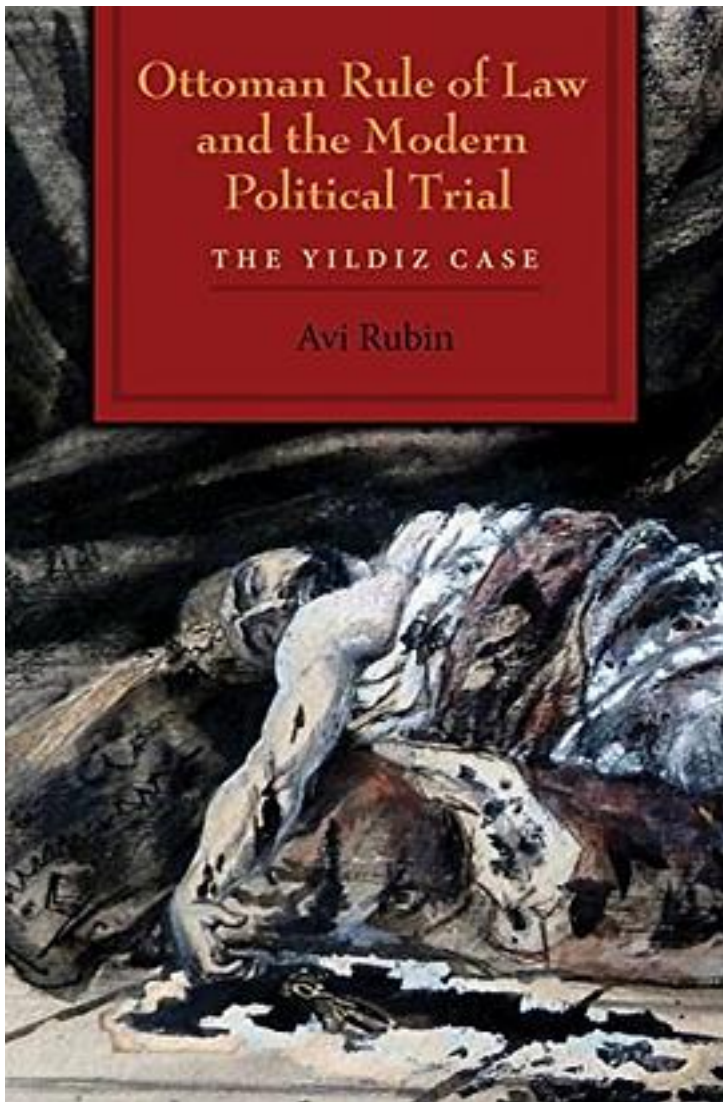


# Ottoman Rule of Law and the Modern Political Trial



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In 1876, a recently dethroned sultan, Abdülaziz, was found dead in his chambers, the veins in his

arm slashed. Five years later, a group of Ottoman senior officials stood a criminal trial and were

found guilty for complicity in his murder. Among the defendants was the world-famous statesman former Grand Vizier and reformer Ahmed Midhat Pasa, a political foe of the autocratic

sultan Abdülhamit II, who succeeded Abdülaziz and ruled the empire for thirty-three years.

The alleged murder of the former sultan and the trial that ensued were political dramas that

captivated audiences both domestically and internationally. The high-profile personalities

involved, the international politics at stake, and the intense newspaper coverage all rendered

the trial an historic event, but the question of whether the sultan was murdered or committed

suicide remains a mystery that continues to be relevant in Turkey today. Drawing upon a wide

range of narrative and archival sources, Rubin explores the famous yet understudied trial and its

representations in contemporary public discourse and subsequent historiography. Through the

reconstruction and analysis of various aspects of the trial, Rubin identifies the emergence of a

new culture of legalism that sustained the first modern political trial in the history of the Middle East.

作者介绍:

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