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### Suleyman the Magnificent and the Ottoman Empire

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Greenblatt, Miriam. *Suleyman the Magnificent and the Ottoman Empire*. Benchmark Books, 2002. ISBN 176141891. \$28.50. 80 pp.

Reviewer: Donna Cardon

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: nonfiction;

Subject: Rulers—Juvenile literature; Turkey—History—Juvenile literature; Turkey--History--Süleyman I, 1520-1566--Juvenile literature; Books—Reviews;

There are few biographies for children about historical Muslim figures. This biography of one of the greatest Ottoman Sultans is a great choice to balance a collection. The book is divided into three sections. The first, "Lord of the Age" is a succinct chronological biography of Suleyman himself. It contains short sections on his childhood, his various military and political achievements, and his final demise. The second section explains aspects of "Everyday Life in the Ottoman Empire." It covers topics such as religious beliefs, housing, and food. Part three, "The Ottoman Turks in Their Own Words," contains translated excerpts from primary sources. Greenblatt finishes off the volume with a glossary, further reading, bibliography, endnotes, and an index.

Greenblatt writes this engaging biography with clear and fluid prose. The text is enhanced with colorful photographs of artwork roughly contemporary to the Ottoman time period. The choices of topics within the second and third sections are likely to interest children. The study aids at the end of the volume are a little weak. For instance, there are only three books listed under the "Further Reading" heading and the "Notes" refer back to specific pages, but to no particular part of the text on that page. Despite these minor shortcomings, this is an excellent introduction to the underrepresented topic of the Ottoman Empire.