



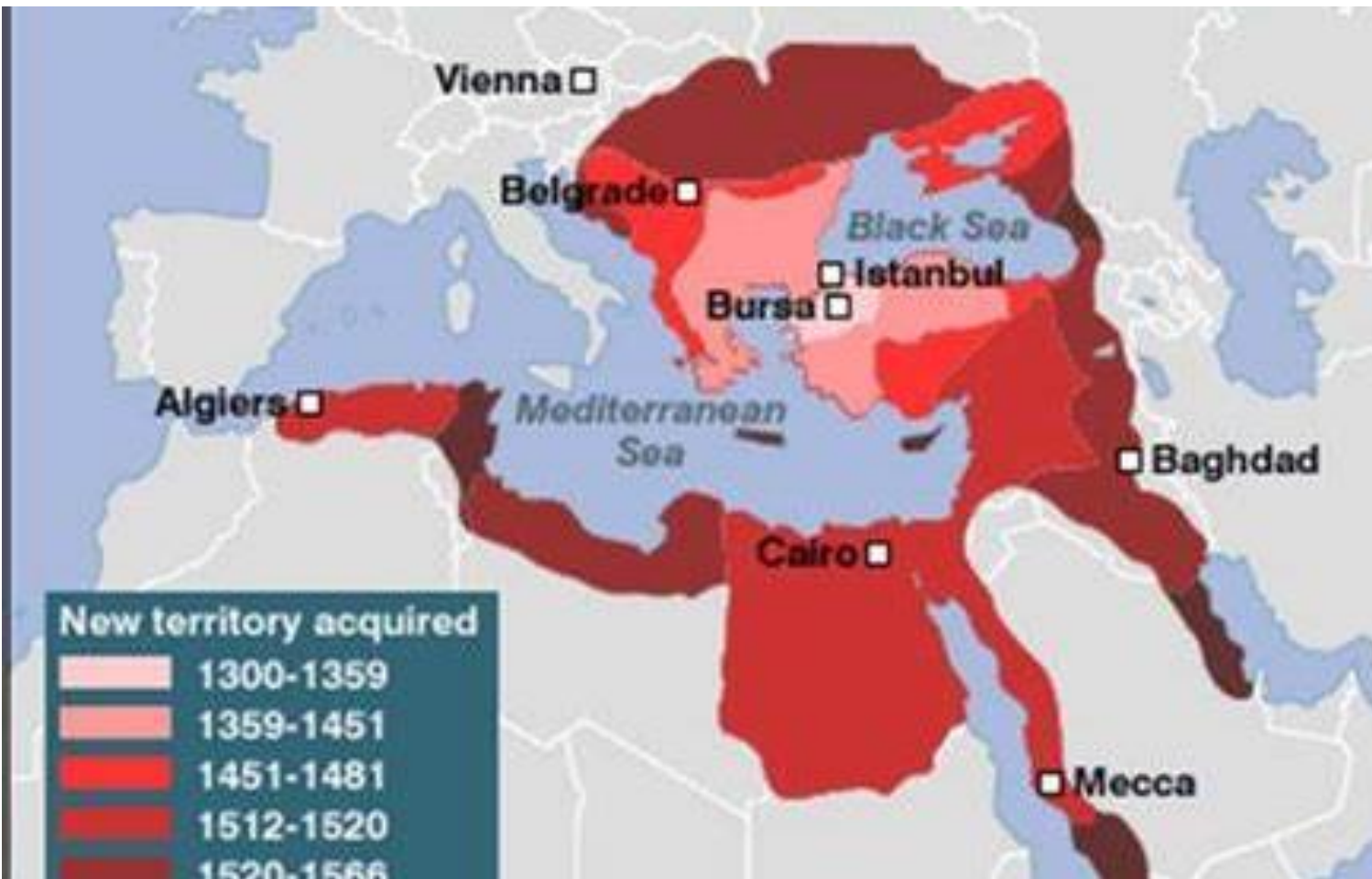
OLLI 8 Living History in Turkey

Ottomania

(here we are not really looking at the history of the Ottomans, but at how they are being rediscovered today. Ataturk pushed the Ottomans off the stage (literally) but today's Turkey is fascinated with the Ottoman heritage.

