

Unveiling the Diplomatic Landscape: The Ottoman Empire, Russia, and International Law

Delving into the History and Theory of International Relations

The relationship between the Ottoman Empire and Russia stands as a testament to the complex interplay between international law, diplomacy, and power dynamics. Spanning centuries of interaction, from the 16th to the early 20th century, these two empires engaged in a continuous dialogue that shaped the geopolitical landscape of Eurasia. This article embarks on a journey into the rich history and theory of international law that governed their relationship, unraveling the intricate web of treaties, legal principles, and the impact on the global stage.



From Slaves to Prisoners of War: The Ottoman Empire, Russia, and International Law (The History and Theory of International Law) by Chuck Jackson

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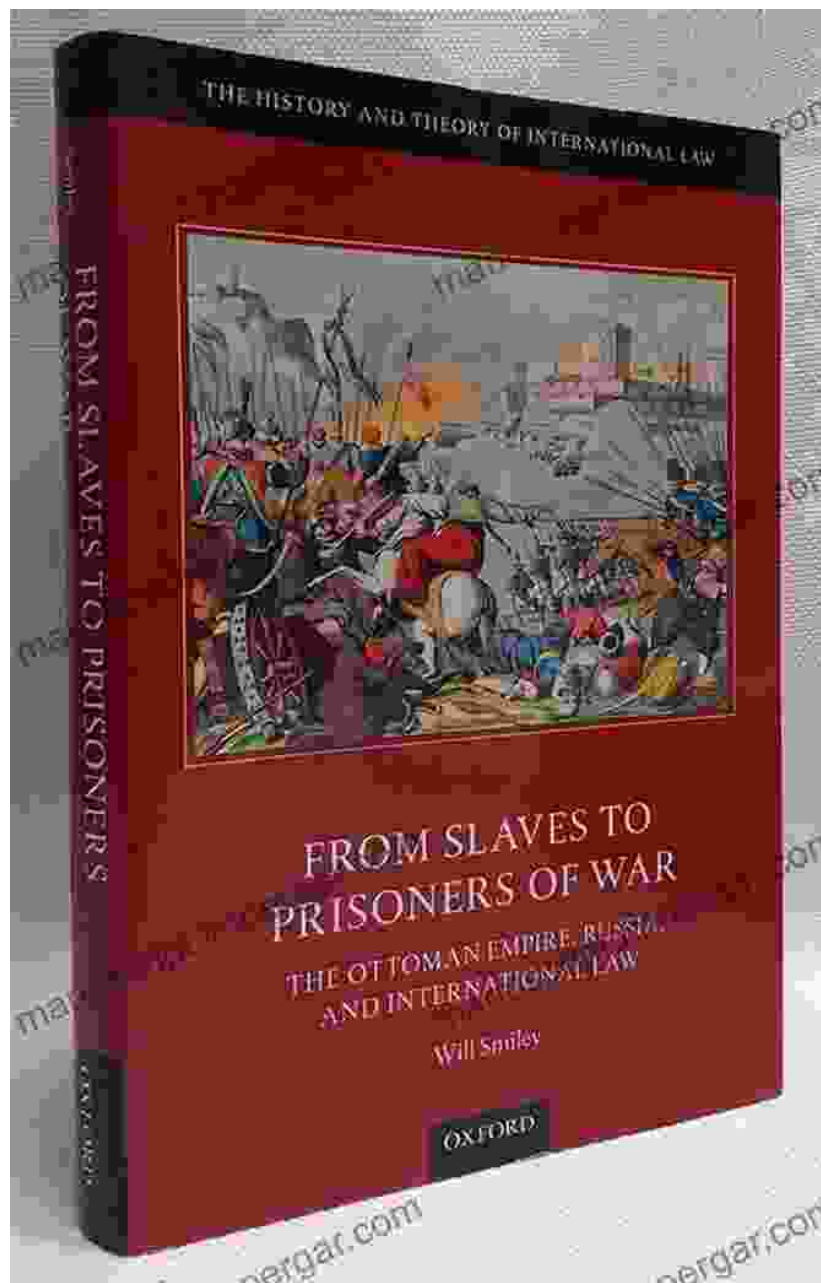
The Seeds of Diplomatic Relations: From the Treaty of Kuchuk-Kainarji to the Treaty of Paris

The Treaty of Kuchuk-Kainarji (1774) marked a watershed moment in Ottoman-Russian relations, establishing the legal framework for their future interactions. This treaty granted Russia significant concessions, including the right to protect Orthodox Christians within the Ottoman Empire and the establishment of a Russian consulate in Constantinople. The Treaty of Paris (1856), which concluded the Crimean War, further solidified Russia's position as a major player in the region.



The Crimean War: A Clash of Empires and the Rise of Pan-Slavism

The Crimean War (1853-1856) erupted as a clash between the Ottoman Empire, supported by France and Great Britain, and Russia. This conflict highlighted the growing influence of Pan-Slavism, a movement that sought to unite all Slavic peoples under Russian leadership. The war ended with the Treaty of Paris, which reaffirmed the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire and established the principle of collective security among European powers.



