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BOOK REVIEW

The war with the Ottoman Empire

by Jeffrey Grey

Oxford University Press: Melbourne; 2015; 238 pp.; ISBN 9780195576764; RRP \$59.95 (hardcover)

The War with the Ottoman Empire is the second volume in *The Centenary History of Australia and the Great War* series. This war was not only a war between great empires, but was also a war furthering European imperial interests, and its aftermath laid the foundations of the modern Middle East.

Drawing on archival records in Australasia, Europe and North America, the book examines the involvement of Australians in this part of the Great War and provides a fresh perspective on Australia's contribution and place in the world as empires shifted.

World War I shattered the consensus of the 19th-century world and led to the disintegration of the 'old order'. The British Empire led the charge against the Ottoman Empire in Mesopotamia, the Dardanelles, Sinai, Palestine and Syria. Despite some setbacks the Ottomans fought and resisted fiercely. Finding themselves on the wrong side of the Armistice, their lands were occupied and their empire dismembered – an action that reverberates to today.

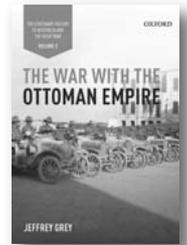
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Although Australians have sentimentalised 'Johnny Turk', we remain largely ignorant of the Ottoman experience of the war. The Ottomans fought soldiers from Russia, France, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, India and other parts of the British and French Empires. Refreshingly, this book strives to portray the perspectives of both sides.

Professor Jeffrey Grey is a leading military historian who is presently teaching at the Australian Defence Force Academy. He is a member the Army Historical Advisory Committee.

The book is illustrated with numerous photographs and several well produced maps. The notes are extensive and the index is detailed, but the font is quite small. This book is the most comprehensive and balanced account of this war to date and will appeal to general readers and scholars with an interest in military history, the Great War or the Ottoman Empire.

Marcus Fielding



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