

THE MAKING OF MODERN TURKEY. By Sir HARRY LUKE. pp. viii, 246. London: MacMillan and Co., Ltd., 1936. 10s. 6d.

This book deals with the background of modern Turkey and the creation of the Republic and is an attempt to analyse the revolution achieved by Kemāl Atatürk and to place it in its true perspective. The opening chapter describes the Ottoman Empire as the heir of Byzantium; it includes an account of the *millet* system which the writer shows was taken over by the Turks from their predecessors but extended considerably both in principle and in application, the Capitulations were the outcome of this development. The use of the word *millet* (Arabic *millah*) is originally Koranic (2/114, *vide* Bell, *The Qur'ān*, London, 1937), and means "type of religion" and appears to have been borrowed from the Syriac *meltha* meaning "word". The word is used in Turkish and Arabic especially of a group of people united by a common faith. The subsequent chapters form a disconnected account of the last century and a half and deal with the attempts at reform made by Selim III and Maḥmūd II, the Christian *millet*s, the Islamic background, the Young Turks and the transitional period from 1918 to 1924, although the political aspect of the revolution is unfortunately excluded. The part on the cultural reforms, especially on the law and the language, is interesting. There are a few small mistakes which might have been avoided. The battle of Sakaria was fought 14th August, 1921, that of Domlu Pınar at the end of August, 1922, the author seems to have considered them as one event. *Terjūmān* (p. 6) is an Arabic word, not Persian. *Mekhémé* should read *mehkémé* throughout; the "White Sea" in Turkish means the Mediterranean and not the Marmora. The book is readable and contains many interesting anecdotes culled from the author's experiences.

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ESSAI D'UNE THÉORIE GÉNÉRALE DE L'OBLIGATION EN DROIT MUSULMAN. Par CHAFIK T. CHEHATA. Tome I. Les Sujets de l'Obligation. pp. 365. Le Caire, 1936.

Dr. Chehata has prepared a very methodical treatise on the general principles of the theory of obligations in Moslem Law which will serve as a useful and reliable work of reference for both the legal expert and the Arabic scholar. One of the greatest drawbacks in dealing with Moslem Law is due to the fact that the Arabic works