



THE INSTITUTE *of* TURKISH STUDIES

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BOOK LAUNCH: MIDNIGHT AT THE PERA PALACE

Prof. Charles King, Georgetown University



Tuesday, October 28

5:30 PM

**Mortara Center for
International Studies**

Georgetown University,
3600 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20057



“Intrigue, violence, sex, and espionage, all set against the slow dimming of Ottoman magnificence. I loved this book.”

— **Simon Winchester**

When the Ottoman Empire collapsed, so many spies mingled in the lobby of Istanbul's Pera Palace Hotel that the manager posted a sign asking them to relinquish seats to paying guests. As the multi-ethnic empire became a Turkish republic, Russian émigrés sold family heirlooms, an African American impresario founded a jazz club, Miss Turkey became the first Muslim beauty queen, and a Boston professor unveiled the lost treasures of the Hagia Sophia. Turkey's president Kemal Atatürk, Muslim feminist Halide Edip, the exiled Leon Trotsky, and the future Pope John XXIII fought for new visions of human freedom. During World War II, German intellectuals ran from the Nazis while Jewish activists spirited refugees out of occupied Europe. In this pioneering portrait of urban reinvention, Charles King re-creates an era when an ancient city became a global crossroads—a forgotten moment when Europe's closest Muslim metropolis became its vital port of refuge.

Charles King is Professor of International Affairs and Government at Georgetown University, where he previously served as chairman of the faculty of the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, the country's premier school of global affairs. King's research has focused on nationalism, ethnic politics, transitions from authoritarianism, urban history, and the relationship between history and the social sciences. He is the author or editor of seven books, including *Odessa: Genius and Death in a City of Dreams* (W. W. Norton, 2011), which received the National Jewish Book Award, and *The Ghost of Freedom: A History of the Caucasus* (Oxford University Press, 2008), which was named “History Book of the Year” by the Moscow Times. His new book on the emergence of modern Istanbul will be published by W. W. Norton in 2014. His work has been translated into more than ten languages.

Light refreshments will be served