanate
1413–21	**Mehmet I**
1421–44	**Murat II**
1446–51	
1423–30	Ottoman–Venetian war for Salonica
1425	Ottoman annexation of Izmir and the reconquest of western Anatolia
1439	Ottoman annexation of Serbia
1443	John Hunyadi invades the Balkans

Adapted from Halil İnalcık with Donald Quataert, eds., *An economic and social history of the Ottoman Empire, 1300–1914* (Cambridge, 1994), xviii–xxiv.

1444	revival of Serbian despotate, battle of Varna
1444–46, 1451–81	**Mehmet II, Fatih**
1448	second battle of Kossovo-Polje
1453	conquest of Constantinople; fall of Pera
1459	conquest of Serbia and the Morea
1461	conquest of the empire of Trabzon
1463–79	war with Venice
1468	conquest of Karaman
1473	battle of Başkent
1475	conquest of the Genoese colonies in the Crimea
1481–1512	**Bayezit II**
1485–91	war with the Mamluks of Egypt
1499–1503	war with Venice; conquest of Lepanto, Coron, and Modon
1512–20	**Selim I**
1514	Selim defeats Shah Ismail at Çaldıran
1516	conquest of Diyarbakir; annexation of eastern Anatolia; defeat of the Mamluks at Marj Dabık
1517	battle of Ridaniyya, conquest of Egypt; submission of the sharif of Mecca
1520–66	**Süleyman I, Kanuni**
1521	conquest of Belgrade
1522	conquest of Rhodes
1526	battle of Mohács; Hungary becomes a vassal
1529	siege of Vienna
1534	conquest of Tabriz and Baghdad
1537–40	war with Venice
1538	siege of Diu in India
1541	annexation of Hungary
1553–55	war with Iran
1565	siege of Malta
1566–74	**Selim II**
1569	French capitulations; first Ottoman expedition against Russia; siege of Astrakhan
1570	Uluç Ali captures Tunis; expedition to Cyprus; fall of Nicosia
1571	battle of Lepanto
1573	peace with Venice and the emperor
1574–95	**Murat III**
1578–90	war with Iran, annexation of Azerbaijan
1580	English capitulations
1589	Janissary revolt in Istanbul

1591–92	further Janissary uprisings
1593–1606	war with the Habsburgs
1595–1603	**Mehmet III**
1596	Celali rebellions in Anatolia
1603–39	Iranian wars
1603–17	**Ahmet I**
1606	Peace of Sitva-Torok with the Habsburgs
1609	suppression of the Celalis in Anatolia
1612	extension of capitulations to the Dutch
1613–35	rebellion of Ma'noğlu Fahreddin
1618	peace with Iran, Ottoman withdrawal from Azerbaijan
1618–22	**Osman II**
1621	invasion of Poland
1622	assassination of Osman II
1617–18, 1622–23	**Mustafa I**
1623–40	**Murat IV**
1624–28	rebellion in Asia Minor; anarchy in Istanbul
1632	Murat takes full control of the government
1635	siege of Erivan
1624–37	Cossack attacks on the Black Sea coast
1624–39	war with Iran, fall of Baghdad
1637	fall of Azov (Azak) to Cossacks
1638	Ottoman recovery of Baghdad
1640–48	**Ibrahim I**
1640	recovery of Azov
1645–69	war with Venice; invasion of Crete; siege of Candia
1648–56	Venetian blockade of the Dardanelles
1648	deposition and assassination of the sultan
1648–87	**Mehmet IV**
1648–51	the child sultan's mother Kösem in control
1649–51	Janissary dominance in Istanbul and Celali pashas in the Asiatic provinces
1651–55	anarchy in Istanbul, Venetian blockade continues
1656	Köprülü Mehmet appointed grand vizier with dictatorial powers
1656–59	re-establishment of the central government's control over the Janissaries and in the provinces
1657	lifting of Venetian blockade
1658–59	re-establishment of Ottoman control over Transylvania and Wallachia
1661–76	Köprülü Fazıl Ahmet's grand vizierate

