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Propositions

1. Mid-17th-century Izmir was a frontier city under mounting Ottoman and European pressure to divide and incorporate.
2. The tension between Izmir’s frontier culture and outside expectations of conformity produced a heavily factionalized yet discrete urban politics.
3. The foundering of 17th-century European policies for the Levant on Izmir’s pragmatic crossculturalism was hidden under narratives of Ottoman-European antagonism.
4. The 1678-project is testimony to the Köprülüs’ understanding of the European challenge, of Izmir’s centrality to it, and of how to save the city for an Ottoman future.
5. Within European and world history Ottoman early modernity has been misconstrued as a symptom of Ottoman decline instead of as the promising historical phase that it was.
6. The fiscal-economic approach that has dominated Ottoman studies since the 1940s has become an obstacle to understanding our period on its own terms and contextually.
7. Until Ottomanist scholarship establishes how power was distributed and policy formulated in the Ottoman 17th-century, the period will remain a prelude to European modernity.
8. The study of the Ottoman period (c1300 to 1923) stands to gain as much as it stands to lose from the supersession of Turkology by Turkish (or Middle East) Studies.
9. The fateful decision to break with thirty years of successful policy and make a second attempt for Vienna marks a taking hold of the reins of power by sultan Mehmed IV.
10. If one doesn’t talk about a thing, it has never happened. It is simply expression … that gives reality to things. (Oscar Wilde, The Picture of Dorian Gray)