

Lifelong Learning Collaborative Syllabus Spring 2018

The Ottoman Empire – History and Culture

When: Tuesday afternoons, 1:00 - 3:00 PM, 10 weeks, **March 20-May 22**

Coordinators: Bob Lev and Bob Martin

Further Information:

If you need further information or have questions, please contact Bob Martin at:

Email: RMartin50@cox.net

Or Phone: 401-644-4346

Your phone calls or emails regarding any aspect of the course are welcome. Feel free to ask for copies of those texts for the course that Bob has downloaded to pdf format.

Format: Each session will include a presentation of about 20 minutes by a participant and/or by the coordinator. Questions and discussion will follow.

Class participants are encouraged to participate actively in discussions, whether by offering their own contributions or by just asking questions. No one is expected to be an expert, and everyone should approach the course in a spirit of curiosity and inquiry.

Readings:

While there is not a single text for the course, class members are encouraged to read at least one of the following three books – preferably before the beginning of the course.

- **The Ottoman Empire: A Brief History** by Anne Davison Only 100 pages, this is a very good short history from 1300 to the modern era. A great choice for a quick overview of the empire's history. Available for about \$10 at Amazon.
- **Istanbul and the Civilization of the Ottoman Empire** by Bernard Lewis. The first 100 pages are an outstanding and incisive history and analysis of the Ottomans from 1300 to 1600, with great discussion of methods of government, relations with Christians and Jews, and cultural development. Available for less than \$10 at Amazon.
- **Osman's Dream: The History of the Ottoman Empire** , by **Caroline Finkel**. A comprehensive history of the empire. Long but incisive and well written. Available inexpensively at Amazon.

Instead of following one text throughout the course, participants will be encouraged to explore various websites and libraries for readings, videos and podcasts of interest. See “Suggested Readings and Videos,” which identifies many sources on the web.

In preparation for each class session, each participant is asked to do one or more of the following:

- Read one or more short readings on the topic of discussion
- Watch a relevant video on Youtube
- Listen to a podcast.

Relevant pdf files and/or website addresses will be sent to you via email well in advance of each class session. If you would like to rely instead on related materials that you have found in your own explorations, that will make for an even richer class discussion for all of us.

Class 1 Course Introduction March 20

SESSION A – Basics

- Scope and Themes of Course
- Required vs Suggested Readings
- Technology
- Collaborative Learning
- Presentation Guidelines
- Volunteers for Presentations!

SESSION B – Overview and Origins of the Ottomans

- Ottomans, Turks, Seljuks and Turkomen: Where did they come from?
- From Central Asia to the Topkapi Palace
- Turks, Persians, and Byzantines
- Seljuk Empire and Rum Seljuks
- Mongols, Tatars and Tamurlane

Read:

- **“A Brief Outline of Turkish History”** is a very good 2-page essay, on the **Turkish Cultural Foundation** website. It recounts the 4,000-year history of Turkish peoples, beginning in Central Asia in 2,000 BCE. See: www.turkishculture.org/general-1067.htm.
- **“History of the Turkic Peoples”** is a one-page listing of pre-Ottoman Turkish kingdoms and other realms. From Wikipedia, on pdf.
- **The Sultanate of Rum** – from Wikipedia. The Sultanate of Rum seceded from the Great Seljuk Empire under Suleiman ibn Qutulmish in 1077, following the Battle of Manzikert, with capitals in Turkey first at İznik and then at Konya. It reached the height of its power during the late 12th and early 13th century, when it succeeded in taking Byzantine key ports on the Mediterranean and Black Sea coasts. The Mongol destruction of this empire set the stage for the Ottomans to rise several decades later.

Optional:

- **“The Seljuk Empire.”** – from Wikipedia. The Seljuk Turks established the Seljuk Empire, beginning in 1037 CE, controlled a vast area stretching from the Hindu Kush to western Anatolia and from Central Asia to the Persian Gulf. From their homelands near the Aral Sea, the Seljuks advanced first into Persia before eventually conquering eastern Anatolia.

