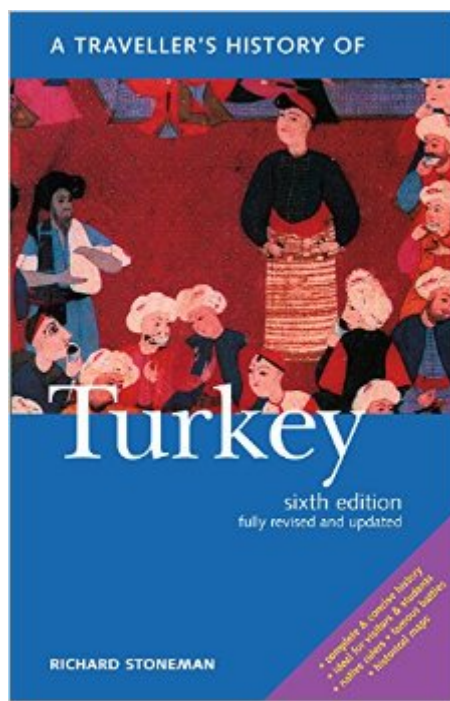


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A Traveller's History Of Turkey



Synopsis

Throughout the millennia Turkey formed the core of several Empires--Persia, Rome, Byzantium--before becoming the center of the Ottoman Empire. All these civilizations have left their marks on the landscape, architecture and art of Turkey--a place of fascinating overlapping cultures. *A Traveller's History of Turkey* offers a concise and readable account of the region from prehistory right up to the present day. It covers everything from the legendary Flood of Noah, the early civilization of Catal Huyuk seven thousand years before Christ, through the treasures of Troy, Alexander the Great, the Romans, Seljuks, Byzantines and the Golden Age of the Sultans, to the twentieth century's great changes wrought by Kemal Ataturk and the strong position Turkey now holds in the world community.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This "traveler's history" is more focused on history than on travel, which suits me just fine because I am a history buff and partial to UNESCO sites. The land Turkey covers now not only has a long history but it's at the center of western history. This 200 plus pages book is only a summary of major events from the Neolithic period to the modern time. But it did provide an excellent "Historical Gazetteer" that gives a brief description of favorite tourist stops. And the maps are very helpful. I am giving this book 4 stars because I wish it had gone into more cultural details about the famous sites. Ancient civilizations all seem to start around rivers such as the Nile, the Yellow River, the Indus River, and the Tigris and Euphrates. Rivers in Anatolia flow in all directions, west towards the Aegean Sea, north towards the Black Sea, and south towards the

Mediterranean Sea. No wonder people settled there early and stayed. Wave after wave of immigrants and conquerors left their marks. The triumphs and heartbreaks of each wave combined to create a rich culture. And the many layers of history made this region so fascinating. It's of interest to those who seek prehistory, who prefer antiquities, who favor medieval ruins, and who thinks the world begins after WWII. It's also part familiar Europeans and part exotic Orient because it is part Greek and part Roman, part pagan and part Christian, part Hittite and part 20th century, and part secular and part Islam. The history of the Anatolia was so rich and so many great men impacted the region, from Hattusili to Supiluliuma, from Priam to Darius, from Julius Caesar to Constantine, only Alexander the Great and Suleyman the Magnificent earned more than a mere mention and a few pages in this review.

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