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978-1-107-00876-2 - Nature and Empire in Ottoman Egypt: An Environmental History

Alan Mikhail

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## NATURE AND EMPIRE IN OTTOMAN EGYPT

In one of the first environmental histories of the Ottoman Empire, Alan Mikhail examines relations between the empire and its most lucrative province of Egypt. Based on both the local records of various towns and villages in rural Egypt and the imperial orders of the Ottoman state, this book charts how changes in the control of natural resources fundamentally altered the nature of Ottoman imperial sovereignty in Egypt and throughout the empire. In revealing how Egyptian peasants were able to use their knowledge and experience of local environments to force the hand of the imperial state, *Nature and Empire in Ottoman Egypt* tells a story of the connections of empire stretching from canals in the Egyptian countryside to the palace in Istanbul, from Anatolian forests to the shores of the Red Sea, and from a plague flea's bite to the fortunes of one of the most powerful states of the early modern world.

Alan Mikhail is Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Yale University. His articles have appeared in journals such as the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, the *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, *Akhbār al-Adab*, and *Wihāt Nazār*.

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*Yale University*



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*To my parents, Adib and Nadia*

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## NOTE ON TRANSLITERATION AND DATES

In transliterating Ottoman Turkish and Arabic source materials, I have used the system of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. Because of the high degree of overlap between Ottoman Turkish and Arabic in the early modern period and because writers often used an amalgam of the two, one can face many difficulties when choosing how to transliterate a particular text. In general, I have transliterated according to the language of the original source. Words of Arabic origin used in texts that are otherwise Ottoman Turkish are transliterated as Turkish, and likewise words of Turkish origin found in Arabic texts are rendered with their Arabic transliteration. This is true of place-names and titles as well. When I use terms and titles in a general sense apart from a particular text, I have rendered the word on the basis of its language of origin. Ottoman Turkish words commonly found in modern Turkish are given with their modern Turkish spelling. In cases where I have thought it useful, I have given both Arabic and Turkish transliterations. Ottoman Turkish and Arabic words that have made their way into English are given with their standard English spelling.

Common Era dates are used throughout the text. In citing archival documents, I give the full *hijrī* date followed by the Common Era date.

## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>AHR</i>	<i>American Historical Review</i>
<i>AI</i>	<i>Annales Islamologiques</i>
<i>AO</i>	<i>Archivum Ottomanicum</i>
<i>BOA</i>	Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi
<i>DKM</i>	Dār al-Kutub al-Miṣriyya
<i>DWQ</i>	Dār al-Wathā'iq al-Qawmiyya
<i>EHR</i>	<i>Egyptian Historical Review</i>
<i>EI</i>	<i>Encyclopaedia of Islam</i> . 2nd ed. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2006.
<i>HAT</i>	Hatt-ı Hümayun
<i>IJMES</i>	<i>International Journal of Middle East Studies</i>
<i>IJTS</i>	<i>International Journal of Turkish Studies</i>
<i>JESHO</i>	<i>Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Turkish Studies</i>
<i>MM</i>	Mühimme-i Mısır
<i>NPT</i>	<i>New Perspectives on Turkey</i>
<i>OA</i>	<i>Osmanlı Araştırmaları</i>
<i>PHR</i>	<i>Pacific Historical Review</i>
<i>QJBM</i>	Ramzī, Muḥammad. <i>al-Qāmūs al-Jughrāfī lil-Bilād al-Miṣriyya min 'Ahd Qudamā' al-Miṣriyyīn ilā Sanat 1945</i> . 6 vols. in 2 pts. Cairo: al-Hay'a al-Miṣriyya al-Āmma lil-Kitāb, 1994.
<i>SK</i>	Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi
<i>TSMA</i>	Topkapı Sarayı Müzesi Arşivi
<i>TSMK</i>	Topkapı Sarayı Müzesi Kütüphanesi

**Ottoman Turkish Islamic Month Abbreviations (Arabic in parentheses)**

<i>M</i>	Muharrem (Muḥarram)
<i>S</i>	Safer (Şafar)