Class 2 The Ottoman Military and Its History of Conquest March 27

SESSION A – The Rise of the Ottomans: 1300 to 1600

- Maps of the Empire
- A Military Revolution
- First Professional Permanent Armies since Rome
- Devsirme System and Janissaries
- Cannon: Early Adopters
- The Ottoman Navy
- Christian and Muslim Alliances
- Slavery, Emancipation and War

Watch:

- **“Rise and Fall of the Ottoman Empire”** is a 5-minute, very effective map history of the expansion of the Ottoman Empire, complete with melodramatic music! No narration, but there is a series of brief notes explaining the course of events. Well worth a watch! See <https://youtu.be/xkEFO2T3M3Q>

Read:

- **“10 Incredible Things about the Ottoman Empire and Its Army,”** 5-page essay from the *Realm of History* Website. Concise and well-written analysis of the first professional army after the time of the Roman Empire. On pdf
Go to: www.realmofhistory.com/2015/12/14/10-incredible-things-you-should-know-about-the-ottoman-army/
- **“Ottoman Empire Military History”** An equally informative and in-depth essay (8 pages), with particularly good history of the Ottoman Navy, which ranged as far as Virginia, Sweden and Sumatra after gaining control of the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. On pdf. From <http://www.paralumun.com/ottomanmil.htm>

SESSION B – Adversaries and Competitors over the Centuries

- Byzantium/Constantinople
- Tamurlane the Great
- Hungary
- Austro-Hungarian Empire
- Egyptian Mamluk Dynasty

- Venice
- Genoa
- Holy Roman Empire (Spain)
- Russian Empire: Peter, Catherine
- Safavid Persian Empire

Read:

- **“List of wars involving the Ottoman Empire”** 2 pages. From Wikipedia, on pdf.

Listen:

- **“The Safavid Dynasty,”** a podcast from the BBC’s program “In Our Time.” 43 minutes. Listen at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0196tcr>
While recounting the formation of the Safavid Dynasty, this also explains the origins of Sufism which is neither Shia nor Sunni, and how multi-ethnic the Ottoman and Safavid empires were, with Greek and Armenian and Jewish communities everywhere. Explains patronage of the arts as a standard part of Central Asian conquerors. Also a history of the Safavid and Ottoman rivalry for 200 years

Optional - Listen:

- **“The Siege of Vienna.”** podcast from the BBC’s program “In Our Time.” 45 minutes. In Our Time Host Melvyn Bragg and guests Andrew Wheatcroft, Claire Norton and Jeremy Black, discuss the pivotal Ottoman defeat at Vienna, which was seen at the time in the way in which modern publics to the German defeat at Stalingrad. The podcast also explains the makeup of the diverse Ottoman army as well as the international alliances of the Ottomans and the Austrians Listen at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00k9h9g>

Class 3 - The Age of Suleiman the Great April 3

SESSION A –Suleiman the Great

- From the Warrior on Horseback to Rule from Topkapi
- Reign
- Accomplishments
- Patronage of the Arts
- Legacy

Read:

- **“Suleiman the Magnificent,” From Wikipedia.** There is no shortage of readings on the Web regarding Suleiman. This Wikipedia entry is fairly brief and is a good introduction to the topic.
- Additional readings will be suggested in advance in class.

SESSION B – Continuation of Session A

Class 4 – Ottoman Rule April 10

SESSION A – The Ottoman Way of Governance

- Theory of the State
- Rules of Succession: Ottoman Fathers, Mothers and Sons
- Civil Service
- Meritocracy
- Taxation
- Local Administration

Read:

- **Bernard Lewis, Chapter IV on Palace and Government (on pdf)**
- **“Ottoman State Organization”** – from Wikipedia. A 5-page discussion of the Ottoman system of government.
- **“The Ottoman state and government.”** From the website “All About Turkey.com,” another view of the Ottoman system. 5 pages.

