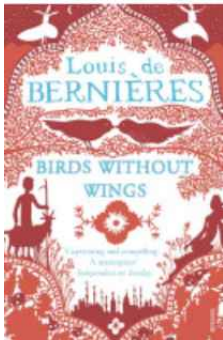
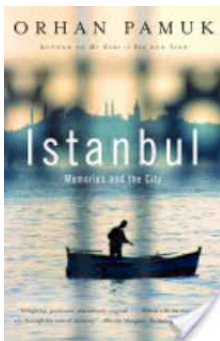


## Recommended Reading List - specially compiled by Sea Song



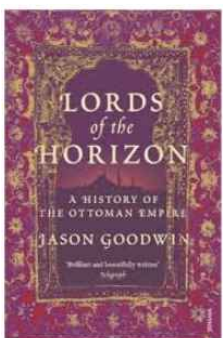
### **Birds without Wings** by Louis de Bernieres

With a village in southwest Turkey as a microcosm, de Bernieres (Captain Corelli's Mandolin) offers an impressive view of this region during the early twentieth century, a tumultuous period marking the end of the Ottoman Empire and the birth of the Turkish republic. World events intervene in village life, conscripting the men, removing the Armenians, and finally relocating people solely on the basis of religion, tearing apart communities as Christians are sent to Greece and Muslims to Turkey. The true story of Mustafa Kemal, military genius and Turkey's first president, is interwoven with intimate stories, creating a wonderfully rich and timely epic.



### **Istanbul: Memories and the City** by Orhan Pamuk

Turkish novelist Pamuk (Snow) presents a breathtaking portrait of a city, an elegy for a dead civilization and a meditation on life's complicated intimacies. The author, born in 1952 into a rapidly fading bourgeois family in Istanbul, spins a masterful tale, moving from his fractured extended family, all living in a communal apartment building, out into the city and encompassing the entire Ottoman Empire. Throughout, Pamuk details the breakdown of his family: elders die, his parents fight and grow apart, and he must find his way in the world. This is a powerful, sometimes disturbing literary journey through the soul of a great city told by one of its great writers.



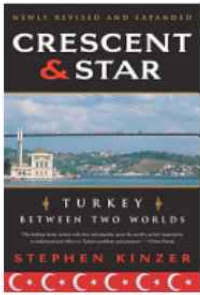
### **Lord of the Horizons** by Jason Goodwin

Perhaps the most readable history ever written on anything, Jason Goodwin's Lord of the Horizons (1998) brilliantly recounts the rise of the house of Osman from a "dusty beylik in the foothills of Anatolia" at the "crumbling ledge of Byzantine power", to a vast Ottoman Empire spanning three continents and many seas. Goodwin's book reads like a whirlwind tour through the Grand Bazaar of Ottoman history, with revelations at every stop and treasure glittering from behind every corner.



### **Constantinople: City of the World's Desire** by Philip Mansel

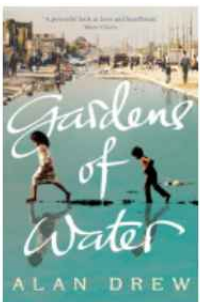
For more on the city itself Philip Mansel's Constantinople: City of the World's Desire charts the glorious history of Istanbul under Ottoman rule. It is also the story of the royal dynasty's "love affair" with the city, which began well before the 1453 conquest and continued until the empire's collapse.



## **Crescent and Star: Turkey Between Two Worlds**

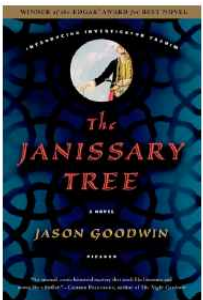
by Stephen Kinzer

Crescent and Star (2001) is the best primer on modern Turkey available in English. The culmination of four years spent as Istanbul bureau chief for The New York Times, it is an often-frustrated but always-hopeful analysis of Turkey's past, present and future by someone who came to know, and love, the Turkish people to whom he dedicated his work.



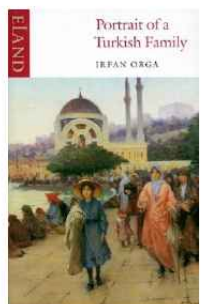
## **Gardens of Water** by Alan Drew

Drew's novel depicts a Kurdish family of migrants living on the margins of Istanbul society in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in 1999. Though the family's fate is intertwined with a group of American missionaries who descend on the wreckage of their town, the story is told from the eyes of Sinan, his wife and their two children. Drew depicts his flawed families with great respect and tenderness. The book carefully explores the conflicts of nationality and ethnicity that drove them from their homes. Uniquely, it takes seriously the religious faith – however tested and exploited- of the principle characters, and honestly depicts both the first flush of love and demands of honour.



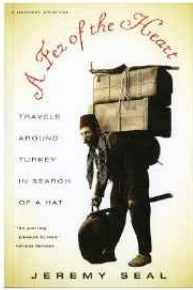
## **The Janissary Tree** by Jason Goodwin

Goodwin teases modern readers with ancient shadows of Turkey's modern history in this historically-literate mystery. Though sometimes the novel's expository sections feel like pages out of his non-fiction work, the liberties the novel gives him yield wonderful and amusing results: the image of the streets of Eminönü and Tahtakale full of quiet, industrious workmen, indifferent to potential customers, in an age when prices were fixed by craft guilds and haggling unheard of.



