

Studies on the Press During the Atatürk Era: A Bibliometric Analysis

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ABSTRACT

In the early years of the Republic of Türkiye—referred to as the Early Republican Period or the Atatürk Era—the press emerged as a significant tool of mass communication. Beginning with the National Struggle and continuing through the end of the Early Republican Period, the press served as a vital instrument for both information dissemination and propaganda. This study aims to present a bibliometric profile of academic research conducted on the press during the Atatürk Era. Accordingly, the bibliometric analysis method was adopted. The data were obtained from the Web of Science database, and a search using the keywords “Early Republican Period,” “Atatürk Era,” and “press” identified 204 academic publications. These publications were subjected to bibliometric network visualization using the VOSviewer software. The findings reveal that studies focusing on the press during this period are quantitatively limited. Although the number of publications in academic journals based in Türkiye is relatively high, their international citation rates are low. Furthermore, co-keyword analysis indicates that the relevant studies have not sufficiently focused on concepts unique to this period—such as nation-building, local press, and culture—and that these themes have not been explored in depth.

Keywords: Early Republican Period, Atatürk, Press, Bibliometrics Analysis

Atatürk Dönemi Basını Hakkında Yapılan Çalışmalar: Bibliyometrik Bir Analiz

ÖZ

Erken Cumhuriyet Dönemi veya Atatürk Dönemi olarak adlandırılan Türkiye Cumhuriyeti’nin ilk yıllarında basın araçları, önemli bir kitle iletişim aracı olarak ön plana çıkmıştır. Milli Mücadele Dönemi’nden itibaren Erken Cumhuriyet Dönemi’nin sonlarına dek basın, hem bilgilendirme hem de propaganda işlevi gören temel araçlardan biri olmuştur. Bu çalışmanın amacı, Atatürk Dönemi’nde basın üzerine yapılan bilimsel araştırmaların bibliyometrik profilini ortaya koymaktır. Bu doğrultuda çalışmada bibliyometrik analiz yöntemi benimsenmiştir. Çalışmanın verileri Web of Science veri tabanından elde edilmiş ve “Erken Cumhuriyet Dönemi”, “Atatürk Dönemi” ve “basın” anahtar kelimeleriyle yapılan arama sonucunda 204 bilimsel çalışma tespit edilmiştir. Elde edilen bu çalışmaların bibliyometrik ağ görselleştirmesi VOSviewer programı aracılığıyla gerçekleştirilmiştir. Araştırma bulgularına göre, bu döneme ilişkin basın odaklı çalışmaların sayıca sınırlı olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Türkiye merkezli akademik dergilerde yayımlanan çalışmaların sayısı yüksek olmasına karşın, bu çalışmaların uluslararası atıf alma düzeylerinin düşük olduğu belirlenmiştir. Ayrıca ortak anahtar kelime analizine göre, ilgili çalışmaların ulus inşası, yerel basın ve kültür gibi bu döneme özgü kavramlara yeterince odaklanmadığı ve bu temaların derinlemesine ele alınmadığı tespit edilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Erken Cumhuriyet Dönemi, Atatürk, Basın, Bibliyometrik Analiz

1. Introduction

The individual's right to seek and disseminate information has been a subject of continuous debate throughout history. The press played a critical role in enlightening and raising public awareness during the foundation of the Republic of Türkiye. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, fully recognizing the importance of the press in conveying truths to the public, established strong ties with both local and foreign media from the earliest days of his arrival in Anatolia, sharing the country's situation with journalists (Kopar, 2016). He sought to use press and media outlets effectively to support the national independence struggle, provide the people of Anatolia with accurate and consistent information about the struggle, and shape a new Turkish identity during the establishment of the Republic. In line with this, Atatürk aimed to uplift the

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Turkish nation and bring it to the level of contemporary civilizations with the support of the press (Kopar, 2016).

The young Republic of Türkiye, parallel to the reforms in its state structure, utilized the press to shape the ideal citizen in accordance with the principles of the Republic. In this context, the single-party government of the Republican era employed the press as a significant tool in the processes of citizen formation and state restructuring. The role of the press in conveying more messages to larger audiences was integrated into state policies, aimed at educating and raising awareness among the public. Thus, the press was positioned as one of the most crucial instruments contributing to the education of citizens during that period (Temel, 2020).

During the Early Republican Period, press were especially used to carry out effective propaganda activities. Propaganda, in general, can be defined as the effort to influence the thoughts and behaviors of society in a way that encourages the adoption of a particular viewpoint or action (Domenach, 2003). In Türkiye, effective propaganda activities were conducted through the press, particularly during the National Struggle period. Under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founding cadres of the Republic recognized the critical role of the press in shaping public opinion and mobilizing support during the National Struggle. To this end, they implemented various regulations and founded media institutions that would serve both to inform the public and to carry out effective propaganda. Key press organizations such as *İrade-i Milliye* and *Hakimiyet-i Milliye* newspapers, along with the *Anadolu Ajansı*, were established upon Atatürk's direct orders to fulfill these functions (Ulusoy, 2004).

