



Artisans of Empire: Crafts and Craftspeople Under the Ottomans (Library of Ottoman Studies)

By Suraiya Faroqhi

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The manufacture and trade in crafted goods and the men and women who were involved in this industry--including metalworkers, ceramicists, silk weavers, fez-makers, blacksmiths and even barbers--lay at the social as well as the economic heart of the Ottoman empire. This comprehensive history by leading Ottoman historian Suraiya Faroqhi presents the definitive view of the subject, from the production and distribution of different craft objects to their use and enjoyment within the community.

Succinct yet comprehensive, *Artisans of Empire* analyzes the production and trade of crafts from the beginning of the sixteenth century to the early twentieth century, focusing on its history, politics and culture. Production methods, the organization of trade guilds, religious differences, the contribution of women and the structure of the Ottoman economy all come under scrutiny in this wide-ranging history that combines keen analysis with descriptions of the beautiful and sometimes unknown works of Ottoman artisans. Faroqhi sheds new light on all aspects of artisan life, setting the concerns of individual craftsmen within the context of the broader cultural themes that connect them to the wider world. Combining social, cultural, economic, religious and historiographical insights, this will be the authoritative work on Ottoman artisans and guilds for many years to come.

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Artisans of Empire: Crafts and Craftspeople Under the Ottomans (Library of Ottoman Studies) By Suraiya Faroqhi Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #5342975 in Books
- Brand: Brand: I. B. Tauris
- Published on: 2009-07-15
- Released on: 2009-08-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.53" h x 1.04" w x 6.41" l, 1.20 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 272 pages

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Review

""A display of unrivalled knowledge of the sources by one of the leading historians of the Ottoman Empire."" -- Erik J. Zürcher, Professor of Turkish Studies at the University of Leiden

""A real pleasure...the main line of the argument is entirely convincing. *Artisans of Empire* is learned and informative, written with evident mastery of lots of empirical material."" -- Marcel van der Linden, Research Director of the International Institute of Social History, University of Amsterdam

About the Author

Suraiya Faroqhi is Professor of Ottoman Studies at the Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, and the author of *The Ottoman Empire and the World Around It*, *Pilgrims and Sultans* and *Subjects of the Sultan* (all published by I.B.Tauris).

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