



Turkey and the Imperial Past



(but not Roman or
Byzantine stuff – not that
Imperial past...)

OLLI 7

Seljuk emblem of Double Eagle on Divrigi Mosque
and Erdogan as Ottoman Sultan

Erdogan and Ottomania

At first it appears a reversal of Ataturk's Secularist model (Ataturk rejected the Caliphate and Islamic law, religious attire, changed the script and language of Ottoman Islamic world) but Erdogan embraces both Ataturk and the return of pride in the Ottoman past.

Both are populist movements that cultivated emotional connection with past glories. In 1920s the "Turkish Historical Thesis" and the "Sun Language" rewrote a past people could feel nostalgic about....

2000s an era of Populist Nostalgia campaigns across the Globe. Political movements cultivate collective memories of glory, narrative of enemies and moral challenge...(from article by Yagmur Karakaya)

Ottoman Turkish should be taught in schools, Erdoğan says

ANKARA



President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has once again said [Ottoman Turkish](#) should be taught in schools, accusing the early Republican period's "language revolution" of "destroying" the Turkish language.

March 15 2018. Hurriyet.

Ottoman Heritage as "soft power strategy" in the region.

Right: Turkish Development Agency
Restoration of bridge in Mostar,
(destroyed in 1993 Bosnian War)
Restoration 2004, old town
restoration ongoing.

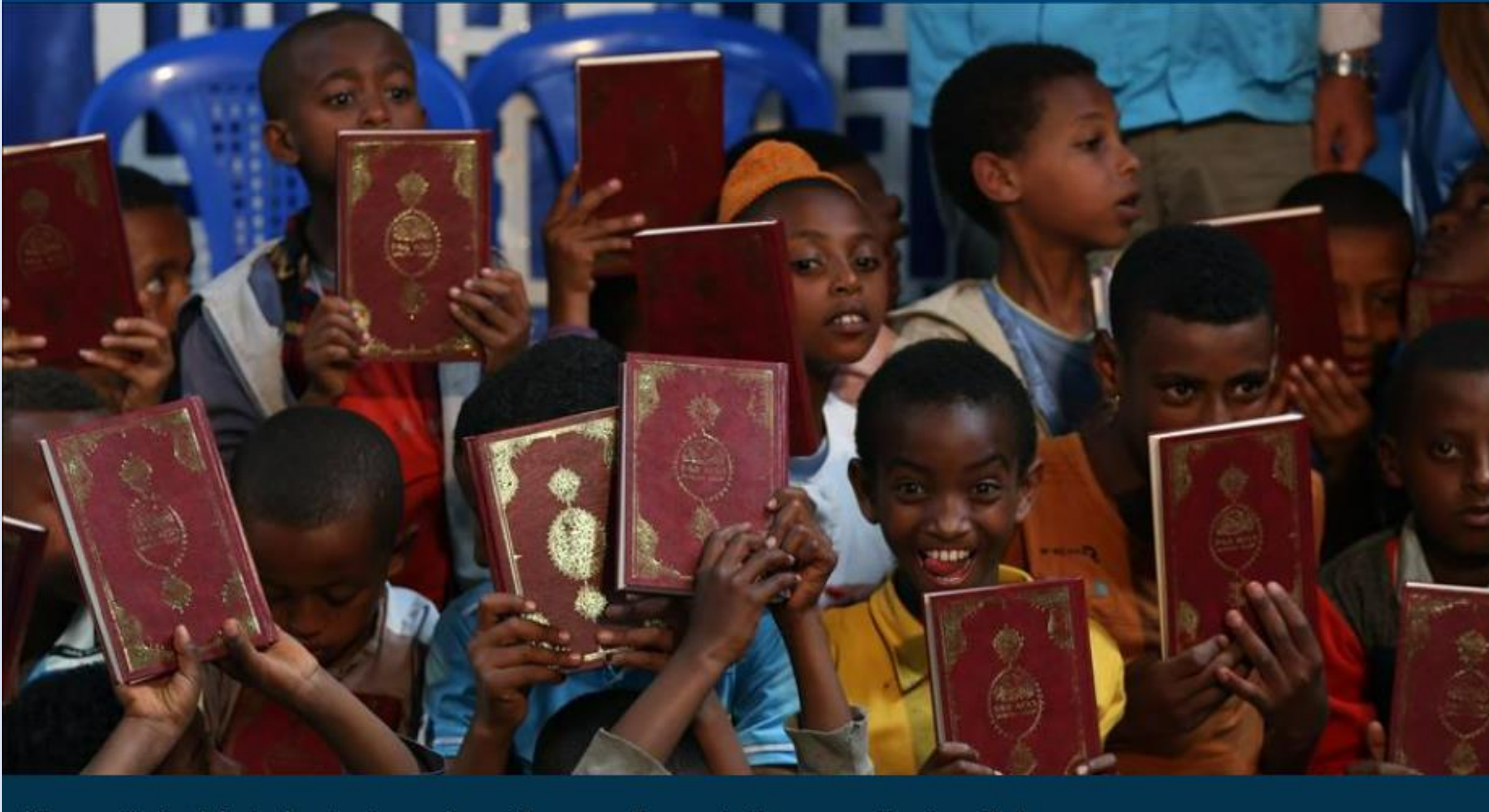
(I recommend Alev Scott's book
Ottoman Odyssey, a portrait of
Turkey's cultural interaction with the
old imperial territories)