Atatürk's awareness of the media's ability to influence society led to the strategic use of press as key communication tools during the Early Republican Period. Press, as one of the most effective means of mass communication at the time, played a critical role in informing the public, guiding societal transformation, and fostering national consciousness. This study aims to provide a bibliometric evaluation of academic research addressing the social, political, and cultural roles of press during the Early Republican Period, particularly the Atatürk Era. By using a bibliometric analysis method, the study examines how scholarly interest in this subject has evolved over time, which topics have been most frequently studied, which works and authors have received the most citations, and where notable gaps in the literature still exist. The originality of the research lies in its data-driven approach, offering a comprehensive overview of the academic landscape surrounding this topic rather than focusing on specific content or individual case studies. In doing so, it not only sheds light on the role of press as tools for communication and modernization, but also provides a guiding framework for future academic inquiry. Accordingly, the study seeks to answer the following interconnected questions: *What are the dominant themes in academic research on Early Republican press? Which publications and authors have garnered the most citations? How has interest in this area evolved chronologically? And what gaps remain in the current body of literature?*

2. Press During the Atatürk Era

Since the dawn of human existence, individuals have strived to persuade one another on various issues. These efforts have been carried out either verbally or using different tools. Over time, as the audience aimed to influence expanded, the methods used in these processes evolved as well. With the advancement of mass communication tools, the impact of propaganda has also increased, and today, thanks to the reach of these tools, propaganda has become pervasive in nearly every field (Çakı, 2018, p. 14).

During the decline of the Ottoman Empire, Western powers undertook a range of political, military, and diplomatic initiatives aimed at accelerating the empire's disintegration and facilitating the partition of its territory. One of these activities was a heavy anti-Ottoman propaganda campaign. At that time, Western media was dominated by a strong anti-Turkish campaign filled with false claims. In response to this, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and the leadership of the National Struggle recognized the need for an effective public relations and propaganda strategy. Accordingly, institutions and individuals with the capacity to conduct propaganda, such as the Anadolu Agency, the General Directorate of Press and Publication, the Presidency of Religious Affairs, and religious leaders, were mobilized. Atatürk regarded propaganda and promotion as even more important than military force (Sakal, 2003).

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk initiated propaganda efforts aimed at shaping public opinion around the cause of national independence to encourage the people of Anatolia to join the struggle. During the Erzurum and Sivas Congresses, he quickly communicated the events occurring across the country and the public's trust and support for those who launched the national independence movement, both domestically and internationally. Atatürk facilitated the publication of *İrade-i Milliye* and later *Hakimiyet-i Milliye* newspapers (Ulusoy, 2004).

İrade-i Milliye, an important newspaper of the National Struggle that began in Anatolia, was published in Sivas through the efforts of Mustafa Kemal (Yüksel, 2020). The provincial printing press, established by Governor of Sivas Elhaç Ahmet İzzet Pasha in 1878, became the site where *İrade-i Milliye*, the first newspaper of the National Struggle, was printed. Having grasped the strategic importance of the press, Mustafa Kemal raised this issue during the first session of the Sivas Congress. During this session, İsmail Hami Bey expressed his intention to work on the newspaper by stating, "I will be involved with our soon-to-be-published newspaper, *İrade-i Milliye*." However, with the emergence of more urgent matters in later sessions, this topic was pushed to the background. Eventually, on September 11, Rauf Bey brought it up again, stating, "We need to publish a newspaper for propaganda purposes. A committee should handle the publication of some of our documents and the writing of articles. Once the congress is over, everyone will return to their personal affairs; we must resolve this now" (Yıldırım, 1992).

From the moment *İrade-i Milliye* was first published on September 14, 1919, it began to operate in line with the slogan under its masthead: "Defender of National Aspirations and Goals." Through various articles, the newspaper sought to instill the principles of the National Struggle in the public. It explained the reasons behind the emergence of the Kuva-yı Milliye (National Forces), its purpose, and its significance for the nation, to create an informed public. In a time when communication capabilities were highly limited, conveying accurate information to the public was of great importance. The newspaper played a crucial role in raising awareness among the people, particularly countering the negative propaganda by the Istanbul government against Mustafa Kemal Pasha and his associates, and preventing misunderstandings and misinterpretations (Pancar, 2013).

On January 10, 1920, Mustafa Kemal established the *Hakimiyet-i Milliye* newspaper in Ankara, making it a significant publication of the National Struggle. The relocation of the printing press used for *İrade-i Milliye* from Sivas to Ankara played an important role in the founding of *Hakimiyet-i Milliye*. The printing equipment from *İrade-i Milliye* was assigned to *Hakimiyet-i Milliye*, thus strengthening its technical foundation. Every issue of the newspaper was prepared under Mustafa Kemal's direct instructions, and the final revisions were personally made by him. In this way, *Hakimiyet-i Milliye* began to function as a legitimate outlet for the National Struggle (Doğramacıoğlu, 2021). The newspaper, which began daily publication on February 6, 1921, quickly reached major cities and the whole of Anatolia. Its first owner and editor was Recep Zühdü (Soyak), and the paper's editorial team included intellectuals who made significant contributions to the founding of the new Turkish state. Notable figures among these writers included Ağaoğlu Ahmet, Ziya Gevher, Ruşen Eşref, Ziya Gökalp, Adnan Adıvar, İzzet Ulvi, Mahmut Esat, Tevfik Rüştü, and Yusuf Akçura. Furthermore, *Hakimiyet-i Milliye* served as the outlet that announced the establishment of the new Turkish Republic to the world. It became the voice of the Turkish Grand National Assembly and the founding cadre of the Republic (Müjdecı, 2014).

Founded under the directives of Gazi Mustafa Kemal Pasha, *Hakimiyet-i Milliye* kept the ideas of national independence and National Struggle alive among the public. Without interruption, it consistently published throughout the struggle, keeping the concept of national independence at the forefront of public discourse. The political and current events covered by the newspaper varied from year to year. In 1920, topics like the Treaty of Sèvres, the National Struggle, foreign news, education, and international relations took center stage. In 1921, the newspaper focused on the Sakarya Victory, Greek atrocities, education, and economic news. In 1922, while maintaining its focus on the National Struggle, the paper also addressed issues such as education, the economy, and international news. In 1923, articles on the National Struggle continued, and the Treaty of Lausanne was discussed under the headline "Peace Treaty." *Hakimiyet-i Milliye* continued its publication under this name until 1934, when, starting from issue number 4794, it was renamed *Ulus* (Doğramacıoğlu, 2021).