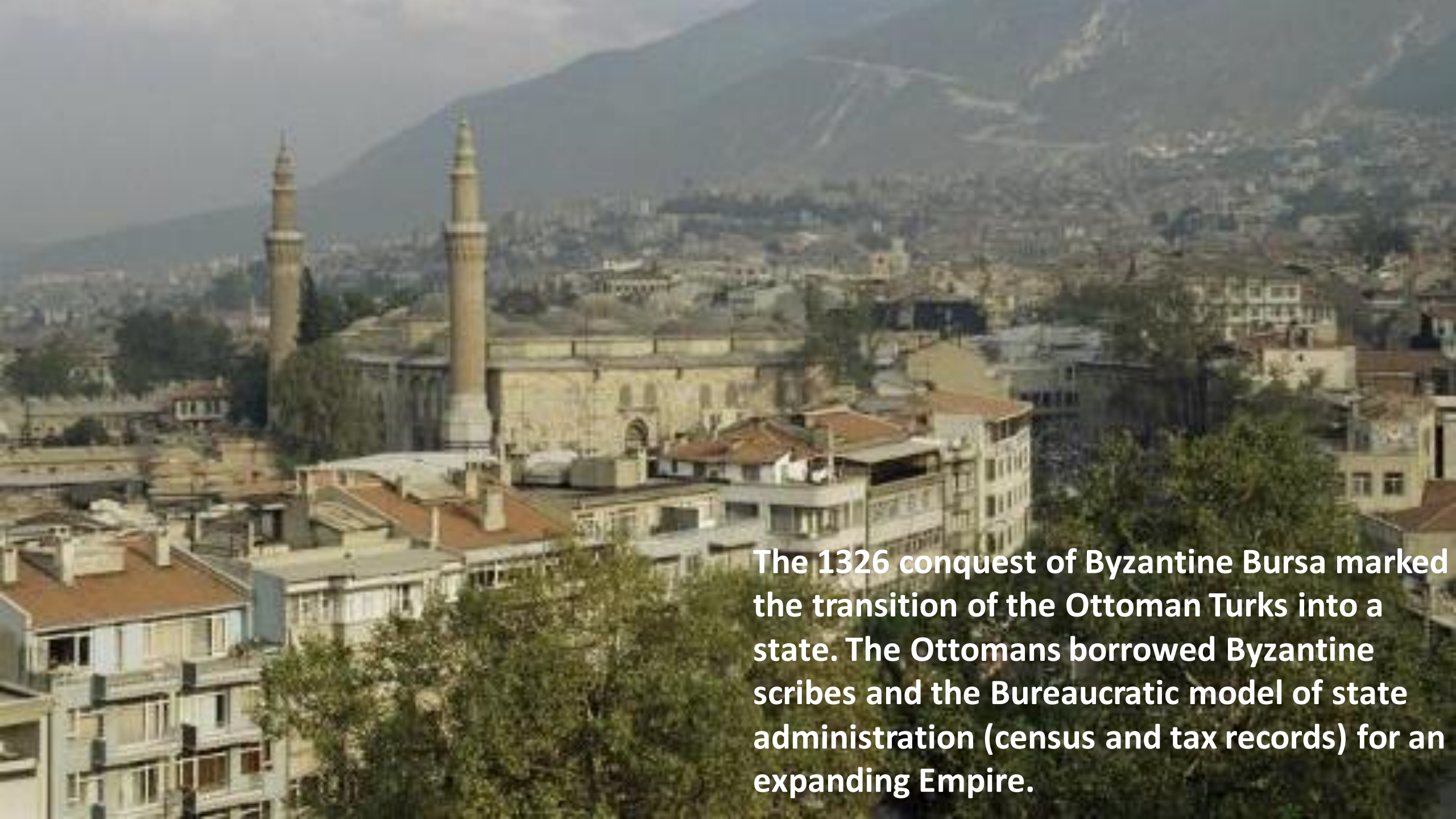
The Turkic Era arrived with migrating Nomads

- **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. An Empire stretching from Central Europe to Central Asia to North Africa....**



Key Dates:

- 1326 Capture of Bursa from the Byzantines
- 1402 Capture of Sultan by Timur - chaos
- 1453 Capture of Constantinople
- 1683 Defeat in Vienna
- 1800s – Russian, British, French, Austrian jackals competing to dismember the Empire
- WWI – Humiliation by Allied Victors
- 1922 Sultan forced out by Republicans



The 1326 conquest of Byzantine Bursa marked the transition of the Ottoman Turks into a state. The Ottomans borrowed Byzantine scribes and the Bureaucratic model of state administration (census and tax records) for an expanding Empire.



The 1422 Green Mosque in Bursa – Transitional Ottoman Style

(also included tomb, charity kitchen, madrasa complex)

The Ottomans, like the Seljuks, had a clear city plan when they took over an area and they immediately built what they considered the essentials: a mosque, charity house, covered market and hostel for traders.



