

# Identities and Modernities in Europe

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Ayhan Kaya

# Turkish Origin Migrants and Their Descendants

Hyphenated Identities in Transnational Space

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Ayhan Kaya  
Department of International Relations  
Istanbul Bilgi University  
Istanbul, Turkey

Identities and Modernities in Europe

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*In memory of my friend, I. Emre Işık ...*

## PREFACE

Political tensions between the Turkish government and the European states in the spring of 2017 regarding campaigning activities of the Justice and Development Party (JDP) in Turkish transnational space have engendered much discussion on the orientations, identities, aspirations and loyalties of Turkish-origin migrants, and their descendants, residing in the European Union (EU) countries. Are they simply Islamists who are easily affected by the words of leading Turkish state officials? Are they using their freedom of expression in the democratic European space? Do those of them observed by the European public via visual media represent the entire Turkish-origin populations in Europe? Who are they? This book aims to shed light on the politics, sociology and anthropology of the transnational space constructed by Turkish-origin migrants and their descendants as they oscillate between their countries of settlement and their homeland, Turkey. To this end, transnational space will be utilized as a kind of optic to understand their life-worlds, while care will be taken not to fall into the trap of essentialism. The book assumes that the main source of tension between *native communities* and *migrant-origin communities* in modern times arises from essentialist definitions of culture, nation, civilization, religion and citizenship, which are often promoted by conservative political elite to interpellate socio-economic realities by culturalizing what is social, political and economic. In doing so, the author will be making use of his own social and anthropological research findings covering the last three decades, as well as relevant secondary literature on migration studies, identity studies, ethnic studies, political science

and philosophy. In addition to previously held field research notes and secondary literature review, the findings of two ongoing Horizon 2020 research projects (CoHERE and FEUTURE) and some archival material on the life-worlds of the Euro-Turks will also be utilized.

The book mainly offers an analysis of immigrant communities in Europe and the problematic nature of their labelling by the host countries. Transcending binary oppositions of East-West, European-Muslim, local-newcomer, the author wants to present the multiple identities of Muslim-origin immigrants, most of whom have hailed from Turkey. The book also claims that the essentialism which exists in many European societies also exists in home countries, insofar as each tries to impose a Muslim-Turkish identity on its current or former citizens. Hence, the main aim of the book is to analyse the complexity of the hyphenated identities of the Turkish-origin community with their intricate religious, ethnic, cultural, ideological and personal elements. Needless to say, all nation-state projects undertake similar policies in their endeavours to turn common people into citizens and members of the national community.

Istanbul, Turkey

Ayhan Kaya

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AABF	European Federation of Alevi Unions
CBMI	Commission on British Muslims and Islamophobia
CDU	Christian Democratic Union
CFCM	<i>Conseil Français du Culte Musulman</i>
CHP	Republican People's Party
CISMOC	Interdisciplinary Centre for Studies of Islam in the Contemporary World
CSU	Christian Socialist Union
DITIB	Turkish-Islamic Union for Religious Affairs
EU	European Union
HDP	Peoples' Democratic Party
IEIB	Institute of Islamic Studies
IESH	European Institute of Human Sciences
IFESI	French Institute of Islamic Studies and Sciences
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
ISIS	Islamic State
JDP	Justice and Development Party
KRM	Coordination Council of Muslims in Germany
MHP	Nationalist Action Party
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPD	National Democratic Party
NSU	National Socialist Underground
OECD	Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development
PKK	Kurdish Workers' Party
SPD	Social Democratic Party
TGNA	Turkish Grand National Assembly

TÜİK	Turkish Statistical Institute
TÜSIAD	Turkish Industry and Business Association
UETD	Union of European Turkish Democrats
US	United States
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
VU	Free University
YEKM	Yunus Emre Cultural Centres
YTB	Directorate of Turks Abroad and Related Communities

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