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978-1-107-02477-9 - Islamic Schools in Modern Turkey: Faith, Politics, and Education

Iren Ozgur

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Islamic Schools in Modern Turkey

In recent years, the Islamization of Turkish politics and public life has been the subject of much debate in Turkey and the West. This book makes an important contribution to those debates by focusing on a group of religious schools, known as Imam-Hatip schools, founded a year after the Turkish Republic, in 1924. At the outset, the main purpose of Imam-Hatip schools was to train religious functionaries. In the ensuing years, however, the curriculum, function, and social status of the schools have changed dramatically.

Through ethnographic and textual analysis, this book explores how an Imam-Hatip school education shapes the political socialization of the schools' students, those students' attitudes and behaviors, and the political and civic activities of the graduates. This book also examines the informal, but highly influential, modes of education, communication, and networking that appear in and around the schools. By mapping the schools' connections to Islamist politicians and civic leaders, the book sheds light on the significant, yet often overlooked, role that the schools and their communities play in Turkey's Islamization at the high political and grassroots levels. This book also provides comparative perspectives on Islamic movements by discussing the implementation of the Imam-Hatip school model in other countries, such as Pakistan and Afghanistan, which seek to reform their Islamic schools as a means to curb religious extremism.

Professor Iren Ozgur is a postdoctoral Fellow in Princeton University's Department of Near Eastern Studies.

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for *annem*, *babam*, and *Eren*

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Abbreviations

AGD	Anatolian Youth Association (Anadolu Gençlik Derneği)
AKABE	AKABE Culture and Education Foundation (AKABE Kültür ve Eğitim Vakfı)
AKP	Justice and Development Party (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi)
ANAP	Motherland Party (Anavatan Partisi)
CHP	Republican People's Party (Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi)
DİB	Directorate of Religious Affairs (Diyanet İşleri Başkanlığı)
DÖGM	Directorate of Religious Education (Din Öğretimi Genel Müdürlüğü)
DP	Democrat Party (Demokrat Parti)
DSP	Democratic Left Party (Demokratik Sol Partisi)
DYP	True Path Party (Doğru Yol Partisi)
FP	Virtue Party (Fazilet Partisi)
İETT	Istanbul Electricity, Tramway and Tunnel General Management (İstanbul Elektrik, Tramvay ve Tünel İşletmeleri Genel Müdürlüğü)
İHH	Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (İnsan Hak ve Hürriyetleri İnsani Yardım Vakfı)
MEB	Ministry of Education (Milli Eğitim Bakanlığı)

MGV	National Youth Foundation (Milli Gençlik Vakfı)
MNP	National Order Party (Milli Nizam Partisi)
MSP	National Salvation Party (Milli Selamet Partisi)
MTTB	National Turkish Students' Union (Milli Türk Talebe Birliği)
MÜSİAD	Independent Industrialists and Businessmen's Association (Müstakil Sanayici ve İşadamları Derneği)
ÖNDER	Leader: Association of Imam-Hatip School Graduates and Members (ÖNDER: İmam-Hatip Liseleri Mezunları ve Mensupları Derneği)
RP	Welfare Party (Refah Partisi)
SP	Felicity Party (Saadet Partisi)
TGTV	Foundation of Volunteer Organizations in Turkey (Türkiye Gönüllü Teşekküller Vakfı)
TİMAV	Alumni Association of Imam-Hatip School Graduates (Türkiye İmam-Hatipliler Vakfı)
TİYEMDER	Alumni Association of Divinity Faculties and High Islamic Institutes (Tüm İlahiyat Fakülteleri ve Yüksek İslam Enstitüleri Mezunları Derneği)
TRT	Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (Türkiye Radyo ve Televizyon Kurumu)
WONDER	Association in Support of International Students' Activities (Uluslararası Öğrenci Aktivitelerini Destekleme Derneği)
YÖK	Council of Higher Education (Yüksek Öğretim Kurulu)