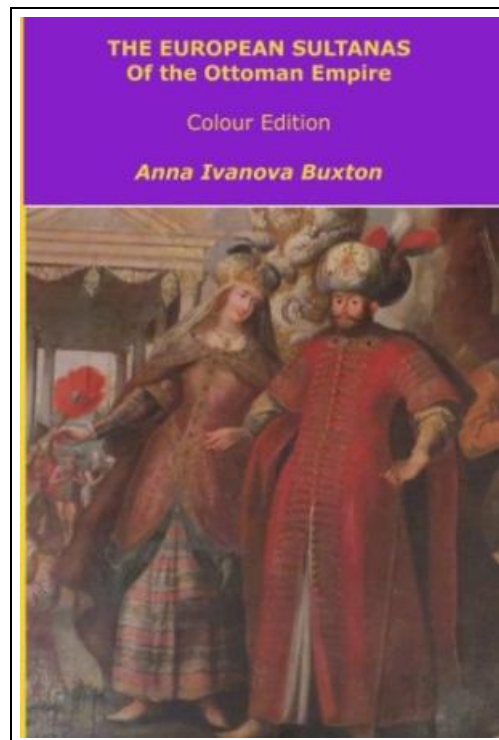


The European Sultanas of the Ottoman Empire - Colour Edition (Paperback)



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Reviews

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THE EUROPEAN SULTANAS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE - COLOUR EDITION (PAPERBACK)



Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. For over seven centuries painters and writers have been fascinated by the non-Christian otherness of the Ottoman Empire and in particular its most notorious institution, the harem. In her carefully researched book, Anna Buxton cuts through the stereotypes and reveals how in an Empire, easily characterized as patriarchal, former Christian women came to exert significant power in day to day government. At the beginning of the Ottoman Empire, dynastic marriages to Balkan princesses aimed to show that the Sultans were their fitting husbands, so Mara Brankovich, Tamara Maria Shishman, Olivera Despina Chlebyanovich came as dynastic brides, prior to the lands of their fathers being appropriated by the Sultans, their husbands. And when there were no more kingdoms to take over, procreation was achieved through slaves. This resulted in a vast variety of different genes in the sultans veins. These concubines came from outside the Empire (at least in theory). The Sultan's female subjects, whether Turkish, Jewish or Christian could not enter the Harem. They were protected as tax-payers and could not be enslaved. If the sultan was attracted by a free woman, he had to marry her - this was exactly what happened, when Suleiman the Magnificent gave former concubine, Hurrem Sultan, her freedom and then married her. Rising through the ranks of concubines, under constant threats of strangulation and poisoning of themselves and their children, these women came to dictate foreign and domestic policy from behind the throne of their often inadequate consorts and sons. The Sultanas, whose stories are told in this book, include several Italian women, two Bulgarians, two Ukrainians, several French women, two Serbian and some Georgian and Byzantine/Greek women. The reader will...



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