Turkish group gives Qurans to 1,200 Ethiopian children

Children taking Quran lessons get special Qurans in Amharic, East African country's local language

Addis Getachew | 15.08.2019



Scholarships, Qurans, medical aid...international aid offered by the Ministry of Religious Affairs part of reclaiming the Ottoman role in Islam

2016 "Conquest Rally" in Istanbul

Rallies to commemorate the Ottoman Conquest of Constantinople began in 1953. Under Erdogan they have become massive spectacles (next picture shows the reenactment of the siege)





Below: Ottoman Resurrection Hearths General Headquarters Facebook Page (not very active since 2019)

Right: 2017 Article from Middle East Eye raising concerns about militancy of the Hearths. "Hearths" is a loaded word, recalls nationalistic Young Turk "hearth" clubs of the late 19thc.



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Turkey's Ottoman Hearths: Menacing or benign?

The illegal actions attributed to the Ottoman Hearths raises questions as to who backs this group and what their true aim is

The cover of the sponsored Ottoman Hearths magazine showing the group's chairman Kadri Çarpentel (R) with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan surrounded by people wearing soldiers' uniforms from various Turkish eras

By Suraj Sharma



The Ankara neighborhood where the Ottoman Hearths central office is located is in a newly renovated "Ottoman" area of the city. Ottoman style city revival in process in many areas, but often erasing the multicultural heritage.



City Renewal (Restoration?) project of Hamamönü in Ankara not popular with the historic preservation people but pretty popular with everyone else.

