

OSMANLI ARAŒTIRMALARI
XVI

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THE JOURNAL OF OTTOMAN STUDIES
XVI

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Arnold CASSOLA *The Great Siege of Malta (1565) and the Istanbul State Archives*, 79pp, illustrations, facsimiles. Said International Ltd., 1995.

The compelling narratives of Ottoman sieges against the defensive strongholds of Christendom have long been a favourite subject of historians. Constantinople, Rhodes, Vienna - the stories of these sieges are on the shelves of specialist and non-specialist alike. Their common characteristic is that they are written largely without the benefit of the Ottoman voice. In the work under review here, Arnold Cassola attempts, for the first time in a western language, to give prominence to Ottoman archival sources concerning the siege of Malta. Himself a native of that island, his aim is to make the Maltese people more aware of the events of 430 years ago by giving substance to the side of the story which has remained unknown to all but readers of Turkish.

The most signal Turkish contributions to the history of the siege are those of Ş. Turan in his article 'Rodos'un zaptından Malta muhasarasına' in *Kanuni Armağan* (TTKY 1970) and M.Ş. Tekindağ in the article 'Malta' in *İslam Ansiklopedisi*. These rely on the major chronicles, as well as a significant number of Ottoman archival documents. Cassola's work ignores the former in favour of the latter, referring again to the archival data of Turan and Tekindağ, and others, but presenting further documents from the *Mühimme* series and devoting a significant part of his book to a register from the *Kepeci* series. This latter he claims to have himself determined to be 'the Malta Campaign register': this register was, however, used by Tekindağ when formerly classified in another archival series.

Following a preamble on the Ottoman archives for the non-specialist reader comes some mention of naval preparations for the campaign, and then a number of documents relating to the campaign are given in Ottoman facsimile and English summary. These documents are intended to illustrate various aspects of the campaign, but the criteria for inclusion seem arbitrary and detract from the story-line. Next comes the text of an Italian account of the siege by an anonymous captain who served at this engagement. It is unclear whether this has been published before, and its provenance is not given, but it is valuable as an additional contemporary account of the events of the siege.

The Malta Campaign register contains, inter alia, a section recording the progress of the Ottoman fleet from Istanbul to Malta, a section on requests for promotions and preferments by those who fought in the siege, and 31 sultanic decrees issued between March and October 1565. The fleet sailed from Istanbul on 26 Şaban 972: the harbours at which the fleet anchored en route are given, with the dates, and mention is made of certain essential activities undertaken; this

itinerary should perhaps give a more reliable chronology than has hitherto been available. So, too, the chronology of the siege and the major events during its course are noted in the register. The human costs of war are evidenced in the fate of individual soldiers, through references to injuries sustained and descriptions of acts of courage.

This is a book for western historians, introducing them for the first time to the wealth of contemporary Ottoman archival material on the siege of Malta, and is valuable as such; the author concludes that this material confirms much that is known from western sources while also providing a fuller perspective for any description of the siege. However, his choice of documents makes for an uncertain narrative and the critical eye of the historian is nowhere apparent. A number of errors will dissatisfy the Ottomanist who is better served by Turan and Tekindağ. Given that the author has no knowledge of Turkish, old or new, he is less than generous in acknowledging the he which he received from his Turkish-speaking collaborators, without whom he could not have embarked on this project and whose involvement in the translation of sections from the register which were printed in the Sunday Times of Malta (see p. 37 and References) must also have been crucial.

Caroline FINKEL

Suraiya FAROQHÎ, *Making a Living in the Ottoman Lands 1480 to 1820*, (Osmanlı Topraklarında Yaşam Mücadelesi), The Isis Press, 1995, 330 sahife.

İktisadi ve Sosyal tarih alanında birçok eseri bulunan değerli araştırmacı Suraiya Faroqhi'nin, 1480-1820 tarihleri arasında Osmanlı Anadolu'sundaki iktisadi hayat, kentler ve devletin bu yapılar üzerindeki etkisi gibi konulara değinen on üç makalesi biraraya getirilerek, Isis tarafından bir kitap halinde yayınlanmıştır.

Eserin önsöz kısmında Faroqhi, kitapta toplanan tüm makalelerin; yiyecek kıtlıkları, sefere çıkan ordunun istekleri ve hergün meydana gelen isyanların olduğu zor bir dünyada, insanların hayatta kalma mücadelelerini ilgilendiren ortak bir paylaşım konusunu içerdiğini belirterek, temel ilgisinin şehirlerin ve kırsal kesimin orta sınıfındaki tüccarları, düşük seviyedeki memurları ve zanaatkarları içine aldığını söyler. Önsöz kısmında ayrıca, kitapta yer alan makalelerin konularına göre gruplandırılması yapılarak, hangi bilgileri içine aldıkları izah edilir.