

BOOK REVIEW

RADICAL POLITICS IN MODERN TURKEY by JACOB M. LANDAU, Leiden, 1974, E. J. BRILL, XII - 315, 64 guilders.

As the author Professor Landau points out "Turkey is indeed a fascinating country for the student of politics no less than for the tourist", Professor Landau is one of the few best qualified foreign scholars to pronounce this judgement knowing well the country, people, language and political institutions of the country.

The book is very valuable because it explains the origins of the radicalization of politics in Turkey which is increasing actually at a very high rate comparing with the small number of activists involved in early 1960's.

After a short preface the book has eight chapters. First chapter entitled "Introductory: Turkey in the 1960's" covers the 1960 military intervention ,its backgrounds, the 1961 Constitution, Political Parties.

The three following chapters are devoted to Marxism and Left in Turkey. Turkish marxism in journalism is explained in the Second Chapter, the Organized Left is described in third Chapter under the title "From trade Unionism to Cummnism." The Fourth Chapter is on the Labor Party of Turkey.

The Fifth and the Sixth chapters comment the reaction to the Left, the fifth chapter explains islam and politics, and Pan-Turk trends. The sixth chapter is mainly on history, organizations and ideology of the Right in Turkey, periodicals supporting the radical Rightist party.

The seventh chapter is on the Turkish election the eight chapter is the Conclusion.

The book has an extensive and well selected bibliography in English, Turkish, French, German, Italian and Russian.

We praise this work for the soundness of its analysis and comments. The decade under study was full of events, groups, and thoughts. The author in his masterly way with a lucidity summarizes this decade.

Some minor errors exist. General Cemal Gürsel had not been retired from the military forces by Menderes as it is claimed on page 13 but he was still in the Army but on a forced leave. Fahri Korutürk an admirer of Atatürk and a true Atatürkist, was not his colleague as it is shown on page 48 but he was a junior naval officer during Atatürk's time and he met only once Atatürk in a restaurant in Ankara. During the conversation they had, Atatürk suggested him to adopt as family name Korutürk which means "Save the Turks". These some errors relate to the minor details of some personalities but not to events and to the thoughts and they will in no way diminish the value of the work. His conclusions "Turkey's political culture in the 1960's is best characterized by radical orientations", and "Military involvement in politics appears the most significant event in Turkey's recent domestic affairs" are true and sound. This book will be great help to understand recent political events of Turkey by the students of Turkish politics.

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