

**CONSTANTINE, THE LAST EMPEROR  
OF THE GREEKS OR THE CONQUEST  
OF CONSTANTINOPLE BY THE  
TURKS (A.D. 1453) AFTER THE  
LATEST HISTORICAL RESEARCHES**

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Constantine, the last emperor of the Greeks or The conquest of Constantinople by the Turks  
(A.D. 1453) after the latest historical researches by Cedomilj Mijatovic

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**CEDOMILJ MIJATOVIC**

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CONSTANTINE

OR

THE CONQUEST OF CONSTANTINOPLE BY  
THE TURKS

THE GREAT  
ALPHABET



CONSTANTINE, THE LAST EMPEROR OF THE GREEKS.

# CONSTANTINE

The Last Emperor of the Greeks

OR

THE CONQUEST OF CONSTANTINOPLE BY  
THE TURKS

(A.D. 1453)

*AFTER THE LATEST HISTORICAL RESEARCHES*

BY

CHEDOMIL MIJATOVICH

FORMERLY SERBIAN MINISTER AT THE COURT OF ST JAMES

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

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WITH PROFOUND ADMIRATION OF THE HEROISM DISPLAYED

BY

CONSTANTINE PALÆOLOGOS

**Dedicated**

MOST RESPECTFULLY AND BY SPECIAL PERMISSION

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

PRINCE CONSTANTINE

DUKE OF SPARTA

HEIR TO THE THRONE OF GREECE

274210





## PREFACE.

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THE German Emperor Frederic III. in a letter written June 1453 to Pope Nicholas V., lamenting greatly the catastrophe on the Bosphorus, calls Constantinople "*the capital of the Eastern Empire, the head of Greece, the home of arts and literature*" ("*Orientalis imperii sedem, Græciæ caput . . . . veluti domicilium litterarum artiumque*").<sup>1</sup> And indeed, from the time of Constantine the Great to the time when the dawn of Renaissance aroused Italy to her noble task, Constantinople was the capital of Christian civilization. Its place in the history of the world has been always a most remarkable one,—Rome being the only city which can successfully bear comparison with it.

When in 1453 it passed into the hands of Mohammed

<sup>1</sup> The whole text of Frederic's long and interesting letter in Raynaldi, *Annales Ecclesiastici*, vol. xviii., Coloniae Agr. 1694, p. 408.

El-Fathi its possession consolidated at once the new Mohammedan Empire, and enabled the Sultans of the Ottoman Turks to extend their sway up to the blue Carpathians in the north-west and to the Gulf of Persia in the south-east. There seems almost a miraculous telepathic influence in that place, an influence which inspires its occupants, as long as they possess some power, with an irresistible ambition to rule over three worlds, and which enables old and exhausted Empires to live longer than the most flattering prophecies ever thought probable or possible.

There are theories which assert that the possession of Constantinople enervates, disorganizes, and in the end kills. So far as I have been able to read history, I have found that he who takes Constantinople, once securely seated on the Bosphorus, unavoidably feels that his power is strengthened for a higher task, that his political horizon has widened to the misty limits of an Universal Empire, and that it is the manifest destiny of Constantinople to be the capital, if not of an universal, then at least of a great Empire, stretching over Europe, Asia, and Africa. And I would even say that it seems to me that neither the Byzantine nor the Ottoman Empires could have withstood so long