Alongside *Hakimiyet-i Milliye* and *İrade-i Milliye*, several other newspapers played crucial roles in shaping public opinion and supporting the National Struggle. Anadolu'da Yeni Gün was originally founded by Yunus Nadi in 1918 under the name Yeni Gün in Istanbul. However, due to its strong support for the National Struggle, the newspaper was shut down by British forces following the occupation of the city. In response, Yunus Nadi secretly transported the printing press to Ankara and resumed publication on August 10, 1920, under the new title Anadolu'da Yeni Gün. From that point on, the newspaper continued its mission in Ankara, becoming one of the most ardent advocates of the revolution and closely reflecting Mustafa Kemal's views (Kocabaşoğlu, 1981). In 1924, at Mustafa Kemal's request, Nadi launched *Cumhuriyet* in Istanbul, which continues to defend the principles of the Republic (Yapar, 1998). *İleri*, established by Celal Nuri in 1918, was notable for being the first Istanbul-based newspaper to report from the frontlines (Güner, 1998). Other significant publications included *Akşam*, founded in 1918, which supported the Republic and the reforms, and *Vakit*, which remained active throughout the early Republican period despite its founding editor Ahmet Emin Yalman's exile. Regional newspapers also contributed to the national cause. *Anadolu* and *Hizmet*, both published in İzmir, offered early support for the resistance and later aligned themselves with Republican ideals. *Yeni Asır*, originally established in Selanik, resumed its publication in İzmir in 1924 and has remained a pro-Republican voice ever since. Together, these newspapers—like *Hakimiyet-i Milliye* and *İrade-i Milliye*—served not only as information outlets but also as instruments of political mobilization and state-building in the early years of modern Turkey (Kılıç, 2008).

Atatürk's deep desire for liberty and democracy was regarded as one of the most important foundations and purposes of the press. He saw freedom of expression as an inseparable part of core concepts like liberty, republic, and democracy. To understand Atatürk's interest in journalism from his youth, one must appreciate the significance he attached to these concepts. During the War of Independence, Atatürk used the press as a strategic tool to gain public support and to publicize the independence struggle both domestically and internationally. The press played a vital role in raising public awareness and mobilizing national will. The mission and vision of the Turkish press during the National Struggle were unique in their historical context, rooted in Atatürk's foresight and his strategic ability to mobilize the public. For Atatürk, the press was not merely a communication tool but also an important supporter of societal transformation and the independence struggle (Atmaca, 2024).

After the proclamation of the Republic, the press and media outlets were used as tools to disseminate the official state ideology, instill it in the public, and break away from traditional symbols. This led to the media, particularly press, being tightly controlled under an authoritarian regime, with press freedom being restricted. In the Early Republican Period, the press came under the absolute control of political authority. This control was not an indirect pressure stemming from economic difficulties, but rather a direct, one-sided mechanism of oppression and propaganda. As a result, the press ceased to be a space for free expression and instead became a tool for advancing the ideological goals and propaganda efforts of the regime (Öztürk, 1994).

3. Method

In recent years, bibliometric studies have become a widely utilized method to analyze the trends and patterns in academic research, both globally and in Türkiye (Bak, 2023; Uzun, 2023; Uzun, 2025; Pelivan, 2019). This study aims to provide a bibliometric overview of research conducted on press during the Atatürk or Early Republican Period. Accordingly, the methodology of this study is based on bibliometric analysis. Bibliometric analysis is a form of content analysis that uses various criteria—such as topics, methods, and references—to assess the frequency and citation patterns of articles. This method systematically examines research literature to help understand the flow of information, trends, and relationships within a specific field (Acar, 2023). Fundamentally, bibliometric analysis offers a systematic approach to determining the number of publications, citation counts, and the most frequently referenced sources on a given topic. This process provides valuable insights into academic productivity, the scope of influence, and interdisciplinary connections, thus offering a more comprehensive perspective on the quality and dissemination of scientific publications (Zeren & Kaya, 2020).

3.1. Data Collection

The foundation of bibliometric studies lies in the systematic retrieval of relevant academic literature on a specific research topic (Ellegaard & Wallin, 2015). In this context, the present study focuses on identifying and analyzing scholarly publications related to press during the Atatürk or Early Republican Period, aiming to uncover key trends, patterns, and developments within this domain.

The selection of an appropriate data source is of critical importance in bibliometric research. The database must provide a comprehensive and representative collection of publications relevant to the subject, encompassing interdisciplinary contributions and covering high-quality, peer-reviewed academic work. For this reason, the Web of Science (WoS) database was chosen as the primary source for data collection. Web of Science is widely recognized for its extensive indexing of publications across the humanities and social sciences, offering reliable and systematic access to scientific literature (Aghaei Chadehghani et al., 2013; Ongun, 2023).

During the data collection process, a keyword-based search strategy was employed. The search was conducted using a combination of carefully selected terms that reflect both the historical period and the media focus of the study: "Early Republican Period," or "Atatürk Era," and "press." This search strategy was designed to ensure the inclusion of publications that directly relate to the role and presence of press during the specified era. As a result of this search, a total of 204 academic studies were identified in the Web of Science database as of October 20, 2024.

The retrieved publications were then exported and prepared for bibliometric analysis. In addition, the data were classified according to publication year, academic discipline, and the indexing category of each journal. This classification provides valuable insights into the chronological development of the field, the scope of interdisciplinary contributions, and the visibility of the publications within international academic indexing systems. By structuring the data in this way, the study ensures a robust foundation for the subsequent bibliometric analysis and offers a reliable basis for mapping the intellectual landscape of research on press during the Atatürk or Early Republican Period.