SESSION B – Relations with Subject Peoples

- Indirect Rule
- Local Custom and Leadership: the Millet System
- Ethnic Diversity: Language, Religion, Culture
- Religious Tolerance
- Military Service
- Vassals, Alliances and Conscripts
- Feudalism and the Ottomans
- Slavery

Read:

- **“Christian Allies of the Ottoman Empire”** by Emrah Safa Gürkan
From *European History Online. On pdf*
See: www.eg-ego.eu/en/threads/alliances-and-wars/alliances-and-treaties/emrah-safa-gurkan-christian-allies-of-the-ottoman-empire
- **“Slavery in the Ottoman Empire,** From Wikipedia. 9 pages, on pdf.
- **“Ottoman Arabia and the Holy Hijaz,”** 1516-1918 by Willaim Ochsenwald. 13 pages. On pdf.

Class 5 – Women in the Empire April 17

SESSION A – Roxelana – Consort of Suleiman

Read:

- **“The Woman Who Smashed a Glass Ceiling in the 16th Century,”** book review by THOMAS F. MADDEN based on **Empress of the East: How a European Slave Girl Became Queen of the Ottoman Empire,** by Leslie Price, 2017. Biography of Roxelana, wife of the Sultan Suleiman I, who was one of the most influential women in Turkish history despite being purchased in a Constantinople slave market by agents of the Sultan after being captured by Tatars in the Ukraine at the age of 13. New York Times book review: November 26, 2017. On pdf

Watch:

- **“Harem (Suleiman the Magnificent documentary)”** is a fascinating video on both the life of the Sultana Roxelana and the role of Harem women in the Empire in later centuries. 95 minutes.
See www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEDWaBmKpfY

Optional - Listen:

- **“Hürrem Sultan or Roxelana, Empress of the East”** is a very good iTunes podcast interview with Leslie Price regarding her book.
Go to: <http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/>

SESSION B – The Role of Women

Watch:

- **“Women, Gender, and Sex in the Ottoman World”** Apple’s iTunes podcast website offers this wonderful collection of 25 podcasts which pull together women’s history and the history of gender and sex in the Ottoman Empire and beyond.

Read:

- **“Women in Ottoman society”** from the Istanbul newspaper Hürriyet Daily News. 2 pages. Pdf
- **“Women in the Ottoman Empire”** – pdf from Wikipedia. 7 pages
Origins and roles of the Harem Women
- **“The Sultanate of Women”** – pdf or from Wikipedia 5 pages

Class 6 Religion under the Ottomans April 24

SESSION A – Religion under the Ottomans

- The Sword of Islam
- Sunnis and Shia
- The Caliphate: Constantinople and Baghdad
- People of the Book
- Arrival of Sephardic Jews

- Orthodox vs Western Christianity
- Sharia Law and Religious/Legal Hierarchy

Read:

- **Bernard Lewis, Chapter VI on Faith and Learning (on pdf)**

SESSION B – Sufism, the Sufi Orders and Whirling Dervishes

- Rumi, the Sufis, and Mysticism
- Shamans and Dervishes
- The Poetry of Rumi

Read:

- **“Mysticism in the Ottoman Empire”** by Niki Gammistanbul 3 pages
Hürriyet Daily News December/17/2011 Also on pdf A brief introduction to Sufism and the role it has played in Turkish culture.
- **“Sufism in Turkey,”** by Harvard Religious Literacy project. 4 pages
See www.rlp.hds.harvard.edu/faq/sufism-turkey Also on pdf

Watch:

- **“Rumi documentary”** is a fascinating YouTube video at <https://youtu.be/4H5UxOANuR8>
A fascinating introduction to the mystical practice, theory and dance of the medieval poet Rumi, with extensive portrayal of the Whirling Dervishes. 53 minutes. Rumi was also a poet, born in Central Asia, whose poetry is considered the best in the Persian language and is admired throughout the literary world. He was and is equally treasured in Turkey, where his tomb is a religious shrine.

Class 7 – Ottoman Art and Culture May 1

SESSION A – Ottoman Culture

- Cultural Heritage from Central Asia and Persia
- Language: Turkish, Persian, Arabic
- Persia and the Seljuks
- Patronage of the Arts

Read:

- **“Islam and the Arts of the Ottoman Empire”** by Brian Hogarth, Asian Art Museum. A comprehensive illustrated essay. See selected pages of this essay – to be assigned in class. On pdf
See http://education.asianart.org/sites/asianart.org/files/resource-downloads/Ottoman_Empire.