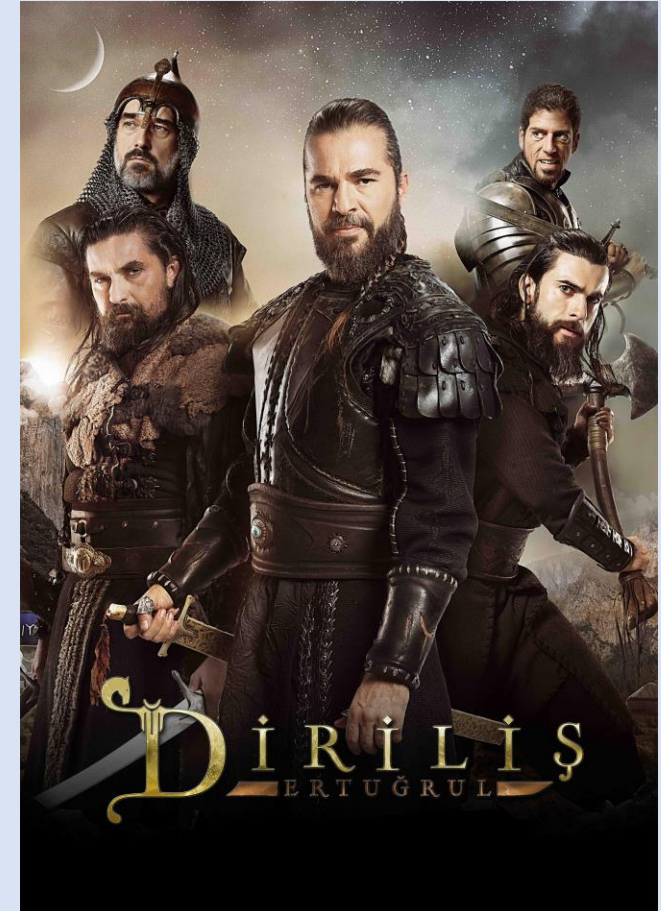
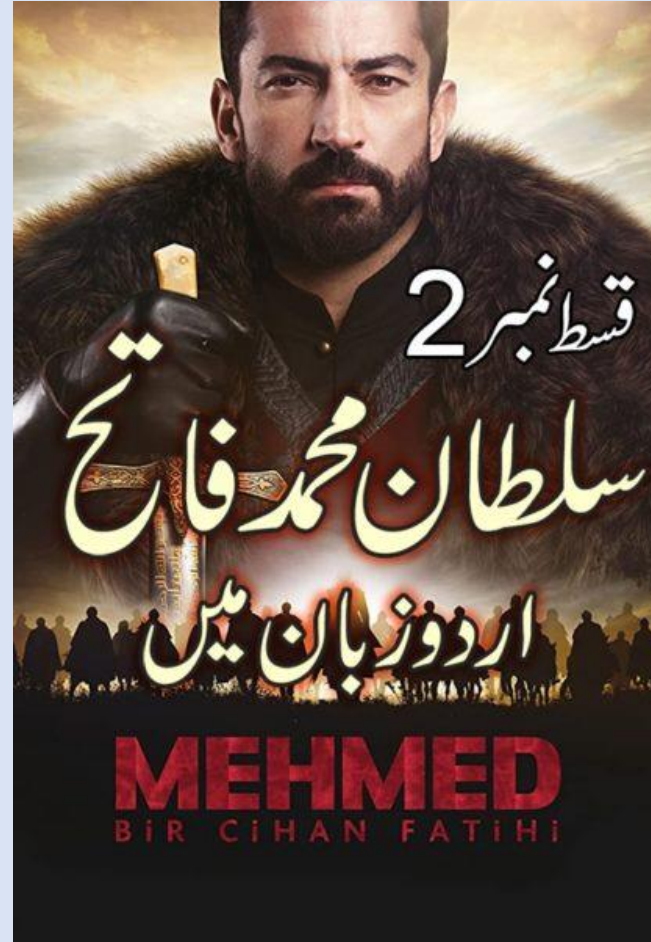
Henna night and Circumcision clothes for Sale in Ankara are part of Ottomania of last few years.





Henna House in "Restored" Ankara neighborhood of Hamamonu
Ottoman style rituals are a new craze, not really a revival of older practices.

Ottoman era soap operas are also wildly popular. The Magnificent Century (about Suleiman the Magnificent, 2012); Mehmet the Conqueror, 2018) Ertugrul (Grandfather of Ottoman founder, 2019)



