

Abstracts (İngilizce özetler)

The Ghost of despotism in the age of liberty: Arson, rumors, and public order after the Istanbul Çırçır Fire of 1908

EBRU AYKUT

On August 23, 1908, just one month after the restoration of the constitutional regime, Istanbul fell victim to conflagration that had erupted in Çırçır (Fatih) and burnt many neighborhoods to the ground. There followed many small incidents of fire, which sparked panic and anxiety among the populace, as they were thought to have been intentionally set by arsonists. The arson panic occasioned contention over the meaning of these incidents. It led to the spread of rumors that both the Çırçır fire and arson attacks had been organized and conceived by disgraced spies of the Palace in order to bring back the old regime (despotism or *istibdat*). Contrary to what people thought and believed regarding the perpetrators and their alleged intentions, the Ottoman press and the new provisional government did not incriminate the spies, but instead, attributed the arsons to ex-convicts, who had been released from prisons following the proclamation of general amnesty at the end of July and to "vagrants" who had come to Istanbul from Anatolia after the 1908 Revolution. In this article, I analyze these rumors by situating them in the post-revolutionary and post-disaster context of Istanbul so as to shed some light on this extraordinary episode in late Ottoman history. My purpose is not to prove or disprove the validity of rumors, but rather to examine why such rumors erupted at this specific moment, how various actors (people, press, and government) perceived and interpreted the arsons, and how this perception had an impact on mass behavior as well as on the political agenda of the post-revolutionary government. The rumors of arson circulating in Istanbul started a public discussion about the inefficacy of the police to fight crime and led people to take security matters into their own hands. Growing

concerns over security of life and property and the discourse on “dangerous classes” legitimized authoritarian responses under the pretext of appeasing public disquiet and restoring public order in the capital city and ultimately, provided the government with a rationale to redefine the limits of liberties in the age of liberty.

Keywords: Arson, rumor, public order, security, police, press, despotism, liberty.



Laboring in the early twentieth century Samsun port: Debates on free trade and queue system

CAN NACAR

This study focuses on one of the most important port cities in the Black Sea, Samsun. An important source of tension in the port of Samsun in the early 20th century was whether boats ferrying cargoes between the shore and ships would work on queue system. As boatmen and merchants put forward different views and did not reach an agreement on this issue, the city witnessed a protest by merchants in early 1910. After this protest, to get their demands accepted by the government, both parties held meetings with government officials and wrote petitions to the Assembly of Deputies, Grand Vizierate and various ministries. To resolve the conflict that lasted about fourteen months, the Ottoman central government made three different decisions on the queue system. The frequent changes in decisions reflect the Ottoman ruling elite’s concern not to alienate boatmen and merchants. Finally, the Council of Ministers adopted a mid-way solution: Boats would work on queue system while ferrying goods from ships to the shore and merchants would be able to work with any boatmen they chose during the transit from the shore to ships.

Keywords: Port cities, Samsun, queue system, boatmen, merchants, Second Constitutional Period.



Dialectic of the gaze: Form, content, and utopia in the work of Nurdan Gürbilek

DEMET Ş. DİNLER

This article aims at evaluating the work of Nurdan Gürbilek, who is an author blurring the distinctions between essay, analysis and literature, with reference to its themes, method, concepts, and structure. The article investigates how the author deals with the problems of the downtrodden, fear of belatedness, East-West dualism, desire for authenticity and with the way she immanently builds the criteria for good literature in the essays written from 1985 to 2015. It also shows the ways in which utopia and political imagination are constitutive components of the essays. The article argues that Gürbilek approaches the literary work as if she is a dramatur-

gist. Her essays are the by-products of a dialectical thinking, which weaves the theory with the object, the universal with the particular, and makes the voices, repressed in certain readings of the literary text, speak by revealing its limits and possibilities.

Keywords: Dramaturgist, fiction, dialectic, theory, immanent, object, East/West, utopia.



