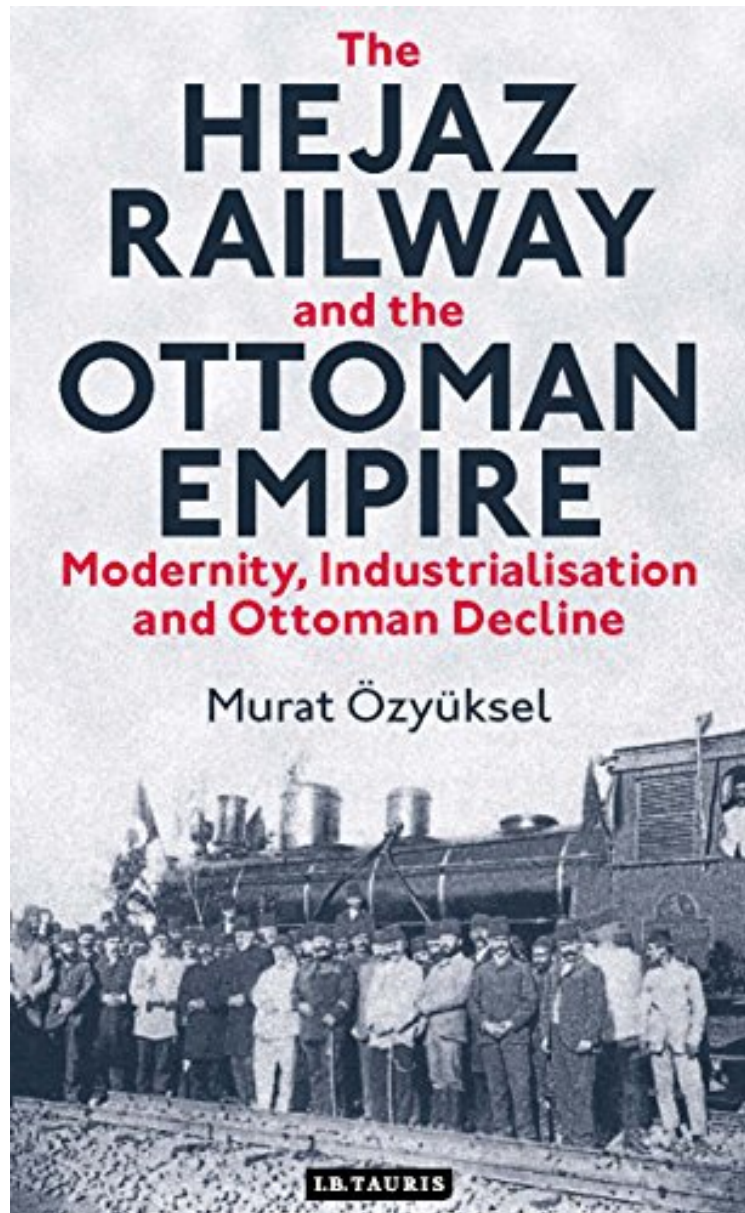


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Hejaz Railway and the Ottoman Empire, The: Modernity, Industrialisation and Ottoman Decline (Library of Ottoman Studies)

Murat Ouml;zyuuml;ksel

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worth my time, and all praised Hejaz Railway and the Ottoman Empire, The: Modernity, Industrialisation and Ottoman Decline (Library of Ottoman Studies):

Railway expansion was symbolic of modernization in the late 19th century, and Britain, Germany and France built railways at enormous speed and reaped great commercial benefits. In the Middle East, railways were no less important and the Ottoman Empire's Hejaz Railway was the first great industrial project of the 20th century. A route running from Damascus to Mecca, it was longer than the line from Berlin to Baghdad and was designed to function as the artery of the Arab world - linking Constantinople to Arabia. Built by German engineers, and instituted by Sultan Abdul Hamid II, the railway was financially crippling for the Ottoman state and the its eventual stoppage 250 miles short of Mecca (the railway ended in Medina) was symbolic of the Ottoman Empire's crumbling economic and diplomatic fortunes. This is the first book in English on the subject, and is essential reading for those interested in Industrial History, Ottoman Studies and the geopolitics of the Middle East before World War I.

'In this book, Murat Ozyuksel has analysed the role of the Hejaz Railway, using German and other European sources, but most prominently Ottoman archival materials. While earlier studies of railroads constructed in the sultans' domains often de-emphasized the Ottoman perspective, this study makes a novel contribution: reviewing the troubled history of the Hejaz Railroad, the author focuses on the political and military aims of Sultan Abdulhamid II, who pushed the project through in spite of the limited financial and economic benefits to be expected from the Hejaz line. Murat Ozyuksel's careful analysis of the sultan-caliph's projects and the impossibilities that often prevented their implementation makes his book a notable contribution to the growing number of historical studies concerning the Ottoman Empire during its final decades.' Surai ya Faroqhi , Professor of History, Istanbul Bilgi University. 'In this splendid study, Murat Ozyuksel places the history of the Hejaz Railroad, an effort by the Ottoman sultan to modernize and unify his empire, in the broader context of international history as well as the struggles among Muslim peoples of the Ottoman realm. This ambitious project ultimately failed, not because of Ottoman financial weakness, but because of Arab resistance and British and French opposition to extend the iron road of Ottoman power into the reaches of the Middle East. With a firm base in the Ottoman archives, and his deep knowledge of railroad construction, social, and political history, Ozyuksel demonstrates that however "sick" Europeans may have imagined the Ottoman Empire, its rulers were determined to survive in a hostile world.' Ronald Grigor Suny Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of Social and Political History, The University of Michigan. About the Author Murat Ozyuksel is Professor of History and Political Science at Istanbul University, Turkey.