

A detailed engraving of Sultan Süleyman, showing him from the chest up. He has a large, ornate turban and a full, curly beard. His expression is serious and contemplative. The background is a fine, textured pattern.

MEET THE AUTHOR

PEERLESS
AMONG PRINCES
THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SULTAN SÜLEYMAN

A conversation between

KAYA ŞAHİN & RALPH WALTER

Süleyman, who ruled the Ottoman Empire between 1520 and 1566, was a globally recognized figure during his lifetime. His domain extended from Hungary to Iran, and from the Crimea to North Africa and the Indian Ocean. While he was engaged in bitter rivalries with the Catholic Habsburgs in Europe and the Shiite Safavids in the Middle East, he also presided over a multilingual and multireligious empire that promised peace and prosperity to its subjects. Behind the public façade of might and glory, Süleyman led a complicated life. He grew up with an overbearing father whose legacy was both an advantage and a burden. Defying established practice, he married a concubine named Hürrem. Towards the end of his life, he had to overcome both debilitating sickness and the agitations of his sons to remain on the throne. Around Kaya Şahin's *Peerless among Princes: The Life and Times of Sultan Süleyman* (Oxford University Press, 2023), the first scholarly biography of Süleyman in English since 1944, we will discuss Süleyman's achievements as well as his failures, the world he and his contemporaries lived in, and their legacies.

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OWEN HALL, WELLS LIBRARY ROOM

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