3.2. Processing of Data

There are various bibliometric analysis tools available in the literature, and VOSviewer was selected for this study due to its functionality and advantages (Arruda et al., 2022; Bukar et al., 2023). VOSviewer is regarded as a valuable tool for researchers, enabling them to explore trends, relationships between concepts, and emerging developments in the literature. With its capabilities for data visualization, mapping, and multidimensional analysis, VOSviewer allows for a more in-depth examination of data sets. Its visualization features make complex knowledge networks easier to understand, facilitating more accessible access to information for researchers. The mapping process clearly reveals relationships between concepts, while its multidimensional analysis features help examine the dynamics of data sets in detail (Dirik et al., 2023). In the VOSviewer analysis, the size of the nodes reflects the frequency of word usage, and the curves between nodes indicate the co-occurrence of terms in the same publication. The shorter the distance between two nodes, the higher the frequency of co-occurrence of the corresponding keywords (Van Eck & Waltman, 2010).

VOSviewer offers network, overlay, and density mapping. Network visualization shows the relationships and connections between bibliometric elements, such as articles, authors, keywords, and journals. This method is frequently used to understand collaborations and the flow of information in research areas (Dereli, 2024). In this study, network visualization was performed using VOSviewer, based on the selected articles from the Web of Science database. The distribution of studies by year, discipline, and indexing was obtained from the database, while VOSviewer was used to visualize the distribution of studies by author, institution, co-keyword, citation, country, and journal.

4. Results

This section presents the bibliometric data of the 204 studies related to the keywords "Early Republican Period" or "Atatürk Period" and "press" found in the Web of Science database.

Table 1. Distribution of Studies by Year

Year	N	%
2024	11	5.39%
2023	34	16.66%
2022	26	12.74%
2021	12	5.88%
2020	14	6.86%
2019	20	9.80%
2018	15	7.35%
2017	3	1.47%
2016	9	4.41%
2015	10	4.90%
2014	10	4.90%
2013	5	2.45%
2012	7	3.43%
2011	9	4.41%
2010	5	2.45%
2009	3	1.47%
2008	4	1.96%
2007	1	0.49%
2006	1	0.49%
2005	1	0.49%
2002	2	0.98%
1995	1	0.49%
1992	1	0.49%

Source: Web of Science, 2024

The studies on press during the Early Republican Period or Atatürk Era in the Web of Science database began to be published in 1992, marking the start of academic interest in this subject (Table 1). Since then, there has been a steady increase in publications, with a significant rise particularly in recent years. In 2023, 34 studies were published on this topic, and 11 studies have already been published in 2024, signaling continued growth in scholarly research. A notable surge in publications has occurred since 2019, reflecting a heightened interest in the role of press during the Atatürk era. This period saw press as crucial tools for state propaganda, political communication, and cultural transformation. Scholars are increasingly focusing on their role in nation-building, modernization, and shaping national identity, particularly through the promotion of the Turkish language and republican values. The rise in publications is also supported by the availability of digitized archives and new research methodologies, making it easier to analyze primary sources. In summary, the growing number of studies highlights the increasing academic focus on press from the Atatürk period, underlining their importance in understanding the socio-political dynamics of early Republican Türkiye.

Table 2. Distribution of Studies by Discipline in the Web of Science

Discipline	N	%
History	70	34.48%
Area Studies	29	14.28%
Architecture	22	10.83%
Multidisciplinary Humanities	12	5.91%
Asian Studies	11	5.41%
Art	10	4.92%
Communication	7	3.44%
Hospitality, Leisure, Sports, and Tourism	7	3.44%
Interdisciplinary Social Sciences	7	3.44%
Literature	6	2.95%
Political Science	6	2.95%
Education and Educational Research	5	2.46%
Language and Linguistics	5	2.46%
Sociology	5	2.46%

Archaeology	4	1.97%
Economics	4	1.97%
History of Social Sciences	4	1.97%
Religion	4	1.97%
Anthropology	3	1.47%
Family Studies	3	1.47%
Folklore	3	1.47%
Public Administration	3	1.47%
Regional and Urban Planning	3	1.47%
Urban Studies	3	1.47%
Women's Studies	3	1.47%
Cultural Studies	2	0.98%
Civil Engineering	2	0.98%
Ethnic Studies	2	0.98%
History and Philosophy of Science	2	0.98%
Philosophy	2	0.98%

Source: Web of Science, 2024

Table 2 illustrates the interdisciplinary distribution of studies on press during the Early Republican Period or Atatürk Era. History dominates with the largest share (70 studies), reflecting the central role press played in shaping the political and social transformations of the time. Research in this field focuses on the press's influence in spreading Atatürk's reforms and establishing the new political order. Area Studies (29 studies) emphasizes the importance of contextualizing the period within broader regional and global frameworks, exploring how Türkiye press interacted with international trends. Architecture (22 studies) highlights the press's role in shaping public discourse around urbanization and modern architecture, symbols of the new republic. Other fields, such as social sciences, literature, education, and communication, also contribute to the research, though to a lesser extent. Social sciences (15 studies) examine the impact of press on societal values, while literature (12 studies) looks at their influence on cultural and intellectual movements. Education (10 studies) explores the role of press in promoting educational reforms, and communication (9 studies) focuses on the press as a tool for mass communication and propaganda. Overall, the table shows that research on press from the Atatürk era spans a wide range of disciplines, reflecting the multifaceted role of the press in shaping early Republican Türkiye's political, cultural, and social landscapes.

