

## **Book Summary**

### **The Last Ottoman Wars: The Human Cost, 1877-1923**

Jeremy Salt's *The Last Ottoman Wars: The Human Cost, 1877-1923*, examines the human cost of the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. This important volume surveys the processes of partitioning and the collapse of the Ottoman state within the context of the wars, deportations and massacres in the period. Salt describes the extent of human suffering indigenous Muslims experienced as they were forced out of their ancestral homes. This comprehensive volume also deals with the causes and the consequences of the Armenian relocation process. This is the most encompassing balanced study about the effects of the death of the Ottoman Empire on the constituencies in their respective homelands.

Salt's work sets a frame to humanize the war by shifting the attention from the battlefield tactics of armies to the societal implications by examining the impacts of combat actions on the relations of the communities affected by the ultimate collapse of the empire. During the last half century of the empire's existence, the Ottoman borders shifted continuously and the major European powers systematically sought to destroy the empire by establishing new states and encouraging them to become homogenized in their populations. Ottoman civilians paid the heaviest price as a result of the destruction of the empire and their centuries-old tradition of stable coexistence was destroyed as they became refugees in their once ancestral lands and had to cope with uncertain futures about the identity of their homelands.

For more information:

[uofupress.lib.utah.edu/the-last-ottoman-wars](http://uofupress.lib.utah.edu/the-last-ottoman-wars)