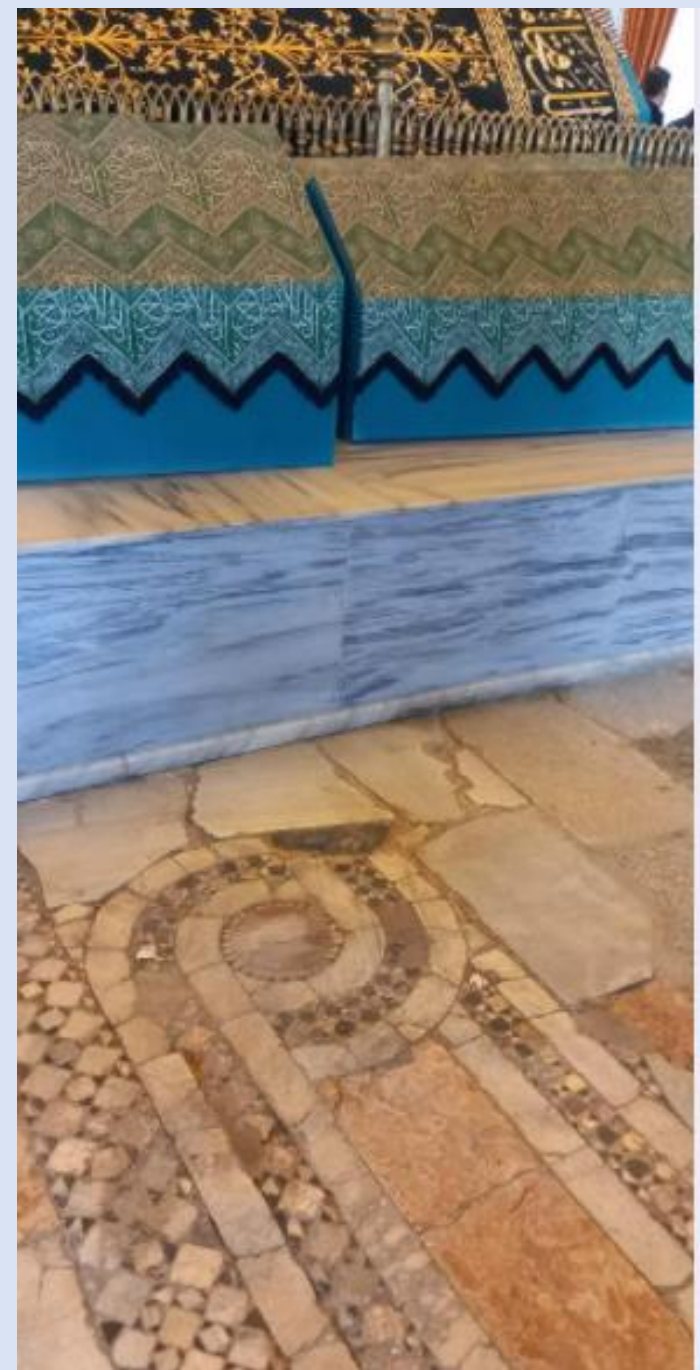
Green Mosque: Restrained Exterior with Seljuk lines, Koranic text





The tomb of Osman, (who died just as Bursa fell) is across town.

Hmmm, notice anything about the floor? (Built on the former Byzantine Cathedral base)



The tombs of Osman, his son Serhan, and his father Ertugrul (below) and son all have an honor guard as of 3-4 years ago. Classic "invention of tradition"...



In 2015 Turkey staged a raid 20 miles into Syrian territory to rescue the remains of Suleyman Shah, the grandfather of Osman.

[The relocation of Suleyman Shah: the way forward in the Middle East? | Andrew Brown | The Guardian](#)

By moving the tomb of Suleyman Shah out of the war zone in Syria, Turkey may have found an elegant solution for the trouble caused from Jerusalem to Crimea