1663	war with the Habsburgs
1664	battle of St. Gotthard, peace of Vasvar
1669	fall of Candia, peace with Venice
1672–76	war with Poland, annexation of Kaminiec with Podolia, Treaty of Zuravno
1676–83	Kara Mustafa's grand vizierate
1677–81	rivalry over Ukraine with Russia
1681	French attack against Chios
1683	siege of Vienna
1684	Holy League against the Ottomans between the emperor, Polish king and Venice
1686	fall of Buda, Russia joins the coalition; Venetians in the Morea
1687	second battle of Mohács; army's rebellion; deposition of Mehmet IV
1687–91	**Süleyman II**
1688	fall of Belgrade
1689	Austrians at Kosovo; Russians attack the Crimea
1689–91	Köprülü Fazıl Mustafa's grand vizierate; tax reforms
1690	recovery of Belgrade from Austrians
1691–95	**Ahmet II**
1691	battle of Slankamen; death of Fazıl Mustafa
1695–1703	**Mustafa II**
1695	fall of Azov
1696	Ottoman counter-attack in Hungary
1697	Ottoman defeat at Zenta
1698–1702	Köprülü Hüseyin's grand vizierate
1699	Treaty of Karlowitz
1700	peace with Russia
1703	army's rebellion; deposition of Mustafa II
1703–30	**Ahmet III**
1709	Charles XII, king of Sweden, takes refuge in Ottoman territory
1711	battle of Pruth, Ottoman victory over Peter I of Russia, insurrection at Cairo, realignment of Mamluks; Shihabi supremacy over Mount Lebanon
1713	peace treaty with Russia: Azov recovered, Charles XII returns to Sweden; introduction of Phanariote rule in principalities
1714–18	war with Venice, recovery of the Morea
1716	war with Austria
1717	fall of Belgrade

1718–30	Ibrahim Pasha's grand vizierate
1718	peace treaty of Passarowitz with Austria and Venice: Morea recovered, large parts of Serbia and Wallachia ceded to Austria
1723–27	war with Iran, Ottoman occupation of Azerbaijan and Hamadan
1730	Patrona Halil rebellion; deposition of Ahmet III; end of Tulip period
1730–36	Iran's counter-attack; loss of Azerbaijan and western Iran
1730–54	**Mahmut I**
1736–39	war with Russia and Austria
1739	peace treaty with Austria and Russia; recovery of Belgrade
1740	extension of French capitulations; Ottoman–Swedish alliance against Russia
1743–46	war with Iran under Nadir Shah
1754–57	**Osman III**
1757–74	**Mustafa III**
1768–74	war with the Russian empire
1770	Russian fleet in the Aegean; Ottoman defeat on the Danube
1771	Russian invasion of the Crimea
1773	Ali Bey's rebellion in Egypt
1774–89	**Abdülhamit I**
1774	treaty of Küçük Kaynarca, independence of the Crimea and northern coasts of the Black Sea from the Ottoman Empire
1783	Russian annexation of the Crimean khanate
1787	war with Russia
1788	Sweden declares war against the Russian Empire
1789–1807	**Selim III**
1792	Treaty of Jassy
1798	Napoleon invades Egypt
1804	Serb revolt
1805–48	Muhammad Ali as ruler of Egypt
1807	Selim's reform program crushed by revolt
1807–08	**Mustafa IV**
1808–39	**Mahmut II**
1808	Document of Alliance
1811	Muhammad Ali massacres Mamluk remnant in Egypt
1812	Treaty of Bucharest
1826	destruction of the Janissaries
1832	battle of Konya

1833	Treaty of Hünkiar-İskelesi with Russia
1838	Anglo-Turkish Convention
1839	battle of Nezib
1839–61	**Abdülmecit I**
1839	Tanzimat begins with Imperial Rescript of Gülhane
1853–56	Crimean war
1856	Imperial Rescript
1856	Treaty of Paris
1861–76	**Abdülaziz**
1875	*de facto* Ottoman bankruptcy
1876	first Ottoman Constitution
1876–1909	**Abdülhamit II**
1878	Treaty of Berlin
1881	formation of Public Debt Administration
1885	occupation by Bulgaria of eastern Rumelia
1896–97	insurrection in Crete; war with Greece
1908	Young Turk Revolution and the restoration of the Constitution of 1876
1909–18	**Mehmet V**
1911	war with Italy
1912	Balkan war
1914	World War I begins
1918–22	**Mehmet VI**
1920	establishment of French mandate over Syria and Lebanon and British mandates over Iraq and Palestine
1923	proclamation of the Republic of Turkey