

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I 1991/92

History 539

Karpat

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

LECTURE TOPICS:

SEPTEMBER 3, 5, 10, 12

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; the Mongols, the political heritage and the relationship to Islam. The East Roman Empire (Byzantium) and the Western frontier. Ottomans as successors of East Roman Empire.

SEPTEMBER 10, 17, 19, 24, 26, OCTOBER 1, 3

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 (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 and of the state land tenure or the timar.

OCTOBER 8, 10

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 15, 17

The interregnum. Social upheaval in 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 22, 24

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.

OCTOBER 29, 31

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 States, 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.

NOVEMBER 5, 7

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 12, 14, 19

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 Memeluks and the occupation of Syria and Egypt. The Caliphate and Sultanate. The Islamization of the state institution. The shariat court system and judges.

NOVEMBER 21 -- Midterm exam

NOVEMBER 26, 28

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 3, 5

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

DECEMBER 10, 12

The reign of Selim II (1566-1574). The Northern policy of the Ottoman's. The emergence of Russia and conflict for the Astrahan. The Jelail 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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HISTORY 539

Kemal Karpaz

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- Atiya, A. S. The Crusade of Nicopolis, London, 1934.
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