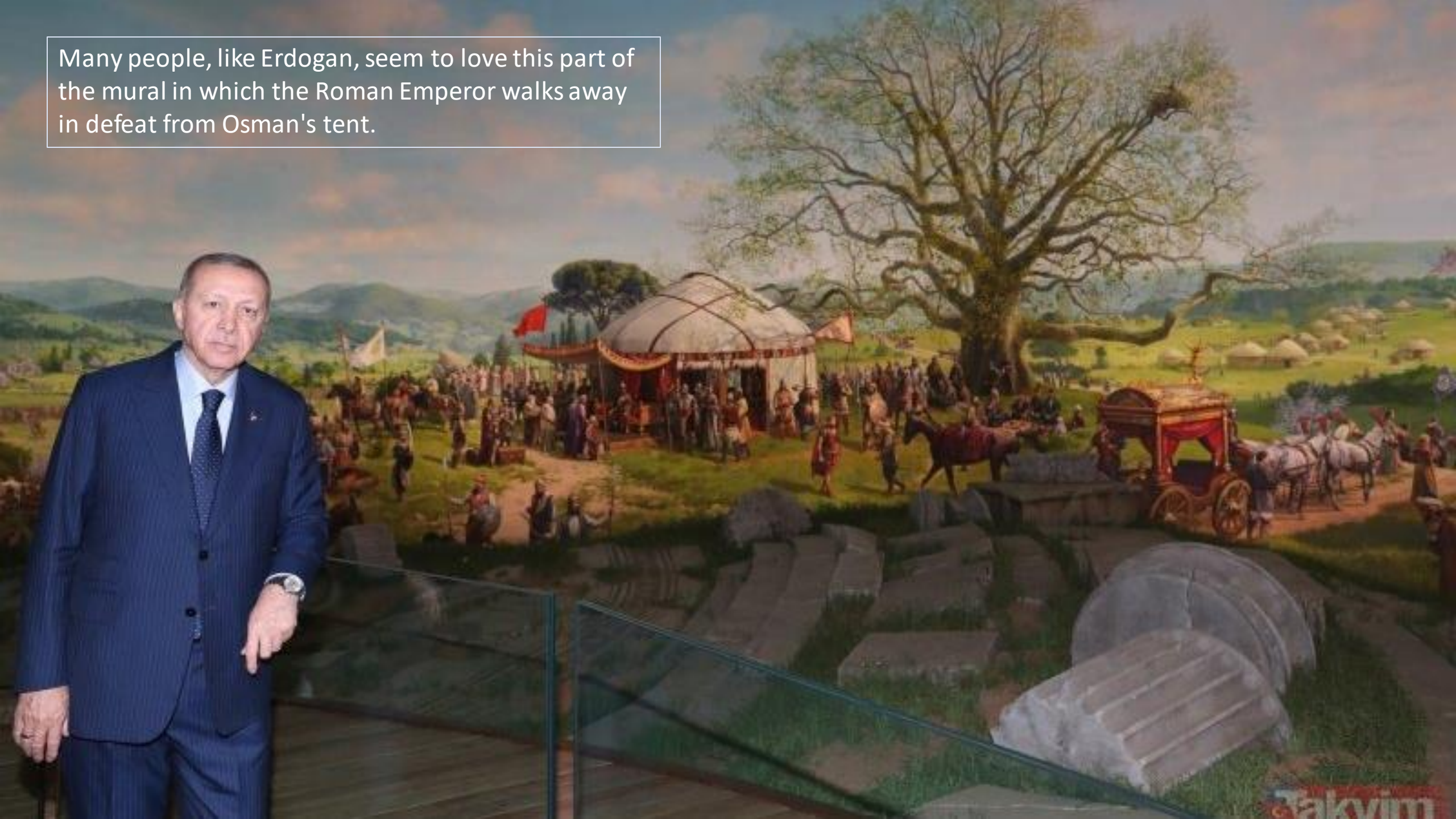
📷 The Turkish flag is raised on February 22, 2015, in the Esmeh region of Aleppo where the tomb of Suleyman Shah will be placed. Photograph: Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

Simply **moving the tomb and shrine of Suleyman Shah** - the patriarch whose descendants founded the Ottoman dynasty and empire - out of the war zone in Syria is such an elegant solution to the problem of



