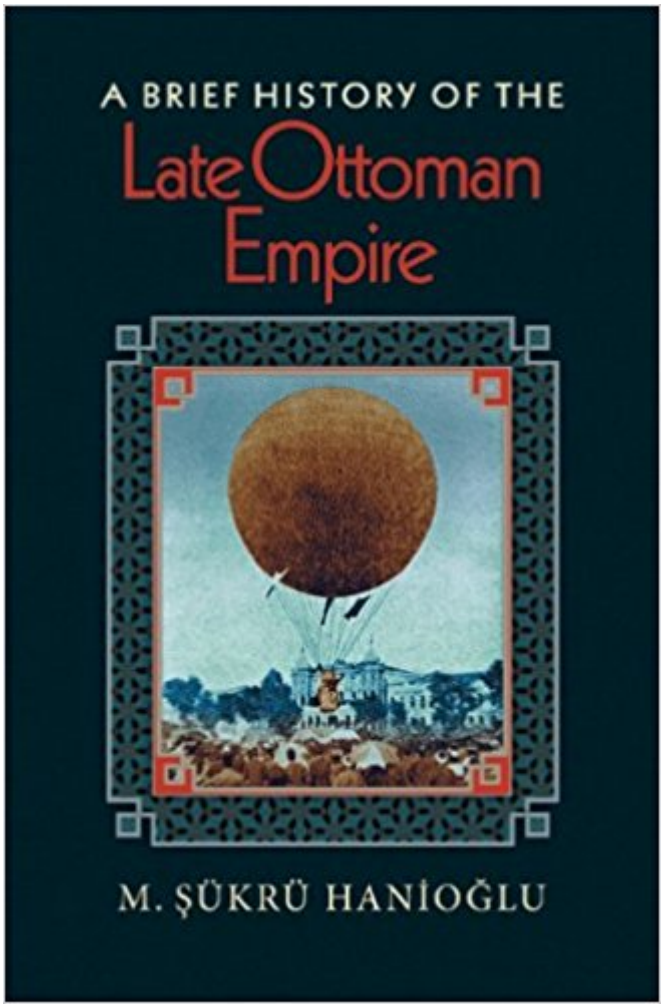
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A Brief History Of The Late Ottoman Empire



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Synopsis

At the turn of the nineteenth century, the Ottoman Empire straddled three continents and encompassed extraordinary ethnic and cultural diversity among the estimated thirty million people living within its borders. It was perhaps the most cosmopolitan state in the world--and possibly the most volatile. A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire now gives scholars and general readers a concise history of the late empire between 1789 and 1918, turbulent years marked by incredible social change. Moving past standard treatments of the subject, M. SÃƒÂ krÃƒÂ Hanioglu emphasizes broad historical trends and processes more than single events. He examines the imperial struggle to centralize amid powerful opposition from local rulers, nationalist and other groups, and foreign powers. He looks closely at the socioeconomic changes this struggle wrought and addresses the Ottoman response to the challenges of modernity. Hanioglu shows how this history is not only essential to comprehending modern Turkey, but is integral to the histories of Europe and the world. He brings Ottoman society marvelously to life in all its facets--cultural, diplomatic, intellectual, literary, military, and political--and he mines imperial archives and other documents from the period to describe it as it actually was, not as it has been portrayed in postimperial nationalist narratives. A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the legacy left in this empire's ruins--a legacy the world still grapples with today.

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Customer Reviews

"There are many fine insights in this short book. It is no surprise that many relate to political

hypocrisy, since Hanioglu is well known for his studies of the Young Turk political movement. But he also offers often-illuminating discussions of cultural changes, mainly those of the Ottoman official and middle strata."--Choice"[T]his book raises a series of new questions and calls for developing new approaches and ideas to analyze the last Ottoman century and understand better the rise of national states in the Balkans and the Middle East, especially Turkey. . . . In short, this is a thought-provoking book and I recommend it highly."--Kemal H. Karpat, American Historical Review"Forgoing 'the worn-out paradigms of modernization and Westernization,' Hanioglu opts instead for a consideration of Ottoman responses to the challenge of modernity. . . . [This book] is a pleasure to read."--Kate Fleet, Journal of Islamic Studies"The Ottoman Empire was the longest-lived regional regime in the Middle East since antiquity; it was also the most recent, and left enduring traces. Ã…Â ÃƒÂ krÃƒÂ HanioÃ„Å¸lu's A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire is a major contribution to the better understanding of the region. His account is based on intimate knowledge of the Ottoman archives, as well as of many other sources, both internal and external. Concerned with trends more than events, this book illuminates the ideas and movements that shaped the course of history."--Bernard Lewis, Middle East Strategy at Harvard"This timely history is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the legacy left in the ruins of the empire--a legacy the world still grapples with today."--Turkish Daily News"A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the legacy left in this empire's ruins--a legacy the world still grapples with today."--Spartacus Educational"A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire deserves only unqualified praise. It is well written and comprehensive in its coverage--with diplomatic, economic and intellectual history interacting."--Peter Clark, Asian Affairs"In all, this is a fine effort well worth reading for its valuable background to WWI, to the politics of modern Turkey and the other Ottoman successor states. Its maps are particularly useful."--Len Shurtleff, Listening Post"[T]o readers familiar with the Ottoman Empire through the Balkans, A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire is especially commendable as a fresh introduction to a bygone view from Istanbul."--Seth C. Elder, Balkanalysis"Hanioglu's seminal work presents a true spring of ideas not only for the late Ottoman history but also for the search of some earlier East Roman and Byzantine interplays of structures and identities."--Wolfgang G. Schwanitz, Sehepunkte"A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire is a recommendable book to the specialist and novice alike. It would also appeal to public readership as a fine sample of international history."--Nur Bilge Criss, Turkish Studies"The strength of A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire is its view of the late Ottoman Empire both from the imperial inside as well as from a reflective and inspiring historical distance. This concise book is very appropriate for general history classes."--Hans-Lukas Kieser, H-Net

