

Word List B Lecture 2
Aspects of Ottoman Culture
Douglas Brookes
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Life in the Ottoman Palace: Slavery and the Imperial Harem

Askeri (“soldier”) class

Ülema (“men of learning”)

Şeyhülislâm. Chief Muslim religious dignitary of the Empire

Fetva. Decree issued by the Şeyhülislâm

Reâyâ. “Flock,” the tax-paying vast majority of the Ottoman population

Osmanoğlu. Surname adopted by the Imperial Family in 1920s

Valide Sultan (“Mother Princess”). Mother of the ruling sultan.

Veliâhd. Heir to the Ottoman throne (oldest living prince)

Gözde. “Chosen one,” lowest rank of concubine.

İkbal. “Fortunate one,” middle rank of concubine.

Kadın, or Kadınefendi. “Lady,” highest rank of concubine.

Kalfa. Title of high-ranking female supervisors in the harem.

High Hazinedar. Title of the female managing director of the harem.

Abdülfettah Efendi, calligrapher

Yıldız Palace. Residence of Sultan Abdülhamid II, 1880s-1908.

Dolmabahçe Palace. New palace along Bosphorus, built in 1850s to replace

Topkapı Palace.

Çırağan Palace. Palace completed in 1871 along Bosphorus

Kafes System. “The Cage,” part of Topkapı Palace inhabited by princes until 19th century.

Circassians. Muslim people of the Caucasus, many settling in Ottoman lands

after Russia expelled them following Russian conquest, 1800-1864
Eunuch. Castrated male in service at the Ottoman (and other) royal courts.