

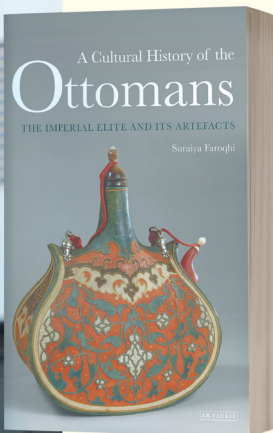
A Cultural History of the Ottomans: The Imperial Elite and its Artefacts

The Ottoman Empire was more than a center of military and economic activity; it was a vivid and flourishing cultural realm. The artefacts and objects remaining from all corners of this vast empire tell us a great deal about the everyday concerns of the Ottomans. In this book, Suraiya Faroqhi, Professor of History at Ibn Haldun University and a leading historian on the Ottoman Empire, has selected the most revealing, surprising and striking examples of the artefacts which illuminate the lesser-known cultural and artistic

world of the Ottomans. Each image-reproduced in full color--is deftly linked to the latest historiography, and the social, political and economic implications of her selections are never forgotten. In Faroqhi's hands, the objects become ways to learn more about trade, gender and socio-political status. They open an enticing window onto the variety and color of everyday life; from the Sultan's court, to the peasantry and slavery. Amongst its luxuriant faiences and etchings, its sofras and carpets, A Cultural History of the Ottomans is essential reading for all students of

the Ottoman Empire and its material culture.

Christine Woodhead, from the University of Durham, thinks that "Suraiya Faroqhi takes the reader on a journey of discovery: whether in the shape of a crown, a tent, a rosewater bottle, a pistol, or a coffee cup, artefacts are here used to narrate a new cultural history of the Ottoman empire. With unique erudition and flair, Faroqhi combines bold interpretations and intimate and little-known stories. The Ottoman elites, as if by magic, become alive." In the very similar vein, Giorgio Riello, from the University of Warwick, believes that "Every new book by Suraiya Faroqhi raises hitherto unsuspected questions and pushes our knowledge into a different sphere. This study of Ottoman material culture from the sixteenth to the mid nineteenth century ranges widely across research in art history, manufacturing, trade and consumption studies. It brings together diverse work on museum collections, portraits, plates and ceramics, on things worn, weighed and cultivated, on items taken as booty, offered as gifts or those simply treasured."



Suraiya Faroqhi
(I.B. Tauris, 2016)



SURAIYA FAROQHI