## **Portrait of a Turkish Family** by Irfan Orga

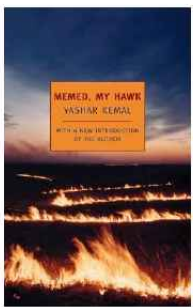
The intimate account of the unravelling of a bourgeois family living in a mansion on Istanbul's Marmara shore amidst the trauma of World War I and the Ottoman Empire's dissolution. The early chapters detail the rich procession of ceremonies – trips to the hamam, circumcisions, summering in Sariyer at the north end of the Bosphorus – that marked the stages of early twentieth-century Ottoman life. But with the coming of the war the Orga family fortunes, like those of the country as a whole, go into freefall and Orga describes in harrowing detail the crushing poverty that besets them. For Turkey, World War I was the loss of an empire but the making of a nation. It is a story steeped in melancholy, “an autobiography of tears and goodbyes,” but indispensable for a ground's eye view of life in the years surrounding Turkey's rebirth.



## **A Fez of the Heart: Travels Around Turkey in Search of a Hat**

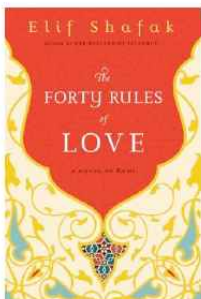
by Jeremy Seal

A dusty fez in his parents' attic sent Seal off on a journey to trace its history. His discoveries in modern Turkey will be welcomed by any armchair traveller who seeks a lively account of the culture and peoples of the region. A Fez of The Heart will prove a fun and enlightening read.



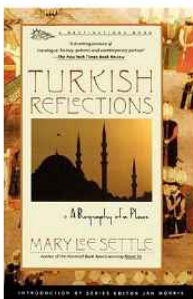
## **Mehmet, My Hawk** by Yasar Kemal

This is a tale of high adventure set in the hard-bitten lands of Turkey's rural southeast in the early days of the Republic. The power of Kemal's writing is such that the story - a young boy's just rebellion in the name of love, and the acts of courage that mould him into man - is at once both universal and place-specific. Mehmet springs from his creator's head fully-grown as myth and legend, and the promised land that all the characters dream of, the fertile Çukurova plain, resounds like Steinbeck's California for the Joad Family. It is a beautiful book, rich in description of Turkey and a must-read from a Turkish literary giant.



## **The Forty Rules of Love** - Elif Shafak (Safak)

Shafak the most widely-read female writer in Turkey, has earned a growing fan base all over the world with her bestselling *The Bastard of Istanbul*. In *The Forty Rules of Love*, her lyrical, imaginative novel about the famous Sufi mystic Rumi, Shafak effortlessly blends East and West, past and present, to create a dramatic, compelling, and exuberant tale about how love works in the world. Shafak unfolds two parallel narratives-one set in the thirteenth century, when Rumi encountered his spiritual mentor, the wandering dervish known as Shams of Tabriz, and one contemporary, as an unhappy American housewife, inspired by Rumi's message of love, finds the courage to transform her life.

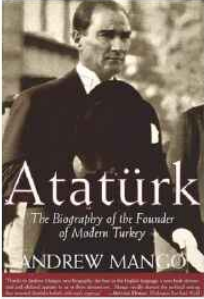


## **Turkish Reflections: A Biography of Place** by Mary Lee Settle

Settle offers us an intimate portrait of a Turkey rarely seen - a land where the cutting of a tree is a crime, where goats are sacrificed to launch state-of-the-art ships, and where whole towns emerge at dusk to stroll in the streets. She finds ancient monasteries converted into discos, underground cities carved out of rock, and sleek jet-set yachts alongside camels piled high with copper pots. She follows in the footsteps of emperors and nomads, sultans and shepherds; explores the trails blazed by Alexander the Great, Tamerlane, Genghis Khan, and Ataturk. *Turkish Reflections* is a cross-country odyssey into history, legend, mystery, and myth.

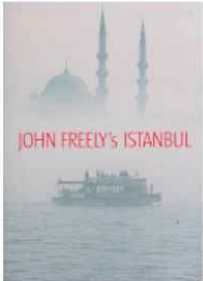
# SEA SONG

Your Partner in Turkey



## **Atatürk: The Biography of the Founder of Modern Turkey** by Andrew Mango

In this major biography of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, and the first to appear in English based on Turkish sources, Andrew Mango strips away the myth, to show the complexities of one of the most visionary, influential, and enigmatic statesmen of the century. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was virtually unknown until 1919, when he took the lead in thwarting the victorious Allies' plan to partition the Turkish core of the Ottoman Empire. He divided the Allies, defeated the last Sultan, and secured the territory of the Turkish national state, becoming the first president of the new republic in 1923, fast creating his own legend.



## **John Freely's Istanbul** by John Freely

John Freely has explored, loved and illuminated his adopted city of Istanbul for forty-three years. Author of the best-selling *Strolling Through Istanbul*, he has written more than thirty books on the history and topography of the city. To walk the streets, to climb the hills, to visit the mosques and palaces of Istanbul with Freely is to learn first-hand the multi-faceted history of the New Rome, and of the Turkish Imperial capital that succeeded it. Here, he looks afresh at the city with which he has been intimately connected for nearly half a century. Stunningly illustrated with contemporary photographs and far-ranging historical material, *John Freely's Istanbul* is the summation of the passion and knowledge of the city's greatest modern biographer.