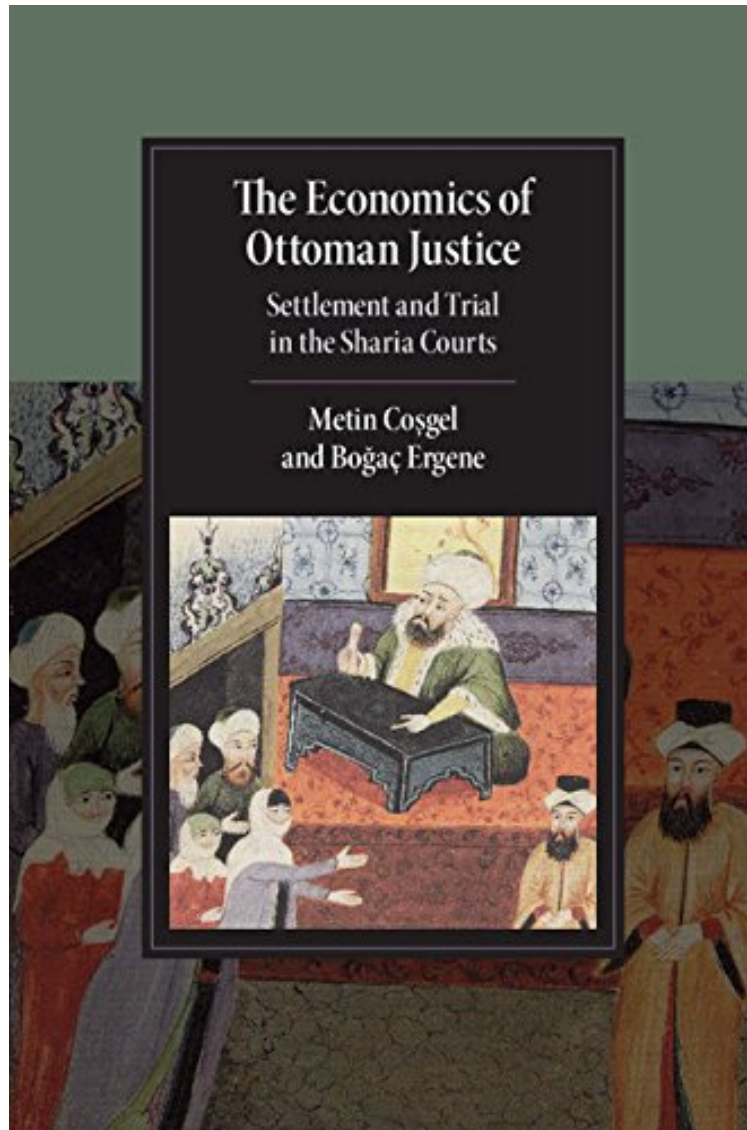


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The Economics of Ottoman Justice: Settlement and Trial in the Sharia Courts (Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization)

Metin Cosgel, Bogac A. Ergene

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Studies in Islamic Civilization):

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Ottoman Empire endured long periods of warfare, facing intense financial pressures and new international mercantile and monetary trends. The Empire also experienced major political-administrative restructuring and socioeconomic transformations. In the context of this tumultuous change, *The Economics of Ottoman Justice* examines Ottoman legal practices and the sharia court's operations to reflect on the judicial system and provincial relationships. Metin Cogel and Boa Ergene provide a systematic depiction of socio-legal interactions, identifying how different social, economic, gender and religious groups used the court, how they settled their disputes, and which factors contributed to their success at trial. Using an economic approach, Cogel and Ergene offer rare insights into the role of power differences in judicial interactions, and into the reproduction of communal hierarchies in court, and demonstrate how court use patterns changed over time.

Advance praise: 'Ottoman history has been too long focused on the Court. To dissect Ottoman society and economy, it is better to watch the local court, in an Anatolian provincial town over the eighteenth century. The scholarship of Cogel and Ergene is astonishing, deep in the archives but with salient comparisons to other parts of the Empire and the world, subtle in legal knowledge but penetrating in game theory. The book melds the intellectual values of history and of economics, practicing quantitative economic history with a humanistic sensibility.' Deirdre N. McCloskey, Distinguished Professor Emerita of Economics and of History, Professor Emerita of English and of Communication, University of Illinois at Chicago" Advance praise: 'Metin Cogel and Boa Ergene masterfully combine the insights from the law and economics literature with the methods of history and quantitative analysis to study the court documents and legal practice in Kastamonu, a provincial town in Ottoman Anatolia during the eighteenth century. They focus on the functions of the court, the strategies of the participants and the interactions between gender, religious and socio-economic characteristics. The result is a well written and path-breaking book.' Evket Pamuk, Boazici University, Turkey" Advance praise: 'In this eye-opening study of the court records of a mid-sized provincial town in the eighteenth-century Ottoman Empire, the authors demonstrate the value of an interdisciplinary approach, as well as the power of the tools of economics to shed new and important light on how the legal system worked in this under-researched and often underrated economy. The use of quantitative methods and models from Law and Economics pays off richly. Anyone interested in how institutions worked in the past to enforce contracts and property rights should read this book.' Joel Mokyr, author of *A Culture of Growth: Origins of the Modern Economy* Advance praise: 'Using the probate estate inventories of Kastamonu, and with singular clarity, historian Boa Ergene and economist Metin Cogel have established a quantitative template for the study of the impact of status and wealth on access and resolution in the Ottoman courts of the 18th century.' Virginia H. Aksan, McMaster University" Advance praise: 'Cases that show up in court are by no means a simple reflection of the underlying social reality from which they derive. Rather, they are shaped by a host of background factors, including the substantive and procedural law, litigants' expectations about case outcomes, and pre-litigation settlement dynamics. Law and economics scholars have developed theoretical models and empirical techniques for analyzing court data that take these factors into account, and in *The Economics of Ottoman Justice*, Cogel and Ergene put these insights to excellent use in analyzing data from an 18th century Ottoman court. Combine that with a historian's broad and deep appreciation for social and cultural context, and this book represents a model for how to do truly interdisciplinary scholarship.' Peter Siegelman, Phillip I. Blumberg Professor of Law, University of Connecticut School of Law" About the Author Metin Cogel is Professor of Economics and Department Head of the Department of Economics at the University of Connecticut. He has published widely on the Ottoman Empire. Boa Ergene is Associate Professor of History at the University of Vermont. He is the author of *Local Court, Provincial Society and Justice in the Ottoman Empire* (2003).