



NATIONAL CULTURE AND TURKS IN THE DOCUMENTS OF TURKISH NATIONAL ARCHIVES*

*Hüseyin DOĞRAMACIOĞLU***

ABSTRACT

There are some documents about the Turkish national culture and literature in archives. These documents stored in archives and there has not been a comprehensive study on it. These documents are written in the Ottoman language and aren't translated into modern languages, including Turkish language so far. This archive documents about culture and literature were published in the newspaper of Hâkimiyet-i Milliye (National Sovereignty). Turkish history was researched in different articles and the people were informed about Turkish culture when war years also by some researchers. All these studies have resulted in success. And Turkish people who filled with national spirit had won victories constantly. However, there has not been much research on this newspaper so far because of it was published with the Ottoman language. In this work, I want to give introductory information on these documents and would like to draw attention to this archive documentation.

Documents related to the Turkish culture and literature of the Ottoman archives are also available. These documents are regularly published in the newspaper of Hakimiyet-i Milliye. Several pictures, stories and literary articles are those documents. Copies of the newspaper of the Turkish culture and literature are important aspects of research. In this article, the paper analyzed some of the literary and cultural articles.

Key Words: Turkish culture, Turkish history, National Struggle, The newspaper of Hâkimiyet-i Milliye and national spirit.

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** Yrd. Doç. Dr. Kilis 7 Aralık Üniversitesi Fen Ed. Fak. TDE Bölümü, El-mek: dogramacioglu@kilis.edu.tr



TÜRK MİLLÎ ARŞİV BELGELERİNDE MİLLÎ KÜLTÜR VE TÜRKLER

ÖZET

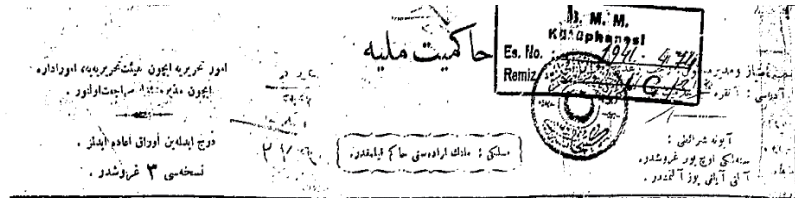
Türk millî kültür ve edebiyatı hakkında devlet arşivlerinde bazı belgeler vardır. Bu belgeler üzerinde bugüne kadar kapsamlı bir çalışma olmamıştır. Bu belgeler Osmanlı harfleriyle yazılmış ancak günümüze kadar Latin harfli Türkçe de dâhil olmak üzere hiçbir dile aktarılmamıştır. Türk kültürü ve edebiyatı ile ilgili olan bu arşiv belgeleri Hâkimiyet-i Milliye adlı gazetede yayınlanmıştır. Gazetede Millî Mücadele yıllarında savaş haberlerinin yanında Türk tarihi ile ilgili araştırmalar bazı yazarlar tarafından farklı makalelerde incelenmiştir. Bütün bu çalışmalar, başarı ile sonuçlanmış ve böylece muharebeler yapılırken gazetede yazılar vasıtasıyla millî ruhla dolan Türk halkı Millî Mücadele’de sürekli zaferler kazanmıştır. Böylece bu yazılar vasıtasıyla halka millî bilinç kazandırılmıştır. Gazetede yazılar Osmanlı harfleri ile yayınlanmış ve belki de bu nedenle bu gazete hakkında çok fazla bilgi sahibi olunamamıştır. Bu çalışmada, Türk kültür ve edebiyatı ile ilgili olan bu belgeler hakkında tanıtıcı bilgiler vermek ve bu arşiv belgelerine dikkat çekmek istiyorum.

Türk kültürü ve edebiyatı ile ilgili birçok belgeye Osmanlı arşivlerinde ulaşabilmek mümkündür. Bu belgeler Hâkimiyet-i Milliye’de düzenli aralıklarla yayımlanır. Çeşitli resimler, hikâyeler ve edebî yazılar bu belgelerde yer alır. Türk kültür ve edebiyatının araştırılması yönüyle bu gazete nüshaları önem taşımaktadır. Bu yazıda gazetede bazı edebî ve kültürel yazılar incelenmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Türk kültürü, Türk tarihi, Millî Mücadele, Hâkimiyet-i Milliye gazetesi ve millî ruh.