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Ra	Rebiülevvel (Rabī <sup>ʿ</sup> al-Awwal)
R	Rebiülahir (Rabī <sup>ʿ</sup> al-Thānī)
Ca	Cemazilevvel (Jumādā al-Ūlā)
C	Cemaziyel'ahir (Jumādā al-Ākhira)
B	Receb (Rajab)
Ş	Şa'ban (Sha'bān)
N	Ramazan (Ramaḍān)
L	Şevval (Shawwāl)
Za	Zilkade (Dhū al-Qa'ḍa)
Z	Zilhicce (Dhū al-Ḥijja)

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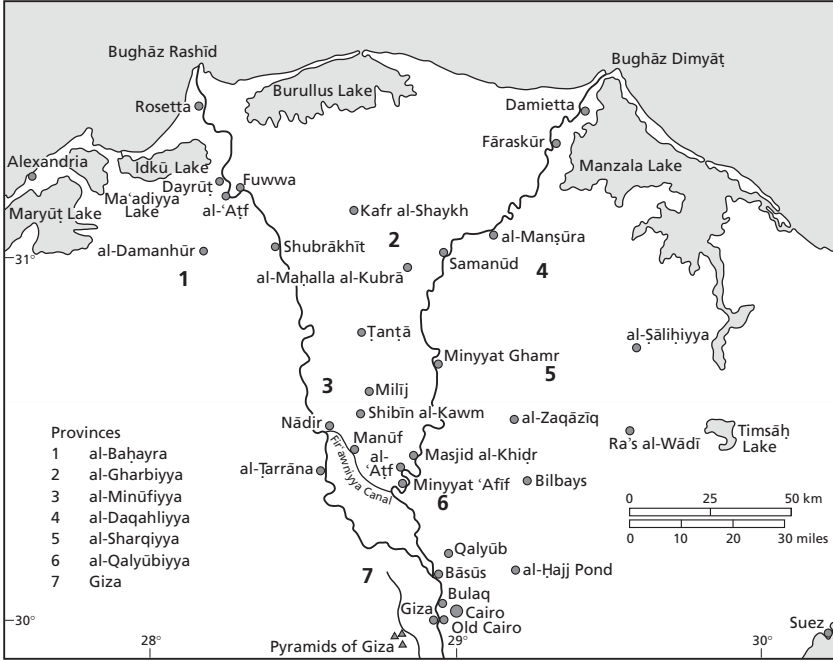
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Map 1. Egypt and the Ottoman Empire



Map 2. Lower Egypt (Nile Delta)