From polemic to dissidence: *Yeşil Gece* as the narration of a symbolic universe

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Reşat Nuri Güntekin (1889-1956), a prominent author of Turkish literature in the early Republican era, is one of the major authors of the literary canon, especially with regard to his novels. *Yeşil Gece*, being one of his most widely known works, was published in 1928. Described as a "polemic novel" by the author himself, the criticisms it received evolved over time to become destructive. The novel was not only accused of being "against religion", but also of being written by the directive of the administration of the period. When these critiques are read in parallel with the historical process, the determining role of the transformations in political structure could well be observed in the perception of literary works. In other words, politics, which is one of the most distinctive factors shaping the cultural sphere in Turkey, has also spread across the institution of criticism. This article analyzes each of these criticisms one by one and then focuses on the text, aiming to draw attention to certain points that have been overlooked by the critics due to their ideological barriers. As a result, Güntekin is argued to be an intellectual, who dared to criticize the authorities from a "dissident" perspective in his novel, unlike general recognition of it as a state-directed piece of literature.

Keywords: Reşat Nuri Güntekin, polemic, dissidence, enlightenment, religion.



A Study of an external history for geography in the context of structures of knowledge in the modern world-system

ERDEM BEKAROĞLU

This study tries to construct an external history for geography within the framework of structures of knowledge in the modern world-system, which emerged in the 16th century Western Europe and extended to the whole world during the 20th century. In this regard, the main characteristics of the structures of knowledge in the modern world-system are that the structures of knowledge were divided into the two cultures and that scientific camps formed accordingly between the end of the 18th

century and the mid-19th century. Geography, until the 1960s, constructed itself as a science of the “one culture”, ignored the distinctions and therefore gradually became the “other”. Evolution of geography in the Anglo-American world after the Second World War is characterized by an ontological fragmentation. In its post-war practice, with the aid of quantitative revolution, a search for special array in physical geography as well as in human geography caused the two halves of the discipline to substantially break. In the 1970s, both human-centered geographies and various structural geographies introduced the discipline and this constitutes the turning point of the epistemological fragmentation in it. With the latter fragmentation, methodological unity between the two main halves of the discipline was largely melted away. In this respect, as a result of post-war evolution of the modern world-system that created disciplinary convergence, physical geography mostly integrated with the natural sciences whereas human geographers worked into various social realms. As a result, though continuity of the discipline in the academic structures was disrupted as an intellectual project, it still survives as a political project.

Keywords: Modern world-system, structures of knowledge, the two cultures, geography, ontological fragmentation, epistemological fragmentation.



Methodology debates in anthropology of Islam

SERDAR ŞENGÜL

This essay aims to examine the anthropological studies on Islam and Muslims and the methodologies adopted in these studies in the light of critical works of Abdul Hamid el-Zein and Talal Asad. The anthropological approach to Islam seeks to include the voice of Muslims into the scholarly works about them. Such an aim represents a conscious rupture from orientalist and classical sociological approaches, which reduce Islam respectively to certain texts and to the expression of socio-economic and political organization that is peculiar to the Orient. Trough exploring the methodologies adoped in these studies, this essay critically analyzes the extent to which anthropology of Islam has achieved its proposed goals.

Keywords: Islam, anthropology, theology, orientalism.



The end of the world as we know it: The crisis of capitalism or that of American leadership?

CAN CEMGİL

This article problematizes the multiple challenges the world order faces today. Among these challenges, the two most important ones (the geopolitical problems and conflicts and the global financial crisis) are seen by many as indicating a sub-

stantive and fundamental change in world order. This world order, described as the American-led capitalist system of national-territorial states, has been in the making since at least the end of World War II, and almost completed its universalization by the end of the 20th century. These recent geopolitical and financial problems, in turn, manifested themselves very strongly as the crises of both capitalism and the national-territorial world order generating scholarly responses as to their terminal nature. This article argues on the contrary that both the capitalist crisis and the crisis of the national-territorial system of states, seen as one, have the capacity to reinvent and reconstruct themselves. Claiming that these crises are better conceptualized as a generalized crisis of social reproduction of the global capitalist national-territorial world order, the article concludes that the resolution of these crises are *political* and the way they will be resolved will depend on the political struggle of labor.

Keywords: national-territorial state, capitalist crisis, world order, crisis of social reproduction, geopolitical crisis.