

State, Faith, and Nation in Ottoman and Post-Ottoman Lands

Current standard narratives of Ottoman, Balkan, and Middle East history overemphasize the role of nationalism in the transformation of the region. Challenging these accounts, this book argues that religious affiliation was in fact the most influential shaper of communal identity in the Ottoman era, that religion molded the relationship between state and society, and that it continues to do so today in lands once occupied by the Ottomans. The book examines the major transformations of the past 250 years to illustrate this argument, traversing the nineteenth century, the early decades of post-Ottoman independence, and the recent past. In this way, the book affords unusual insights not only into the historical patterns of political development but also into the forces shaping contemporary crises, from the dissolution of Yugoslavia to the rise of political Islam.

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For Márta, Lotti, Klára, and Frida with love and thanks



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Toward the end of my years in graduate school, I once marveled at the stack of correspondence in the hands of one of the scholars whose classes I had most enjoyed taking, the late Charles Issawi; with his usual good humor he complained that they were all letters demanding that he do something, and that he wished there were one saying simply that he was wonderful. I am still sorry that I never sent him such a note. This book presents my interpretation of Ottoman and post-Ottoman history, and I want to acknowledge with deepest thanks the debt I owe to those scholars who taught me (and thereby prepared me to think constructively) about the Ottoman empire and its effects upon successor countries: Carl Brown, Şükrü Hanioğlu, Halil İnalcık, Norman Itzkowitz, Cemal Kafadar, Heath Lowry, 'Abd al-Karim Rafiq - and yes, Charles Issawi. The experience of teaching, in turn, has had an enormous impact upon both my research interests and the views expressed in the book; I cannot acknowledge by name all of the students who have made teaching rewarding over the years, but I thank them for their interest, insights, and skepticism. By thanking scholars, students, and funders, I make no suggestion that any of them shares the views I present in the book; they have helped me, but all faults or errors are mine alone.

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Transliteration and Abbreviations

Transliteration of non-Latin-script terms follows Library of Congress conventions, subject to modest amendments, including use of English spellings that are widely recognized ("shaikh" rather than "shaykh"/"şeyh"). Diacriticals have been omitted from Arabic terms. Terms common to Arabic and Ottoman are problematic: for consistency they are given in Arabic form ("shari'a" rather than "şeriat," "milla" rather than "millet").

Abbreviations

Basbakanlık Osmanlı Arsivi, İstanbul

DOTT	Dagoaranin Comanin Tirgivi, Istanoan
BriJMES	British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies
BSOAS	Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies
Cev.Dah	Cevdet Dahiliye
CHT_3	Cambridge History of Turkey, volume 3: The Later Ottoman
	Empire, 1603-1839, ed. Suraiya Faroqhi (Cambridge:
	Cambridge University Press, 2006)
CHT_4	Cambridge History of Turkey, volume 4: Turkey in the
	Modern World, ed. Reşat Kasaba (Cambridge: Cambridge
	University Press, 2008)
EEQ	East European Quarterly
FO	Foreign Office
HH	Hatt-i Hümayun
IHR	International History Review
IJMES	International Journal of Middle East Studies
ILS	Islamic Law and Society

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xiv Transliteration and Abbreviations

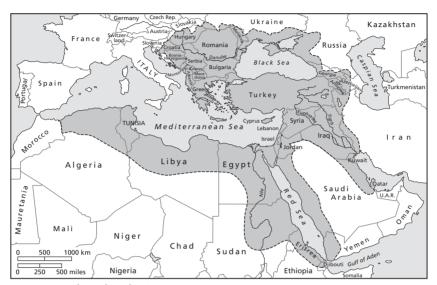
JMGS Journal of Modern Greek Studies

JMH Journal of Modern HistoryMES Middle Eastern StudiesNA National Archives, London

P&P Past & Present

SH Scripta Hierolosymitana





MAP 1. Lands within the Ottoman Empire





MAP 2. Lands Claimed for the Greek Nation (Early Twentieth Century)





мар 3. Lands Claimed for the Serbian Nation (Early Twentieth Century)





MAP 4. Lands Claimed for the Bulgarian Nation (Early Twentieth Century)

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MAP 5. Geographic Syria under British and French Mandates