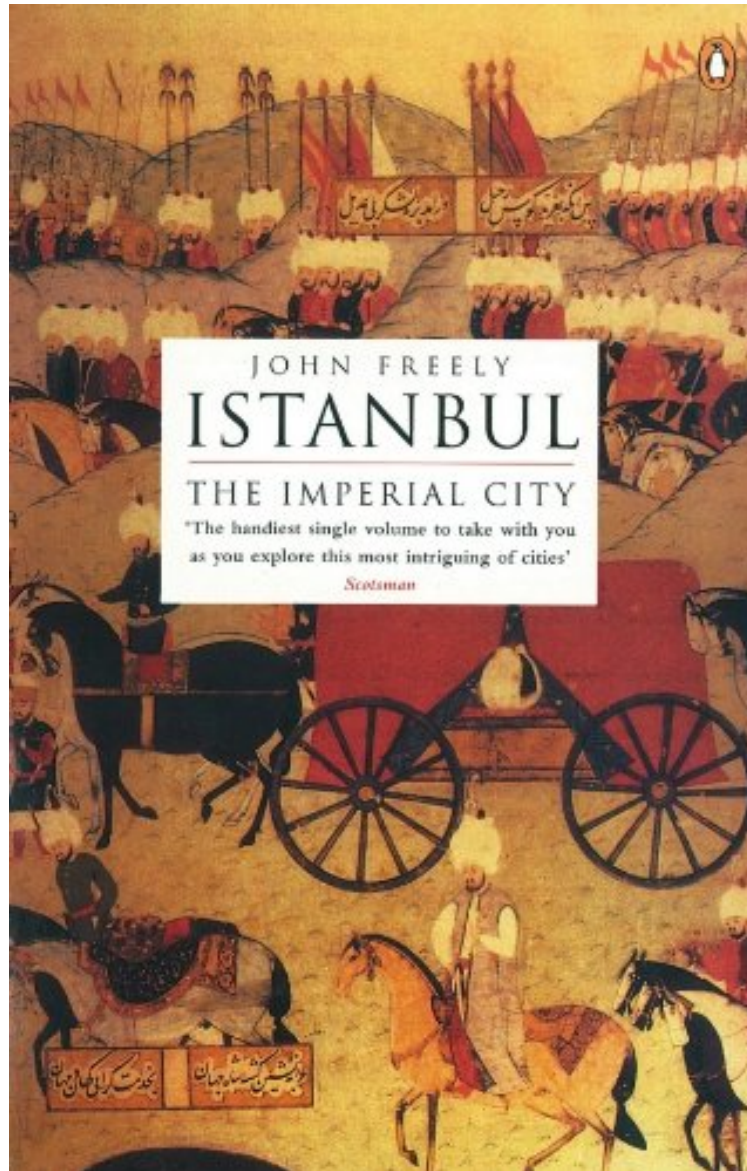


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## Istanbul: The Imperial City

John Freely

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#247497 in Books Freely, John 1998-07-01 1998-07-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.75 x 1.25 x 5.071, .91 #File Name: 0140244611432 pages Penguin Books | File size: 60.Mb

**John Freely : Istanbul: The Imperial City** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Istanbul: The Imperial City:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A dry recounting of the city's chronology By person11 I started in the section dealing with the medieval Byzantine emperors, and I have to say I was not impressed. I tried to get through that section to move onto another, but the book continued to read like the prose version of a timeline. Not really much

depth to the story, and not trying to make any bigger picture explanations of the time. At some point I skipped ahead to the Turkish sacking of Constantinople, but was still unimpressed enough to write the book off. Maybe other readers found parts of the book which deviated from recounting the chronology of the city in dry language, but I was not that successful. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Great Introduction

By Richard R "Istanbul" is a wonderful introduction to a fabulous city. An easy read, it follows the trajectory of the city's fabled history in a smooth chronological rhythm with each period captured in quickie chapters of fifteen pages. It works as an introductory history with 300 pages of chronology, and it works as a travel guide with 60 cross-referenced pages on monuments and museums. A great primer for anyone planning a trip to the city and interested in its history, presented in a readable format somewhere between quick overview and master's degree. The city maps in the early pages are excellently designed, and frequent illustrations are used to good effect. Nevertheless, while the brevity of the chronology makes it an easy read, it also precludes the development of any real historical themes. There is no deep thought here, no new views or insightful analysis, and after several dozen emperors and sultans emerge and die in repetitive procession, they begin to blur a bit one into the next. While the birth and paroxysms of the Ottoman Empire are well-presented from Istanbul's perspective, this reader could have used a few maps of southeast Europe and the Levant to better understand the empire's development. At the same time, events in Istanbul are not presented in the context of contemporary European events. While this certainly helps to keep the chapters quick and readable, it also ignores the huge impact of European events on Istanbul: the Great Schism and massive changes in Rome, conflicts with Austro-Hungary, the crusades, etc. are simply not presented even to frame events in Istanbul. The history and research are excellent (with one tiny quibble: the battle of Kosovo Polje occurred on June 28, not June 15) but broad rather than deep. Freely is clearly at home in the city and with the source material. A great travel guide and quickie history, readable and accessible. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Awesome/Entertaining

By L Samma I purchased this book to read during a trip to Istanbul and it was the perfect guide accompaniment. If you are interested in history and want to delve deep into Istanbul's history while visiting here, then I strongly recommend this book. I couldn't put it down, and the book covers everything - from its days as Byzantium to Constantinople to Istanbul and all the brutal, crazy leaders who have resided here. I like how key landmarks and areas of the city are mentioned regularly in here. It makes actually seeing the sites that much more rewarding. You will not be disappointed if you get this book. It is absolutely fantastic.

Istanbul's history is a catalogue of change, not least of name, yet it has managed to retain its own unique identity. John Freely captures the flavour of daily life as well as court ceremonial and intrigue. The book also includes a comprehensive gazetteer of all major monuments and museums. An in-depth study of this legendary city through its many different ages from its earliest foundation to the present day - the perfect traveller's companion and guide.

About the Author John Freely first went to Istanbul in 1960 to teach physics at Robert College, now the University of the Bosphorus, to which he returned in 1993. His first book was *STROLLING THROUGH ISTANBUL* and he has subsequently written more than twenty other travel books including *CLASSICAL TURKEY*, *STROLLING THROUGH ATHENS*, and *STROLLING THROUGH VENICE*.