

Osman's dream : the history of the Ottoman empire, 1300-1923

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Abstrak

The Ottoman empire was one of the largest and most influential empires in world history. Its reach extended to three continents and it survived for more than six centuries, but its history is too often colored by the memory of its bloody final throes on the battle-fields of World War I. [This book is] for the general reader. [In the book, the author] recounts the story of the Ottoman Empire from its origins in the thirteenth century through its destruction in the twentieth. According to the Ottoman chronicles the first sultan, Osman, had a dream in which a tree emerged fully formed from his navel "and its shade encompassed the world"-- Symbolizing the vast empire he and his descendants were destined to forge. His vision was soon realized - at its height, the Ottoman realm extended from Hungary to the Persian Gulf, from North Africa to the Caucasus. A multitude of religions flourished within its frontiers." With World War I, the Empire collapsed, and European colonial powers carved up former Ottoman lands. Their actions haunt us still - from the Balkans to Baghdad, the Ottoman sultanate once ruled over regions which are now amongst the most troubled on earth. In [the book, the author] narrates the dramatic history of this vast empire that shaped the modern world.