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Tsar and Sultan: Russian Encounters with the Ottoman Empire

Victor Taki

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Tsar and Sultan: Russian Encounters with the Ottoman Empire Victor Taki
From the 1700s, the declining Ottoman Empire served as a source of inspiration for the westernization of Russia. Comparisons between European and Ottoman diplomacy, warfare, and political organizations shaped Russian identity and provided the nation with a sense of superiority over its adversary. *Tsar and Sultan* offers a unique insight into Russian Orientalism as the intellectual force behind Russian-Ottoman encounters. Through war diaries and memoirs, accounts of captivity and diplomatic correspondences, Victor Taki's analysis of military documents demonstrates a crucial aspect of Russia's discovery of the Orient based on its rivalry with the Ottoman Empire. Narratives depicting the brutal realities of Russian-Turkish military conflicts influenced the Orientalization of the Ottoman Empire. In turn, Russian identity was built as the counter-image to the demonized Turk. This book explains the significance of Russian Orientalism on Russian identity and national policies of westernization. Students of both European and Middle East studies will appreciate Taki's unique approach to Russian-Turkish relations and their influence on Eurasian history.

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