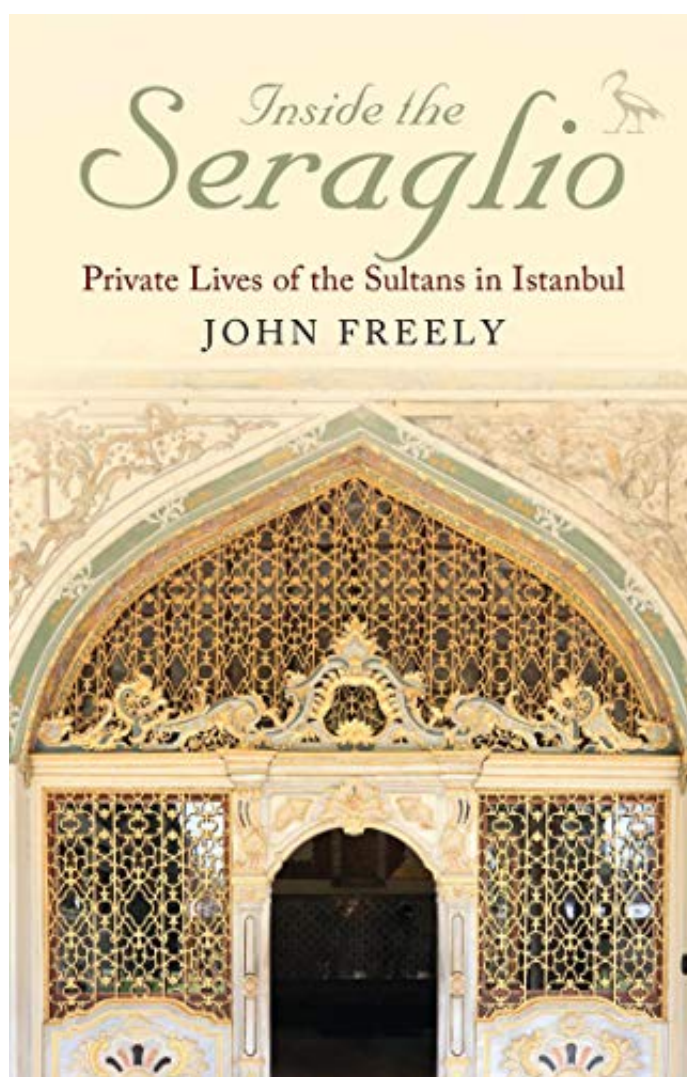


# Inside the Seraglio: Private Lives of the Sultans in Istanbul (International Library of Historical Studies)

by  
John Freely



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## Synopsis

This is the story of the House of Osman, the imperial dynasty that ruled the Ottoman Empire for more than seven centuries, an empire that once stretched from central Europe to North Africa and from Persia to the Adriatic. The capital of this empire was Istanbul, ancient Byzantium, a city that stands astride Europe and Asia on the Bosphorus. And it was in the great palace of Topkapi Sarayi that the sultans of this empire ruled. Inside the Seraglio - a classic of Ottoman history - takes us behind the gilded doors of the Topkapi and into the heart of the palace: the harem, where the sultan would surround himself with his wives, concubines, eunuchs, pages, dwarfs and mutes and where all the tempestuous events of empire were so often played out. This is the history of a remarkable palace in all its colour and opulence and the story of its influence on a great empire.









































## What people say about this book

Robert Widdowson, "Great book. If you are interested in learning useful .... Great book. If you are interested in learning useful information about Constantinople/Istanbul, then read anything by John Freely. He's lived in Istanbul many years, has written extensively about the city, its history, culture, and society and writes very clear prose. When you read his books you actually understand what he's saying and acquire knowledge. He's a very good, reliable guide. He also wrote a wonderful book about walking tours of modern Istanbul which is anything but pedestrian (ha ha, get it? Walking tours...pedestrian? Sorry, I couldn't resist). He writes like a novelist when he describes the buildings, neighbourhoods, and traditions. It's clear that Freely admires the city, but he doesn't just give you a starry-eyed account of the growing metropolis. He includes warts and all. Although I've never visited Istanbul, I feel that I have, since reading Freely's books. What higher praise can you give such a writer?"

L. Sabin, "Great Stories of the Ottoman Imperial Court. This fascinating book summarizes the court life of the Ottoman sultans in Istanbul. It begins with a few short passages on the founding of the dynasty in the 13th Century, but the most intriguing stories begin after the fall of Constantinople in 1453 and the Ottoman takeover of the city. John Freely writes in a clear and concise manner that makes what could be complex material simpler to read. And the characters, from the royal courtiers to the concubines to the sultans themselves are all portrayed with fascinating insight. The text is illustrated throughout by some beautiful prints and sketches as well. This is a great book about the inner workings of the court life of the Ottoman dynasty, and will likely whet the reader's appetite to do delve more deeply into the subject."

Ebook Tops Reader, "Interesting historical account of Ottoman Sultans. The well known author John Freely presents an interesting account of the characters of the Ottoman Sultans. Nevertheless, this is a sensitive subject in the Balkans and Anatolia and the account given of the Sultans' vices is not totally convincing, if the inquisitive reader looks deeper into other historical sources, as author keeps a safe distance from any derogatory pieces of information on iconic Sultans like Mehmet II, Selim I, and Suleiman I. On the other hand, the text is well written and the illustrations very attractive making the book thoroughly enjoyable."

PenWin, "Highly recommended history. I liked this book, it takes a unique approach to telling the history of the Ottoman Empire with a focus on the sultans rather than politics, great battles or other socio economic concerns. highly recommend it!"

Thinking, "wonderful history of the Ottoman Sultans. halfway through this book and cannot put it down."

Jane Krayesky, "Great job on a used paperback.. This used book looked like it had never been

opened. In excellent condition. Exactly the volume I wanted.”

JB, “Five Stars. great”

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