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Wasp or Mosquito? Lawrence of Arabia and the Turks

by

Dr. Edward J. Erickson

Antalya Bilim University, Dept. of International Relations and Political Science

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Popularly known as Lawrence of Arabia, British army colonel TE Lawrence has achieved today a cult-line status as the creator of a new form of guerrilla warfare as well as being credited with leading the Arabs to drive the Turks out of Arabia during the First World War. Unfortunately this representation of the man and his works is not at all accurate. While the charismatic Lawrence was important in his own time the Turkish official military histories treat him as more of an annoying mosquito than a dangerous wasp. Professor Edward Erickson explains the Lawrence mythology against the backdrop of the actual operational effects revealed by the Turkish archives and histories.

Dr. Edward J. Erickson is professor of international relations at Antalya Bilim University in Antalya, Turkey. He retired as professor of military history at the Command and Staff College, Marine Corps University, in Quantico, Virginia, in 2017. Professor Erickson is also a retired US Army officer who served in field artillery and foreign area officer assignments in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. He is the author of numerous books and articles about the Ottoman army in the First World War.

**American Research Institute in Turkey, Ankara
Şehit Ersan Caddesi 24/9, Çankaya
(312) 427 2222**