Further Reading

It may be inevitable that the European reader will see the Ottoman state largely in terms of its impact on Europe; in this period his view will be further coloured by the retreat of the Ottomans from some of their subject lands and by the arrival of 'the Eastern question'. He is well served in the way of introduction to these themes by D.M. Vaughan, Europe and the Turk (Liverpool, 1954) and P. Coles, The Ottoman Impact on Europe (1968), an illustrated survey. There remains a lacuna: there is no general history of the Ottoman state embodying the research and views of recent Turkish scholars. However, there is less excuse than formerly for ignorance of Muslim faith and institutions, to which H.A.R. Gibbs and H. Bowen provide a good introduction in Islamic Society and The West (1950), covering the confused situation in the southern fringe lands, Armenia, Georgia and Kurdistan. The Emergence of Modern Turkey (1961), by B. Lewis, is another sound account. Mention should be made of two good chapters in the New Cambridge Modern History, vols 5 and 6, by A.N. Kurat, and A.N. Kurat and J.S. Bromley, respectively. In the masterpiece of F. Braudel, The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World, 2 vols (trans. S. Philipps, London 1972-3), there is material of interest and value relating to the Ottoman empire not confined to the sixteenth century with which the book nominally deals. Several particular topics have good books devoted to them: for example, The Siege of Vienna, by J.W. Stoye (1964), Peter the Great and the Ottoman Empire, by B.H. Sumner (Oxford, 1949), and Europe's Steppe Frontier, 1500-1800, by W.H. McNeill (Chicago, 1964). The Great Church in Captivity (Cambridge, 1968) by S. Runciman is a study of Orthodoxy under Turkish rule. A. Pallis, In the Days of the Janissaries (London, 1951) is an interesting collection, chosen from contemporary sources. In the Journal of Lady Mary Wortley Montague (London, 1965) there are fascinating descriptions of aspects of Ottoman life as viewed by the shrewd, if not entirely dispassionate wife of the British ambassador. M.A. Cook (ed.), A History of the Ottoman Empire to 1730 (Cambridge, 1976), should also be read.