Anglo-Turkish Society online lecture, 8 October 2021, 6.00 pm
Speaker: Joshua Michael White (University of Virginia)
Platform: Zoom with link provided to those who register
Title: 'Piracy and Law in the Ottoman Mediterranean: Navigating Jihad Island'

"Think of jihad as an island", wrote the sixteenth-century Ottoman bureaucrat and historian Mustafa Ali in 1599: "On its right is a sea of wealth, on the left is corruption". Corsairing and piracy, the opposing legal poles of Mediterranean maritime raiding, were not distinguished by tactics or even personnel, but by targeting and authorization—or its absence. Corsairs played a key role on both sides of the sixteenth-century Ottoman-Habsburg battle for supremacy in North Africa, but the end of large-scale naval conflict and the arrival of newcomers to the scene after the 1570s muddied the waters, leading to an explosion of maritime violence and a crisis of legitimacy that persisted through the seventeenth century. Typically studied from the perspective of European states on the basis of European sources alone, Mediterranean maritime violence in this period has mostly been framed as something perpetrated by the Ottomans rather than as a phenomenon from which they both profited and suffered. This talk, drawing on the speaker's 2017 book, *Piracy and Law in the Ottoman Mediterranean* (Stanford University Press), discusses the reasons for the rise in maritime violence in the eastern half of the Mediterranean after the 1570s, the range of piratical actors—Muslims and Christians, Ottoman subjects and foreigners, large-scale professionals and local opportunists—responsible, and the responses of Ottoman administrators and jurists, who had to sort out the messes pirates left behind.

Booking essential: https://joshua-white-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk
Contact: contact@angloturkishsociety.org.uk



Eighteenth-century frescoed wall of the Fazil Bey mansion in Herakleion, Crete, on display at the Historical Museum of Crete



Joshua M. White is Associate Professor of History at the University of Virginia. He is the author of Piracy and Law in the Ottoman Mediterranean (Stanford University Press, 2017).

The Anglo-Turkish Society relies solely on membership dues and donations to continue its work. If you wish to become a member, sponsor one of our charities or wish to leave a legacy small or large, we would be happy to hear from you.
https://www.angloturkishsociety.org.uk/