



Russian military map illustrating the distribution of Kurds, Armenians, Yezidis, Alevs, and Assyrians across the Ottoman, Iranian, and Russian empires, circa 1896.

EMPIRE OF QUESTIONS: THE LATE OTTOMAN EMPIRE AND DERSIM '38

The Western view of the late Ottoman Empire as the “Eastern Question” spawned interconnected issues tied to the racialization of ethnic and religious groups within the empire. The historical Albanian, Armenian, Jewish, Macedonian, Bulgarian, and Greek questions, alongside contemporary conflicts such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Kurdish issue spanning Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria, and the Berber question in North Africa, all find their origins in the legacy of the Eastern Question and the global context that shaped it. This lecture explores these intricate dynamics through the case of the Dersim region in Eastern Anatolia, where Armenian, Kurdish, and Kizilbash questions converged and clashed with the Ottoman and Turkish state formation. Join us as we examine the emergence of various groups as “questions” within the overarching Eastern Question and trace their subsequent solutions through various means of coerced homogenization in the global context of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century racial thinking.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024 | 6:00 PM PT

HYBRID: BUNCHE HALL, ROOM 10383 & ZOOM
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