SESSION B – Miniatures and Illustrated Books

Read:

- **“Turning the pages of an Ottoman illustrated manuscript,”** By Ayşin Yoltar-Yıldırım.. On pdf. From the Islamic Arts & Architecture website. Focused on a famous manuscript held by The Met, this illustrated essay is the 2004 Winner of the Margaret B. Sevcenko Prize in Islamic Art and Culture. 26 pages.
See <http://islamic-arts.org/2011/turning-the-pages-of-an-ottoman-illustrated-manuscript/>
- **“Turkish Miniatures”** is an excellent 6-page illustrated essay from Turkish Cultural Foundation website, on pdf.
See <http://www.turkishculture.org/traditional-arts/miniatures-563.htm>

Watch:

- **“Ottoman Book and Decorative Arts”** is illustrated academic lecture by Bernard O’Kane at the American University in Cairo. 56 minutes.
See <https://youtu.be/8tDY7fqm1zw>

Optional - Watch:

- **“Ottoman Calligraphy: The Pen and the Letter”** Illustrated academic lecture with discussion of relationship of Ottoman calligraphy to Chinese, Persian, Hebrew and Arabic calligraphy. 43 minutes.
https://youtu.be/yMa7c_4GtK8

Class 8 - Ottoman Architecture May 8

SESSION A – Sinan and Ottoman Architecture

- Sinan’s Life and Work

Watch:

- **“Sinan – A Divine Architect”** is a very good 52-minute YouTube documentary on the life and work of the pre-eminent architect of the Ottoman world. Terrific tours of the mosques and other buildings he designed.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWrwc_pxciw&t=2354s

Read:

- For a brief written biography of Sinan, see www.turkishculture.org/architecture-403.htm

Optional - Watch

- **“Ottoman Architecture”** is an illustrated academic lecture by Bernard O’Kane at the American University in Cairo. 64 minutes. See <https://youtu.be/OABi3pTM8WA>

SESSION B – Topkapi Palace

Read:

- **“Topkapi Palace”** is an essay from Iranicaonline.org, 8 pages, on pdf. See <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/topkapi-palace>

Watch:

- **“Topkapi Palace Museum - Istanbul Guide”** (16 minutes) is one of many YouTube videos about the ancient and immense Topkapi palace. See <https://youtu.be/FZrMkhaKiSo>

Optional:

- **The Topkapi Palace**, by Subahattin Turkoglu. 108 pages. Very good, concise but informative book with a rich variety of illustrations, with history and architecture of the palace. Available from Amazon for only \$3.00.

Class 9 – The Ottomans and the World around Them May 15

SESSION A – Impact of the Ottomans on Europe

- The Balkans
- Poland
- Ukraine
- Genoa and Venice
- Hungary
- The Austro-Hungarian Border Wars
- Russia
- Spain and Portugal

Read:

- **"The Ottomans in Europe,"** by Geoffrey Woodward

SESSION B – Impact of the Ottomans on the Islamic World

- A World Frozen in Time
- The Caliphate, Theocracy and Pan-Islamism
- Diversity and Religious Tolerance
- Suppression of Nationalism
- Ethnic Separatism
- Legacy for the Arab State: Military Rule and Bureaucracy

Read:

- **“The Influence Of The Ottoman Turks On The Middle East,”** a one-page essay that pithily identifies the lasting influences of the empire today. On pdf.

Class 10 –Dismantling of the Ottoman World May 22

SESSION A – Decline: 1600 to 1900

- European Renaissance
- European Voyages to Asia and the Silk Road
- Commercial Competition and Capitalism
- Industrial Revolution
- Traditional Education System
- Flaws in Leadership
- Military Losses
- Economic Decline

Read:

- **“The Decline of the Ottoman Empire,”** a very good 5-page essay. On pdf
From **MuslimMatters.org**
<https://muslimmatters.org/2011/12/20/part-i-the-decline-of-the-ottoman-empire/>

SESSION B – The Shrinking Empire

- Rise of European Empires and Colonialism
- Revolt and Revolution
- Indebtedness to Europe
- Constitutional Reform
- The Young Turks
- War and Collapse
- The Once and Future Caliphate

- Additional readings will be suggested in advance in class.