Reviews"Without a doubt or reservation, this brief history is must reading for scholars and students of Ottoman history, and the author is to be commended for his excellent approach to the study of this period, for this reviewer cannot think of any other scholar better equipped intellectually to analyze and place it in the proper perspective for a meaningful understanding of this critical phase of an empire on the verge of disintegration."--Caesar E. Farah, Historian"Historians and general readers embarking on an introduction to the Ottoman Empire could do far worse than to start with M. SÃƒÂ krÃƒÂ HanioÃ„Å¸lu's A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire. Concise, well-written, and narrative, it nonetheless successfully revises decades of misconceptions about the Ottoman Empire, creating a new model for our understanding of this long-lived system. The author presents several key arguments worth presenting. He encourages his readers to move beyond previous interpretations of Ottoman history, including the perception of the empire as a decrepit and dynastic straitjacket for nationalisms."--Wayne H. Bowen, Canadian Journal of History

"Without doubt the best history of the development of political ideas in the late Ottoman Empire. Haniogluu situates this history of ideas in the context of the political and diplomatic history of the empire as well as in the history of European political thought, of which he demonstrates a deep knowledge."--Erik J. ZÃƒÂ rcher, author of Turkey: A Modern History"A significant contribution, not only to the historiography of the late Ottoman Empire but also to the field of comparative studies of empires."--Fikret Adanir, coeditor of The Ottomans and the Balkans --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The history of the Ottoman Empire in the 19th and early 20th centuries is a particular interest of mine, especially the Young Turk revolution of 1908 and the effort to transform the empire into a 'republic' of sorts. This book is a nice, short summary of that history by a well-known historian of the 1908 revolution. As a summary, it is very good--readable, opinionated in places, and comprehensive, covering the political, social, economic and cultural history of the period. Its well-written in a scholarly style, with a great bibliography and notes.The summary part is what lowered by rating. Perhaps this deserves a 4.5 instead of a 4, but the problem is its too short! Hanioglu is often only able to touch on some subjects without giving them the depth they deserve. I understand that is a limitation of the publisher and the format, but it is a bit frustrating at times. For example, he notes the origins and growth of the Young Ottoman movement, but isnt able to give it the full attention I would have liked. In this sense it is a quick overview of the subject, but leaves me, at least, wanting to read more. Maybe thats the intention after all!

Admittedly this book is written for a narrow audience; to Hanioglu's credit he neither talks over the heads of readers, nor does he water-down the material. The book is at once informative, detailed, richly cited drawing from an abundance of primary sources, and discusses not only the political decline of the Ottoman Empire, but also the social, economic and intellectual components of its last two centuries.The introduction provided an excellent summary of the politically untenable situation the Ottoman Empire found itself: as the nation states of Europe were beginning to assert themselves and the technological fruits of the Enlightenment and Scientific Revolution were beginning to ripen, the Ottoman leadership recognized its place in the sun was slipping. The remaining 200 pages discusses in elaborate detail with crystal clarity the myriad attempts made by successive Sultans to modernize and save the Empire. In a nutshell, these efforts failed because of equal parts internal resistance (from the Janisaries, the ulama, from regional powers) and external interference (Britain in particular does not come off very well.) I was especially impressed with the way in which complex inter-relationships (between social / economic classes, internal politics and international policies, international trade, intellecutal challenges and policies aimed at reforming and modernizing) were broken down into digestible pieces, their connections clearly stated, and the long-term results shown. This is no easy feat.I do regret that more attention was not given the final decade of the Ottoman Empire: the emergence of the Young Turks, the Second Constitutional Period, and the partitioning of the empire among Britain and France. For those seeking a detailed and accessable history of the attempts at reforming the Ottoman Empire, this is the most authoritative and detailed text on the subject to date.

I study modern political history of the Middle East and I selected these book to read for an independent study I am currently taking. I wanted a book that would give me a concise background to the region before delving into more modern aspects. This book did everything I wanted it to do. I gained an view of how the Ottoman Empire was set up before the fall and how the regions interacted. This is written for a small audience but it provides a detailed analysis without being 500 pages. This book is great for someone who needs a background but there are elements that are missing for those who are looking for more of an indepth analysis.

As a junkie for any book about Ottoman history, I found this to be an extremely good read. The writing is excellent, the research is first-rate and overall this is the best short history of the place I have read. The author is Turkish, a nice change from the usual sort of author.I think the book

especially good on the modernization under Mehmet II, and also on the challenge posed by Mehmet Ali in Egypt. The book is not an easy read, in the sense it is dense-packed with information, and the cast of characters is one many readers will not know, unless they have read other books about the Ottomans. The book can be described as an account of how an archaic multi-ethnic state tried, with some success, to modernize. Modernization provoked resistance that was sustained and difficult to overcome. Much of it is about policy and government. There is not much on the Armenian genocide.These were among the surprises for me. A Turkish dialect in central Anatolia was written in Greek. Putting the Sultan's portrait up in government offices provoked an outcry from ulemas in some of the Arab-populated territories. The Ottoman presence in the First World War tied up 2.55 million Allied troops.

This monograph provides great insight on the true causes of change and decline of the Ottoman empire. Too many textbooks and teachers try to convince you that the collapse of the empire was simply bought about by a series of incompetent leaders. This book, however, provides both the preexisting situation, reforms, and developments that resulted from the reforms in a clear and accurate fashion.

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