Introduction

The newspaper of Hâkimiyet-i Milliye begins to publications in January 10 of 1920 in Ankara. The meaning of this newspaper is National Sovereignty. This newspaper has published two times for a week at first. There is a reminder under the head that we publish two times for a week for now. The newspaper wasn't issued due to various reasons for two weeks on January 20, 1921. One of these reasons is creation of required infrastructure to make it the daily newspaper. In the meantime publishing house of the newspaper of Yeni Dünya (The New World) was closed in Ankara and this printing press was transferred to the newspaper of Hâkimiyet-i Milliye with its employees.



(The picture above is an archive document. It is The Hâkimiyet-i Milliye's logo. There is the official state seal on this document)

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The newspaper of Hâkimiyet-i Milliye is stored in the official state archives in Ankara. Many copies of this newspaper had not translated into modern languages including Turkish language. There are important articles in this newspaper about the culture and history. These articles await researchers in archives.

The purpose of publishing this newspaper is to give information about Turkish culture to the public. This newspaper was published with the language of the Ottoman. Various articles about Turkish, Turkish nation and its traditions were published via this newspaper. Different cultural information was given to the public in the newspaper of Hâkimiyet-i Milliye. Various articles as beliefs, spirit, Akhism published in this newspaper and the most important goal of the newspaper was to create multicultural society. Even at times when Turkish National Struggle had become as a struggle for survival, cultural articles mostly published in this newspaper. In that period the published articles about mental, psychological, historical matters has attracted the attention of the Turkish society. One of these matters which, "Is the spirit dies?" was answered in the newspaper related with the spirit of the Turks:

*"Some young think that spirit die. No, the spirit never dies. Especially Turkish spirit is permanent. Therefore, Turk's spirit are infinite like each saints' spirit who makes every sacrifice. Every soul that does favor and self-sacrifice is permanent. These souls are interfere among nation who eternal."*¹

In this cultural article, the writer mentions the national spirit. However, he tells us about The Turkish nation's character. Another subject that mentioned at Hâkimiyet-i Milliye is Akhism. Akhism is an organized brotherhood in Anatolia related to trade guilds. This issue was discussed and written by Çorum parliament Abdurrahman Dursun. The subject of the article is Akhism. The coming of The Akhis to Anatolia and their occupations were mentioned in this article. According to this article Akhis had come from Khorasan to Anatolia during the Seljuk period and lived in Anatolia under the auspices of Tugrul Bey. Therefore The Akhis had settled in the area of Çorum and gained the sympathy of the people:

*"Akhis who travelling at the Asian desert sometimes and settled at Khorasan with Seljuk had come to Anatolia during Selçuk Bey and some of them have practiced with iron working. Akhis spanned across the Anatolian and gained the affection of the people."*²

Anatolia is "The Cradle of Civilizations" according to an accepted view. Different cultures have lived together for thousands of years in Anatolia and thus a cultural mosaic has composed. Akhism has created a colorful part of this cultural mosaic. As a result "Turks" concept is emphasized in the articles of this newspaper. The public informed about these cultural issues through these articles.

There is another cultural text about Turks in newspaper of Hâkimiyet-i Milliye. According to this article Turks come out to the outside melting Iron Mountain. It was told in Besim Atalay's essay titled "The Ergenekon-Norouz":

"Ergenekon festival in other words Norouz is a tradition that lives in this way. (...)The Turks were eliminated completely in a battle that the Tatars involved. Only nine people get rid of from this battle. These nine people retreat to iron mountain. After stay there four hundred years they melt iron and go out from there with the help of a wolf. Then, they attack to the Chinese to take revenge. They win the war. It was said Ergenekon the place that they stayed four hundred

¹ İsmâil Hakkı, "Rûh Ölür mü?" (Does The Spirit Die?), 249/1-2

² Abdurrahman Dursun, "Âhilerin Anadolu'ya İntişârı ve Meslekleri -2-" (The Settlement of The Akhis And Their Profession in Anatolia-2-), 433/ 1-2

years. *Ergenekon* means homeland of mine. *Ergani* town is known for its iron mine. Indeed the words of *Ergene*, *Eriken* and *Ergani* mean the iron mine in the old Turkish.”³

It was emphasized in this article that Turk nation is among the oldest and most civilized nations. Even the Turkish citizens living in the Ottoman Empire were not aware that they were Turks.



