Beylik: the territory under the jurisdiction of a bey (Ottoman chieftain).

Dervish: member of a Sufi fraternity.

Fiqh: Islamic jurisprudence based on the teachings of the Quran.

Ghazi: a title given to Muslim warriors or champions, used by several Ottoman Sultans.

Hadji: a title awarded to a person who has successfully completed the Hajj to Mecca.

Kadi: A judge.

Külliye: A building complex adjacent to a mosque housing a school, hospital, hammam, bazaar, soup kitchen, and caravanserai.

Madrasah: A secular or religious educational institution.

Masjid: The Arabic term for a mosque.

Meddah: A professional urban storyteller.

Peshtamal: A traditional hammam towel.

Temme: A formula meaning “I have finished”, related to the Arabic tamma often used in manuscript colophons.

Ulema: a body of Muslim scholars with specialist knowledge of Islamic sacred law and theology.

Waqf: an endowment made by a Muslim to a religious, educational, or charitable cause.

Yali: A waterfront residence, usually on the Bosphorus.

Young Ottomans: A secret society founded in 1865 to push for European-style modernization and a constitutional government.


Zawiya: In the Ottoman context, a Sufi lodge.