

KİTAP TANITMA

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TÜRK KURTULUŞ SAVAŞI ve FRANSIZ KAMUOYU
1919-1922. Ank., 1975, TTK. Yay.

This is the revised and enlarged second addition of Prof. Yahya Akyüz's book bearing the same title, published by the Türk. Tarih Kurumu in 1975.

The new addition, which basically is same as the first, includes the author's recent researches and contains some new documents and chapters concerning the subject. It is primarily an interesting analysis of the French public opinion concerning the Turkish Independence War. It is based on reviews of the French press, including 17 daily Parisian journals and 14 daily and 3 weekly provincial newspapers, 12 periodicals, official publications including debates of the parliament, senate and Chamber of Deputies and a good selection of books and articles by Turkish and non-Turkish authors. It also includes remarks from a semi-official Turkish journal, Hakimiyet-i Milliye and Turkish parliamentary debates.

The book is mainly composed of an introduction, three main chapters, conclusion, and a chapter bearing the documents.

The introduction provides the reader with general information on the French press and political life as well as reflections of the influential factors and the impressions of the French people about the Turkish Independence War between 1919-1923. The reasons stimulating the French interest in the war as well as the reason to why a good proportion of the people remained disinterested to developments in Turkey are comparatively evaluated with particular emphasis to the political changes and domestic problems France confronted during this post-world war period.

The first chapter starts with the Mondoros Armistige and examines its reflections, the Turkish national awakening and the Serves Treaty in three sub-sections. The author stresses that the press, as the only

popular means of information at that time, served as the primary factor to create a critical public opinion pertaining to the Turkish nationalistic movement. Prof. Dr. Akyüz, by references to various sources, indicates that the nationalists' approaches in Anadolu were, at the beginning, regarded as a Turco-Greek conflict or even an anti-Christian display.

A separate section reflects the French outlook upon the Serves Treaty as to the status of the minorities in the Empire and their demands from the Ottoman Government.

The nationalists' refusal to observe the Serves Treaty; the counter revolution in Turkey; war with the Armanians and Greeks; and above all, the Turco-French conflict are the subjects of the second chapter. The Cilician combats brought the Turkish nationalists and the French into direct contact first to fight, than to compromise. This, as pointed out, arose the French interest and curiosity concerning the Anatolian developments to a climax, and even resulted in a temporary positive outlook towards the revolutionaries.

The last chapter which is entirely product of the author's new research, is reserved to the Lausanne Conference. In this chapter, the reader can observe the instability in the French attitude towards Turkey prior to and during the Lausanne Conference. France's need for English support in order to confront the Franco-German question, the anti-Turkish propaganda pursued by the allies, the replacements of English and Greek leaders and the acceptance of the Lausanne Treaty as the conclusion of the First World War are, with supportive documents, reflected as the causes of this instability.

Prof. Akyüz, following his evaluations on various sources as reflections of the French public opinion, reaches the conclusion that the French, in general, remained disinterested to the Turkish Independence War. He also affirms that most of the French people were not informed or ill informed about the Turks prior to 1919, and that it was only after this date that a certain compilation of ideas concerning developments in Turkey became prevalent among them. Nevertheless, his verdict is that the French flexibility as to the pros and cons of the French outlook towards the Turkish independence war, developed in accordance to other political developments directly concerning France and Turkey

The book in the "Documents" chapter displays a set of striking illustrations, photographs, and cartoons. What are new and worth noting in this revised and enlarged second addition are the detailed chronological chart and glossary.

The chronological chart is not merely a list of dates and events. It is designed in accordance with the reflections of the Turkish Independence War upon the French public opinion and contains preliminary information of major events and their developments. It also includes the acting governments, the names of the French presidents, premiers and foreign minister during the mentioned events.

The glossary is very efficient in the sense that it defines the frequently used names and clarifies the meanings of commonly used expressions, phrases or terms which some readers could undoubtedly alien to. These facilitate following the text to the readers and also saves time for researchers. Naturally the reader should not expect to find each date, name or term in these lists. However, as noted above, they do cover points of primary importance until 1922, which is as late as the book covers. However, had the author been able to extend his researches and brought the reader to the point of the conclusion of the Lausanne Conference in 1923 or better so, to the declaration of the Turkish Republic he would have equipped the researchers with a more complete outlook concerning the French public opinion and the Turkish Independence War. Nevertheless, this does not detract the book from the high level of good judgement Dr. Akyüz sustains through this detailed and efficient study.

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