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**The Young Turks: Struggle for the Ottoman Empire, 1914-1918 / Feroz Ahmad<sup>1</sup>**

**Jön Türkler: Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'nu Kurtarma Mücadelesi, 1914-1918 / Feroz  
Ahmad**

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<sup>1</sup> This article is analyzed by one reviewers and it is screened for the resemblance rate by the editor/ Bu makale bir hakem tarafından incelenmiş ve editör tarafından benzerlik oranı taramasından geçirilmiştir.

\* In this article, the principles of scientific research and publication ethics were followed/ Bu makalede bilimsel araştırma ve yayın etiği ilkelerine uyulmuştur.

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“The Young Turks” and their number one faction “The committee of Union and Progress”. Historians have been producing lots of documents about this topic for years. It is accurate that this sort of research should be exhaustive. An investigation about a group that had left a massive impact on the last period of Ottoman ought to be comprehensive. Feroz Ahmad, applied this to his PhD degree “The Young Turks: Struggle for the Ottoman Empire, 1914-1918”. This book handled how the Young Turks & Committee of Union and Progress seized power and how was their horizon and attitude towards during and ending World War I, also what sort of socio-economic and financial structure was existed in the Ottoman Empire. More, this book was translated into Turkish Language as “Jön Türkler: Osmanlı İmparatorluğunu Kurtarma Mücadelesi 1914-1918” by Tansel Demirel. That is to say, this research demonstrates the realist circumstance of the Committee of Union and Progress and the Ottoman Empire during the World War I in a rational way.

Unsuccessful wars, political weakness, and a precarious attitude forced enlightened Ottoman people to reform the system to save the Ottoman Empire.. Author explains which conditions led the Young Turks (Committee of Union and Progress) to unify. In order to avoid the negative reaction from the Ottoman society, they called themselves as “New Ottomans” . At first, Unionists (Young Turks & Committee of Union and Progress), opposed to participate in German side, however, with the refusal from the Entente Powers and when Ottomans had been defeated in the First Balkan & Tripoli war, Ottoman elites decided to re-establish beneficial relations with the German Empire as it was manifested the period of Abdulhamid II . Actually, the main aim was to declare a war against Russia, neither Britain nor France. However, impotence and financial dependency to Germany obscured this aim. Germany assured its support unconditionally because of its benefits such as widening the war throughout the world and to applicate Jihad power of Ottoman Empire. When the war had just started, Admiral Souchon infringed the order of Enver Pasha and attacked the coastlines of the Russian Empire, because of that reason Ottomans entered the war unconsciously. Except for the bright spots of Ottomans, Kut-ul Amare & Gallipoli, this war was a disaster for the Ottoman Empire. As it was referred in the preface in this book, Feroz Ahmad “generally” followed these events orderly throughout the book like this.

This book consisted of eight parts except prologue and epilogue. A preface which is written for short starting, explains what would have happened to the Ottoman Empire (Young Turks & Committee of Union and Progress), the purposes of the states and mentions how this adventure resulted quite briefly. Author who describes the foreign relations of the Committee of Union and Progress in 1908-1914 in the first chamber, explains us how Young Turks established, what was their major purpose and their attitude, predominantly, interrelations of Committee of Union and Progress and other countries.

In the second part, the author was able to express the causes of the Great War from the position of Sublime Porte. This part is divided into three organized chapters that “Abrogation of Capitulations, Establishment of a Sovereign State and The Ottoman Road to War”. At first, Author explains the abrogation of Capitulations by the Sublime Porte and its negative provisions by other countries even from the Germany. Author, connotes to the reader the aim of Ottoman self-sovereignty after nearly 100 years of problems, and then explains the Ottoman road of war .

On next chapter, “ Crisis: The Gallipoli Campaign and the Threat to Istanbul, November 1914-December 1918 Unionist Relations with Armenian and Greek Communities” author who submits the impact of chauvinism in Ottomans, indicates one of the bright spots of Empire, Çanakkale-Gallipoli war, also it was

mentioned that the rebellion movements of Armenian people. Also, the benefits of pan-Islamism, Jihad, until 1916 Arab revolt is committed in the text. It is remarkable that, from the epilogue part of the book, Author mentions the impact of the other Ottoman communities rather than nationalist Turks.

Moreover, The challenging struggle between the Russian Empire and Ottomans takes place in the fourth chapter; “Crisis on the Eastern Front 1916-1917” It is inevitable to encounter that in terms of the eastern frontier of the Ottoman Empire, the authority of the Enver Pasha was significant. Therefore the author refers to Enver, Cemal and Talat Pashas shortly in this chapter in an objective way.

