

BOOK REVIEW

POTENTIAL OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY: TURKS IN EUROPE

Turks in Europe need to be assessed from various angles such political participation, education, women's issues, religious tendencies, the discriminatory practices they face, and their views on Turkish-EU relations. The migrants play a role in the transformation of cultural identities in Turkey as well. The second and third generations of Turkish migrants are developing new identities that may facilitate building bridges between Turkey and the EU. The biggest support to Turkey's public diplomacy in EU member countries will come from the Turks in Europe. The book, "Turks in Europe: Culture, Identity and Integration" discusses these issues in detail.

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Turks in Europe: Culture, Identity, Integration

Edited by Talip Küçükcan and Veyis Güngör

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Türkevi Research Centre, based in the Netherlands, has published the most comprehensive book on Turks of immigrant origin in European countries. *Turks in Europe: Culture, Identity, Integration* is the largest collection of articles in print based on original research on Turks in Europe. More than 4.5 million Turks who have been living and working in numerous European countries since the late 1950s and early 1960s reside in Europe today. Contrary to the expectations of policy makers in receiving countries, permanent settlement has taken place with unintended consequences in the social, political and cultural landscapes of the host societies.

Turks in Europe: Culture, Identity and Integration brings together sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists and experts in educational and cultural studies to address current issues, policy options and future trends vis-à-vis Turks in Europe and their role as intermediaries between Turkey and the European Union.

Editors Talip Küçükcan and Veyis Güngör indicate that an overwhelming majority of the articles in this book are based on fieldwork, including participant observation and in-depth interviews that enabled researchers to collect original empirical data on issues such as identity, culture, religion, integration, youth, women and relations between Turkey and the European Union. Contributors to this volume analyze their data in light of recent scholarship and interpret the results on sound theoretical grounds. They not only provide the most comprehensive picture of Turks in Europe up until the present day but also offer accessible and cutting-edge ideas on a wide range of questions to which modern European societies cannot avoid paying closer attention.

This volume has four main parts, each one including insightful articles that take their readers into the world of Turkish migrants, examining their life styles, experiences, emotions, hopes, views and expectations in Europe.

Part I, Turks as New Citizens of Europe, includes articles written by Tilman Lanz, Samim Akgönül, Talip Küçükcan, Rana Çakırek, Johan Wets, Güneş Koç and Ali Chouseinoglou on Turks in Germany, France, Britain, Belgium, Austria and Greece. Contributors to this part of the book invite readers to a fundamental rethinking of the making of Euro-Turks by focusing on the origins of immigration, state policies towards immigrant workers and minority communities, and

multiculturalism and its consequences for the redefinition of identities and integration. The authors demonstrate that Turks in Europe face a number of problems such as stereotyping by the media and the prevailing political discourse; nevertheless they are negotiating their identity as a result of constant cultural exchanges in the European public sphere. Contrary to widespread claims coming primarily from Turco-skeptics and anti-immigration groups, case studies presented in Part I illustrate that Turks do not have a hostile attitude towards European values and culture; rather, they would like to become permanent members of the European family while preserving their original identity values, which do not necessarily contradict European cosmopolitanism.

Part II, Young Turks, Identity Practices and Integration, contains insightful contributions by Daniel Faas, Pınar Enneli, Tariq Modood, Lise Jönsson, Paul Tkachenko, Gönül Tol and İlhan Kaya on the articulation of identity of Turkish youth in Germany, Britain, the Netherlands and the U.S. The authors provide incisive analysis of the myths and realities of challenges to identity construction among Turkish youth, who are experiencing generational and cultural tensions in Europe. Articles in this part of the volume critically examine the role of culture, religion, history, memory, work and music on the construction of identity among Turkish youth and invite readers to consider how social, political and psychological factors influence perception of “self” and “others” in a complex web of relations. The empirical data and carefully chosen examples in Part II demonstrate that not only inculcation of the Turkish cultural legacy and memory but also state policies of the host countries are making a significant impact on how young Turks in Europe today are developing a sense of identity and belonging.

Part III, Turkish Women between Tradition and Modernity, focuses on gender issues and Turkish women. Contributors Mona Franséhn, Margareta Bäck-Wiklund, Marie Carlson, Nezahat Altuntaş and Seçil Erdoğan candidly explain how Turkish women locate themselves within the family, at school and at work in Sweden, Germany and Britain by taking readers into the world of women who are positioned between tradition and modernity. The authors will appeal to anyone interested in the connections between gender and immigration issues with a focus on how family values, traditional roles, religion, social control and new opportunity spaces are changing the world of women. Contributors to this part of the book tell readers fascinating stories about Turkish women in Europe and demonstrate how they rationalize their positions and cope with social and cultural change. The scope of respondents’ thoughts and views in the case studies presented in Part III serves as an urgent challenge to scholars, thinkers and policy-makers to embrace new ways to address fundamental questions of identity and equality that touch on the very lives of Turkish women in Europe.

Part IV, Turks and Turkey-EU Relations, draws upon long-needed analytical contributions by Ayhan Kaya, Sven E. O. Hort, Talip Küçükcan, Veyis Güngör, Yusuf Adıgüzel, Gözde İnal, Mustafa F. Özbilgin, Mine Karataş-Özkan, Yusuf Devran and Tim Jacoby. Focusing on the perception of European identity, views on Turkey's EU membership, the portrayal of Turkey in the media, and the culture of entrepreneurship among Turkish communities, organizations and institutions, the studies in this part of the book demonstrate how Euro-Turks can bridge the gap between Turkey and the European Union. Although Turkey's journey to Europe has a long history, and both parties have political, cultural and economic exchanges spanning centuries, a culturalist approach has emerged against Turkey's EU membership in recent years claiming that Turkey belongs to a different cultural and civilizational zone with its largely Muslim population and traditional values. The findings of clearly written articles in Part IV deserve to be widely and carefully read because they make a strong point for Turkey's membership, as many authors argue that Turks in Europe can play a crucial role if and when their social capital is systematically mobilized. Contributors to Part IV suggest that a rational approach which not only recognizes but also celebrates cultural pluralism and diversity should replace a culturalist approach that tends to be exclusionary.