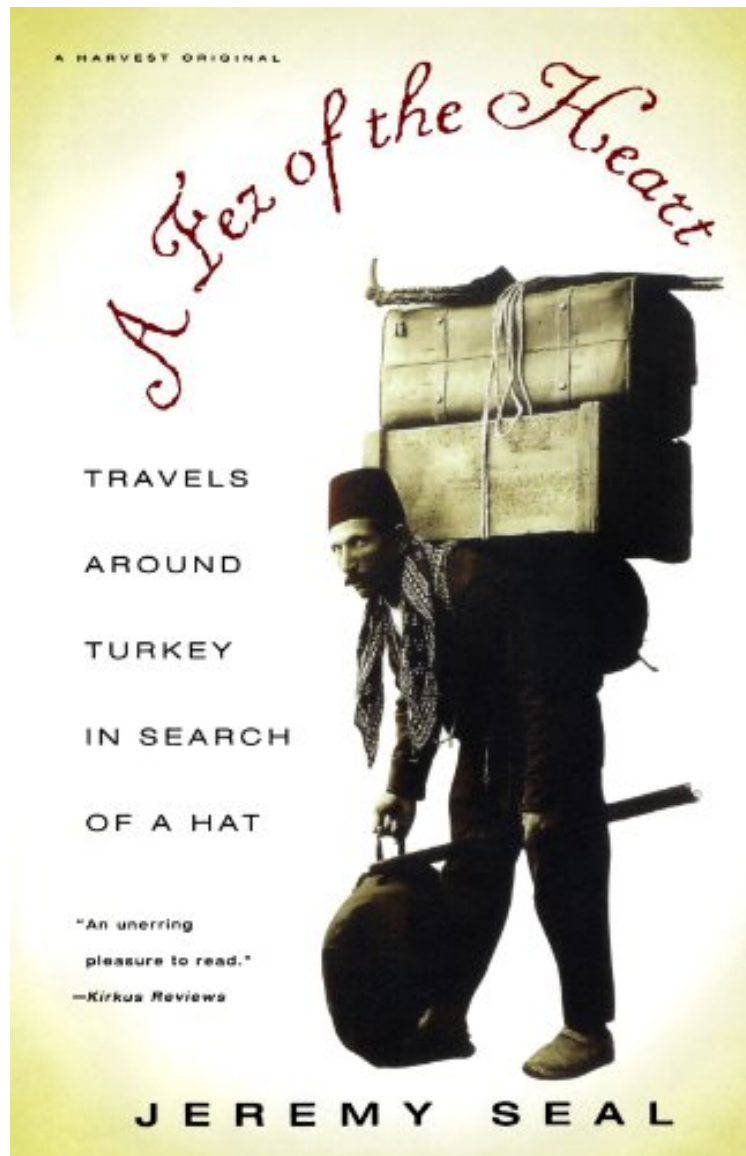


[Pdf free] A Fez of the Heart: Travels around Turkey in Search of a Hat

## A Fez of the Heart: Travels around Turkey in Search of a Hat

*Jeremy Seal*

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**Jeremy Seal : A Fez of the Heart: Travels around Turkey in Search of a Hat** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Fez of the Heart: Travels around Turkey in Search of a Hat:

8 of 14 people found the following review helpful. ConfessionBy D. P. BirkettI have to confess that I enjoyed the book. that's a confession because I can understand how it must offend many Turks. Anyone who writes about the politics and recent history of Turkey is bound to offend someone. I thought the author tried hard to present the different viewpoints of Turks, Greeks, Armenians and Arabs. The problem was that he also tried hard to be funny. Sometimes he succeeded, but sometimes the humor is at the level of the pun in the title. There is something ludicrous about the state prescribing what clothes people must wear. All governments, including Western ones, do this to some extent. He could have made the point more effectively without playing so obviously for laughs. Many countries contain poor and backward rural areas and fundamentalist religious groups1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Eccentric, funny, well-informed Turkish travelogueBy Gordon Bruce SmithThis is a very well-crafted travelogue about Turkey by a writer/journalist who has taken the time to learn Turkish as well as the history and culture of the places through which he is traveling. He turns a mean metaphor too.It is however very puzzling that he chose to tour the country in winter, including the frozen highland parts of the country in the east, which makes for hard traveling and unlovely cityscapes. Combine the wintry weather with his quixotic quest to find the origins of the fez (the funny-looking Ottoman headgear), and you have a downright eccentric kind of travel book. Despite that, read this book and you'll learn a lot about Turkey, and laugh out loud quite a few times.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ThoughtfulBy Vivian Leigh JonesThis book helped me learn more about the Moroccan culture and history in a fun and interesting way. I love to go to Morocco and it helped me understand the people more.

Inspired by a dusty fez in his parents attic, Jeremy Seal set off in 1993 to trace the astonishing history of this cone-shaped hat. Soon the quintessentially Turkish headgear became the key to understanding a country beset by contradictions. A modern travel classic (Herald Express).

.com Upon the orders of Kemal Ataturk, the fez replaced the turban as Turkey's national headdress. Outlawed completely in 1925, the turban is viewed as a symbol of Turkish backwardness. While living and teaching in Turkey for several years, Jeremy Seals developed an obsession for the fez, a hat he believes has come to symbolize the soul of the country. Through interviews with villagers and historical essays, Seals chronicles his journey through Turkey, to areas both metropolitan and remote, to find the heart of the country as embodied by its national head gear.From Publishers WeeklyWhat is more Turkish than the fez? Almost anything, as it turns out. Just two years after Turkey was officially proclaimed a republic in 1923, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk outlawed the fez. For Ataturk, the maroon felt headgear foisted on Turkey's turbaned Ottoman precursors by a similarly reform-minded ruler, Mahmud II, just 100 years earlier, symbolized Turkey's backwardness?unlike the European hats Ataturk himself favored. It's not taking anything away from the book to say that first-time author Seal, after traipsing through Ankara, Istanbul, Cappadocia and many much more obscure Turkish towns (as well as the Moroccan city of Fez), doesn't discover the origins of the fez. But aided by fluent Turkish (it fails him once when he believes a host has invited him to hunt Kurds, only to discover that the game is kurts, or wolves) and wry sensibility, he does offer both an engaging, often very funny travelogue and real insights into Turkey's troubled balancing act between modernity and tradition, between Europe and Islam. For those who were surprised by the plurality gained by Turkey's pro-Islamic Refah (or Welfare) Party in the most recent elections, Seal's book shows that we could all learn a lot from a hat. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalTo appreciate this book, one must be familiar with Turkish history. On May 19, 1919, Turkey emerged as a nation with its own identity. In 1925, Ataturk outlawed the fez and ordered the hanging of anyone wearing it. The 1920s and 1930s were the modernization years-out with the old ways (fezzes and Islam), in with the new (census, adoption of surnames). In one fell swoop, the Turkey of yore had all but vanished. This tale is about one man's search for that disappearing culture by exploring that strange land of fezzes and turbans-the last remnants of the Ottoman Empire. Through his constant quest for fez sightings, the author, a former language teacher in Turkey, thickly intertwines Middle Eastern/Turkish history, culture, politics, sociology, and travel into a most unusual and insightful book. He takes the reader on a yearlong journey through the Turkey of 1992-93 in search of the genuine land and people who formerly were characterized and identified by their unique tasseled, felt, conical, maroon or black hat. Recommended for history buffs and armchair time travelers. Ann E. Cohen, Rochester P.L., N.Y. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.