The Crisis of Kingship in Late Medieval Islam

In the early sixteenth century, the political landscape of West Asia was completely transformed: of the previous four major powers, only one – the Ottoman Empire – continued to exist. Ottoman survival was, in part, predicated on transition to a new mode of kingship, enabling its transformation from regional dynastic sultanate to empire of global stature.

In this book, Christopher Markiewicz uses as a departure point the life and thought of Idris Bidlisi (1457–1520), one of the most dynamic scholars and statesmen of the period. Through this examination, he highlights the series of ideological and administrative crises in the fifteenth-century sultanates of Islamic lands that gave rise to this new conception of kingship and became the basis for sovereign authority not only within the Ottoman Empire but also across other Muslim empires in the early modern period.

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The Crisis of Kingship in Late Medieval Islam

*Persian Emigres and the Making of Ottoman Sovereignty*

CHRISTOPHER MARKIEWICZ

University of Birmingham
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Note on Usage

Arabic and Persian terms, texts, and book titles that appear in the body of the text are fully transliterated following a slightly modified version of the IJMES transliteration system. No macrons or diacritics are included except for ‘ayn and medial and final hamza, which are indicated by ṭ and ʿ respectively. Ottoman Turkish terms are rendered according to the principles of modern Turkish orthography, except that in these instances ‘ayn and hamza are indicated in the same manner as Arabic and Persian names and words. Arabic renderings are given in the text for terms that also appear in Persian and Ottoman Turkish (maulana, vali ʿabhd), except for kanun and kanunname, which are rendered from Ottoman Turkish. Names and titles cited in footnotes and in the bibliography are fully transliterated with all macrons and diacritics according to the transliteration principles governing the language of that work. Terms that have entered regular English usage are translated (pasha, vizier, etc.), but more technical terms are maintained in transliterated and italicized forms (waqf, shariʿa).

Major toponyms are rendered in their established anglicized form whenever possible (Cairo, Konya, Isfahan, Herat, Euphrates, Oxus, and so forth). Minor place names are transliterated according to the principles of the language that predominated in the area (e.g., Sulīqan, Marj Dabiq, Akşehir) and historical names are maintained, especially for places within the Republic of Turkey – so Amid, not Diyarbekir; Harput, not Elazığ; Ayntab, not Gaziantep. Similarly, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Syria indicate these historical regions and not the boundaries of modern nation-states.
xii  Note on Usage

With respect to names of individuals rendered in the Roman alphabet, this book draws similarly fine distinctions. Names of individuals generally follow the transliteration conventions of the language that predominated in their principal location of activity. Hence, although Turkic, names of Mamluks are transliterated using Arabic conventions (Qayitbay, Tumanbay). Names of individuals whose lives predominantly unfolded in an Ottoman context are rendered using the Ottoman Turkish principles applied to Turkish words (Mehmed, Mi‘eyedzade ‘Abdurrahman Efendi). More problematic are individuals or groups who operated across vast terrains. In these cases, I have attempted to assess the formative sphere or primary area of activity of the individual or group and transliterate these names accordingly. Hence, Idris Bidlisi is rendered from Persian, but his son, who was largely raised within Ottoman domains is rendered from Ottoman Turkish (Ebu‘l-Fazl Mehmed).

All names and titles of works are fully translated with macrons and diacritics in the footnotes and bibliography according to the transliteration principles of the language in which they were written. Dates are given in the Common Era unless the Hijri date is essential for the particular discussion.
Abbreviations

b. bin (son of)
BOA Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi
BSOAS Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies
D. defter
DİA Türkiye Diyanet Vakıf İslâm Ansiklopedisi
E. evrak
EI Encyclopaedia of Islam, 2nd edition
EIr Encyclopaedia Iranian
HB Bidlisi, Hasht bibisht (Nuruosmaniye Ms. 3209)
IJMES International Journal of Middle East Studies
İÜ İstanbul Üniversitesi
JEMH Journal of Early Modern History
JESHO Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient
JOS Journal of Ottoman Studies
JTS Journal of Turkish Studies
SK Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi
TSMA Topkapı Sarayı Müzesi Arşivi
TSMK Topkapı Sarayı Müzesi Kütüphanesi
TTD Tapu Tahrir Defteri

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MAP 0.1 West Asia in the late fifteenth century