Guidelines for Class Presentations

We hope that each participant in the class will be responsible for a presentation. Your presentation (whether individual or team) should be between 30-40 minutes in length (including discussion time if applicable—some topics suit themselves to discussion more than others).

You are welcome to present by yourself or in a team of two. (More than that gets too unwieldy.)

There are many different formats you may use for your presentation. Here are three examples of possible approaches.

1. Deliver a talk – possibly accompanied by printed handouts or visual aids on the class monitor.
2. Alternatively, lead a discussion of a reading (or video) that you have chosen and circulated to the class at least one week in advance, e.g., an article from a website. It might be helpful for you to accompany the reading with a list of questions or issues to be discussed.

Talk to the coordinator if you need ideas or suggestions, whether about topics or about approaches to the presentation.

We will not schedule more than two presentations in one class. You are encouraged to select your topic and week early! Please email us as soon as you know what you want to do.

Member Resources

Resources for Class Members

A number of resources related to presentations appear on the LLC website.

See: <http://www.lifelonglearningcollaborative.org/members-resources>

On the Home page of the website, go to the menu bar on the upper right and click on “Member Resources.”

Then go to “LLC Guidelines - Chapters for Session Leaders,” where you will see the following links to resource pages:

- Tips for Finding Online Content Online for Presentations and Discussions
- Tips for Turning Research into Presentations
- Tips for Setting Up and Leading Hot Discussions
- Tip Sheet for Using Videos in Class
- Tip Sheet for Creating a High Quality Slideshow

The Ottoman Empire: History and Culture **Suggested Readings and Videos**

The various readings, videos and podcasts discussed below are “suggested,” *not all required* reading for our course. For any one class session, you will be notified in advance if something really is required reading for that class session. On the other hand, these are all worthwhile materials that will give a great introduction to the topics at hand. Explore and enjoy!

Please contact us for help if you have difficulty getting access to any of these materials.

Websites

There is a wealth of information about the history and culture of the Ottomans available on the Web. YouTube also has a rich selection of videos about the Ottomans.

Wikipedia. While LLC tends to discourage reliance on Wikipedia as a source of information for presentations and class discussions, it is worth saying that Wikipedia is a terrific source for many aspects of the Ottoman Empire and Turkish history and culture. You shouldn't rely exclusively on Wikipedia, but it is a very good starting point for many topics.

“Ottoman History Podcast.” by **Ottomanhistorypodcast.com.** This website lists 133 podcasts on Ottoman history, generally being interviews with historians. Also available at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/ottoman-history-podcast/id513808150?mt=2&i=397154001>

Encyclopædia Iranica is dedicated to the study of Iranian civilization in the Middle East, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Indian subcontinent. See: <http://www.Iranicaonline.org> It includes a wide array of information about Turkey and about the Ottomans. Dating back to the early Persian Empire (500 bc), the history and culture of the Turkish peoples and the Persians developed along paths that frequently intertwined, overlapped and collided, beginning with their common origin in Central Asia. Turkish culture was heavily influenced by Persia throughout the past 2,500 years, and indeed the Seljuk Empire was a Persian empire ruled by Turks.

www.theottomans.org is another great website. The site “aims to become the leading information portal regarding the history, military, culture and arts of the Ottoman Empire that once dominated a large territory from Egypt to Russia, from India to Austria.

Turkish Cultural Foundation website See www.turkishculture.org An excellent collection of essays and imagery with an extensive display of Ottoman art of all kinds, from embroidery and ceramics to architecture and music.

The website of The Metropolitan Museum of Art is a treasure trove of images and informative essays on the subjects of Ottoman art and history. See the **Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History** at www.metmuseum.org

Islamic Arts & Architecture website See <http://islamic-arts.org/category/period/ottoman/>

This site offers essays, photos and videos on a wide array of Islamic art, and includes a wealth of information about the art of the Ottomans.

