

Evren, Burçak. *Galata Köprüleri Tarihi*. İstanbul: Milliyet Yayınları, 1994, 184pp.

ABSTRACT

A History of the Bridges of Galata

Galata Köprüleri Tarihi

The book begins with the narration of an ancient Greek myth on the Golden Horn (Haliç) and goes on to inform us about all the bridges that have been constructed, demolished, rebuilt and repaired in the history of the Golden Horn.

The author emphasises the fact that the Golden Horn has been a reliable port since antiquity, becoming one of the most important trading centres in the Mediterranean and the Near East. He mentions the impressive religious structures built on the hillsides of the Golden Horn during the Eastern Roman and the Ottoman Empire. Starting with the short-lived Eastern Roman military bridges, the author talks about the construction stages of the bridges of Unkapanı and Galata, describing the various instances and the circumstances under which they were rebuilt.

It is also mentioned that both Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo contacted the Ottoman authorities with a view to building bridges over the Golden Horn; however, none of these plans came to fruition.

While talking about the construction history of the Galata Bridges, the author uses quotes from *Tarih-i Lütfü*, one of the Ottoman annals. There are also quotes on bridges from other authors who are known for their writings on Istanbul. The author refers to some discussions that took place in the Turkish press in the 1930s on the construction of bridges. The text of the book is an easy read, and offers rich visual material and information on all the bridges ever built on the Golden Horn since the times of the Eastern Roman Empire.

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