

False Coinage in the Sixteenth Century Ottoman Empire

Ozlum Kumrular

This paper aims to analyze the nature of the false coin makers who worked within the Ottoman Empire with the help of the registers of outgoing decrees of Imperial Diwan (Mühimme Defterleri) during the second half of the sixteenth century, in this case mainly the reigns of Suleiman the Magnificent and Selim II. The large net of false coinage in the Empire was skillfully chased and punished by the authorities. The analysis of the documents relating to the false coinage also sheds light on the nature and social aspects of such crimes.