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Title: The Balkan war (1912-1913) and visions of the future in Ottoman Turkish literature

Issue Date: 2015-06-11

STELLINGEN

behorende bij het proefschrift van Engin Kılıç, The Balkan War (1912-1913) and Visions of the Future in Ottoman Turkish Literature

1. The Balkan War (1912-1913) did not receive due attention in Turkish historiography, not only because it has been overshadowed by the First World War (1914-1918) and the National Struggle (1919-1922) but also because of the crushing defeat with which the war concluded, an experience best forgotten in the process of forging a new Turkish identity.
2. The existence of Turkish-language utopian works is not well reflected in the historiography of Turkish literature. Generally speaking, no such genre is recognized. However, there exist numerous works of Turkish literature of the past 150 years which were written with the express intention of proposing a vision of a utopian future.
3. There is a correlation between periods of social turmoil or disorder and the emergence of utopias. The Ottoman-Turkish case constitutes a good example, for the catastrophic defeat in the Balkan War led to the emergence of a large quantity of utopian activity.
4. By the use of literature the trauma of the Balkan defeat was transformed into a narrative in the course of creating a new identity. Literature in general and utopian literature in particular is used to describe a new national identity, to evoke a desire of attaining a new national ideal, and to depict the shining future which people will experience if it is adopted.
5. From its emergence in the mid-nineteenth century onwards, modern Turkish literature have always been heavily influenced and motivated by political aspirations and tendencies.
6. There may be several factors (such as readers, publishers, critics, etc.) that determine a canon in a literary tradition. In the Turkish case, political ideology has always been the predominant determinant in the canon formation.
7. Without the Latinization and accessibility of all the literary works published (or serialized) in Ottoman-Turkish, Turkish literary historiography will not be able to produce accurate and reliable studies.
8. Majority of the Turkology departments in Turkey continue to work in old fashioned methods that have no correspondence in modern scholarship. They must be restructured in a way that embraces critical and comparative studies as well as interdisciplinary approaches.
9. Internet and data digitization technologies have radically transformed the nature of academic research.
10. In Turkey, plagiarism has become an epidemic that infects the whole system of education in all levels. It is not seen as a serious academic and ethical crime. Thus, in order to reach the world standards in education and science, Turkish academia must take radical measures concerning academic integrity.
11. A minimum knowledge of Ottoman Turkish is a prerequisite for being a Turkish intellectual. However, this cannot be procured by the imposition of obligatory Ottoman Turkish courses in secondary schools. Such a project would be futile and doomed to fail.
12. The last century's utopias may well be (and, in many instances, are) today's dystopias.