

Word List B Lecture 1
Aspects of Ottoman Culture: History and Language
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On history:

Rumelia. "Land of the Romans/Byzantines." The Ottoman European provinces (the Balkans).

Osman I. Progenitor of the Ottoman dynasty (d. c. 1326)

Sultan Mehmed I "The Conqueror," conquest of Constantinople 1453

Sultan Selim I "The Grim," conquest of Arab lands 1516-1517

Sultan Süleyman "The Lawgiver" / "The Magnificent" (reigned 1520-1566)

Roxelana / Hürrem Sultan. Wife of Sultan Süleyman.

Devşirme system. The "gathering" of Christian boys to serve in the government or military

Janissaries. Elite military force; annihilated 1826

Pasha. Highest title bestowed upon great men of the state and military

Sultan Ahmed III (r. 1703-1730) & Tulip Age

Çeşme. Site of naval defeat by Russia, 1770

Sultan Mahmud II, the great reformer (reigned 1808-1839)

Fez. Brimless head covering mandatory for Ottoman men after 1829

Navarino sea battle, 1827. Off coast of Greece; led to Greek independence.

Sultan Abdülmecid I (reigned 1839-1861).

Tanzimat = "restructuring," era of reforms 1839-1876

Crimean War, 1853-1855

Sultan Abdülaziz, reigned 1861-1876

Abdülhamid II (reigned 1876-1909)

C.U.P. "Committee of Union and Progress," political party that took over government 1908-1918

Sultan Mehmed V Reşad (reigned 1909-1918)

Gallipoli. Battle at the Dardanelles; Ottomans defeat French and British fleets

Mustafa Kemal Pasha (later known as Atatürk). First president of Turkish republic (d. 1938)

On Ottoman language and calligraphy:

Altaic languages. Turkish, Mongolian, Manchu, & probably Korean

Agglutinative. Language type that adds suffixes after the main word, e.g.

Turkish *evlerimizden*, “from our houses”, *ev* (house) + *ler* (plural) + *imiz* (our) + *den* (from), to make “houses-our-from”

Calligraphy

Ta=lik style. “Hanging”, famous Persian style of calligraphy

Celi Sülüs style. Large-style calligraphy favored for building exteriors.

Besmele. *Bismillah-irrahman-irrahim*, Islamic invocation “In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.”

Chronogram. A line of verse, the sum total of whose letters equals a certain date that the poet had in mind.