Turkey

Under the Shadow
Rage and Revolution in Modern Turkey
Kaya Genç

Turkey stands at the crossroads of the Middle East – caught between the West, ISIS, Syria and Russia, and governed by an increasingly hard-line leader. Acclaimed writer Kaya Genç meets activists from both sides of Turkey’s political divide: Gezi park protestors and supporters of Erdogan’s conservative vision. He talks to artists and authors, interviews censored journalists and propaganda writers paid by an increasingly repressive state. Along the way, he weaves in historical stories and shows a divided society still coming to terms with the 21st Century. In doing so, Genç gets to the heart of the compelling conflicts between history and modernity in the Middle East.

“Kaya Genç’s writing is as evocative as it is charming”
- Elif Shafak, author of The Architect’s Apprentice and Honour

The Gülen Movement in Turkey
The Politics of Islam and Modernity
Caroline Tee

What is the Gülen Movement and why is Turkey’s President Erdogan so convinced that the organisation and its charismatic leader were behind the failed military coup of 15 July 2016? The Gülen, or Hizmet, movement in Turkey was until recently the country’s most powerful and affluent religious organization. At its head is the exiled Muslim preacher Fethullah Gülen, who leads from a gated compound in the USA. The movement’s central tenet is that Muslims should engage positively with modernity, especially through mastering the sciences. At hundreds of Gülen-run schools and universities worldwide, instructors have cultivated the next generation of Muslim bankers, biologists, software engineers and entrepreneurs. Here, Caroline Tee analyses the complex attitudes of Gülen and his followers towards secular modernity. Considered against the backdrop of Turkish politics, Gülenist engagement with modern science is revealed as a key source of the influence the movement has exerted.

This revised edition builds upon and updates its twin themes of Turkey's continuing incorporation into the capitalist world and the modernization of state and society. It begins with the forging of closer links with Europe after the French Revolution, and the changing face of the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century. Zürcher offers a strongly revisionist interpretation of Turkey’s founding father, Kemal Atatürk. In his account of the period since 1950, Zürcher focuses on the growth of mass politics; the three military coups; the thorny issue of Turkey’s human right’s record; the alliance with the West and relations with the European Community; Turkey’s ambivalent relations with the Middle East; the increasingly explosive Kurdish question; and the continuing political instability and growth of Islam.

“a valuable addition to scholarly literature”
- Andrew Mango, Times Literary Supplement
Zürcher argues here for the essential continuity of the late Ottoman Empire with the Republic of Turkey that was founded in 1923. He shows that Kemal’s ‘ideological toolkit’, which included positivism, militarism, nationalism and a state-centred world view, was shared by many other Young Turks. Authoritarian rule, a one-party state, a legal framework based on European principles, advanced European-style bureaucracy, financial administration, military and educational reforms and state-control of Islam, can all be found in the late Ottoman Empire, as can policies of demographic engineering. The book focuses on the attempts of the Young Turks to save their empire through forced modernization as well as on the attempts of their Kemalist successors to build a strong national state.

Mustafa Kemal, a.k.a Atatürk, is the most famous figure in modern Turkish history. But what was his path to power? And how did his early career as a soldier in the Ottoman army affect his later decisions as President? Gawrych tracks Kemal’s life from the War of Independence to the founding of the Republic and shows that only by understanding Kemal’s military career can one fully comprehend how he evolved as one of the twentieth century’s most extraordinary statesmen. Delving into Kemal’s military writings, orders, political decisions, speeches, and private correspondences, this book provides a rounded and nuanced portrait of the making of a major statesman.

“A well-crafted, theoretically rich, tightly argued, and rigorously executed book... the best study on the subject.”
- M. Sukru Hanioglu, Professor at Princeton University

In Islamic law the world was made up of the House of Islam and the House of War with the Ottoman Sultan - the perceived successor to the Caliphs - supreme ruler of the Islamic world. However, Suraiya Faroqhi demonstrates that there was no iron curtain between the Ottoman and other worlds but rather a long-established network of diplomatic, financial, cultural and religious connections. These extended to the empires of Asia and the modern states of Europe. Based on a huge study of original and early modern sources, including diplomatic records, travel and geographical writing, as well as personal accounts. Its breadth and originality will make it essential reading for historians of Europe and the Middle East.

“The Ottoman state administered vast and complex territories and its main task was the maintenance of justice - the key concept of government in the Ottoman view of society and state. Rulers who stepped beyond the bounds of the law were judged guilty of tyranny. By the late eighteenth century, this huge state was in decline and consequently, the Ottoman Empire relied increasingly on a policy of coercion - particularly in Syria. Douwes examines the administration of the Syrian interior, showing how the Empire established independent local power bases and how their rule over the peasantry was based on oppression and extortion. This reached its apogee under the reformist governor of Egypt, Muhammad ‘Alî Pasha, who rebelled against the Sultan and occupied all Syria.

“In an illuminating book by one of the world’s leading experts on Ottoman history”
- Noel Malcolm, Sunday Telegraph

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