(The photo above is The Ottoman Sultan (Emperor) 5th Mehmet Reşad . Archival document of the Republic of Turkey, *Tasvir-i Efkar*, year: 1914, number: 1196)

Ottoman Empire was composed different nations. For this reason Ottomanism were dictated to the public instead of the national consciousness as a state policy. Therefore, Turkish culture that creates the essence of The Republic of Turkey was explained to the public through some articles in the newspaper:

“It is understood when Turks History examined that Turks are respectful, hardworking and honest people in the world. It was accepted as a reality by many nations in the world that Turks have sovereignty and independence and abilities and high spirit and pure heart. The Turks have drawn the attention of the communities with the wonderful features in every century. (...) Islam is a religion that suitable for characters and spirits of the Turks. Turks has found their own characters in Prophet Muhammad’s religion. Turks’ King Chagan Khan sent Korkut Ata to Medina when

³ Besim Atalay, “Ergenekon – Nevruz” (*The Ergenekon – Norouz*), 140/2

*honor and reputation of Islam has reached from Prophet Muhammad's urban to Turkestan who believes God's existence and unity."*⁴

İzzet Ulvi writes about Turkish culture and history in Hâkimiyet-i Milliye. He tells in the other article that Turkish states were founded on seven areas in ancient times. The writer says that old Turkish states were governed by the holy committee. And also this committee was directed by Basbug (Chieftain). Furthermore the writer describes how Oghuz Khan became Basbug (Chieftain / The head of Turks). İzzet Ulvi describes the flags used by ancient Turks:

*"Red on a green background symbolizes the rights and religion. Red on a white background symbolizes to shed blood for happiness; Green on a white background symbolizes to accept Islam. Because of yellow, is accepted as the color of the peace, big Sancaks(Flags) were made with gilded silver. (...) Oghuz was elected as a Bashbug (chieftain) to be chief of the holy society. Karahan (Grand Suzerain) had been trusted to Oghuz excessively."*⁵

According to this article Turks never used a single color flag. They used different flags for different occasions. The colors have different meanings for ancient Turks. They had thought the colors as holy. İzzet Ulvi had explained this case in his article. The founder of Republic of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal had wanted to create a cultured society through this newspaper. İzzet Ulvi and Ruşen Eşref had carried out this task. Some Greek politicians had claimed that Anatolia was the center of Hellenism when Turkish National Struggle went on. And they claimed that Anatolia was their motherland. During these years some Turkish researchers studied on this topic. And they shared the outcome of this research. One of these researchers was İzzet Ulvi. He was explained using some of the archival documents that The Turks came to Anatolia before the Seljuk and Ertugrul Gazi and they were lived in Anatolia approximately four thousand years. As a result he said that the Anatolia was The Turk's motherlands:

*"They argue that Anatolia is Greeks' homeland. Anatolia's ancient history has been neglected by Turkish researchers. The history of the Turkish nation was thought in the Ottoman and Islamic history so far. Thus, the rumors of Greek politicians were supposed as a real. However, The Turks came to Anatolia before Ertugrul Gazi. There was the Turkish race in Anatolia since the oldest and unknown times. The first inhabitants of Anatolia were the Turks. Turks live in Anatolia since 4000 years"*⁶

The writer pointed out that some of the Turks who lived in Anatolia before Islam were Christian.

⁴ İzzet Ulvî, "Türkler ve İslâmiyet" (*The Turks and Islam*), 310/2

⁵ İzzet Ulvî, "Eski Türklerin Mukaddes Derneği" (*Holy Association of The Ancient Turks*), 292/3-4

⁶ İzzet Ulvî, "Anadolu'da Hıristiyan Türkler -1-" (*Christian Turks in Anatolia, -1 -*), 356/1-2



A Greek woman (The symbol of Greek) with a Turkish soldier (The symbol of Turks) live freely in the Mediterranean Basin with their own culture. They are a colorful combination of Mediterranean Basin. Archival document of the Republic of Turkey, Tasvir-i Efkar, year: 1914, number: 1057.

