

Lessons of the Late Ottoman Frontier

Chris Gratien

Abstract

The political and economic changes of the 19th century ushered in significant social and environmental transformation in rural spaces of the empire's provinces with lasting consequences for post-Ottoman nation-states. While each region experienced these transformations according to its local particularities, it is possible to study a shared experience of the late Ottoman frontier. Drawing on my recent monograph *The Unsettled Plain*, which examined the Çukurova region of Southern Anatolia as an archetype of this frontier experience, this talk identifies questions for further inquiry into the history of late Ottoman environments and their legacies for the modern world.

Bio (Charlottesville)

Chris Gratien is Assistant Professor of History at University of Virginia, where he offers courses on global environmental history and the modern Middle East. His recent monograph, *The Unsettled Plain: An Environmental History of the Late Ottoman Frontier*, explores the transformation of rural society in the Çukurova region of Southern Anatolia between the 1850s and the 1950s. Chris is also co-creator of the Ottoman History Podcast, an interview radio program that since 2011 has featured hundreds of contributors who study the Ottoman Empire, the modern Middle East, and the broader Islamic world.