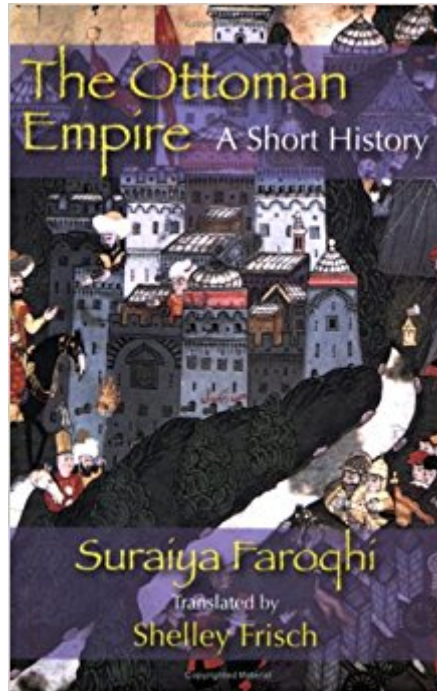


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# The Ottoman Empire: A Short History



## Synopsis

Presents the history of one of the powerful empires of the Late Middle Ages and Early Modern era. This text traces the political history of the Ottomans from the 14th century to the dissolution of the empires after WWI, and it employs a balanced approach that encompasses economic, social, and cultural history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The author sets the record straight about several longstanding inaccuracies, such as an alleged division of labor between different ethnic and religious groups, and an Ottoman women's culture, which make the book especially worth reading. The book emphasizes social and economic developments more than political ones, following the methodology of Fernand Braudel." -

--Deutsche Vierteljahresblätter"Faroghi (U. of Munich) presents a whirlwind history of the empire based in Turkey from its beginnings at the dawn of the 14th century to its dismemberment after World War I. His goal is to provide a grounding for students of the present-day Middle East, urbanism, global labor migration, the history of women and the family, and other areas. The account mixes traditional political and military concerns with discussions of social, economic, cultural, and religious matters. Geschichte des Osmanischen Reiches was published in 2004 by Verlag C. H. Beck, Munich. The translation is by Shelley Frisch, American scholar, editor, and translator of German literature." --Book News"Christianity had the Roman Empire; Islam had the Ottoman Empire. "The Ottoman Empire: A Short History" traces the history of one of the longest standing empires known to man. Chapters cover the post-Crusades period, the Ottoman Empire's constant conflicts with Europe, Russia, and other neighbors who successfully resisted its rule, and much

more. Looking at how the empire managed its own internal affairs and the strong role Islam played, "The Ottoman Empire" serves as a fine introduction to this historical entity, deftly translated from the original German by Shelley Frisch." --Midwest Book Review"Faroghi (Univ. of Munich and Istanbul Bilgi Univ.), a highly respected and prolific Ottoman specialist offers a comprehensive account in this breezy translation from the German... a clearly presented and concise survey"

--choice"Professor Suraiya Faroghi of the University of Munich has been one of a number of historians who have trans-formed Ottoman studies in the last generation. This volume presents the issues of Ottoman history in an enlightening and most readable way. For the latter quality much credit is also due to the translator, Shelley Frisch."--Asian Affairs (The Royal Society of Asian Affairs  
--Asian Affairs

Saraiya Faroghi, University of Munich and visiting professor at Harvard University, is author of several books on the Ottoman Empire, some of which have been translated into English, such as The Ottoman Empire and the World Around It. Shelley Frisch's numerous translations from German include most recently biographies of Einstein, Kafka, and Nietzsche.

It is extremely rare to find a history that not only artfully covers the subject matter, but also points out the important areas that remain virtually blank. Suraiya Faroghi achieves a short synthesis of Ottoman history that places her work among the classic studies by Inalcik and Wittek. As artfully as any Osmanli, she provides an extremely balanced overview of the development of Ottoman empire throughout its entire existence. This is, by far, the best introduction out there. Her nuanced style means that her work, in spite of its brevity, deserves a very careful reading. Such care will be richly rewarded in both additional insight and understanding of this complex empire and its successor.

I was looking for an explanation of how the Ottoman Empire started and I'm not sure I still understand it quite. The book is probably too advanced for what I was looking for.

This booklet seems to provide some insights absent from, say, Kinross's "The Ottoman Centuries", and in its highly condensed form it provides a digestible overview and framework for fuller accounts of the long and eventful evolution of the Ottoman Empire. So, as a companion to more substantial books (which are too few for such a significant chunk of history and geography), it is useful. It is, however, far too sketchy to stand alone. The maps are helpful. The index, in common with those of most books, is inadequate, so that relocating people, places, and events in the text is hit and miss;

this, of course, detracts from the book's utility.

What is written in this book is clear and I trust accurate by comparison with other reading, but the author simply doesn't address some of the less civilized behaviors of the sultans and the army. For example, the full nature of how the sultans disposed of other potential heirs to the throne, wives with whom they were displeased, and political rivals isn't adequately presented. Nor is the full scope of the genocide of the Armenians. The way it is addressed in this book is almost as if to say something happened but it was the Armenians' fault - the Ottomans simply responded reasonably albeit heavyhandedly to a problem. Still, a clearly written survey of a long standing empire not well known in today's US.

Christianity had the Roman Empire; Islam had the Ottoman Empire. "The Ottoman Empire: A Short History" traces the history of one of the longest standing empires known to man. Chapters cover the post-Crusades period, the Ottoman Empire's constant conflicts with Europe, Russia, and other neighbors who successfully resisted its rule, and much more. Looking at how the empire managed its own internal affairs and the strong role Islam played, "The Ottoman Empire" serves as a fine introduction to this historical entity, deftly translated from the original German by Shelley Frisch.

Great author. unbiased and does not fall into orientalist category of historians. Not the shortest history or the best, but still worth the read.

Very fast shipping and excellent book, just as it was described

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