Books

The Ottoman Empire: A Brief History by Anne Davison Only 100 pages, this is a very good short history from 1300 to the modern era. A great choice for a quick over view of the empire's history. Available for about \$10 at Amazon.

Istanbul and the Civilization of the Ottoman Empire by Bernard Lewis. The first 100 pages are an outstanding and incisive history and analysis of the Ottomans from 1300 to 1600, with great discussion of methods of government, relations with Christians and Jews, and cultural development. Available for less than \$10 at Amazon.

Osman's Dream: The History of the Ottoman Empire , by **Caroline Finkel**. A comprehensive history of the empire. Long but incisive and well written. Available inexpensively at Amazon.

1453: The Holy War for Constantinople and the Clash of Islam and the West, by Roger Crowley. A detailed account of the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople, which ended the Byzantine Empire and established the Ottomans as the pre-eminent power in the Eastern Mediterranean. Available from Amazon for under \$12.

The Topkapi Palace, by Subahattin Turkoglu. 108 pages. Very good, concise and informative book with a rich variety of illustrations, with history and architecture of the palace. Available from Amazon for only \$3.00.

Turkish Art and Architecture from the Seljuks to the Ottomans, by **Giovanni Curatola**. This large-format book is an excellent history with terrific photos and illustrations. Available from Ocean State Libraries. It is a great choice if you would like to add on book about the arts of the Ottomans to your bookshelves. Used copies are available for about \$28 from Amazon.

The World of Ottoman Art, by Michael Levey, is another well-written and illustrated history. Available from Ocean State Libraries. Used copies are available for as little as \$3.00 from Amazon.

The Fall of the Ottomans, by Eugene Rogan 2015. The latest account about the rapid decline of this empire from 1901 to 1923., which is actually beyond the scope of our course.

Articles and Essays

Where indicated, the words “on pdf” indicate that we can send you a copy of the text by email, which you can print out. Just let Bob Martin know if you want one.

“**A Brief Outline of Turkish History**” is a very good short essay on the **Turkish Cultural Foundation** website. It recounts the 4,000-year history of Turkish peoples, beginning in Central Asia in 2,000 BCE. See: www.turkishculture.org/general-1067.htm. Also on pdf.

“History of the Turkic Peoples” is a one-page listing of pre-Ottoman Turkish kingdoms and other realms. From Wikipedia, on pdf.

The Ottoman Dynasty (on pdf) is an essay on the family of the House of Osman, published by the Almanach de Saxe Gotha. Every sultan of the empire was descended in an uninterrupted lineage: father to son for 600 years. The family was exiled from Turkey when it became a republic in 1922, but a large extended family still survives and thrives. For full details, see <http://www.almanachdegotha.org/id127.html>. 18 pages include illustrations

“The Seljuk Empire.” – from Wikipedia. The Seljuk Turks established the Seljuk Empire, beginning in 1037 CE, controlled a vast area stretching from the Hindu Kush to western Anatolia and from Central Asia to the Persian Gulf. From their homelands near the Aral Sea, the Seljuks advanced first into Persia before eventually conquering eastern Anatolia.

The Sultanate of Rum – from Wikipedia. The Sultanate of Rum seceded from the Great Seljuk Empire under Suleiman ibn Qutulmish in 1077, following the Battle of Manzikert, with capitals in Turkey first at İznik and then at Konya. It reached the height of its power during the late 12th and early 13th century, when it succeeded in taking Byzantine key ports on the Mediterranean and Black Sea coasts. The Mongol destruction of this empire set the state for the Ottomans to rise several decades later

“Christian Allies of the Ottoman Empire, by Emrah Safa Gürkan From *European History Online*.. 11 pages. On pdf,
See: www.eg-ego.eu/en/threads/alliances-and-wars/alliances-and-treaties/emrah-safa-gurkan-christian-allies-of-the-ottoman-empire

“Ottoman Arabia and the Holy Hijaz, 1516-1918,” by William Ochsenwald. 13 pages. On pdf.

“The Ottomans in Europe,” by Geoffrey Woodward Published in History Review Issue 39 March 2001 Geoffrey Woodward assesses how great an impact the Turks had on sixteenth-century Europe. On pdf.

