

Kitap Tanıtma:

EVREN KÜÇÜK¹, *Türkiye-İsveç İlişkileri (1914-1938) / Turkey-Sweden Relations (1914-1938)*, Publications of Turkish Historical Society, Ankara 2017, XIX + 361 pages., ISBN: 978-975-16-3375-0.

The purpose of this book review is to fulfill the absence of comprehensive study on the Turkey-Sweden relations both Sweden and Turkey yet. *Turkey-Sweden Relations (1914-1938)* is an original work, which is suitable for scientific criteria and prepared as a doctoral thesis, receives the details of the relations of both countries for the first time in detail, and sheds light on the last years of the Ottoman Empire and the early Republican period of Turkey.

Very rich sources are used in this work with a simple language and style. As it is seen that in preparation of the book the sources of the foreign archives and local archives such as Sveria Riksarkivet (Sweden State Archives), Sveria Krigsarkivet (Sweden Military Archives), Kungliga Bibliotek (Sweden Royal Library), Uppsala University, Carolina Rediviva Library, The National Archives (London), League of Nations Photo Archive, Prime Ministry Republican Archives, Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives, Red Crescent Archives, Presidency Archive, Foreign Ministry Archives, Istanbul Sea Museum Archive, Turkish Revolution History Institute Archives have been used. Additionally, the book uses domestic and foreign literature, newspapers and magazines.

At the end of the work, there are tables, index and photographs related to the subject, as well as a section containing biographies of various diplomats such as Ahmet Hulusi Fuat Tugay, Ali Çetinkaya, Ali Haydar Aktay, Ali Nuri Dilmeç (Gustav Norring), Ali Şevki Berker, Behiç Erkin, Carl Johan Tornberg, Carl David Af Wirsén, Cecil John Edmonds, Elsa Brändström, Erik Boheman, Galip Kemali Söylemezoğlu, Guillaume Berggren, Gunnar Valfrid Jarring, Gustaf Rikard Raquette, Gustaf Oscar Wallenberg, Hjalmar Branting, Hjalmar Hammarskjöld, Hjalmar Pravitz, Hüseyin Cevat Ezine, İsmail Canbulat, Johannes Kolmodin, Karl Vilhelm Zettersteen, Lars Magnus Ericsson, Layık Mukbil, Mehmed Said Efendi Yirmisekizçelebizâde, Murat Efendi (Franz Von Werner), Mustafa Asım Turgut, Nusret Sadullah Ayaşlı, Östen Undén, Oscar Fredrik Wilhelm Olaf Gustaf Adolf, Per Gustaf August Cosswa Anckarsvärd, Prens Jan Karaca Paşa, (Yanko), Rağıp Raif Kösearif, Selahattin Adil Paşa, Stefanos Etyen (Etienne) Karatodori (Karatheodoris) Efendi, Sven Hedin, Şerif Paşa, Ture J. Arne, Yusuf Akçura, Yüzbaşı Fevrel (pp. 305-314).

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The print quality, the paper type selection and the design of the book are also the hallmarks of the reader. The cover of the book depicts Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's meeting with the Swedish Crown Gustave Adolf in Çankaya Mansion in 1934. This photo gives reader an important message about the content of the study just before starting to read the book.

The introduction part of the book tells us that the development of Turkey-Sweden relations is based on various assumptions. These assumptions are: Sweden's leading role in initiating and developing the diplomatic relations regarding Ottomans' relations with Sweden developed on the occasion of bilateral necessity; the role of political and economic concerns in the development of relations; the failure of the two countries to fulfill obligations arising from treaties against Russia; the role of Tsarist Russia in the development of relations; the neutrality policy of Sweden's during and after the First World War; the preference of small and friendly countries for economic investments instead of the imperialist great powers during the first decade of the Republican period of Turkey; the role of the Swedish Red Cross in the return of Turkish soldiers captured by Russians in the First World War; the effect of the Armenian issues; the active role of the Sweden's diplomats in important foreign issues of Turkish foreign policies like in the questions of Mosul, the population exchange and Hatay (pp.1-13). However, instead of designing these assumptions in twelve items long in length, it would be more appropriate to compile the same statements into the reader in a more concise manner.

