

A Note on Names and Translations

With apologies to my Turkish friends, I have generally gone with ‘Constantinople’, as it was still called in the pre-First World War and wartime era, even by Ottoman government officials, unless I am talking about the city today, in which case it is indeed ‘Istanbul’. Living in Ankara myself, I could not, however, countenance using the classical ‘Angora’, much as I like the sound of it. With most other cities I have used the contemporary form with modern usage in parentheses, thus ‘Adrianople (Edirne)’ or ‘Üsküp (Skopje)’. Today’s St Petersburg was likewise ‘St Petersburg’ until 31 August 1914, after which date Peter’s Germanic sounding city was Slavicized as ‘Petrograd’ (in the current narrative, we do not have to contend with its years as ‘Leningrad’).

With regard to Turkish spellings, I have generally rendered the ‘c’ as ‘dj’ (as in *Djavid* and *Djermal*) and used the dotless ‘ı’ where appropriate (it sounds a bit like ‘uh’) to differentiate from the Turkish ‘i’, which sounds like ‘ee’. Likewise, I have tried to render properly ‘ş’ (sh) and ‘ç’ (ch) to add Turkish flavour to the text, even if these letters are really post-1928 concoctions of Atatürk’s language reforms. It is impossible to be consistent in all these things; may common sense prevail.

All translations from the French, German, Russian and Turkish, unless otherwise noted, are my own.