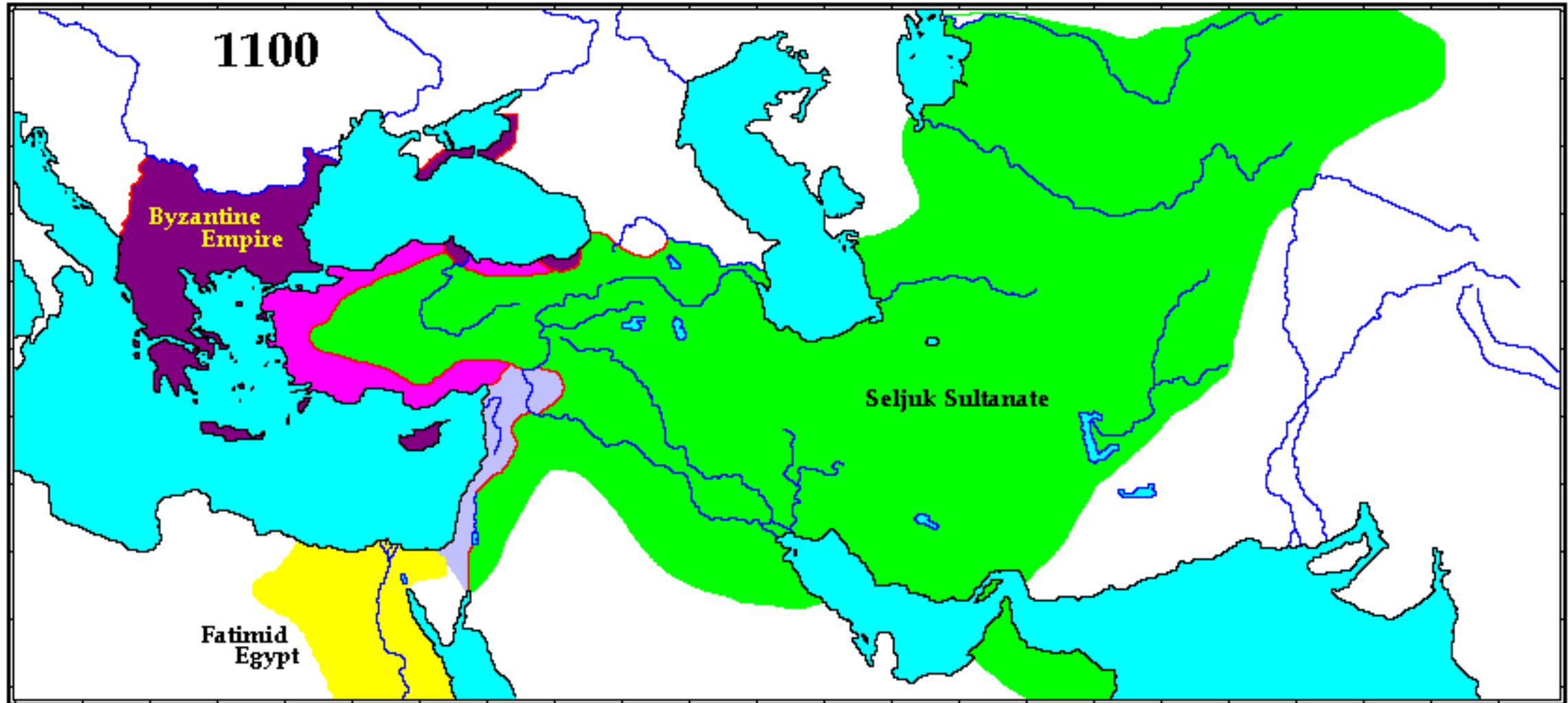
The Turkic Era arrived with migrating Nomads

- **Mamluk militias 900s**
 - (Nomadic Turks brought in as mercenaries, sometimes as slaves by Abbasid Arab Empire in Baghdad)
- **Seljuk Empire 1000s-1200s Turco-Persian Ascendance**
 - Sultanate of Rum – Seljuk Rule over Byzantine Anatolia
- **Ilkhanate (Mongol Empire in Anatolia) late 1200s (a bit destructive...everyone who can flees West and then the plague comes)**
- **Ottoman Empire 1320s-1920**




Greatest Extent of the Abbasid Arab-Islamic Empire centered at Baghdad, c. 850 CE
(Note the Byzantines and Oghuz Turks on the fringes). Turks began to move in to the region in the 900s as mercenaries to the Arab Sultans

By 1100 the Persian-speaking **Seljuk Empire** of Turks had replaced the Arabs as regional rulers. They provided the peace that allowed Turkic nomads and Persian culture to spread to Anatolia.



- Crusader States
- territory regained by Byzantium during the First Crusade



The Seljuks brought Persian and Eastern arts as well as a state program for building infrastructure: Medreses, Mosques, Hospitals, Caravanserais, bridges...

Right: Bimirhane Madhouse of Amasya, (also shows Roman recycling)



- Seljuk Art created a bridge between the East and West

Hippostyle Halls, Pointed arches, Muqarnas, animal symbols
Tile and Ceramics,
Detailed Carvings of stone and wood all characteristics of their art.