“Ottoman State Organization” – from Wikipedia. A 5-page discussion of the Ottoman system of government. On pdf.

“The Ottoman state and government.” From the website “All About Turkey.com,” another view of the Ottoman system. Also 5 pages. On pdf.

“Suleiman the Magnificent,” From Wikipedia. There is no shortage of readings on the Web regarding Suleiman. This Wikipedia entry is fairly brief and is a good introduction to the topic.

“The Woman Who Smashed a Glass Ceiling in the 16th Century,” book review by Thomas F. Madden, based on **Empress of the East: How a European Slave Girl Became Queen of the Ottoman Empire,** by Leslie Price, 2017. Biography of Roxelana, wife of the Sultan Suleiman I, who was one of the most influential women in Turkish history despite being purchased in a Constantinople slave market by agents of the Sultan after being captured by

Tatars in the Ukraine at the age of 13. New York Times book review: November 26, 2017. On pdf.

“The Sultanate of Women” – from Wikipedia The Sultanate of Women was the nearly 130-year period during the 16th and 17th centuries when the women of the Imperial Harem of the Ottoman Empire exerted extraordinary political influence over state matters and over the (male) Ottoman sultan, starting from the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent. On pdf.

“Women in Ottoman society” An informative 2012 essay in the Istanbul paper Hürriyet Daily News. 2 pages. On pdf.

“Women in Ottoman Law ” – from Wikipedia, on pdf This short article looks at several examples of women's issues in Ottoman society. Islamic women in the Ottoman Empire were governed by the Sharia.

“10 Incredible Things about the Ottoman Empire and Its Army,” 5-page essay from the *Realm of History* Website. Concise and well-written analysis of the first professional army after the time of the Roman Empire. On pdf
www.realmofhistory.com/2015/12/14/10-incredible-things-you-should-know-about-the-ottoman-army/

“Turning the pages of an Ottoman illustrated manuscript,” By Ayşin Yoltar-Yıldırım.. On pdf. From the Islamic Arts & Architecture website. Focused on a famous manuscript held by The Met, this illustrated essay is the 2004 Winner of the Margaret B. Sevcenko Prize in Islamic Art and Culture. 26 pages.
See <http://islamic-arts.org/2011/turning-the-pages-of-an-ottoman-illustrated-manuscript/>

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See <http://www.turkishculture.org/traditional-arts/miniatures-563.htm>

“Topkapi Palace” is an essay from Iranicaonline.org, on pdf. It focuses especially on Persian holdings in the Topkapi collections. See <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/topkapi-palace>

Islam and the Arts of the Ottoman Empire by Brian Hogarth, Asian Art Museum. A comprehensive illustrated essay. See http://education.asianart.org/sites/asianart.org/files/resource-downloads/Ottoman_Empire.pdf

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From <http://www.paralumun.com/ottomanmil.htm>

“Mysticism in the Ottoman Empire” by Niki Gammistanbul 3 pages
Hürriyet Daily News December 17/ 2011 Also on pdf A brief introduction to Sufism and the role it has played in Turkish culture.

“Sufism in Turkey,” by Harvard Religious Literacy project. 4 pages
See www.rlp.hds.harvard.edu/faq/sufism-turkey Also on pdf

Video

“Rise and Fall of the Ottoman Empire” is a 5-minute video, very effective map history of the expansion of the Ottoman Empire, complete with melodramatic music! No narration, but there is a series of brief notes explaining the course of events. Well worth a watch!
See <https://youtu.be/xkEFO2T3M3Q>

“The Ottomans” is a PBS historical documentary (52 minutes) on YouTube. It is an excellent introduction to Ottoman history, but it is only one of many YouTube videos on Ottoman culture and history.

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See www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEDWaBmKpfY

“Rumi documentary” is a fascinating YouTube video at <https://youtu.be/4H5UxOANuR8>
An introduction to the mystical practice, theory and dance of the medieval poet Rumi, with extensive video of the Whirling Dervishes. 53 minutes. Rumi was also a poet, born in Central Asia, whose poetry is considered the best in the Persian language and is admired throughout the literary world. He is equally treasured in Turkey, where his tomb is a religious shrine.

