

ATA 588

Selected Topics in Turkish Political Thought: The Politics of Population in Turkey

ATA 588 (3 cr)
Spring 2023
ATA Seminar Room
Thursday 678

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The interest in population issues has never been a contemporary issue of our times. From around the late 19th century through the interwar years, deep concern for population issues can widely be observed in many parts of the world. Indeed, these issues became almost an obsession of public, political and academic debates all around the world. In the age of nationalist rivalry, imperialism, alarming decline of women's fertility in certain countries and the population catastrophe that World War I imposed made elites all over the world took up population issues and integrated them as essential parts of their social and political projects. During the war, some 15 million people, mostly men, perished. In France, for example, one in ten males died during the war. In the crisis atmosphere of the postwar era when revolutions, insurrections, civil wars, forced migrations, labor unrests and, above all, the dissolution of state authorities swept most parts of the globe while disease, epidemics, famine, the increasing rate of male suicides led to unprecedented social catastrophes, not to mention the Spanish influenza of 1918 killing around 50 million people, more than three times caused by the war.

This course focuses on population related issues in early Republican Turkey within a comparative perspective. Just like the cases elsewhere, by the turn of the 20th century, the Turkish elites were obsessed with the improvement of the quality and quantity of their populations. In this respect, we will focus on policies both on quantitative (demographic) and qualitative (Eugenics) levels.

Students with Ottoman reading skills are especially encouraged.

The grade in this course will be based on

a) Term paper	40%	b) Participation	30%
c) Final Exam	30%		

As for the reading materials, please first check the Boğaziçi Bookstore just across the university library. When and if possible, we can use the digital versions of the texts.

Paper Assignment:

Paper assignment will be announced later.

LEC #	TOPICS	READINGS
Week 1 Feb. 23	Introduction	An overview of Turkey's population trends Video: <i>How Many People Can Live on Planet Earth</i> , BBC 2009. Video: <i>The Joy of Stats</i> by Hans Rosling.
Week 2 March 2	Malthusianism	Thomas R. Malthus, <i>An Essay on the Principle of Population</i> (London, 1798): 1-11, 23-31, 49-68, 110-125.

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Week 3 March 9	Population Politics I	Matthew Connelly, <i>Fatal Misconception: The Struggle to Control World Population</i> (Harvard, 2008): 1-114.
Week 4 March 16	Population Politics II	Maria Sophie Quine, <i>Population Politics in Twentieth Century Europe: Fascist Dictatorships and Liberal Democracies</i> (London, 2003), 1-51. Mark Mazower, "Healthy Bodies, Sick Bodies," in <i>Dark Continent: Europe's 20th Century</i> (London, 1998): 77-105. M. Asım Karaömerlioğlu, "Nüfus Mühendisliğinden Gezi Parkı Direnişine," <i>T24</i> , July 19, 2013.
Week 5 March 23	Rise of Eugenics I	Daniel J. Kevles, <i>In the Name of Eugenics, Genetics and the Uses of Human Hereditary</i> (New York, 1985): 3-147.
Week 6 March 30	Rise of Eugenics II	Mark B. Adams, "Eugenics in the History of Science," & "Toward a Comparative History of Eugenics," in <i>The Wellborn Science: Eugenics in Germany, France, Brazil, and Russia</i> (New York: 1990): 3-7; 217-226. Roger Griffin, "Tunnel Visions and Mysterious Trees: Modernist Projects of National and Racial Degeneration, 1880-1939," in <i>Blood and Homeland: Eugenics and Racial Nationalism in Central and Southeast Europe</i> : 417-456. Franz Boas "Eugenics," <i>The Scientific Monthly</i> , V. 3, No. 5 (Nov., 1916): 471-478. Video: <i>Racism, A History: Fatal Impacts</i> , BBC, 2007 Video: <i>A Science Odyssey: Origins</i> , PBS, 2005. Video: <i>What Darwin Didn't Know</i> , BBC, 2009.
Week 7 April 6	Population in Turkey I	Adnan Güriz, <i>Türkiye'de Nüfus Politikası ve Hukuk Düzeni</i> (Ankara, 1975):1-87, 141-187.
Week 8 April 13	Population in Turkey II	Ratip Yüceuluğ, <i>Savaş Sonu Nüfus Meseleleri: Türkiye Nüfusu Üzerinde İncelemeler ve Fikirler</i> , (Ankara, 1944): 11-48. Osman Nuri, "Türkiye'de Nüfus İşleri", <i>İstanbul Şehremaneti Mecmuası</i> , Aralık 1926, 28, 225-227. C., "İstatistik İhtiyacını Tatminde Gecikiyoruz," <i>Hayat</i> , vol. 1, no 25, Ankara 19 May 1927: 486-487. Camille Jakar, "Tahrir-i Nüfus Servet-i Umumiyyenin Muhâsebesidir," <i>İstanbul Şehremaneti Mecmuası</i> , no. 32, April 1927: 463-465. <i>Sayımı Hakkında Fikirler</i> (Ankara, 1941): 1-53,62-89,97-115,156-164,199-203,218-232,241-254,263-267. (135 pages) Kamil, Jakar, "Nüfus Tahriri Hakkında," <i>Hayat</i> , vol 1, no 12, 17 February 1927, 13-14. Kamil Jakar, "Tahrir-i Nüfus ve İçtimaiyat," <i>Felsefe ve İçtimâiyât Mecmuası</i> , vol. 1, no 5, October 1927.