He noted that The Turkish race lived in Anatolia thousands of years ago before the Greek race. Turks living in Anatolia always treated the people with tolerance when they established the major states there. And they have given to Non-Turkish nations the freedom of living their own religious beliefs. Sumer and Akkad Turks in Anatolia reached a high level of civilization four thousand years ago:

“The Turks of Sumerian-Akkadian had established a high civilization 4000 years ago. The Turks called Hittite were the dominant force in Anatolia approximately 3500 years ago. This was accepted by some researchers. (...) The Greeks came to Anatolia and they have killed the Turks in there. History repeats itself.”⁷

İzzet Ulvî explains the outcome of his research in the archives documents that Turks not only have roots in Anatolia but also in Central Asia. Besides he describes the Orkhon Inscriptions

⁷ İzzet Ulvî, “Anadolu ve Türkler” (*Anatolia and the Turks*), 265/2

and the Turkish heroism. These monuments were noticed end of the 19th century but people of Anatolia did not know these inscriptions yet.

This monument was introduced by these articles which written, and stored in archives as a document. İzzet Ulvî had written some parts of this documents translating to modern Turkish language:

“Let’s translate with the today’s language the articles on the part of the Memorial Monument: Human was created when the blue sky and black earth was created. My ancestors were depended on the Turkish and the etiquette of his country. They had enemies at everywhere. My ancestors conquered his enemies all land. (...) Listen to me forever, what I say. You are both my brothers and friends. O you gentlemen sitting on front! O you! Nine Oghuz’s people! Please listen to my words carefully.”⁸

İzzet Ulvî had translated a text from Orkhun Inscriptions to modern Turkish language. He mentions about Turkish heroism and struggle with the Chinese. Writer says that there are some advices which we should learn from these inscriptions and continues his advice:

“History repeats itself, the advice that be awake and be yourself is still valid today. The bravery of Turkish soldiers in Sakarya is equivalent to heroism which explained in the inscriptions. Monuments standing in the Orkhon River 1200 years ago show that Turkish soldiers have still sublime spirit and heart.”⁹

The newspaper of Hâkimiyet-i Milliye cares about archival and cultural documents. It was described different cultural and religious groups of Anatolia in these pages of the newspaper. Christian Turks living in Anatolia for centuries.

Christian Turks, who lived for ages in Anatolia, have formed a part of the national culture. Article about the Christian Turks in Anatolia was written by *Pope Eftim* who Representative of Turk – Orthodox population. He had written his oration by addressing to the Westerners and Christians. Pope Eftim says that Christians have lived in Anatolia for centuries living their religion freely, without any pressure and adds that Christians already are Turkish origin in Anatolia. He also emphasizes that there is no any problem for Christian Turks in Anatolia:

“There is only one nation in Anatolia: The Turkish nation... Everyone depends on their religion which determined by God. Anatolian Turks are either Muslims or Christian. There is no need to collect any historical knowledge going away to past to prove this information. Go to an ordinary home. There are people at these homes that their language and customs are Turkish. They are so much Turkish that go to a church incidentally to see this. Christian teens go out from the Church when Prayer read the pray by Greek language. They enter the church again when Turkish pray begins and they pray opening their arms. These are a clear proof that Christians in Anatolia are Turkish.”¹⁰

⁸ İzzet Ulvî, Orhun Âbideleri, Türk Kahramanlıkları” (Orkhon Inscriptions, Turkish heroism), 302/1

⁹ İzzet Ulvî, Orhun Âbideleri, Türk Kahramanlıkları” (Orkhon Inscriptions, Turkish heroism), 302/2

¹⁰ Papa Eftim, Anadolu Hıristiyanları ve Arzuları -1-” (Christians in Anatolian and Their Requests -1-), 346/1-2

This oration is very important in the period of the Turkish National Struggle. It's written by Papa Eftim who Representative of the Christian Orthodox population in Anatolia. This is an informative oration to the European states. The writer wants to say that The Turkish nation is unique, regardless of their religions.

He gives an answer to the some European politicians who say that there are some ethnical groups in Anatolia and they must establish a separate state by dividing Turkey. Owing to Papa Eftim there is no ethnical or religious problem for Anatolian Christians. The ethnic or religious minorities had been lived in Anatolia for centuries without any problem. It was mentioned about the concept of Turkish nation and religious system in the articles in the archives of Hâkimiyet-i Milliye.

There are various cultural documents about Turkish culture in the archives of newspaper of Hâkimiyet-i Milliye. It was given useful information about cultural issues to the public publishing these documents via newspaper.

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