(Remains of Water jug shown here, Brooklyn Museum)



Cifte Minareli Medrese (Educational Complex), Erzurum.

Medreses were important for providing skilled judges for the legal system.

Medreses were arranged with classrooms around a courtyard and had space for student quarters. Note the flat roof and Cone shaped dome of Seljuk architecture.





Inside the Cifte Medrese and frieze from entrance. Seljuk art incorporated many animals, unlike later Ottoman art.

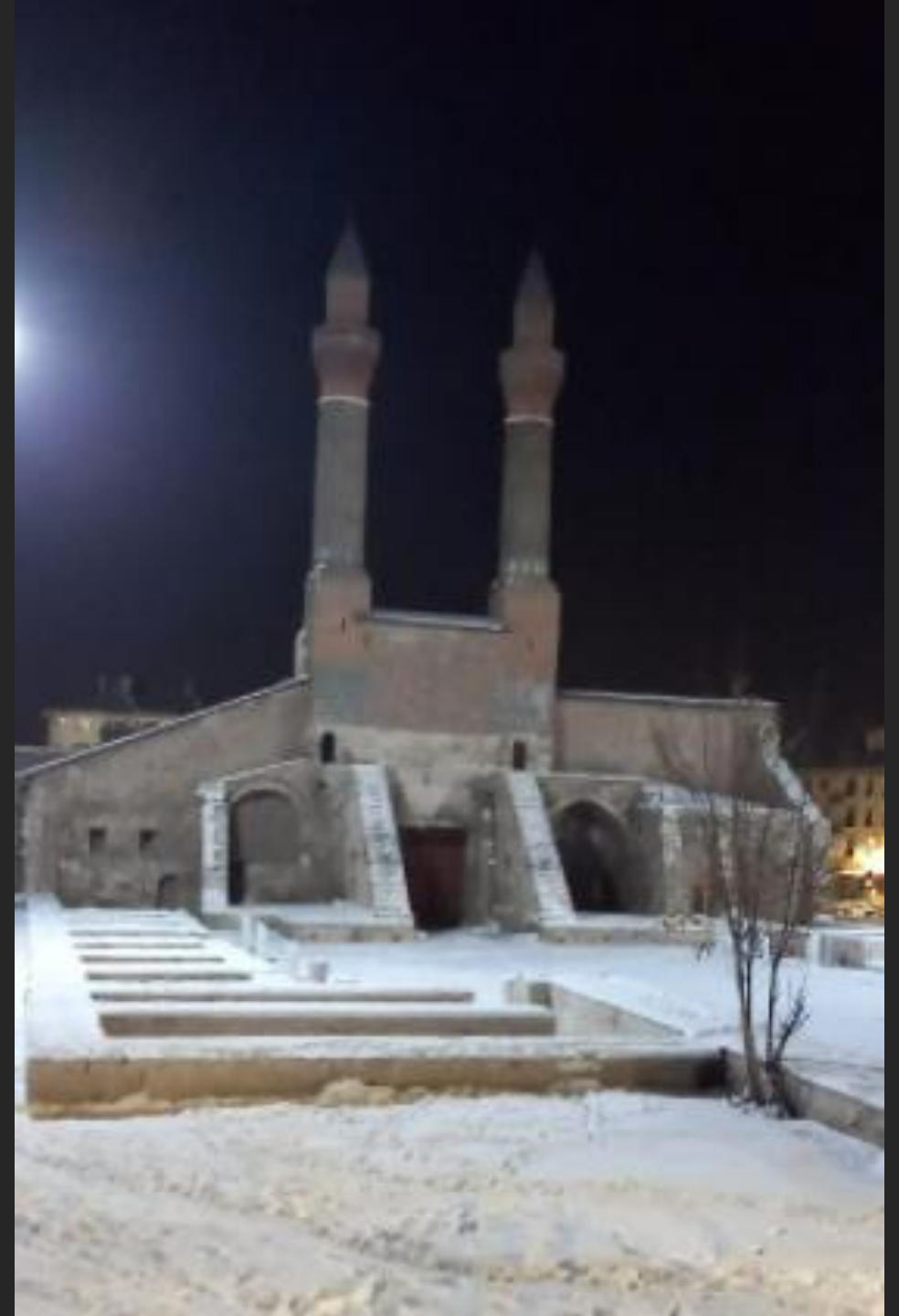




Seljuk bridge outside Erzurum, in use for vehicles until just a few years ago!



