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978-0-521-57110-4 - The Politics of Households in Ottoman Egypt: The Rise of the Qazdağlıs

Jane Hathaway

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In a lucidly argued revisionist interpretation of society in Ottoman Egypt in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Jane Hathaway challenges the traditional view that Egypt's military elite constituted a revival of the institutions of the Mamluk sultanate. The author contends that the basic framework within which Egypt's elite operated was the household, a conglomerate of patron–client ties that took various forms and included many different recruits. In this respect, she argues, Egypt's elite represented a provincial variation on an empire-wide, household-based political culture.

The study focuses on the Qazdağlı household. Originally a largely Anatolian contingent within Egypt's Janissary regiment, the Qazdağlıs dominated Egypt by the late eighteenth century. Using Turkish and Arabic archival and narrative sources, Jane Hathaway sheds light on the manner in which the Qazdağlıs exploited the Janissary rank hierarchy, while forming strategic alliances through marriage, commercial partnerships, and the patronage of palace eunuchs.

This provocative study will have a major impact on the understanding of Egyptian and Ottoman history, and will be essential reading for scholars in the field, and for anyone interested in pre-modern history.

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JANE HATHAWAY

Ohio State University



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Note on transliteration

When dealing with both Arabic and Ottoman Turkish, one often feels bound to choose between the two in matters of transliteration. I have tried instead to strike a compromise. The names and titles of all of Egypt's grandees and of all Ottoman officials, as well as the titles of books in Ottoman Turkish, are rendered according to a transliteration system for Ottoman Turkish. Egyptian place names, Arabic book titles, and the names of Arab authors are rendered according to a system for Arabic. Where institutions are concerned, I have tried to choose the forms that are least alienating to readers in the field. Ottoman offices, such as that of *Kızlar Ağası* or *Ḥazinedar-i Şehriyârî*, are rendered in Turkish transliteration. Institutions whose names derive from Arabic and that are usually encountered in Arabic transliteration in the secondary literature (e.g., *waqf*, *Awqāf al-Ḥaramayn*) retain their Arabic transliterations, as do local offices (e.g., *sarrāj*, *qā'im maqām*). *Mamlūk* occurs so often in the text that after its first occurrence, I have not thought it necessary to highlight and vocalize it. Terms that have found their way into English dictionaries, such as "reaya" and "ulema," retain the spelling found there.

The transliteration system used for both Arabic and Ottoman Turkish is that employed by the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. However, I have chosen to omit diacritical markings, except for indications of the letter 'ayn, in proper names and in Turkish common nouns not derived from Arabic.

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Preface

When first undertaking this project, I profited from the advice and encouragement of L. Carl Brown, Mark Cohen, Michael Cook, Halil Inalcik, Norman Itzkowitz, Bernard Lewis, A. L. Udovitch, and, above all, Cemal Kafadar, whose insights continue to inspire me. I am also grateful to Abraham Marcus, who guided my earliest research on pre-1798 Egypt. My colleagues in the Ottoman Egyptian subfield have been extraordinarily generous and supportive. I must single out Daniel Crecelius, Peter Holt, and André Raymond; though I may question some of the conclusions of their scholarship, I know very well that my own would not have been possible without theirs. Other colleagues who have offered advice both on the content of my research and on the process of preparing a book for publication include Philip Brown, Richard Bulliet, Stephen Dale, Carter Findley, Ulrich Haarmann, Victoria Holbrook, Eve Levin, Amy Singer, Ehud Toledano, and two anonymous readers for Cambridge University Press. Ron McLean of Ohio State's Graphics Services department prepared the maps while the University Libraries' Rare Books and Manuscripts collection supplied the cover photographs. Asım Karaömerlioğlu provided invaluable assistance with the index. Marigold Acland and her assistant Emma Mayes at Cambridge University Press have offered cheerful and expert guidance at every turn in the publication process.

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Abbreviations

<i>AI</i>	<i>Annales Islamologiques</i>
<i>BSOAS</i>	<i>Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies</i>
<i>EI¹, EI²</i>	<i>Encyclopaedia of Islam</i> , first and second editions
<i>IJMES</i>	<i>International Journal of Middle East Studies</i>
<i>JAOS</i>	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
<i>JESHO</i>	<i>Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient</i>
<i>MIDEO</i>	<i>Mélanges de l'Institut Dominicain des Études Orientales</i>
<i>SI</i>	<i>Studia Islamica</i>
<i>WZKM</i>	<i>Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes</i>

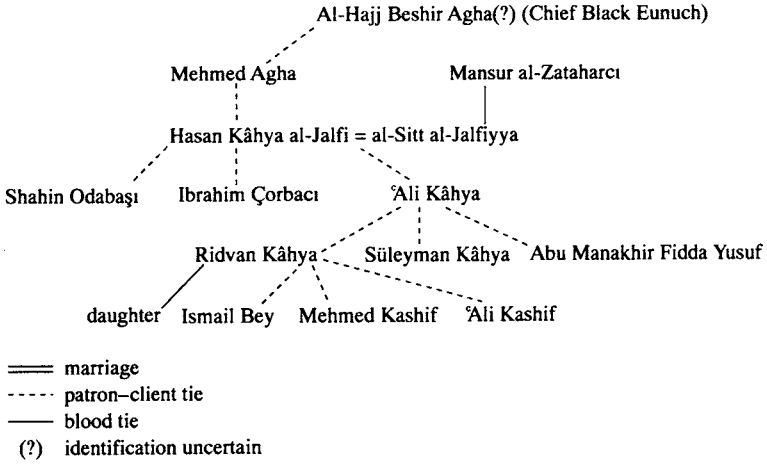


Fig. 2 The Jalfi genealogy