



**Anglo-Turkish Society online lecture, 7 March 2023, 6.00 pm (UK time)**

Speaker: Sena Hatip Dinçyürek

Platform: Zoom with link provided to those who register

Title: 'The British Relief Efforts for the Ottoman Refugees of 1877-78 Russo-Turkish War'

1877-78 Russo-Turkish War caused an immediate humanitarian crisis. Massive numbers of Ottoman refugees fled the war zones that came under Russian occupation. Even though the Hamidian government expected the British to support their cause, as they did during the Crimean War twenty years ago. However, the British assistance for the Ottomans came in a rather unexpected way, in the form of humanitarian aid, mainly as relief campaigns both for the belligerent and the non-belligerent Ottoman subjects. The most prominent campaign, the *Turkish Compassionate Fund*, was predominantly a civilian initiative. However, it was supervised by the British Ambassador to the Porte. Relief committees, campaigns, and efforts on the ground helped transform this phase of Ottoman history into an extraordinary episode, which is connected to issues of Ottoman immigration history, Anglo-Ottoman diplomatic history, humanitarian diplomacy and the history of philanthropy in Victorian England.

Booking essential: <https://sena-dincyurek-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk>

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("Distribution of clothing to Turkish Refugees at Shumla" Source: Wikipedia Commons)



Sena Hatip Dinçyürek graduated from Istanbul Bilgi University in 2006, with a major in International Relations and a minor in History. She continued her graduate studies in the History Department at Bilkent University (Ankara) and received her MA degree in 2010 and PhD in 2018, with a dissertation titled: "An Ottoman Administrative Response to the Macedonian Question: The General Inspectorate of Rumelia (1902-1909)." Dr. Dinçyürek has carried out archival research in Turkey, the UK and the USA. She has published a book titled *A Compassionate Episode in Anglo-Ottoman Ottoman History: British Relief to the '93 Refugees (1877-78)* and based on her research during her masters studies (Libra Books, 2013). Sena H. Dinçyürek has taught classes of history and international relations at several universities including Bilkent and TEDU in Ankara.

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