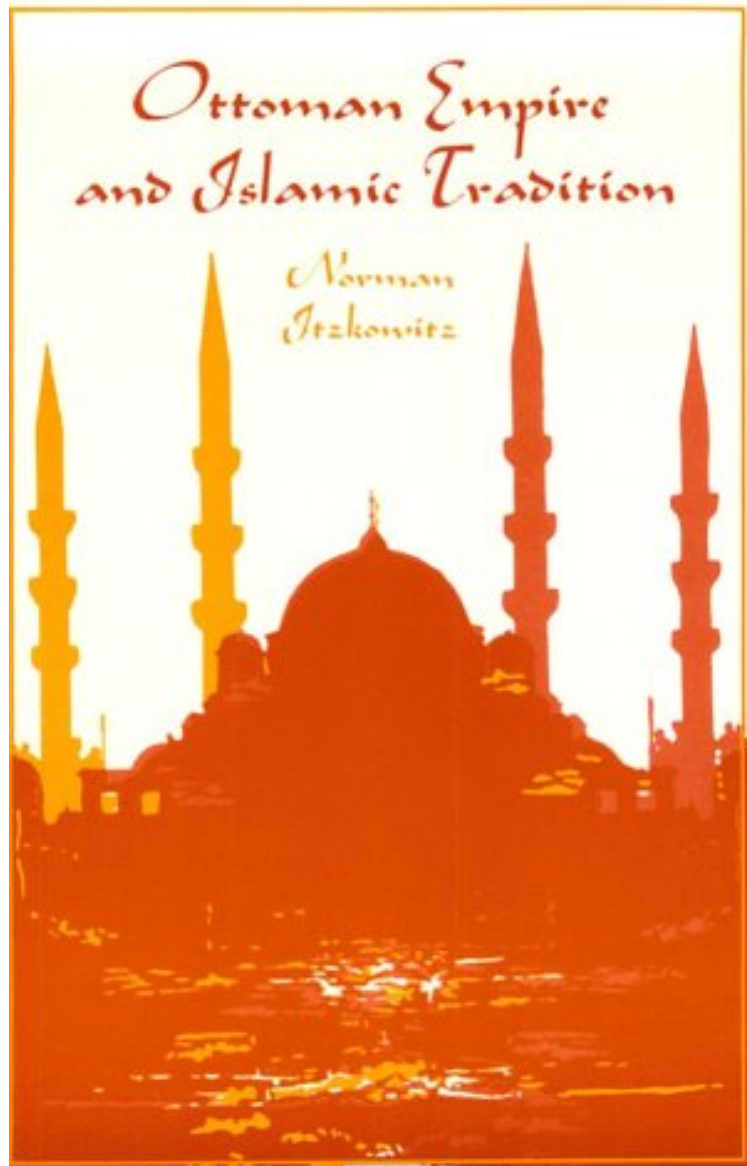


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Ottoman Empire and Islamic Tradition (Phoenix Book)

Norman Itzkowitz

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Norman Itzkowitz : Ottoman Empire and Islamic Tradition (Phoenix Book) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ottoman Empire and Islamic Tradition (Phoenix Book):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly informative...By Patrick D. Grieco Very detailed and thorough scholarship. Norman truly takes the reader on a fun and detailed voyage into the intricate nature of Ottoman society. 33 of 34 people found the following review helpful. Simple Introduction to Ottoman Civilization By L.

Brown This is a concise study of Ottoman culture, society and the Ottoman administrative system. The Ottoman Empire, which lasted for 700 years and included three continents, is an important but often excluded ingredient in world history. This empire should be seen like its shorter lived sister-states (Mughal India and Safavid Iran) as a descendent of the Turco-Mongol steppe tradition under which Central Asia was unified and which created the first modern, large-scale, integrated, long-distance, old-world trading system. The book begins with several brief chapters that outline Ottoman political history while the remainder of the book provides an overview of Ottoman institutions. The volume, which includes a map, chronology, glossary, and index, is very easy reading. It could be used as part of a case study comparing the Ottoman Empire with other imperial systems. A must read for anyone interested in history who has never ventured beyond Western Europe or Russia while in their armchair. This book will provide a very different perspective on European political/diplomatic history. 18 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Very brief and easy read: Worth it. By A Customer A small book, one volume in a larger series of studies of world civilizations published by Alfred A. Knopf. The book is sadly short and very brief; nevertheless, it is a helpful, clearly conveyed essay on the inner-workings of the Ottoman Empire, touching on its roots in Islamic traditions of government. This book is not helpful as a history: it runs through, in very general terms, the history of the Ottoman Empire only for a background understanding of what was happening on the broader scope. This book is for those that know the history pretty well and want a definite understanding of the government hierarchy, the workings of the ulema, and the meaning of the ghazi tradition. Norman Itzkowitz is a great scholar, and this study details perfectly how the Ottoman's owed their initial success to Islamic traditions, but also owed its subsequent stagnation and decay to the inherent reactionary elements of Islam. Well worth the read: unfortunately, the book covers only up to the reign of Selim III (the Inspired), and thus stops right before the reform era. This is understandable, since such an addition would probably entail doubling the size of the book; still, without a look into the last, turbulent century of the Ottomans, it feels incomplete.

This skillfully written text presents the full sweep of Ottoman history from its beginnings on the Byzantine frontier in about 1300, through its development as an empire, to its late eighteenth-century confrontation with a rapidly modernizing Europe. Itzkowitz delineates the fundamental institutions of the Ottoman state, the major divisions within the society, and the basic ideas on government and social structure. Throughout, Itzkowitz emphasizes the Ottomans' own conception of their historical experience, and in so doing penetrates the surface view provided by the insights of Western observers of the Ottoman world to the core of Ottoman existence.

About the Author Norman Itzkowitz is professor in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University. He is, with Max Mote, translator of *Mubadele: An Ottoman-Russian Exchange of Ambassadors*.