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Book Review: Austria and Turkey: Historical Friendship: Eine Historisch Verankerte Freundschaft

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| ABSTRACT | Book Review |
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| <p>The book titled, Austria and Turkey: Historical Friendship, was prepared and published in 2014 by a delegation formed under Klaus Wölfer, the Austrian Ambassador to Ankara. This study presents a broad and detailed perspective on Austria-Turkey relations, the cultural heritage of Austria-Turkey, immigration and integration issues, art, culture, economy, trade, architecture and the promotion of Austria as a travel country. In this context, this book can be assumed a reference study on the ancient and contemporary relations between the two countries. As a consequence of historical bilateral relations between the Republic of Turkey and Austria, the friendship and solidarity established between the two countries are relatively ancient and deep-rooted when compared to the bilateral relations developed by the Republic of Turkey with other European states. In this respect, it is appreciated that this study has significant importance in order to preserve and develop bilateral cooperation between the two countries. That's why this book review is prepared.</p> <p>Keywords: Turkey and Austria Relations, Historical perspective, cultural perspective</p> | <p><i>Received:</i>06.08.2021 <i>Revision</i> <i>Received:</i>20.03.2022 <i>Accepted:</i> 30.05.2022 <i>Publishedonline:</i> 30.05.2022</p> |

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Introduction

The book which is titled, *Austria and Turkey: Historical Friendship*, was prepared and published both in Turkish and German languages in 2014 by a delegation, formed under the auspices of Klaus Wölfer, Ambassador of Austria to the Republic of Turkey. The Turkish translation of the book was carried out by Austrian Embassy translators Funda Yılmaz and Aylin Şen. That's why it can be said that the authors of the book are the staff of the Austrian Embassy to the Republic of Turkey in Ankara. The content of the book was prepared by Ambassador Klaus Wölfer and the Ambassador-Undersecretary Sabine Kroissenbramer. In the preparation of the book, Professor Doctor İlber Ortaylı, Professor Doctor Ernst Petrisch from the Austrian State Archives, Professor Doctor Christian Örtner from the Vienna Military History Museum, Architect Brigitta Weber, Sports Reporter Tom Schaffer and Embassy Migration Specialist Nalan Gündüz had also contributed.

The study begins by drawing attention and appreciation to Turkey's, great economic development and potential with its yearly growth rate, as a G-20-member country and also its highly commercial and cultural heritage. In this context, long and detailed praise is being given upon to Turkey's regional importance. In addition to these issues, the importance of immigrants of Turkish origin, who are residing in Austria and their significant contributions to Austria are also recorded with respect. Also, the ancient socio-cultural relations between the two countries are referred to. In this context, Sankt Georg Austrian High School and St. George Austrian Hospital in Istanbul, which are representing critical importance in building bridges between the two countries, are highlighted as perfect proofs and successful examples of conventional cooperation between the two countries. In addition to these practices, the partnership and joint working ability, which is realized during the ancient excavations and archaeological research carried out by Austria in the ancient city of Ephesus are given as an example of the extensive cooperation between the two countries.

Review and Analysis

The part of the book that gives information about Austria as a tourism country contains titles and contents that can be found in any tourism book. Regarding the integration of the Turkish immigrant population in Austria, the Austrian Turks, who are particularly prominent in the fields of sports, culture and art, are mentioned. In this context, a large space is reserved for biographies and successes about these persons in the book. In this aspect, it can be stated that the more interesting and important part of the book is the section upon Turkey-Austria relations, in which it is discussed the bilateral relations from a historical perspective.

At the beginning of the book, brief but concise and comprehensive information about Austrian history is given. As conveyed in the study, the roots of today's Austria go back to prehistory. The first state entity was the Celtic Kingdom, which was largely integrated into the Roman Empire at the time of Jesus' birth. Many Roman settlements were built at that time, such as Vienna (formerly Vindobona) or Salzburg (formerly Luvavum). With the influence of Atilla Hun State's occupation of today's Hungarian geographies and the resulting Tribal Migration, the Roman State was disintegrated and turned into thousands of city-states. Thus, with the spread of Germanic tribes into present-day Bavaria, the Danube and the Alpine regions, Austria lost its Roman lands. As a result, the core lands of Austria (formerly Ostarrichi) as it is used today are occupied and exploited. Along with these developments, the Austrian State took its place on the stage of history with its current name, only in 996 (Stevens and Abbot, 2007).

In the work, it is noted that the siege of Vienna, which is considered as one of the most important events between the two countries regarding the relations between Turkey and Austria, comes to mind, and in this context, the siege of Vienna by Sultan Suleiman, the Magnificent, is remembered by many. At this point, it is reported that the Ottoman Empire's

siege of Vienna was accompanied by fear and admiration against the Turks. From this perspective, it is useful to stress a few points about the siege of Vienna by the Ottoman Empire. The date of the first siege carried out by Suleiman, the Magnificent, is 1529, and in fact, the siege operation was more of an attack of opportunity than a classical siege, perhaps an operation in order to exploit success. The siege of Vienna by Suleiman the Magnificent is in fact, essentially an operation carried out as an instrument of coercive diplomacy and intimidation, rather than a military operation to seize Vienna. Therefore, the gains of the operation carried out by Suleiman the Magnificent are rather diplomatic. In fact, it was the siege where the majority of the society knew the story, and the heroes were Mustafa Pasha and the Crimean Khan Giray Khan. This siege caused a socio-cultural and socio-economic accumulation that brought about the formation of the United European Union in terms of its process and result, rather than the losses of the Ottoman Empire.