Table 3. Distribution of Studies by Web of Science Indexes

Index	N	%
Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)	106	%52.21
Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI)	55	%27.09
Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)	52	%25.61
Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-EXPANDED)	6	%2.95

Source: Web of Science, 2024

Table 3 presents the citation indexes in which academic studies on Atatürk, the Early Republican Period, and press are published. According to the Web of Science database, citation indexes are key indicators of journal prestige and research impact. The majority of studies (106) are published in journals indexed by the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), reflecting the growing recognition of research on this topic in emerging academic platforms. Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI) contains 55 studies, emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of research, with contributions from fields such as literature, cultural studies, and history. The Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) includes 52 studies, highlighting the role of press in social and political contexts, especially in media, communication, and political science. There is overlap across these citation categories, indicating that research on press during the Atatürk era is not confined to a single field but spans multiple disciplines. This highlights the broad academic interest in understanding the role of the press in shaping modern Turkish society.

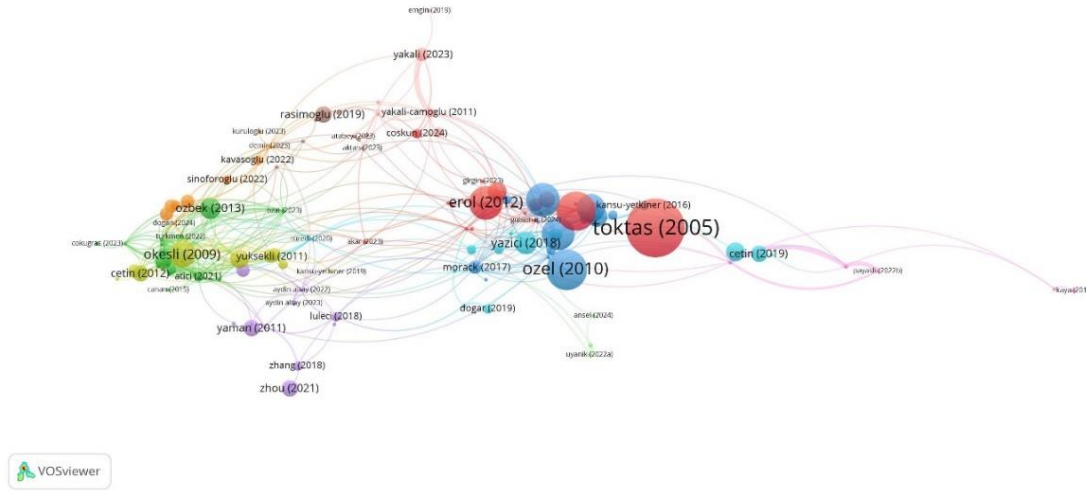


Figure 1. Most Cited Studies
Source: VOSviewer, 2024

Among the 204 studies analyzed, the most frequently cited work is Şule Toktaş's article titled "*Citizenship and Minorities: A Historical Overview of Turkey's Jewish Minority*" (Figure 1). This study has received a total of 39 citations, highlighting its significance and contribution to the field. Toktaş (2005) examines the history of the Jewish minority in Türkiye within the framework of the development of Turkish citizenship. Her approach provides an in-depth analysis of both citizenship and minority rights, exploring the social, political, and legal status of the Jewish community in Türkiye.

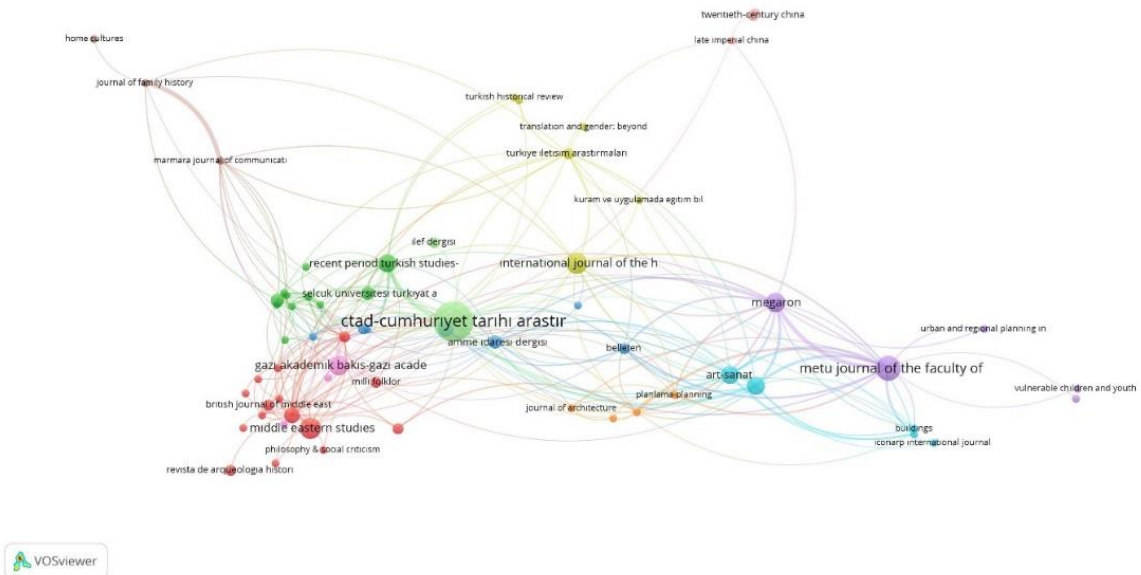


Figure 2. Journals with the Most Publications
Source: VOSviewer, 2024

An analysis of the journals where the 204 reviewed studies were published reveals that the *CTAD-Cumhuriyet Tarihi Araştırmaları Dergisi* (Journal of Republic History Studies) has the highest number of publications, with 25 articles (Figure 2). These 25 studies have garnered a total of 3 citations, suggesting that CTAD's impact may be limited to a specific academic community or that the influence of the published studies remains relatively restricted. On the other hand, the most cited study is Şule Toktaş's article "*Citizenship and Minorities: A Historical Overview of Turkey's Jewish Minority*," published in the *Journal of Historical Sociology*. The high citation count of Toktaş's work underscores the importance of its subject matter and its recognition at the international level.