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		<p>Aytül Tamer & Alanur Cavlin Bozbeyoglu, "1927 Nüfus Sayımının Türkiye'de Ulus Devlet İnşasındaki Yeri: Basında Yansımaları, <i>Nüfusbilim Dergisi</i>, 26 (2004,): 73-88.</p> <p>Ömer Celal Saraç, "Avrupa'nın ve Türkiye'nin Nüfus Meseleleri,": 51-68.</p>
Week 9 April 20	Spring Break	No Class
Week 10 April 27	Darwinism in Turkey	<p>Mehmet Ö. Alkan, "Osmanlı Darwinizmi," <i>Cogito: Darwin Devrimi: Evrim</i>, no.60, Winter 2009: 333-358.</p> <p>Baha Tevfik, "Mukaddime" in <i>İnsan'ın Menşei Nesli Beşer</i> by E. Haeckel, translated by Ahmet Nebil, (İstanbul: 1911), in Ottoman Turkish.</p> <p>M. Asım Karaömerlioğlu, "Turkish Nationalism and the Evolutionary Idea (1923-1938), (With Dr. Murat Tolun), <i>Nations and Nationalism</i>, 26:3, July 2020: 743-758.</p>
Week 11 May 4	Social Darwinism in Turkey	<p>Atila Doğan, <i>Osmanlı Aydınları ve Sosyal Darwinizm</i> (İstanbul, 2006): 147-337.</p> <p>Diane B. Paul, "Darwin, Social Darwinism and Eugenics," <i>Cambridge Companion to Darwin</i> (Londra, 2003) ed. Jonathan Hodge and Gregory Radick: 214-239.</p>
Week 12 May 11	Eugenics in Turkey I	<p>Dr. Perihan Çambel, <i>Ögenik (Eugenics) Hakkında Düşünceler</i> (İstanbul: 1946).</p> <p>Ayça Alemdaroğlu, "Eugenics, Modernity and Nationalism", in <i>Social Histories of Disability and Deformity</i>, ed. by David Turner and Kevin Stagg (London, 2006): 126-141.</p> <p>Murat Ergin, "Biometrics and Anthropometrics: the Twins of Turkish Modernity," <i>Patterns of Prejudice</i> 42(3), 2008: 281-304.</p>
Week 13 May 18	Eugenics in Turkey II	<p>Mustafa Rahmi, <i>İslah-ı Irk</i> (İstanbul: 1339), in Ottoman Turkish.</p> <p>Mustafa Rahmi, "Öjenin Aslı Hayat İlminin Esasları," <i>Fikirler</i> 18, 15 March 1918, no. 7: 9-12.</p> <p>Sabiha Zekeriya, "Çocuk Yapmak Kanunen Men' Edilebilir mi ?" (in Ottoman Turkish) <i>Resimli Ay</i>, v. 5, no.57/9, Kasım 1928.</p> <p>Dr. Tevfik Remzi, "Türk Irkının Hıfıssıhası ve Milli Şuur," (Ottoman Turkish) <i>Hayat</i>, v.3, no. 75, 3 May 1928: 19.</p> <p>Mahzar Osman Uzman, "Öjenik," <i>CHP Konferanslar Serisi</i>, 2. Kitap. (Ankara: 1939), pp.3-12.</p> <p>Ömer Celal Saraç, "Avrupa'nın ve Türkiye'nin Nüfus Meseleleri,": 51-</p>

LEC #	TOPICS	READINGS
		68.