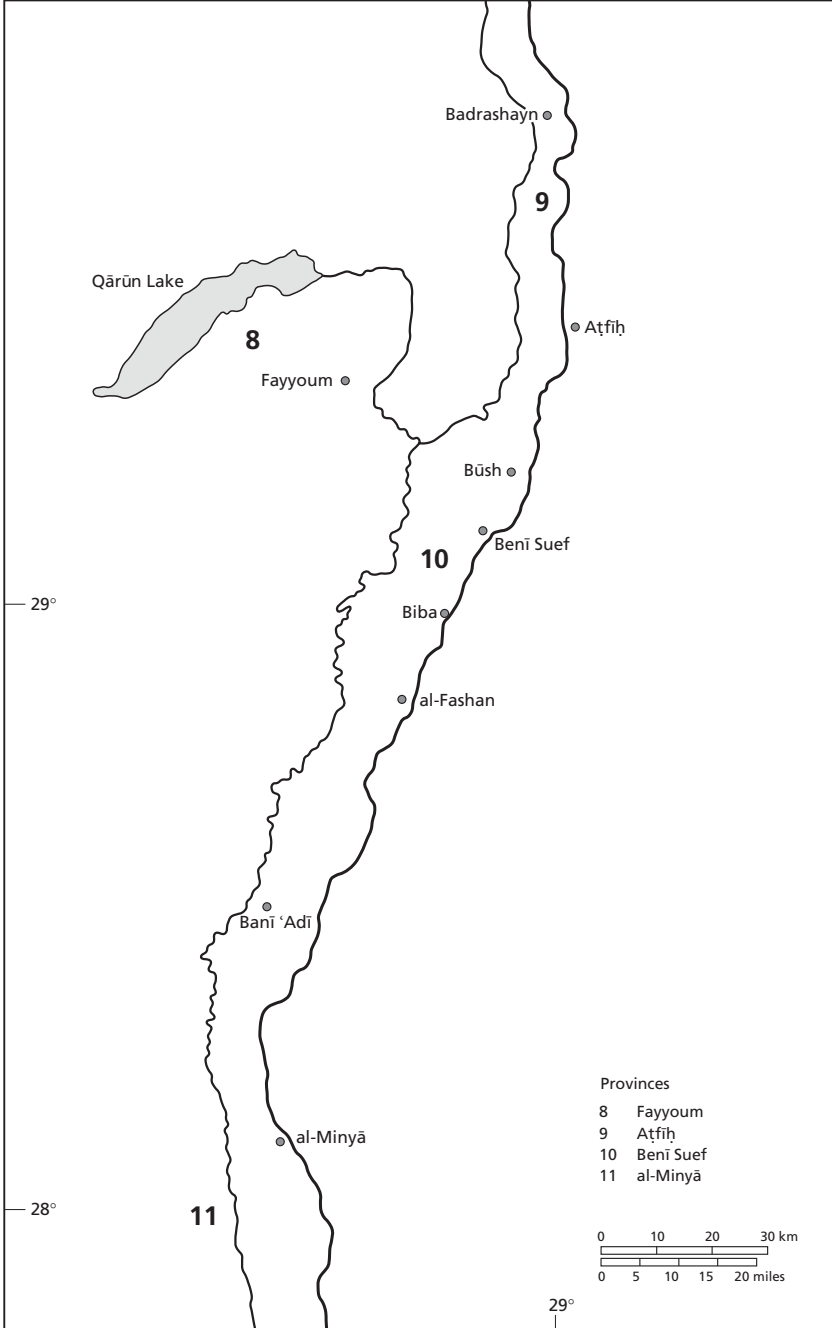
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Map 3. Middle Egypt