The discrepancy between these two cases highlights the differing levels of academic interaction between Turkish journals and international journals. While studies published in local journals like CTAD tend to receive fewer citations, those published in internationally recognized journals are more likely to attract broader attention and citations. Toktaş's study demonstrates its significance not only within national academic circles but also in the global literature.

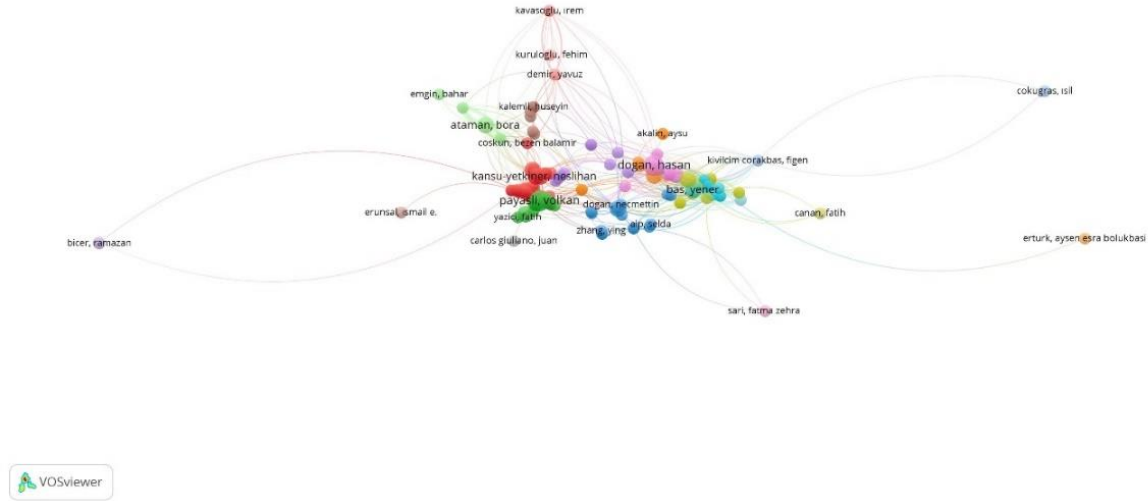


Figure 3. Distribution of Co-authors

Source: VOSviewer, 2024

The analysis of the 204 studies reveals contributions from a total of 243 different researchers, reflecting the breadth of the research field and the strong interest from numerous academics (Figure 3). This diversity allows for richer and more in-depth analyses through the combination of different perspectives and disciplines. Hasan Doğan emerges as the most prolific author among these works. His 2024 publication, "*Modern Life-Building as a Biopower Strategy: Developing Sports Spaces in Urban, Rural, and Industrial Areas in Turkey*," (Doğan, 2024) and his 2023 work, "*Modernization Through Leisure and Sports: The Case of Sümerbank Industrial Campuses in Turkey*," (Doğan, 2023) focus on the relationship between sports and modernization in Türkiye. Additionally, his 2022 co-authored study with Pulhan, "*Sports and Recreation in the Modern Industrial Campuses of Early Republican Turkey (1923-1945)*," (Doğan & Pulhan, 2022) examines the understanding of sports and recreation during the early Republican period. All three of Doğan's studies were published in *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, indicating that his work has gained recognition on an international platform.

In contrast, Şule Toktaş's work has garnered more attention, with a single study receiving 39 citations, highlighting its prominence. This makes Toktaş's research a standout in comparison to the other works in the field.

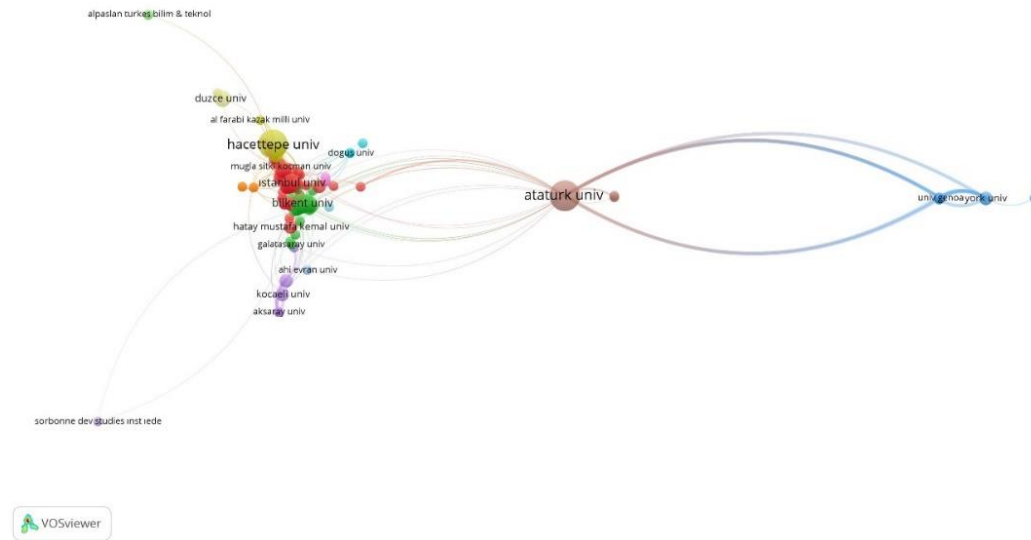


Figure 4. Distribution of Authors' Institutions
Source: VOSviewer, 2024

Based on an analysis of the 204 reviewed studies, it is evident that researchers from Atatürk University have produced the highest number of publications (Figure 4). A total of 10 studies originating from this institution represent a significant contribution to the research field. On the other hand, researchers from Hacettepe University have published 9 studies, which have collectively received 6 citations. This indicates that the research produced by Hacettepe University has garnered more attention and facilitated greater interaction within the academic community.

