THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE BALKANS DURING THE OTTOMAN ERA
(1200-1600)

LECTURE TOPICS:

SEPTEMBER 1, 6, 8, 13

Introduction. Religion, tribes and civilization in East Eurasia. The place of Ottoman history in world history. The predecessors of the Ottoman Empire: The Seljuki state and the Mongols. The political heritage and the relationship to Islam. The East Roman Empire (Byzantiam) and the Western frontier the impact of the 4th crusade. Ottomans as successors of East Roman Empire.

SEPTEMBER 15, 20, 22, 27, 29

The establishment of the state and the early sultans. The founder of the dynasty Osman (1299-1326) and Orhan (1326-1359). The Ottoman expansion into the Balkans the nature of the Balkan society and the (frontier, feudal, gazi) of the early Ottoman state; Murat I (1359-1389). Bayezid (1389-1402). The population factors in the Ottoman expansion. The system of marches (uc beylik) and the idea of justice. The drive towards centralization and the emergence of a new feudalism. The establishment of a permanent military force - Jenisarries and of the state land tenure (or the timar) system.

OCTOBER 4, 6, 11

The Ottoman social-political organization. The system of balances and the central position of the throne. The Balkan states and their incorporation into the Ottoman system. The conflict between local and central authority and the political roles of the old social organizations. Tamerlane and the downfall of the Ottoman state, the battle of Ankara, 1402.

OCTOBER 13, 18, 20

The interregnum. Social and religious upheavals in Anatolia and the Balkans (1403-1413). The new religious ideology; Bedreddin Simavi -- The reestablishment of the central authority -- Mehmet I, 1413-1421, and the social groups in control.

OCTOBER 25, 27

The Ottoman Empire during Murat II (1421-1451). The economic and social situation of Anatolia and the Balkans during the period. The Hungarians and the crusade of Varna, 1444. The foreign policy and territorial security. The consolidation of the administrative institutions.
NOVEMBER 1, 3, 8

The consolidation of the state. The emergence of a constitutional order. Sultan Mehmet II (1451-1481) and the conquest of the Constantinople. Expansion into the Northeast Anatolia, the incorporation of the Turkman State, and Crimea. War and peace groups in the court: Chandarli and Zaganos. The social-religious factors, Orthodox and Catholic rivalry. Trade in the Adriatic and Mediterranean and relations with Venice.

The socio-political order and its institutional foundations. The millets (religious communities) as the basis of the system. The new juridical, social and economic systems. The timar system and its functioning. The reorganization of the wakfs, the taxation policy and the military organization. The Ottoman constitutional order and its institutional foundations. The military and administrative elites (Janissaries).

NOVEMBER 10, 15, 17

The reign of Bayezid II (1481-1512). The expansion into the Middle East. Djem sultan and the growth of Ulema's power. The economic causes of the wars with Venice. The sunni-shiite (Safavid) conflict and the social causes of the wars with the Persians. Selim I (1512-1520): the destruction of the Memeliks and the occupation of Syria and Egypt. The Caliphate and Sultanate. The Islamization of the state institution. The shariat court system and judges.

NOVEMBER 22 -- Midterm exam

NOVEMBER -- Midterm exam

Suleyman the Magnificent (Kanuni) and Charles (1520-1566). The peak of Ottoman power. The Empire's internal situation. Relations with Europe (England and France) and the conflict with the Habsburgs. The rise of Protestantism in Europe. Expansion into North Africa. The beginning of disintegration in the land system.

DECEMBER 1, 6, 8

The bureaucratic order, the religious orders, the wakfs, the guilds, the cities (Imaret policy), trade, etc., in the 15th and 16th centuries. The Ottoman City.

DECEMBER 13, 15

The reign of Selim II (1566-1574). The Northern policy of the Ottoman's. The emergence of Russia and conflict for the Astrahan. The Jelal revolts; the beginning of a new developmental phase. The rise of the bureaucracy as the center of power. The shift of agricultural surplus to consumption. Town and village relationships and changes in the tax policy. The rise of the religious establishment. The wars with Iran. The reconquest of Iraq and the general situation of the Middle East. The pilgrimage road to Mecca and its economic and political significance.
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Adivar, A.A., La Science chez les Turcs Ottomans, Paris 1939.


Babinger, Franz, Mahomet II Le Conquerant et son temps, Paris 1954 (see also German edition and other works by the same author).

Barkan, O.L., "Los deportations comme methods de peuplement--dans L'Empire Ottoman," Revue de la Faculte des Sciences El. (Istanbul), 1945-50 (see other works by Barkan on economic and demographic history).


Birge, J.K., The Bektashi Order of Dervishes, Hartford 1937


Bulgaru-Dresea, M., Nicolae Jorgs, A Romanian Historian of the Ottoman Empire, Bucharest, 1973 (a good survey of the literature).

Cahon, Claude, Pre-Ottoman Turkey, London 1968.

Cahan, C., "La campagne de Mantzikart d'apres les sources Musulmanes," Byzantion 9, 1994. (For Cahen's works on Ottoman social and economic institutions see instructor).


Charonis, F., "On the social structure of... the Byzantine Empire..." Byzantinoslavica XXII, 1961, pp. 94-153 (for other bibliography on the subject see instructor).


Hammer, J. Von, Geschichte des Osmanischen Reiches (Post 1827-1835). The major source in Western languages based on Ottoman chronicles. See also the French edition.

Hasluck, F.W., Christianity and Islam under the Sultans, vols., Oxford 1929. (Contains good bibliography of European books on Ottoman Empire).

Hoyd, Uriel, Documents on Ottoman Administration in Palestine, 1552-1615, Jerusalem 1966.


-----------, "Land Problems in Turkish History," Muslim World XIV (1955). (For other works by Inalcik see the instructor).

Jelavich, Ch. (ed.), The Balkans in Transition, Berkeley, 1963. (Contains several so and so articles on Ottomans).


Lana, Poole St., The Story of Turkey, New York 1891. (A good, though general book).

Langer, W.L. and Blake, R.D., “The Rise of the Ottoman Turks and its Historical Background,” American Historical Review XXXVII (1931), pp. 468-505. (At attempt at interpretation based on geographical factors).


Lemarle, Paul, L’emirat d’Ayden, Byzance et L’Occident, Paris 1957.

Lewis, B. and Holt, P.M., Historians of the Middle East, Oxford 1962. (An excellent survey of sources of Middle East history).

Lewis, B., Istanbul and the Civilization of the Ottomans, Oklahoma 1964. (An excellent historical survey of this city).


Knolles, Richard, Generale histoire of the Turkes, London, 1603. See the same, entitled Turkish History with continuation by Paul Rycaut, 3 vols., London 1687-1700.


Merriman, Roger, Suleinan the Magnificent, 1944.


Rycout, P., *The history of the present State of the Ottoman Empire*, London 1868 (see also Knolles).


Ursu, J., *La politique orientale de Francois I (1515-1547)*, Paris 1908.


