
ABSTRACT

A History of Istanbul: Twenty-Seven Centuries since 657 CE.: Late Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman and Republican periods

İstanbul Tarihi: M.Ö. 657’den Bugüne Kadar 27 Asırlık Son Roma, Bizans, Osmanlı ve Cumhuriyet Dönemleri

In the introduction, the author explains that this is a history of Istanbul that has been written without reference to events outside of the city. Despite this claim, he has not been able to ignore foreign events in this book, as they are usually inescapable in urban history. He explores the history of the city following a chronological order, looking respectively at the Roman domination, the Byzantine Empire, the Ottoman Empire and the Turkish Republic.

The book includes a chronological list of all the sultans and municipal governors. Also included is some brief, encyclopaedic information on topics such as monuments built under the patronage of the sultans, tombs of sultans, aqueducts, neighbourhoods on the Marmara Sea and the Bosphorus, Princes’ Islands and Ottoman mosques, fountains and palaces.

The work talks about important foreign diplomats and ambassadors visiting the city, the palatial weddings and other public celebrations. It also alludes to modern urbanisation, such as the establishment of a rail network and the use of gas in lighting. The author explores the
ways in which the city was affected by the change in regime. This period is investigated according to the chronological order of presidents.

The author has provided a list of MPs from Istanbul corresponding to the years in which they were elected, without giving any other information on them. The book includes a plan of Istanbul’s streets and buildings in the Byzantine period, as well as various other maps of the city from the fourteenth to the twentieth century. This is a non-academic study which has utilised some mainstream Turkish historical sources; it will be of use to readers looking for non-academic, general information on the city.

Feryal Tansuğ

Translated by Aysu Dinçer