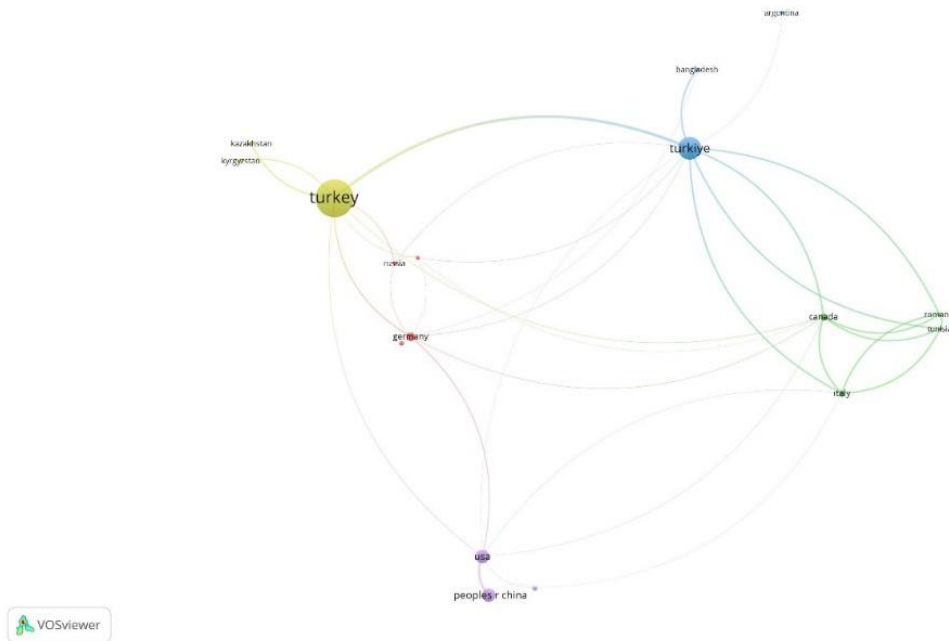


Figure 5. Distribution of authors by country
Source: VOSviewer, 2024

When examining the distribution of researchers based on their countries of origin, it becomes clear that researchers from Türkiye have published the highest number of studies. With a total of 141 publications, Türkiye has made the largest contribution to this field. This highlights the strong interest within the Turkish academic community in these topics, as well as the productivity of local researchers (Figure 5). Furthermore, the fact that these studies have received a total of 130 citations underscores the academic impact of Türkiye's research.

In contrast, researchers based in the United States have published 13 studies, which have garnered 34 citations. This suggests that, compared to Türkiye's publications, research conducted in the U.S. has attracted greater attention and recognition. Given that U.S. academic institutions typically possess broader reach and influence, this outcome is unsurprising. Additionally, countries such as the People's Republic of China, Germany, Canada, Taiwan, and Italy have also made contributions in this field.

While the intensity and productivity of researchers in Türkiye are noteworthy, contributions from other countries are also evident. This situation highlights the need to enhance international collaborations and strengthen research interactions between countries. The fact that studies from countries like the U.S. receive more citations indicates potential opportunities for Turkish researchers to gain increased international recognition in this field.

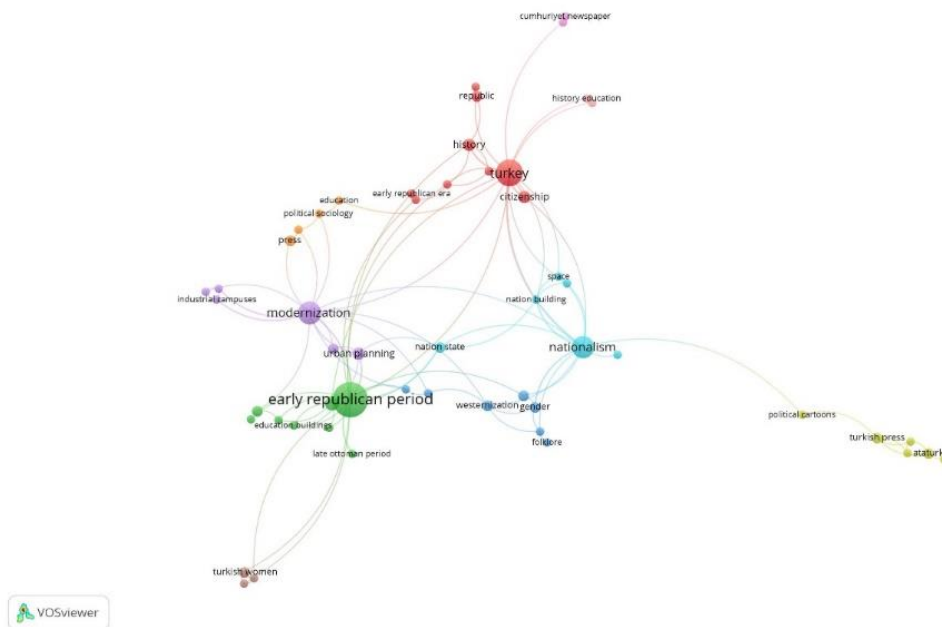


Figure 6. Common Keyword Analysis

Source: VOSviewer, 2024

The analysis of common keywords used in the studies published by researchers is an effective method for identifying significant themes and topics in the field. In the review, 743 common keywords were identified; however, for clarity and to reduce complexity in the visual representation, only 76 keywords with at least two occurrences were analyzed (Figure 6). Among the most frequently used keywords, "early republican period" stands out with 30 occurrences. This indicates that a significant portion of academic research in Türkiye focuses on this period, positioning the early Republican era as a central theme in the studies. Given that the early Republican period laid the foundations of Türkiye's modernization process, the emphasis on this period is highly relevant.

