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### Book Review/Kitap İncelemesi

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**Suleyman Tevfik (2011). II. Meşrutiyet'ten Cumhuriyet'e Elli Yıllık Hatıralarım. [Fifty Years' Remembrance from the Second Constitutionalism to the Republic]. Tahsin Yıldırım & Şaban Özdemir (eds.). DBY Publishing, İstanbul, 560 pages. ISBN:978-605-61331-8-3.**

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This work, published in the memoir genre, was written by Suleyman Tevfik. The author was born in 1861 and he was a journalist. He kept on doing his job from the era of Abdulhamid II until the early years of the Republic. He told what his experiences were and the final years of Ottoman Empire and the early years of the republic while he was doing his job from his own point of view. The book contains nine chapters except the biography of Suleyman Tevfik, written by the editors of the book, and the prologue. The first chapter includes the era of Ottoman Sultans, Abdulaziz and Murat V. The second chapter begins with the era of Abdulhamid II. The period, in which Suleyman Tevfik was exiled and then was pardoned and came to Istanbul, was mentioned briefly. Following this, Tevfik kept on describing what the press experienced in the era of Abdulhamid II by giving examples based on his own experiences. In these pages, he mentioned the mechanism of censorship and talked about the details of his being in custody because of an article he wrote. He wrote about some family matters at the end of this chapter. He gave a wide coverage to war reporting that was a new field of journalism in the third chapter of his memoir. In 1897, he was there in the frontline himself in the war between Ottoman Empire and Greece, the Greco-Turkish War. He shared his anecdotes about how to receive news from the battlefield and how to deliver them to Istanbul. Also, he wrote about the professional conversations with journalists from other countries. Having mentioned the part of the Greco-Turkish War, he continued to talk about journalistic activities in the era of Abdulhamid II. In the next chapter, Suleyman Tevfik started to show himself as a very important personality. For instance, a couple of days before the declaration of the Second Constitutional Era in July 24, 1908, he says he had met Abdulhamit II and in this meeting Tevfik said to him that the Second Constitution must be established. On the morning of 24 July, when he heard that the Second Constitution was established, he claimed that they went back to constitutional monarchy because of his suggestion. This situation is a good example on the need for criticizing the works in memoir genre. The third chapter continues to criticize Abdulhamid II heavily. According to Suleyman Tevfik, it was almost impossible to be a journalist in that era. There were spies all over Istanbul. Even the conversations among friends were passed on the palace immediately. Although the newspapers were censored, there was no guarantee of not being punished. Under these claimed circumstances, he stated that there were complaints about him and they were reported to the palace constantly and because of that he was taken into custody for 34 days. He said that it was such an impossible situation to carry on like this and Committee of Union and Progress multiplied its activities. He stated that after the establishment of Second Constitution, the newspapers were started to be published without any censorship. Having said there was a boom in the number of newspapers in

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Istanbul, he began the fourth chapter of the book with the 31 March Incident. In Suleyman Tevfik's words, what fundamentalists wanted was published in the newspaper "Volkan" and then the riots in Istanbul were increased. He talked about the role of the newspapers on revealing and repressing this incident. He added that after dethroning of Abdulhamid II, the newspapers were pressured more and more again. He referred to Turco-Italian War in the fifth chapter. There is some information about the war in this chapter. At the end of the chapter, the sorrow of the press about the death of Ahmet Mithat Efendi and Ebuzziya Tevfik Bey, two of the most important people in the history of Turkish media, was mentioned. He stated the Balkan Wars in the sixth chapter which had tremendous effects in terms of both military and society in the last years of Ottoman Empire. In this chapter, generally, what happened in the outbreak of the war was described. The incidents during the war in Istanbul were described in a similar way. While there isn't much information about the newspapers, the names of the important journalists in that period were mentioned. In the seventh chapter, as it is in the first two chapters, it is clear that his journalist side doesn't stand out. In this chapter, the situation Ottoman Empire was in during World War I was explained and in the early pages and there is information about the activities of Enver, Cemal and Talat Pasha. Suleyman Tevfik doesn't think of those pashas in a positive way. In the following pages, there are some footnotes about the progress in the press of Istanbul. Publishing of a newspaper called "Turkce Istanbul" and union of "Peyam" and "Sabah" are some examples of that progress. In the eighth chapter, the period of War of Independence was mentioned in general terms. M. Kemal Pasha's role in the War of Independence and Damat Ferit Pasha's counterattacks are highlighted. In the ninth chapter, the main topic is the declaration of the Republic and The Independence Tribunals. How the Republic was seen in Istanbul and the situation of journalists of Istanbul in the Independence Tribunals were explained from Suleyman Tevfik's point of view. In conclusion, this book includes 50-year-long memories of Suleyman Tevfik and focuses especially on the era of Abdulhamid II. This book also contains valuable information on the newspapers and journalists in Istanbul in that era.

The conclusion wrote by the two authors is that by the rising of the population number, the political advertising campaigns are the most powerful to aware people and let them be able to choose the powerful political party or candidate.