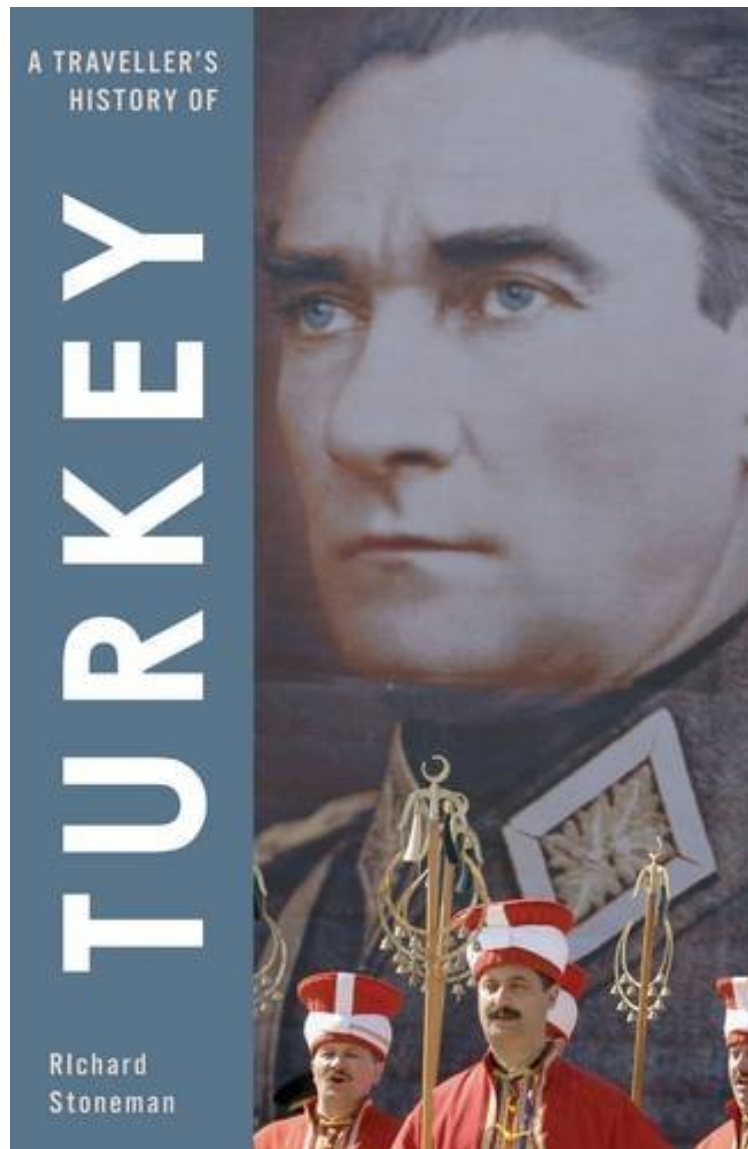


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## Traveller's History of Turkey

*Richard Stoneman*

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**Richard Stoneman : Traveller's History of Turkey** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Traveller's History of Turkey:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Decent ReadBy Ray TThis is a book for travelers who would like to know about what they are going to see and how to put it into context. As a result, they condense a ton of material into a fairly short and readable book. When I go to Turkey I will be mostly interested in the ancient (Hittite, Lydian), Byzantine and Ottoman empires, but can certainly appreciate the info on modern Turkey and how it came to occupy

the position it has in the middle east and world in general. Overall, a quick read that provides mostly decent information. The author tries (does he succeed?- who knows) to "tell it like it is" and is both condemning of the Turks at times and admires them at others. The book gets 4 stars because at times they will bring up a name or city from 5 pages ago that was only mentioned once, so a bit hard to track. A few times, they made references to things I don't think were previously explained. To a certain extent they could rectify this, but it would also make the book longer and didn't detract from the bulk of information. I have no wish to be an expert on the history of Turkey but feel much better prepared for my trip. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Great history lesson. By Avid Reader Terrific concise history for people traveling to that part of the world. Considering there is 5000 years of history to tell - Stoneman does a wonderful job giving you enough detail to feel knowledgeable without being burdened. Highly recommend it to anyone interested in a quick history lesson. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. For potential travelers to Turkey: a 2010 review of the 2006 edition By marcopolo (Note: This book has gone thru several editions, 2006 being the most recent. Thus, only one of the previous seven reviews --- the 2008 one [all the others are from the 1990s] --- is really pertinent for anyone currently considering a purchase). The first year mentioned in the book is 500,000BC. The last is 2005AD. That's a lot of time to cover in only 247 pages (including indices). Hence, some of it is about as interesting as a biblical begat: "Anitta of Kussara founded the Hittite kingdom, destroying Hattus and tranfering his capital to Kanesh, which now became known as Nesha.... Laberna moved the capital back to Hattus --- now to be called Hattuse or Hattusas --- and took the name Hattusili" and so on. There's specific mention in the text of practically all 37 of the Ottoman sultans, including (but not limited to) 4 Mustafas; 6 Mehmeds; 5 Murats; Bayezit the Thunderbolt; Ibraheim the Mad; and, of course, Suleyman the Magnificent. An 9-page appendix provides the names, dates, and dynasties of almost 200 rulers of all or parts of what is now Turkey from the early 18th century BC onward (but not including the Persians and the Romans, although several of them do show up in the text). Another appendix (8 pages) is a chronology of major events from 8000BC until the above-referenced 2005 (the event that year being currency reform). Yet another appendix (again 9 pages) is an historical gazetteer beginning with Aezani (the site of the best preserved Roman temple) and ending with Zongudak (the Anatolian equivalent of Port Talbot). Truly mind-boggling. Also dry as a desert. One curiosity deserving comment is the noticeable revision of several pages of the text where the type and the space between lines have obviously been altered. Pages 165 and 183 are very obvious (and a couple of others are suspicious). Since the subject matter on 165 is the Armenian genocide and on 183 an introduction to Turkey since 1939 the changes are perhaps for political purposes. It would be interesting to see the pre-alteration texts. Maybe they are what so riled a couple of the book's reviewers from the 90s decade. In any case, if you want to become a scholar of Turkey, this book is probably a good first step toward your goal. On the other hand, if you're just an ordinary tourist/traveler, the history chapters should suffice in Steves or Cadogan or Lonely Planet or whatever other guidebook you choose. Bon voyage.

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. "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.

From Library Journal Stoneman gives a spare but lively overview of the country that stands as the historic meeting place of East and West. He concisely reviews Turkey's past history, from prehistoric Anatolia, the Hittite age, the Persian conquest, the rule of Alexander the Great, the impact of Rome, the Byzantine and Ottoman empires, and the Ataturk years, to modern-day Turkey. The book helps the visitor make sense of the country against the background of its diverse heritage. Appended are a chronology of major events and battles; a list of native rulers; recommended further reading; and a gazetteer, which is cross-referenced to the main text and highlights sites, towns, and places of historical significance. Illustrated with maps and line drawings, this will be a valuable companion for visitors seeking to learn about this fascinating country. Recommended for general collections. - Susan Fifer Canby, National Geographic Soc. Lib., Washington, D.C. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. Ideal before-you-go reading The Daily Telegraph "...a series which is invaluable. Whether you're travelling or not." Guardian "One of an excellent series of brief histories" The New York Times About the Author Richard Stoneman is also the author of A Traveller's History of Athens.