Sivas, Twin
Tower
Mosque
(13th
c.) Sivas also
a site of an
important
medrese.





Great mosque and hospital of Divrigi, 1220s

**Northern
door, Great
Mosque of
Divrigi.
This is now
a UNESCO
site
displaying.**



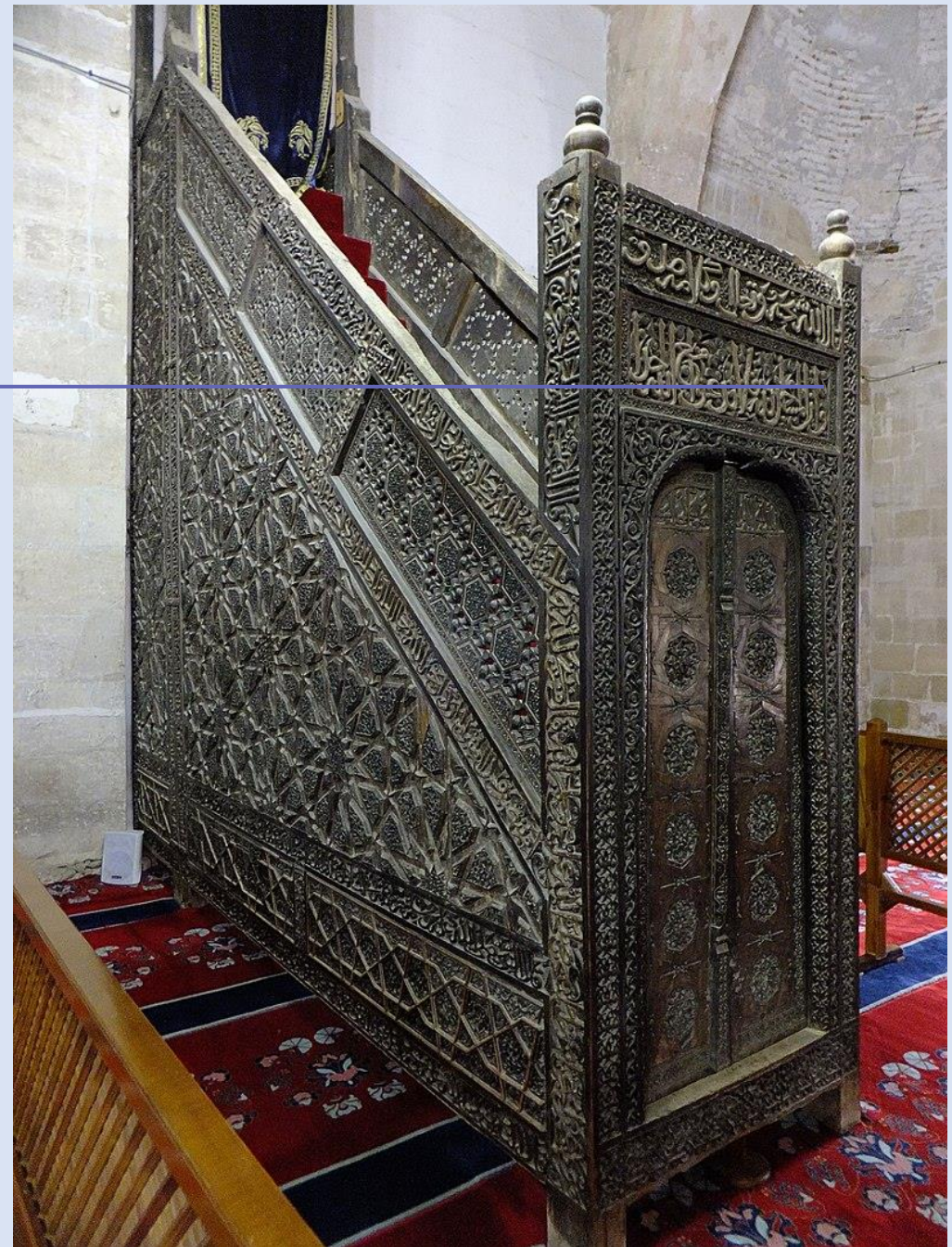


Detail, Divrigi



Hospital
Interior, and
carved Minbar
in Mosque,
Divrigi

Intricately
carved and
pieced wood
work is a
classic Seljuk
characteristic.
Wood is
pieced
together
without nails
or glue.