In the fifth chapter, Author tries to submit the short term resurgence of the Ottoman Empire after some victories had taken place in favor of Ottomans. However, the unstabilised economy concluded that Author inferred because of the negative financial circumstance Ottoman resurgence of the Great War. In general, financial dependency, constant warfare and short term resurgence of the empire take place in the fifth part the hope of resurgence can not continue in the sixth part that Author who handled years of 1917-1918. In this part, Author refers to the Ottoman Empire is seeking an independence in terms of economy and the politics. However, another financial agreement with Germany obscures that kind of idea. Author mentions that the demise is inevitable for the Ottoman Empire definitely.. The conservators of the Committee of Union and Progress are empowered and the decline of the Empire is awaited by Unionists. Furthermore, Author who explains horrible times of Ottomans in 1918, imposes us that the inevitable end of Ottoman Empire and he gives quite detail about “Political Liberalization and Transformation of Committee of Union and Progress” in seventh part.

Lastly, in the eight part Author displays to us massive details of the socio-economic structure of the Ottoman Empire. He refers to the corruptions of the economy, negative-positive impacts of some occasions to society and economy. Also, social circumstances of Ottoman citizens are mentioned. In the epilogue, after war situations, newnew movements in Anatolia and wars about independence are referred to. Author responds, “How and why these movements are occurred” in epilogue.

Constructing transitions between one event to another, especially a narrow topic like that is quite significant to handle these chain of incidents in a rational way. The situation that the Committee of Union and Progress experienced during the 1st World War and their attitude towards this situation. The important point here is that the author talks about the fact that the Union and Progress administration joined the war on the side of Germany out of necessity. Explaining that the Ottoman Empire extended the First World War for another three years, the author argues that the Ottoman geopolitics was a great power for the Allied Powers and even the 1917 Russian Revolution emerged due to the Ottoman presence. However, the point that needs to be mentioned here is that the Ottoman Empire is not evaluated as an economic or military power, but only as a geopolitical power. Furthermore, putting important figures like “Enver, Wilhelm II” etc., quotes and evidence where relevant to the topic, strengthen the expression. This work do not contain lots of interference of author but some seldom chambers of text, author gives his own ideas, especially his own thought about Enver, Cemal, Talat pashas.

Using language accurately is a key factor of writing a document. Author selects his words from upper-intermediate level and with some exceptions, the language is used quite clearly and designed a bit understandable. In addition, following date order regularly, can assure readers to understand events easily. It is necessary to connect one event to another as cause-result paradigm, that author generally did not follow date

order, thus in order to comprehend the striking events well, readers may come back to previous paragraphs to construct a bridge between them. Additionally, the two seniors of the Committee of Union and Progress, Enver and Talat, are mentioned more than Cemal. Mr. Ahmad wrote a paragraph that includes Cemal Pasha.

An Empire that lost two big wars and its terrible financial and social structure. Exhaustment of war is committed.. Author offers & absorbs the reader to watch 1914-1918 with different eyes without any anachronism. Author does not stand only the Ottoman (Committee of Union and Progress) perspective, also generally it is committed in the eyes of Germany allies, and all Entente powers & anti-Committee of Union and Progress perspective. Quoted words of Pope, Enver, Cemal and Talat Pashas supports the content of the text. Feroz Ahmad explains this situation with a multi-perspective light of vision. Also, adding some significant occasions that affected the Committee of Union and Progress directly, or indirectly helps the reader to clutch the topic well. As every historian knows, some kinds of ideologies existed because of some revolts. Thus, it is wonderful to see why and how Armenian & Arabian communities reacted to the Committee of Union and Progress and how some ideologies emerged like pan-Turkism, pan-Islamism in the empire. In terms of using the sources, the author introduces us to the primary and secondary sources. There are twenty pages in the bibliography that Feroz Ahmad applied every kind of possible source in the 1900s. . Moreover, the author also prefers to employ the foreign primary and secondary sources. Especially, it may be comprehended that the sources from the German perspective ensured the author to the whole understanding Committe of Union and Progress and their ambitions. Also, relying on the Ottoman, Turkish and other foreign state archives assured the Author to evaluate the events quite accurate way.

Eventually, *The Young Turks: Struggle for the Ottoman Empire, 1914-1918*, is one of the necessary investigation that emphasizes the last period of the Ottoman Empire very well. Using of qualatative data, relying on primary sources and adding some quotes from journals such as Tanin and other unionist journals are quite beneficial for expressing the realistic approach of the book. Attitudes of pashas, circumstance of Empire, socio-economic structure of people, wars, relationships among several countries are committed perfectly with essential details. Rather than generalising the area, Author was able to specifize some occasions such as Cemal Pasha's journey to the France for seeking an alliance in the first part of the book. Thus, It handles the circumstance of the Ottoman Empire in the Great War and the position of Committe of Union and Progress in a rational way that submits the reader to evaluate the realistic situation of Ottoman Empire

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