



# Between Empires and Borders The Kurds in the Middle East

public lecture by

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The Kurds have long been at the crossroads of empires, shaping and being shaped by the histories of the Ottoman Empire, Iran, and the broader Middle East. This talk explores their evolving role—between autonomy and centralization, resistance and adaptation—within shifting imperial and national frameworks. By tracing key historical moments and movements, it sheds light on how Kurdish communities navigated political, cultural, and religious transformations. Understanding their place in history offers a deeper perspective on modern Kurdish dynamics in the region.

Metin Atmaca is a Professor of History at the Social Sciences University of Ankara, specializing in the modern history of the Kurds in the Ottoman Empire and Iran. His research has appeared in leading publications, including *The Cambridge History of the Kurds*, *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, *Middle Eastern Studies*, *Journal of World History*, and *Kurdish Studies Journal*. He is also the editor-in-chief of the forthcoming *Encyclopaedia of the Kurds*, a multi-volume work that explores the rich history, culture, and politics of the Kurdish people.

