In the early 1840s, Ottoman rulers launched a new imperial project, partly in order to reassert their authority over their lands and subjects, crucially including the Arab nomads. By examining the evolution of this relationship between the Ottoman Empire and Arab nomads in the modern era, M. Talha Çiçek puts forward a new framework to demonstrate how negotiations between the Ottomans and the Arab nomads played a part in making the modern Middle East. Reflecting on multiple aspects of Ottoman authority and governance across Syria, Iraq, Arabia, Transjordan and along their frontiers, Çiçek reveals how the relationship between the imperial centre and the nomads was not merely a brutal imposition of a strict order, but instead one of constant, complicated, and fluid negotiation. In so doing, he highlights how the responses of the nomads made a considerable impact on the ultimate outcome, transforming the imperial policies accordingly.

M. TALHA ÇİÇEK is Associate Professor of History at Istanbul Medeniyet University. Formerly the British Academy’s Newton Fellow at SOAS University of London, and Humboldt Experienced Research Fellow at Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, he is the author of War and State Formation in Syria: Cemal Pasha’s Governorate during World War I (2014).
Negotiating Empire in the Middle East

Ottomans and Arab Nomads in the Modern Era, 1840–1914

M. TALHA ÇİÇEK

Istanbul Medeniyet University
To my dear beloved, Öznıl
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Note to the Reader

It is always an issue for the historians of the Middle East to transliterate the Ottoman Turkish and Arabic terms. In this book, with a few minor exceptions, I followed the Modern Turkish transliteration to minimize the problematic distortion of the Ottoman era pronunciation – for example – ‘Mehmed’, not ‘Mehmet’ or ‘Muhammad’. For the Arabic terms, the International Journal of Middle East Studies transliteration system is employed. For well-known place names, I use English and the transliteration from Turkish or Arabic depending on the common language of each place: Istanbul, not İstanbul; Hawran, not Havran; but Deir al-Zor, not Der Zor. The names of the tribes are transliterated with reference to the most common usage in English; Anizah, not Anazeh or Anazee; but Wuld ’Ali, not Walad ’Ali.
Abbreviations

A.AMD Sadaret Amedi
A.MKT Sadaret Mektubi
A.MKT.MHM Sadaret Mektubi Mühimme
A.MKT.MVL Sadaret Mektubi Meclis-i Vala
A.MKT.UM Sadaret Mektubi Umumi
BEO Bab-ı Ali Evrak Odası
C.DH Cevdet Dahiliye
C.ML Cevdet Maliyet
DH.EUM.EMN Dahiliye Emniet-i Umumiye Emniet Şubesı
DH.I.UM Dahiliye İdare-i Umumiye
DH.ID Dahiliye İrade Dahiliye
DH.MKT Dahiliye Mektubi
DH.MUI Dahiliye Muhaberat-ı Umumiye
DH.SYS Dahiliye Siyasi
DH.ŞFR Dahiliye Şifre
DH.TMIK Dahiliye Tesri-i Muamelat ve Islahat Komisyonu
HR.TO Hariciye Tercüme Odası
İ.DH İrade Dahiliye
İ.ML İrade Maliye
İ.MMS İrade Meclis-i Mahsusa
İ.MVL İrade Meclis-i Vala
İ.ŞD İrade Şura-yı Devlet
ID İrade Dahiliye
MF.MKT Maarif Mektubi
MV Meclis-i Vükelə
MVL Meclis-i Vala
ŞD Şura-yı Devlet
Y.MTV Yıldıız Mütenevvi Maruzat
Y.PRK.ASK Yıldıız Perakende Evrakı Askeri Maruzat