Ankara's Aslaanhane Mosque, Seljuk, 1200s.

(you can see the reused
Roman marble in the
walls!)





Classic Seljuk interior. Flat roof, ornate tiled Mithrab, Carved and pieced wood. Roman reuse.





**Muqarna and
Tiles and
pieced wood,
classic Seljuk
contributions
from the East**





Esrefoglu 13th
c, Mosque
near Konya,
triangle
dome, classic
wood
columns and
carving, tiled
Mithrab and
dome

Konya was a capital of the brief "Seljuk Sultanate of Rum" (Rum=

Byzantine, referred to Sultan control over former Byzantine lands)

This is the Gok Medrese. Konya still an important site for Islamic education with many international students



Konya,
Ince Minareli Madrasa.

Now a museum of
stone work from the
many palaces and
schools that once
existed.

Before the Seljuks it
was home to the
Hittites, Phrygians,
Greeks and Romans
(known as Iconium)
and in WWI was
occupied by Italy
briefly.





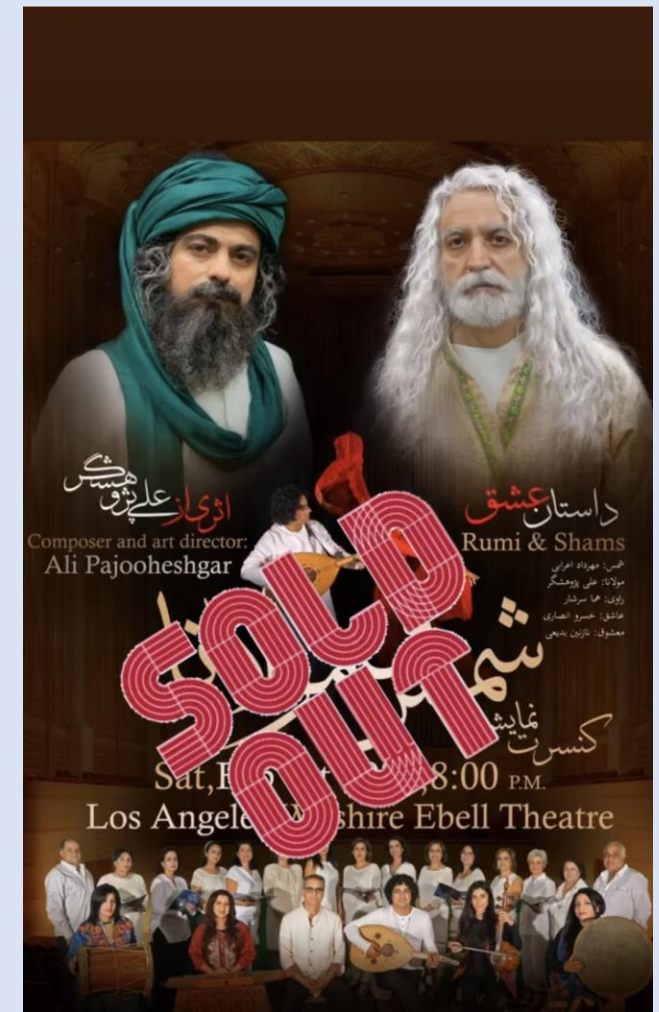
Seljuk
stonework





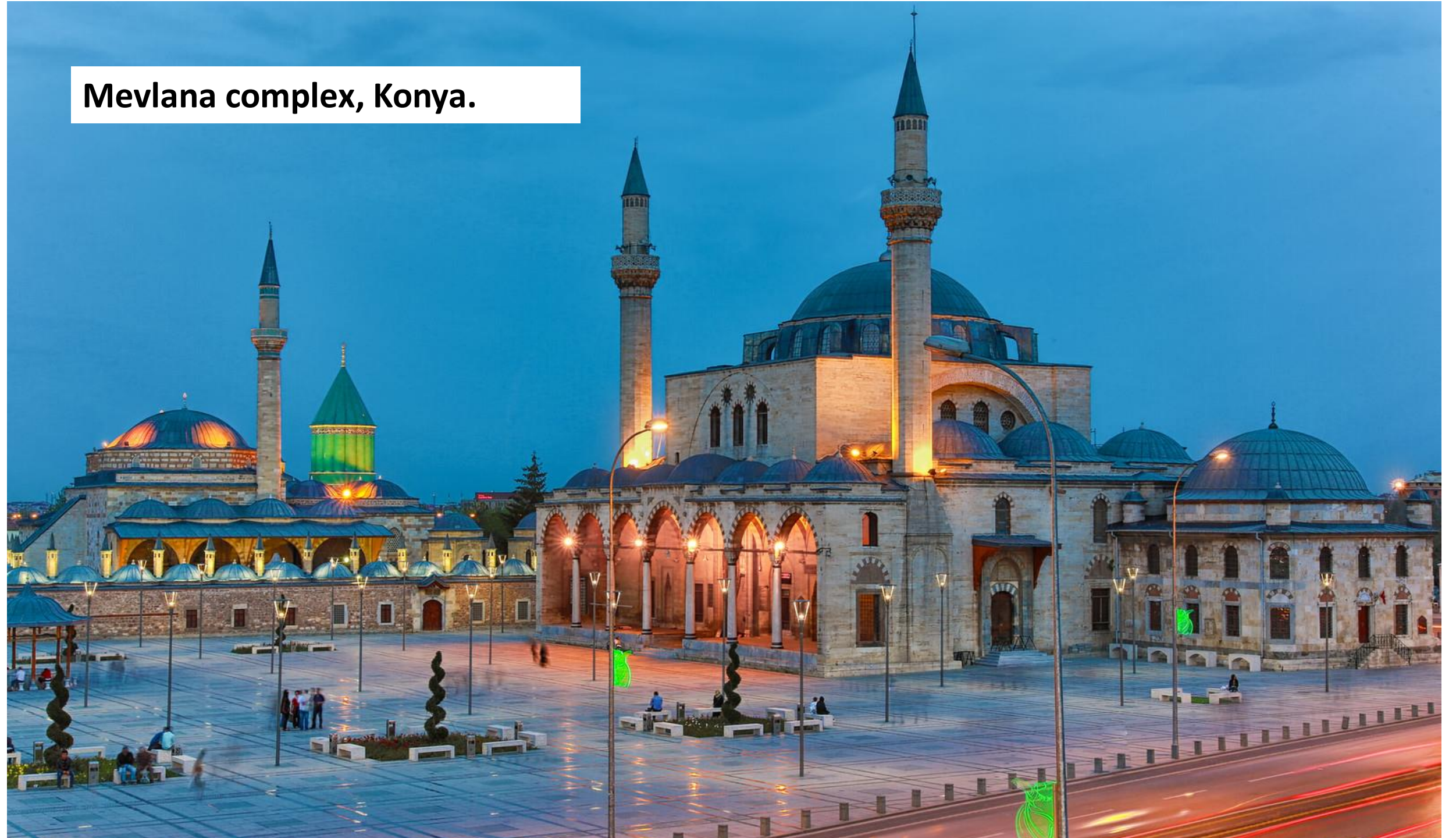


Konya is most famous in Turkey today as the home of the Mevlana (Rumi) who founded a Sufi order.



Rumi and his young student, Shems, have been a topic of fascination for centuries. In Turkey Rumi is known as the Mevlana (teacher) and founder of a Sufic order. In the West he is famous as a Persian Poet. Born near Afghanistan, he was a refugee from the Mongols and fled to Anatolia as a child.

Mevlana complex, Konya.





Courtyard at the Mevlana Complex that includes his tomb

