



HISTORY ETDS

Emperor Charles V and Sultan Süleyman I: A Comparative Analysis

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Abstract

This thesis is a comparative analysis of Emperor Charles V and Sultan Süleyman I. Both men were archetypes of their age and perfectly demonstrated the perceived struggle between the East and West, Christianity and Islam. These two were the first generation of sovereigns of the early modern period, and throughout their time as monarchs each sought to counteract and dominate the other by utilizing rhetoric, titulature, propaganda, regalia, and iconography.

The texts and images used throughout serve as the best representatives of the Sultan's and Emperor's theatrical conflict. The first chapter focuses on the evolution of the perception of the Turk in the beginning of the sixteenth century. The second examines the relationship between Charles, Süleyman, and their advisers while analyzing both ruler's sovereign claims. The final chapter analyzes the importance of religion in helping Charles and Süleyman exert their power and authority, and their conflict with heretics.

Studying Charles V and Süleyman I in a comparative aspect is useful because both rulers were excellent examples of the changes happening at the beginning of the early modern period. These sovereigns reveal the aspirations and beliefs of their cultures, faiths, and nations, because on their perceived world stage they thought of themselves as ultimate representatives in the struggle between the East and West. Although these two men, their advisers, and subsequent scholars have emphasized differences, their interactions with one another and their similarities are what is most striking in this study.

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The sultan is only twenty-five years [actually 26] old, tall and slender but tough, with a thin and bony face. Facial hair is evident but only barely. The sultan appears friendly and in good humor. Under Charles V and his brother Ferdinand I, the Habsburgs reoccupied Buda and took possession of Hungary. Reacting in 1529, Suleiman marched through the valley of the Danube and regained control of Buda; in the following autumn, his forces laid siege to Vienna. The Mughal Emperor Akbar the Great himself is known to have exchanged six documents with Suleiman the Magnificent.[30][31][32]. Suleiman led several naval campaigns against the Portuguese in an attempt to remove them and reestablish trade with the Mughal Empire. Its main characters are the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V and Ottoman Turkish Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent. Though they never encountered each other on the battlefield, they were at the top of the political spectrum of the two colliding faith-empires. If you enjoy reading history, this is a fast-paced and good book. Rather than showing Charles and the Christians as brutes in contrast to the restrained Turks, a more level analysis would show that both sides were at times violent and at times restrained. Throughout the Christians are cast, in general, in a more negative light while the Muslims are lifted up. This bias is mild, it is by no means obvious. Identifier. mma_emperor_charles_v_sultan_suleyman_ii_and_an_angel_207663. Medium. Bronze. Provenance. Sir John Charles Robinson, Adalbert von Lanna (until 1985). Rights. Metropolitan Museum of Art Terms and Conditions.