

**Middle East Technical University
Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences
Department of Political Science and Public Administration**

ADM 4141

Society and Politics in the Late Ottoman Empire

Fall 2010

Hours: Wednesdays 10:40-13:30 G 202

Asst. Prof. E. Attila AYTEKİN

Office: A311

Office hours: Tuesdays 13:30-15:30 and Wednesdays 14:00-16:30; or by appointment

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The course aims to familiarize students with social developments and politics of the Ottoman Empire from 1703 to 1922. While there is an introduction about the early modern era, the emphasis is on the nineteenth-century trends and events. The last decades of the Empire will also be discussed in order to help the students comprehend some of the dynamics of the transition from the Ottoman Empire to the Turkish Republic. In addition to significant historical events and key political figures, different perspectives offered to understand the historical trajectory in question are also discussed and analyzed throughout the semester.

Course Requirements: The course requires continuing preparedness and attention from the students. The weekly reading assignments are mandatory. Attendance will be monitored throughout the semester. The class grade will be based on the following:

Reaction papers: 30 %

Mid-term exam: 25 %

Final Exam: 40 %

Class participation: 5 %

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1: Introduction to the Course

Week 2: Discussing the ‘Classical Age’: Mode of Production Debates

Halil İnalçık, *The Ottoman Empire. The Classical Age, 1300-1600* (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1973), pp.65-119

Suavi Aydın, “Aydınlanma ve tarihselcilik problemleri arasında Türk tarihyazıcılığı: Feodalite örneği”, *Toplum ve Bilim*, no.91 (2002), pp.39-80

Week 3: State Tradition in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey: Myth or Reality?

Heper, Metin, “The ‘Strong State’ and Democracy: Turkey in Comparative and Historical Perspective”, in S.N. Eisenstadt (ed.), *Democracy and Modernity* (Leiden: Brill, 1992), pp. 142-169

Demet Dinler, “Türkiye’de Güçlü Devlet Geleneği Tezinin Eleştirisi”, *Praksis*, no.9 (2003), pp.17-54

Week 4: *Malikane*, *Ayan* and Other Stories: A Decentralized Empire?

Salzmann, Ariel, *Tocqueville in the Ottoman Empire: rival paths to the modern state* (Boston: Brill, 2004), pp.1-30

Dina R. Khoury, *State and Provincial Society in the Ottoman Empire: Mosul 1540-1834* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997), pp.75-108

Week 5: Ottoman Warfare: External and Internal, 1699-1839

Virginia Aksan, “War and Peace”, in S. Faroqhi (ed.), *The Cambridge History of Turkey volume 3: The Later Ottoman Empire, 1603-1839* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), pp.81-117

Mehmet Mert Sunar, “Cauldron of dissent: A study of the Janissary Corps, 1807-1826”, unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, State University of New York at Binghamton, pp.96-157

Week 6: Economic and Social History of the Late Ottoman Empire

Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922* (Cambridge, CUP: 2000), pp.54-139

Week 7: The *Tanzimat* Era 1839-1876

Şükrü Hanioglu, *A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), pp.72-108

Butrus Abu-Manneh, "The Islamic Roots of the Gulhane Rescript", *Die Welt des Islams, New Series*, vol.34 no.2 (1994), pp.173-203

Week 8: Peasants and the Agrarian Question

Ussame Makdisi, "Corrupting the Sublime Sultanate: The Revolt of Tanyus Shahin in Nineteenth-Century Ottoman Lebanon", *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol.42 no.1 (2000), pp.180-208.

E. Attila Aytekin, "Cultivators, Creditors and the State: Rural Indebtedness in the Nineteenth Century Ottoman Empire", *Journal of Peasant Studies*, vol.35 no.2 (2008), pp.292-313.

Week 9: The Reign of Abdulhamid II, 1876-1909

Nadir Özbek, "Philanthropic Activity, Ottoman Patriotism, and the Hamidian Regime, 1876-1909", *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, vol.37 no.1 (2005), pp.59-81.

Selim Deringil, "The Invention of Tradition as Public Image in the Late Ottoman Empire, 1808 to 1908", *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol.35 no.1 (1993), pp.3-29

Week 10: The Revolution of 1908 and the Committee of Union and Progress

Aykut Kansu, *The Revolution of 1908 in Turkey* (Leiden: Brill, 1997), pp.73-113

Şükrü Hanioglu, *A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), pp.144-167

Week 11: Empire at War, 1911-1918

Eric Zürcher, "Between Death and Desertion. The Experience of the Ottoman Soldier in World War I", *Turcica* no. 28 (1996), pp.235-258

Week 12: The Armenian Question

Donald Bloxham, *The Great Game of Genocide: Imperialism, Nationalism and the Destruction of Ottoman Armenians* (Oxford: OUP, 2005), chapters 1 and 2

Janet Klein, “Conflict and Collaboration: Rethinking Kurdish-Armenian Relations in the Hamidian Period”, in Tezcan and Barbir (eds.), *Identity and Identity Formation in the Ottoman World -A Volume of Essays in Honor of Norman Itzkowitz* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2007), pp.153-166

Week 13: The Interregnum, 1918-1923

Eric Zürcher, *The Unionist Factor: The Role of the Committee of Union and Progress in the Turkish National Movement* (Leiden: Brill, 1984), pp. 68-117

Week 14: The Antinomies of Nation-Building: The Kurdish Question

Robert Olson, *The emergence of Kurdish nationalism and the Sheikh Said rebellion, 1880-1925* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1989), chapters 1 and 2

Janet Klein, “Kurdish nationalists and nonnationalist Kurds: rethinking minority nationalism and the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, 1908–1909”, *Nations and Nationalism*, vol.13 no.1 (2007), pp. 135–153.