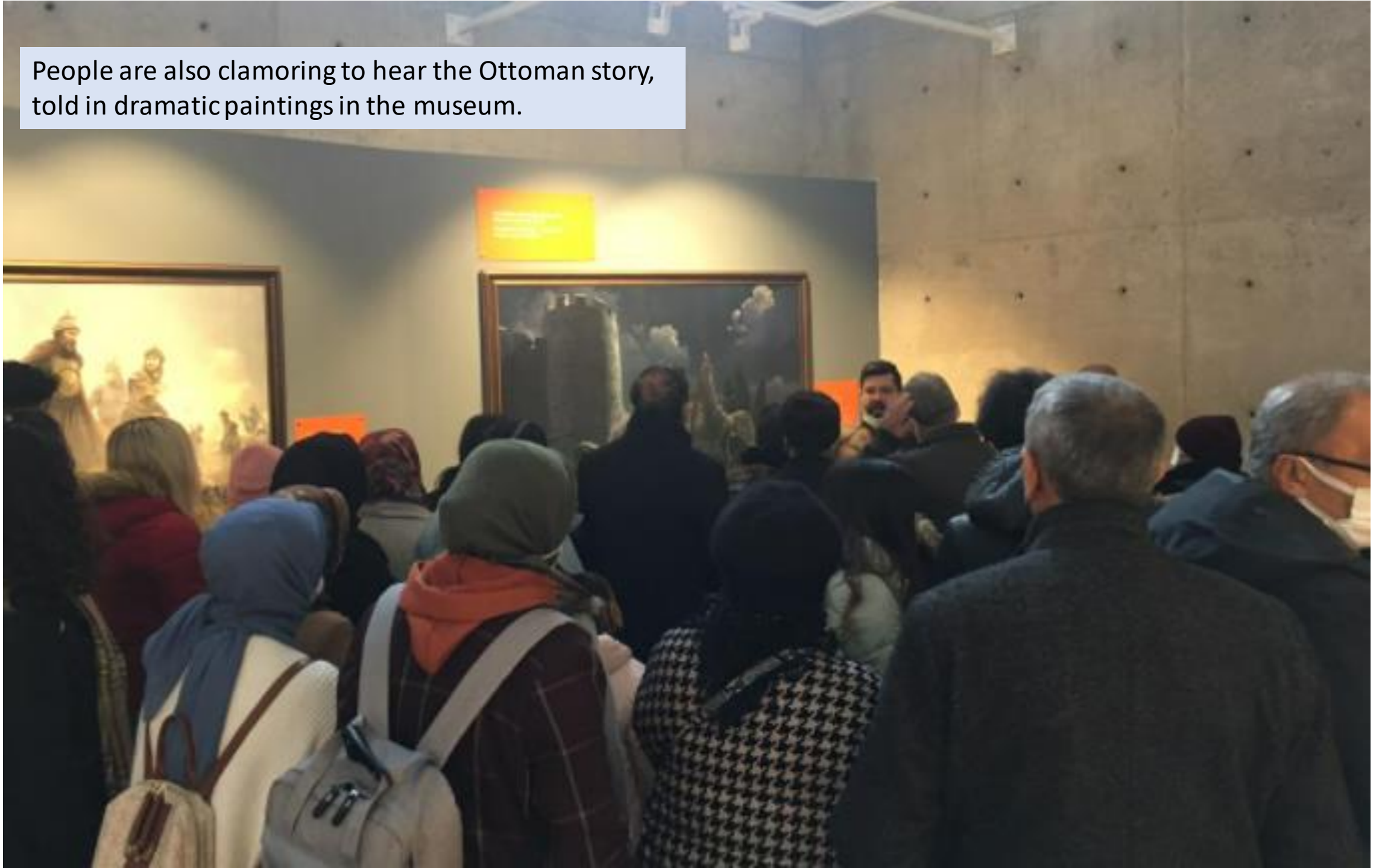
Bursa 1326 Panorama Museum, opened 2019

Many people, like Erdogan, seem to love this part of the mural in which the Roman Emperor walks away in defeat from Osman's tent.





People are also clamoring to hear the Ottoman story, told in dramatic paintings in the museum.





The museum also hosts a local sports club for archery and displays costumes used in the recent Ottoman era Television Series on Ertugrul



The gate to the Byzantine center of Bursa is still there.





Ottoman Architect Mimar Sinan, 1490-1588



Hagia Sophia in
Istanbul
(Once a Byzantine
Cathedral, now a
mosque after having
been a museum for
100 years)

- The Byzantine Style becomes the model of the Ottoman Mosque after Sinan reinvents Islamic architecture.
- Sinan's Sulemaniye Mosque almost an exercise in improvement on the Hagia Sophia (with the addition of schools, public baths, charity kitchen, tombs...)



Innovations in
roofs,
buttressing,
bridge
construction,
aqueducts...Sinan
was a busy guy.





Right: Kocatepe Mosque, 1987. Ankara. 27,000 worshippers.
Above: Camlica Mosque, 2019 Istanbul (63, 000 worshippers!)

In the last 20 years Mosques built by private individuals and religious foundations still use the Byzantine derived silhouette.



Lobby Bar in
former Carava
nserai now
hotel in Ankara

I included this photo
because I found the
framed altar cloth a
bit disturbing, and
maybe a good
symbol of the
selective memory of
Turkey. Some parts of
the Ottoman past are
living again, but not
the multi ethnic,
multi religious state it
once was.



Newest addition to the Historic Pantheon? The 15th of July Day of Unity and Democracy!



Erdogan has turned the anniversary of the failed 2016 coup into a new national holiday. (He also used it as an excuse to purge opponents)