

**H. İNALCIK, *Studies in the History of Textiles in Turkey*,  
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This impressive book, a collection of studies with a fine selection of accompanying photographs, interviews and historical documents, including those compiled and transcribed from Ottoman registers, is the product of more than half a century of archival and scholarly research, thought and writing by the doyen of Turkish economic historians Halil İnalçık. It was first published in Turkish by Türkiye İş Bankası in 2008.

It is divided into 6 chapters which contains a total of 30 sections-articles and in the *addendum* an important overview of Ottoman economic and currency history is given. The chapters are entitled: *The trade of carpets and similar textiles* (18-57); *Cotton cloth textiles and their trade* (60-135); *The modernization of the Turkish cotton textile industry* (138-173); *Silk and silk cloth trade in history the roads and the cities* (176-197); *The silk cloth industry in Europe* (200-233); *Silk fabric* (236-255). The breadth and depth of these chapters is remarkable, for example Chapter 5 concerning the silk cloth industry in Europe has 6 sections: 1, Italian silk cloth import and industry; 2, The silk road from Tabriz to Bursa and the Genovese; 3. Tabriz-Bursa: Northern Anatolia Silk Road; 4. The Tabriz-Aleppo transit road; 5, Silk and Ottoman/Persian political and economic rivalry; 6. World silk trade 1450-1630.

From the trade in textiles passing through the III<sup>rd</sup> and II<sup>nd</sup> millennium B.C. Assyrian trading stations established in Anatolia, including trade in Anatolian red dyed local woollen cloth, as well as imported cloth from Babylon, through to the state of the Turkish textile manufacturing industry in first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century A.D., this collection of scholarly articles provides us with documented evidence of the importance of both the trade in, passage through, and the manufacturing of textiles in Anatolia and in the wider region and of the importance of this business of looms, yarn and of cloth production within both the wider region, and for the revenue and economies of the states and nations of Eurasia over the past 5,000 years and it records the variety of land and sea routes the transport of textiles has passed along, through Central Asia and Anatolia along the various silk roads, with the exchange of Chinese silk for Turkish bred horses in Central Asia in late antiquity, down to the air freight just in time deliveries of today.

Carpets and flat-weaves, *kilims*, felts and velvets, silks and silk and cotton mixes, cottons and linens, wools, mohair, camel hair, denims and damask, embroidered, patterned or plain, textiles remain, as textiles have done throughout their history, with their enormous range from

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the plain and functional to the richly luxurious, including today the weaving of modern synthetic fabrics, a global and valued and important marker of social status and of wealth; as well as employing considerable numbers of people weaving, cutting, dyeing and stitching, even today with modern manufacturing methods including computer aided looms, and in related dye production, transport, marketing and sales.

Textiles are today a major international multi-billion dollar business, generating monetary flows from consumer to producer, from nation to nation, and as these studies ably document, the trade in yarns and finished textiles has impacted to some considerable degree upon the world economy over the past two millennium, with complaints raised by Roman senators concerned about the flow of bullion from Rome to China for silks in the first century A.D.; the embargo imposed by the Ottoman Sultan Selim I on the transport of silk from Safavid Iran through Ottoman territory to reach Ottoman and European markets and an embargo on the trade in silk in Ottoman territory in 1514 as part of the warfare between Ottoman and Safavid, which also impacted upon textile production in Ottoman territory (p. 225); the subsequent Safavid attempt under Shah Abbas I to circumvent passage through Ottoman territory, thereby reducing Ottoman tax revenue (p. 227); or the sumptuary laws passed by numerous states throughout history in the attempt to prevent the flow of vast sums of money beyond state and national borders to pay for imported luxury textiles, including that passed in the XVIII<sup>th</sup> c. by the Ottomans on the wearing of imported Indian textiles and requiring instead the wearing of sashes of local manufacture (p. 95).

Containing an extensive 21 page *Bibliography* (325-359), hardbound on fine quality paper, with 94 selected colour plates and photographs by Hadiye Cangökçe and 4 maps, this volume in the Türkiye İş Bankası, Kültür Yayınları is both an important volume and very well produced. It is unfortunately the case for the reader of this translation into English however that there are numbers of typos in the text, eg. '1541' (p. 227) should read 1514, and other unresolved copy editing matters, eg. on page 314 one reads: "*Either Fixer pricing or Fixing prices are fixed pricing and witerventinism the something 16 so the verb needs to be 'was' interventionism were only used in fields that directly affected the army and people, without the merchants being involved*" (İnalçık, 1969).