Other prominent keywords include "Türkiye" (18 occurrences), "modernization" (13 occurrences), and "nationalism" (12 occurrences). These concepts are crucial for understanding Türkiye's historical and social dynamics. Both modernization and nationalism have played fundamental roles in shaping Türkiye's

social structure and nation-building process, and their frequency in the studies highlights the importance placed on these themes.

Conversely, keywords such as "nation-building," "culture," "local press," "propaganda," and "Kemalism" were among the least used. The limited occurrence of these terms suggests that they have not been sufficiently addressed in the research, or that these themes have yet to be explored in depth. Overall, the keyword analysis reveals that academic research in Türkiye has largely focused on specific periods and concepts, while some important themes remain underexplored. This presents opportunities for future research to discover new areas and contribute to a more balanced academic literature.

5. Conclusion

This study conducts a bibliometric analysis of academic research focused on press during the Early Republican Period or the Atatürk Era, which refers to the early years of the Turkish Republic. The primary aim of the study is to reveal the general bibliometric profile and trends of academic works related to the press from this period. This analysis seeks to identify the central themes around which research has been concentrated, the disciplines that have shown the most interest, and the areas that have been less explored. Investigating the role of the press, particularly during the Atatürk era, a time of profound societal and political transformation, is of significant importance not only from a historical perspective but also from cultural, social, and political viewpoints. The study aims to identify the key topics that academic research has focused on regarding how the practice of journalism influenced Türkiye's modernization process. In this context, the bibliometric analysis sheds light on both the historical development of research in this field and the areas that have attracted more attention. Additionally, it aims to identify the less explored or under-researched aspects of the period, thereby pinpointing gaps in the academic literature. Through this analysis, the study reveals how scholarly work on the journalism and media of this period has evolved across various disciplines, and which topics require further in-depth exploration.

One notable finding is that the number of studies focusing on the press from the Early Republican Period remains relatively limited, with a total of 204 publications. The press was the most effective and widespread tool of propaganda during this era. Recognizing the prestige and importance of the press in society, the country's founding leaders strategically employed it as a tool for communication. Hence, there is a need for more academic studies that concentrate on press-focused research. Moreover, a review of the journals where these studies were published reveals that the majority are featured in Turkish journals (e.g., CTAD). However, it was observed that articles published in Turkish journals have received fewer citations compared to those published in international journals. This underscores the necessity for researchers investigating the press during the Early Republican Period to target international journals. Doing so would not only enhance the global visibility of their work but also increase the academic attention and engagement their research receives.

On the other hand, one of the notable findings of this study is the result derived from the common keyword analysis. The analysis of common keywords revealed that certain key concepts, such as nation-building, propaganda, and local press, were not sufficiently emphasized in the examined studies. This finding suggests that there is a need for more in-depth academic work on topics such as the propaganda function of the press during the Early Republican Period. Research focusing on the role of the press in promoting state ideology and shaping public opinion could significantly contribute to understanding the period.

Furthermore, a study on the role of the press in nation-building would also provide valuable insights into the formation of the Turkish Republic. Given the transformative nature of the period, it is crucial to investigate how the press contributed to fostering a sense of national unity, promoting nationalist ideals, and constructing a new national identity. This gap in the literature highlights the need for more research into how the press acted as an instrument in the state-driven nation-building process. Additionally, the findings of this study should be interpreted within the context of the database and time frame examined. This analysis is based primarily on the data from the Web of Science database, and therefore, the results reflect the trends and profiles of studies indexed within this particular platform. Future research could present the bibliometric profile of related studies indexed in other prominent databases, which would

offer a broader perspective. Moreover, comparing research across different databases could help identify global research trends on this subject, providing a more comprehensive understanding of how the topic is approached across various academic disciplines.

In conclusion, the findings of this study provide a significant foundation for identifying the trends and gaps in the academic research on the press during the Early Republican Period. Future studies should aim to address these gaps, potentially shedding more light on the complex role of the press in Türkiye's modernization process. Expanding research in the areas of propaganda, nation-building, and the social functions of the press will contribute to a more holistic understanding of the pivotal role that the press played during this transformative period in Turkish history.

Çıkar Çatışması Beyanı / Conflict of Interest

Çalışmada herhangi bir kurum veya kişi ile çıkar çatışması bulunmamaktadır.
There is no conflict of interest with any institution or person in the study.

İntihal Politikası Beyanı / Plagiarism Policy

Bu makale İntihal programlarında taranmış ve İntihal tespit edilmemiştir.
This article was scanned in Plagiarism programs and Plagiarism was not detected.

Bilimsel Araştırma ve Yayın Etiği Beyanı / Scientific Research and Publication Ethics Statement

Bu çalışmada Yükseköğretim Kurumları Bilimsel Araştırma ve Yayın Etiği Yönergesi kapsamında belirtilen kurallara uyulmuştur.
In this study, the rules specified within the scope of the Higher Education Institutions Scientific Research and Publication Ethics Directive were followed.

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