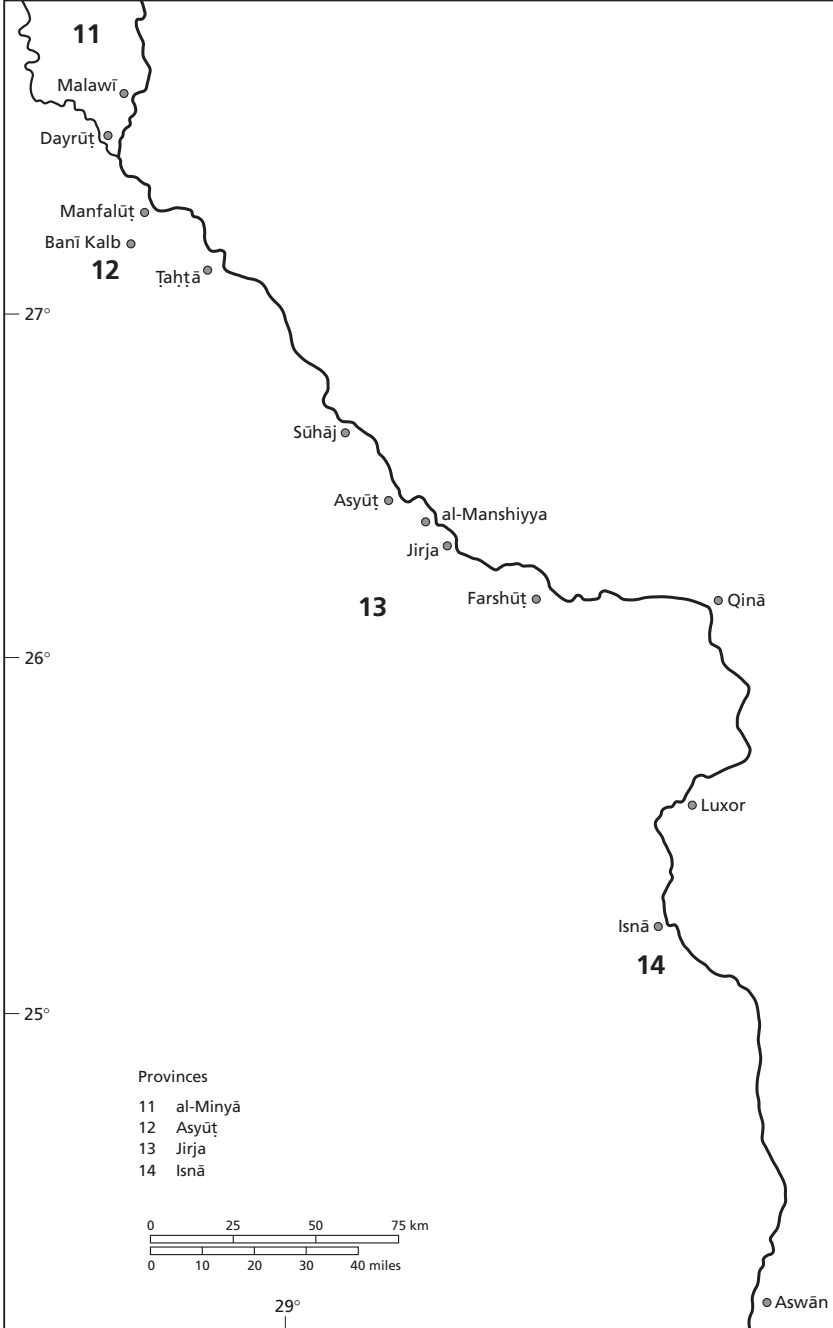
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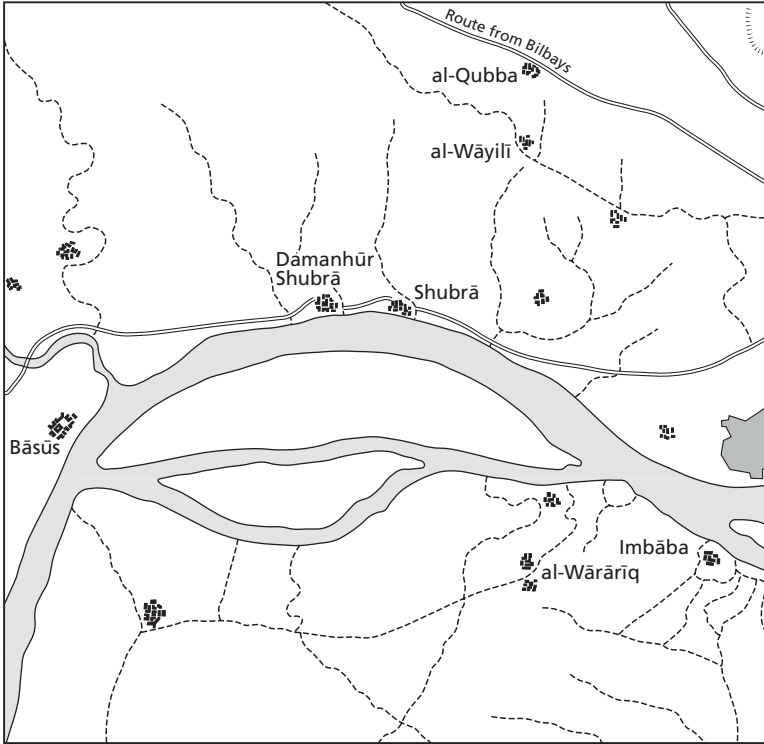
Map 4. Upper Egypt

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Map 5. Cairo and Surroundings, 1801

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