

Negotiating Empire in the Middle East

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.

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Negotiating Empire in the Middle East

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

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To my dear beloved, Öznil

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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 Emniyet-i Umumiye Emniyet Şubesi
DH.İ.UM	Dahiliye İdare-i Umumiye
DH.İD	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
İD	İrade Dahiliye
MF.MKT	Maarif Mektubi
MV	Meclis-i Vükela
MVL	Meclis-i Vala
ŞD	Şura-yı Devlet
Y.MTV	Yıldız Mütenevvi Maruzat
Y.PRK.ASK	Yıldız Perakende Evrakı Askeri Maruzat