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“Topkapi Palace Museum - Istanbul Guide” (16 minutes) is one of many Youtube videos about the ancient and immense Topkapi palace. See <https://youtu.be/FZrMkhaKiSo>

“Ottoman Calligraphy: The Pen and the Letter” Illustrated academic lecture with discussion of relationship of Ottoman calligraphy to Chinese, Persian, Hebrew and Arabic calligraphy
https://youtu.be/yMa7c_4GtK8

“Ottoman Book and Decorative Arts” is another illustrated academic lecture by Bernard O’Kane at the American University in Cairo. 56 minutes.
See <https://youtu.be/8tDY7fqm1zw>

“Alchemy of Ottoman Tiles” A well-illustrated academic lecture on the history, design and artistic appeal of Ottoman ceramic tile, discussing Chinese, Persian and Arab influences. 73 minutes.
See <https://youtu.be/Tc5xZ1FCRiM>

Podcasts

Explains the origins of Sufism which is neither Shia nor Sunni, and how multi-ethnic the Ottoman and Safavid empires were, with Greek and Armenian and Jewish communities everywhere. Explains patronage of the arts as a standard part of Central Asian conquerors. Also a history of the Safavid and Ottoman rivalry for 200 years

“The Siege of Malta, 1565,” a podcast from the BBC’s program “In Our Time.” 43 minutes.

Listen at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0911wmr>

BBC host Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss an event that struck fear throughout Europe. In 1565, Suleiman the Magnificent sent a great fleet west to lay siege to Malta and capture it for his empire. Victory would mean control of trade across the Mediterranean and a base for attacks on Spain, Sicily and southern Italy, even Rome. Despite the title, this is a broad-ranging discussion of the growth of Ottoman naval power and its strategy during the age of Suleiman, whose conquests posed a Muslim challenge to the future of Europe.

“The Siege of Vienna.” podcast from the BBC’s program “In Our Time.” 45 minutes.

In Our Time Host Melvyn Bragg and guests Andrew Wheatcroft, Claire Norton and Jeremy Black, discuss the pivotal Ottoman defeat at Vienna, which was seen at the time in the way in which modern publics to the German defeat at Stalingrad. The podcast also explains the makeup of the diverse Ottoman army as well as the international alliances of the Ottomans and the Austrians. Listen at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00k9h9g>

“Rumi's Poetry,” In Our Time Host Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the poetry of Rumi, the Persian scholar and Sufi mystic of the 13th Century. His great poetic works are the Masnavi or "spiritual couplets" and the Divan, a collection of thousands of lyric poems. He is closely connected with four modern countries: Afghanistan, as he was born in Balkh, from which he gains the name Balkhi; Uzbekistan from his time in Samarkand as a child; Iran as he wrote in Persian; and Turkey for his work in Konya, where he spent most of his working life and where his followers established the Mevlevi Order, also known as the Whirling Dervishes.

Listen at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06ztx2w>

“The Safavid Dynasty,” a podcast from the BBC’s program “In Our Time.” 43 minutes. Listen at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0196tcr>

While recounting the formation of the Safavid Dynasty, this also explains the origins of Sufism which is neither Shia nor Sunni, and how multi-ethnic the Ottoman and Safavid empires were, with Greek and Armenian and Jewish communities everywhere. Explains patronage of the arts as a standard part of Central Asian conquerors. Also a history of the Safavid and Ottoman rivalry for 200 years

“Women, Gender, and Sex in the Ottoman World” Apple’s iTunes podcast website offers this wonderful collection of 25 podcasts which pull together women’s history and the history of gender and sex in the Ottoman Empire and beyond. It explores the particular historical experiences of women and girls based on the conviction that returning the lives, experiences, and ideas of women to the historical record will change the way we look at historical periods and transformations at large. It also investigates the ways in which gender and sexuality can serve as useful categories of historical analysis (Scott, 1986) as they help us to better understand broad

transformations in regimes of knowledge and politics, relations of property, forms of governance, and the nature of the state.

Go to <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/women-gender-and-sex-in-the-ottoman-world/id1027383770?mt=2>