This diplomatic and political history study is divided into four thematic themes as explained below.

In the first chapter of the work, Ottoman-Swedish political and diplomatic relations are discussed during the First World War. Due to the atmosphere created by the war, diplomatic relations became more intense in the Ottoman-Swedish relations between 1914-1919. The fact that the Baltic Sea was a struggle in the war was a situation that affected Sweden. In spite of the fact that compared to other European states Sweden was a small state with limited opportunities which it was not involved in the European crisis and maintained its impartiality. When the Ottoman state entered the war together with Germany, Scandinavia -and therefore Sweden- increased its importance. Ottoman diplomats in Sweden had important missions in this process: Reporting the developments in Russia and other hostile countries to the Turkish foreign affairs and providing the equipments that necessitated for the Ottomans. During this period, Sweden's pro-German policy created a conjuncture that was as much a function of the Ottomans as the allied states (pp.15-16,25). The other topics discussed in the first section are The Swedish Red Cross' help to the Turkish prisoners' physical needs in Russia (health, nutrition and etc.) and bringing them back; Sweden's position on the Armenian issue; Sweden's neutral attitude

in the Gallipoli War; Swedish officers at the Battle of Gallipoli; diplomatic missions of Sweden during that time (pp.25-89).

In the second chapter of the study, with the opening of Turkish Parliament on April 23, 1920, both Turkey and Sweden focused on the process to develop diplomatic and political relations. After Mondros ceasefire agreement, Sweden maintained its neutrality policy. Like all the states, according to the agreement provisions Sweden recognised the Istanbul Government. After the Lausanne Conference both big and small states of Europe recognised Parliamentary government as the sole representative of Turkish state. Although this was the case, until the 1930s, European small states did not establish direct diplomatic relations with Ankara government, they expected the great states to take first step (pp.92-122). Also in this chapter, the relations between the governments of the Turkish National Assembly and Sweden during the Turkish War of Independence, the appointment of Galip Kemali Söylemezoğlu to the Stockholm Embassy, the activities of Gustaf Oscar Wallenberg's in Turkey, who was Sweden's last ambassador to Istanbul, and the studies of Sweden's on the continuation of the capitulation in the Lausanne Conference are mentioned (pp. 95-116).

The new Turkish regime was attempting to promote political, diplomatic and economic relations by adopting peace policy and signing friendship treaties with the announcement of the Republic in 1923. In this context, Sweden was the first Scandinavian state who recognized the Turkish Republic. On May 31, 1924, both countries signed a friendship agreement, which initiated bilateral official relations, and thus routine practices took place. Turkey-Sweden relations in the first decade of the Republican era, Turkey-Sweden Friendship Agreement dated on May 31, 1924; the role of the Swedish diplomats in the Mosul; the capital of Sweden in the railroad investments in Turkey (Fevzipaşa (Keller)-Diyarbakır Railway track- Irmak-Filyos Railway track); Turkey-Sweden trade between the years 1923-1933 are discussed in the third part of the book (pp. 123-206).

Lastly, although Sweden was represented at the level of the ministerial in the last part of the Ottoman State and during the first decade of the Republic of Turkey, after 1933 it began to be represented at the embassy level in Stockholm. Representatives opened in the Ottoman period were preserved in the first years of the Republican era, but the diplomatic levels were continued as charge d'affairs. In this conjunction, in the last part of the study, the relations between the two countries are mentioned given the impacts of the opening of the Sweden Embassy in Ankara between 1934-1938, the death of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and reverberations of them in Sweden. And also the foreign trade of Turkey and Sweden between 1934-1938 is one of the issues highlighted in this section (pp.226-266). In the conclusion of this study, the author makes some assumptions mentioned in the introduction part of the book and also summarizes the contents of four chapters' the book (pp.281-290).

As a result, this study sheds light on the certain period of Turkey-Sweden relations (political, economic, cultural, diplomatic, etc.) and provides an important contribution to the writing of various disciplines such as history, political science and international relations. For these reasons this study is important for the literature of various disciplines. Also, it has considerable value in terms of historiography. It provides readers a chance to see how archival documents, memoirs, newspapers and photographs are handled and used by various disciplines.

Ayşe BEDİR

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