The Congress of Berlin: Redefining the Balkan Landscape

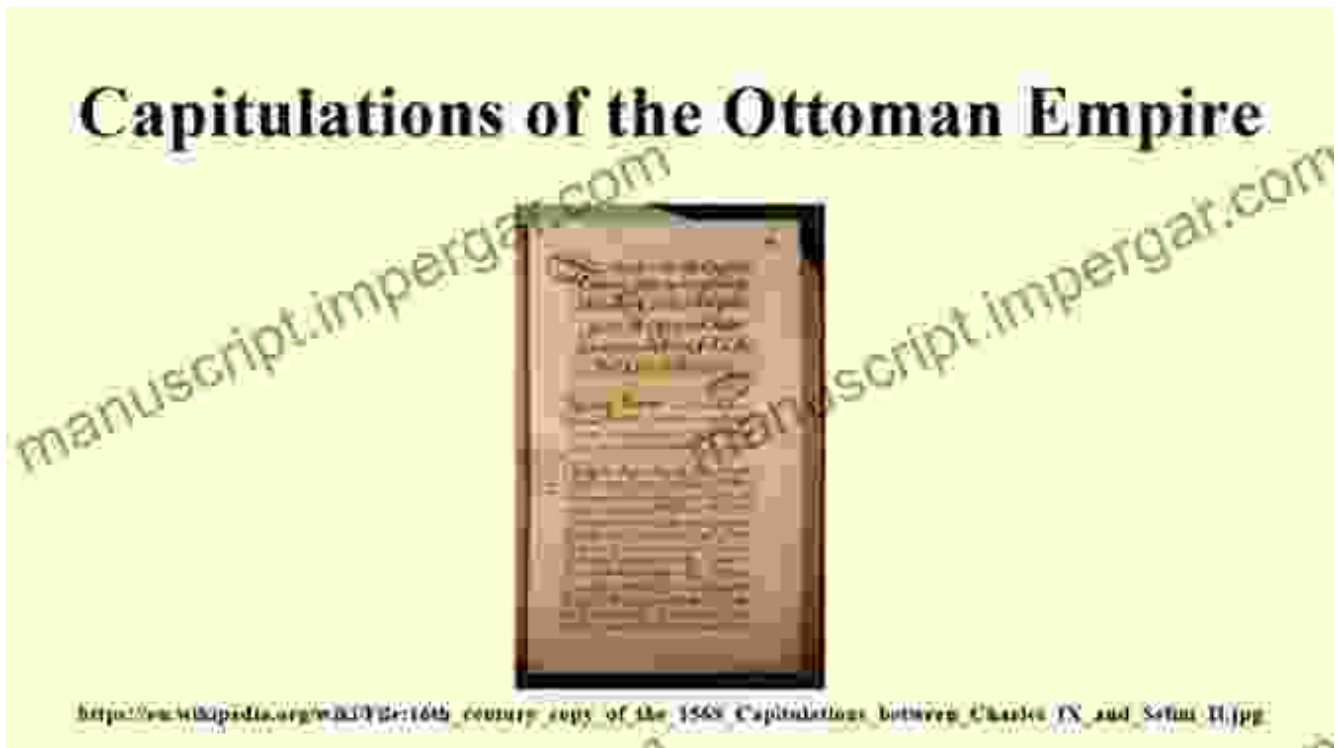
The Congress of Berlin (1878) convened in the aftermath of the Russo-Turkish War (1877-1878), which resulted in significant territorial losses for the Ottoman Empire. The Congress redrew the map of the Balkans, creating new independent states and reducing Ottoman influence in the region. The Congress also established the principle of self-determination for Balkan peoples, a concept that would have far-reaching consequences in the 20th century.



Capitulations: Extraterritorial Rights and the Erosion of Ottoman Sovereignty

Capitulations were a system of extraterritorial rights granted by the Ottoman Empire to foreign powers. These rights allowed foreign citizens and merchants to be subject to their own laws and consular jurisdiction within Ottoman territory. While initially intended to facilitate trade,

capitulations gradually eroded Ottoman sovereignty and became a source of tension between the empire and European powers.



The Decline of the Ottoman Empire and the Emergence of the Soviet Union

The late 19th and early 20th centuries witnessed the decline of the Ottoman Empire and the rise of the Soviet Union. The Balkan Wars (1912-1913) further weakened the empire, leading to the loss of its remaining European territories. The Russian Revolution (1917) brought the Bolsheviks to power and ushered in a new era of Soviet foreign policy.



: The Legacy of Ottoman-Russian Relations

The relationship between the Ottoman Empire and Russia has left an enduring legacy on the development of international law and diplomacy. The treaties, legal principles, and power dynamics that shaped their interactions continue to resonate in contemporary international relations. This historical analysis provides invaluable insights into the complexities of

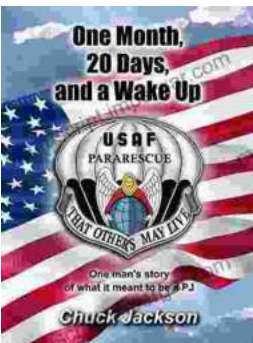
interstate relations, the role of law in shaping diplomatic interactions, and the enduring impact of empires on the global stage.



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