From any point of view, the years 1529 and 1683 are two important historical periods for Turks and Austrians (Matzka, 2009). As of 1529, in Austria, like all other European states, the Turkish paradigm was coded as fear and threat. This paradigm continued until the European Allied Command, under the command of Prince Sobiensky, broke the Turkish siege and started the operation to push back the Ottoman Empire after its military success on Kahlenberg Hill, in September 1683. That's why September of 1683 represents a critical date when it was understood that the Ottoman Empire, which was called invincible, could be defeated and all the secrets against the Ottoman Empire were accidentally solved. As a matter of fact, with the Treaty of Karlowitz in 1699, the Great Turkish War came to an end for the Austrians. In concluding this issue, it should be stated that the Sieges of Vienna carried out by the Ottoman Empire are remembered in the first stage, for some reason in the relations between Austria and Turkey. However, unfortunately, it is not taken into account that Austria and the Ottoman Empire were allies in the First World War and that the elite soldiers of the Ottoman Empire fought on the Galician front and the Austrian side in the First World War. More importantly, the significant impact of Turkish fashion, architectural art, palace ceremonies, and Ottoman dramas and operas on Austria immediately after the 1699 Treaty of Karlowitz is hardly remembered or cited.

The study in question also emphasizes that archaeological studies have an important place in the relations between Austria and Turkey. Archaeological research and excavations have been carried out in Turkey since 1893 under the Directorship of the Austrian Archeology Institute. The most important of these were the excavations and research carried out in Ephesus. Some artifacts brought from Ephesus are exhibited in the Ephesus Museum in Hofburg Helden Platz in Vienna. In addition to this, one hundred and fifty-two pieces of originally painted relief plates exhibited in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in the MuseumQuarter in Vienna should also be mentioned. The artifacts in question belong to the Hero of Trysa, a unique tomb in Lycia, in southwestern Turkey. In this context, with the approval of the Turkish authorities, approximately one hundred and fifty-two original painted relief plates were transferred to Vienna and are exhibited in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna.

In the aforementioned study, regarding the diplomatic relations between Austria and Turkey; it is stated that since the second half of the 18th century, diplomatic representations were permanently established between Austria and the Ottoman Empire. It is reminded that the Ottoman Empire has been represented by a permanent embassy in Vienna since 1798 (Kasaba, 2008: 192) and that the first diplomatic representation of the Ottoman Empire at the level of the Embassy in a European country was established in Vienna. As a matter of fact, the Vienna Diplomatic Academy was established in 1754 by Empress Maria Theresia as the "Eastern Academy". The Vienna Diplomatic Academy is the oldest diplomatic academy in the world. What makes the Vienna Diplomatic Academy special for Turkey is the fact that the

Ottoman Turkish language was accepted as the first foreign language in the Academy at its establishment and it contributed to the deepening of relations with the Ottoman Empire in particular.

In the integration part of the study, it is stated that Islam has been recognized as an official religion in Austria since 1912 and in fact, Islam has been recognized as a religious society by the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy since 1874. Austria has a special position among other European countries in terms of the recognition of Islam. Also, Islam religion has been accepted as a religion and institutionalized in Austria. Legal recognition of Islam as a religious community dates back to the 19th century. With the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in 1878, approximately one million Muslims were included in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It is significant that along with the ethnic Turkish under Austrian rule at that time, the entire Muslim population was also described as ethnic Turkish. These facilities are maintained and staffed only by the Turkish state. Today, in addition to the religion of Islam, Alevism is officially recognized in Austria.

Conclusion

Today, every year, more than a thousand Turkish young people come to Vienna and other cities of Austria in order to get a university education. More than five hundred thousand Australians spend their holidays in Turkey each year, and many of them own homes on Turkey's south and west coasts. In the meantime, it should be noted that the Ottoman Empire and Austria fought as two allies in the First World War. In this context, hundreds of thousands of Ottoman soldiers were martyred, wounded or taken prisoner in the battles on the Galician front. A significant part of the wounded soldiers were transferred to the allied hospitals in Austria for treatment, and many soldiers died in the hospitals they were transferred to for treatment (Öndeş, 1973:44). In the post-war period, based on various international agreements, especially the Treaty of Lausanne, various Turkish martyrdoms were built both in war zones and in countries where Turkish soldiers were taken to prison camps. However, there is still no martyrdom for the Ottoman soldiers buried in the Vienna Central Cemetery, among the Turkish soldiers who were wounded in the Galician Front in the First World War for the aforementioned reasons and lost their lives in the Austrian military hospitals where they were brought for treatment (Dönmez, 2014: 137-162). Undoubtedly, it is a shortcoming that these issues are not mentioned in the book in question. In conclusion, this book is valuable in terms of emphasizing the importance of relations and cooperation between the two countries and contributing to its rhetorical development.

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