

# TRUTH RESTORED

## Chapter One: The Sea Between Worlds

For the Ottomans, the Mediterranean was never merely a sea — it was a frontier of faith. It was where East met West, where the echoes of the Prophet's message faced the cannons of European Christendom, and where trade, war, and theology collided on every tide.

When Sultan Mehmed II took Constantinople in 1453, he was not content with a city. He wanted a sea. A dominion. An empire that stretched not just across land but across waves — from the Aegean to the Adriatic, from Algiers to Alexandria.

The Ottoman naval awakening began slowly, with modest fleets and cautious commanders. But soon, the empire launched into maritime history with unmatched ambition. With the rise of men like Kemal Reis and his nephew Piri Reis — whose maps stunned the world — and the legendary Hayreddin Barbarossa, the Ottomans would challenge Spain, Portugal, Venice, and the Knights of St. John.

They weren't just fighting for control. They were fighting for dignity, for sovereignty, and for the protection of Muslim lands and Muslim captives from Christian slavery and colonial expansion.

Their ships bore not just sails and cannons, but Qur'anic verses, Islamic banners, and a divine call to defend the Ummah. This book sets sail on that very journey — through storm and smoke, through victories and betrayals, and through the golden age of Ottoman seapower that forever reshaped the map of Europe and the memory of Islam.