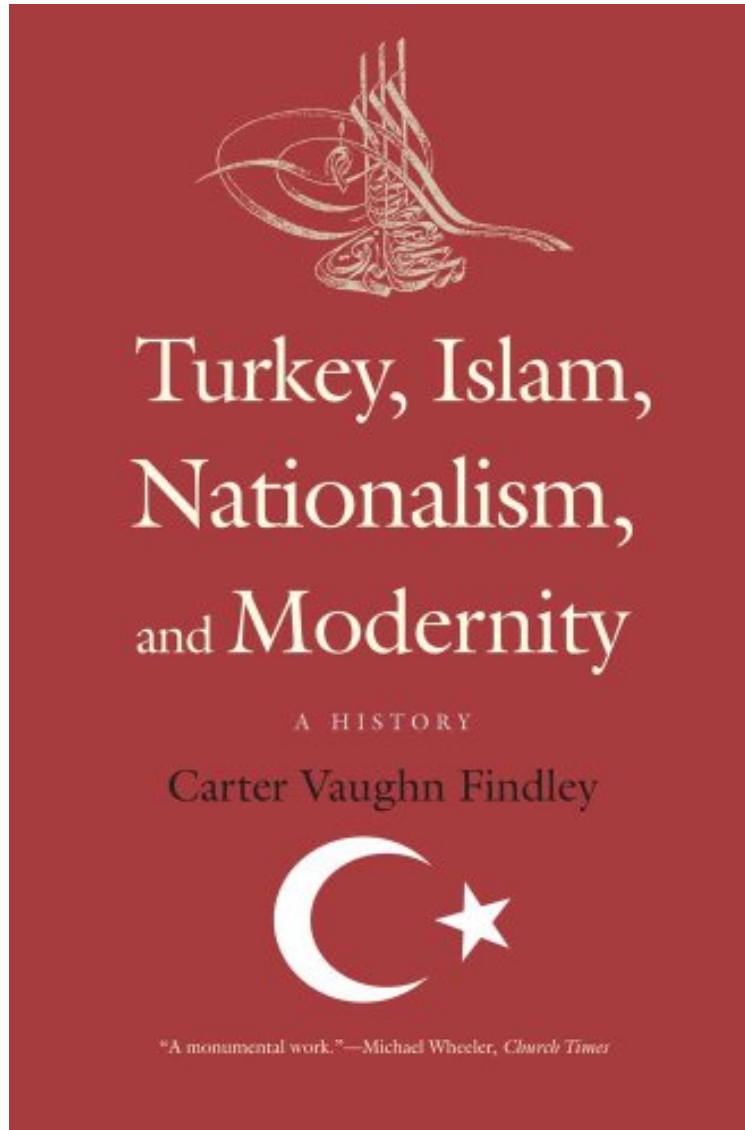


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# Turkey, Islam, Nationalism, and Modernity: A History

*Carter Vaughn Findley*

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sorensonCarter Findley is one of the best scholars of Turkey in the U.S., and this is his masterpiece. Findley understands well how the dynamics of Turkish history formed modern Turkey, and his challenging of the "sick man of Europe" orientalist vision of Turkey is particularly thoughtful. If you have time for only one book to gain a insightful understanding of Turkey to the present, this should be it.

Turkey, Islam, Nationalism, and Modernity reveals the historical dynamics propelling two centuries of Ottoman and Turkish history. As mounting threats to imperial survival necessitated dynamic responses, ethnolinguistic and religious identities inspired alternative strategies for engaging with modernity. A radical, secularizing current of change competed with a conservative, Islamically committed current. Crises sharpened the differentiation of the two currents, forcing choices between them. The radical current began with the formation of reformist governmental elites and expanded with the advent of print capitalism, symbolized by the privately owned, Ottoman-language newspapers. The radicals engineered the 1908 Young Turk revolution, ruled empire and republic until 1950, made secularism a lasting belief system, and still retain powerful positions. The conservative current gained impetus from three history-making Islamic renewal movements, those of Mevlana Halid, Said Nursi, and Fethullah Glen. Powerful under the empire, Islamic conservatives did not regain control of government until the 1980s. By then they, too, had their own influential media. Findley's reassessment of political, economic, social, and cultural history reveals the dialectical interaction between radical and conservative currents of change, which alternately clashed and converged to shape late Ottoman and republican Turkish history.

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