

Kitap İncelemesi / Book Review

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Mustafa Demirci, *Black Anger: The Rebellion of Zanj Slaves in the Medieval Islamic World (869-883)*, Çizgi Kitabevi Publications, 3rd Edition, Konya 2021, 318 p. ISBN: 978-605-196-027-2

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Makale Bilgisi/Article Info: Geliş/Received: 19/11/2023 Düzeltme/Revised: 04/12/2023 Kabul/Accepted: 06/12/2023

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Atıf / Cite as: Deri, M. ve Akmaz, A. (2023). Mustafa Demirci, *Siyah Öfke: Ortaçağ İslâm Dünyasında Zenci Kölelerin İsyanı (869-883)*, Çizgi Kitabevi Yayınları, 3. Baskı, Konya 2021, 318 s. ISBN: 978-605-196-027-2. *Bellek Uluslararası Tarih ve Kültür Araştırmaları Dergisi*, 5(2), 189-191. <https://doi.org/10.52735/bellek.1393055>

ÖZ

Abbasîler döneminde, miladi 869-883 arasında gerçekleşen ve Şii lider Ali b. Muhammed'in başını çektiği 'zenci isyanı' üzerine Prof. Dr. Mustafa Demirci'nin kaleme almış olduğu "*Siyah Öfke: Ortaçağ İslâm Dünyasında Zenci Kölelerin İsyanı (869-883)*" başlıklı monografi çalışması; hem konusu hem de yazarın meseleyi ele alış tarzı ve bakış açısı bakımından önemli çalışmaların başında gelmektedir. Konuyla ilgili temel kaynaklar ve modern araştırmalar kullanılarak zengin bir akademik literatürle hazırlanmış olan çalışmada; olayın gerçekleştiği coğrafya, isyanın sebepleri ve yaygınlaşması, isyanı bastırmak için yapılan savaşlar ve savaş teknikleri, isyanın geride bıraktığı hasarın kısa ve uzun vadeli etkileri gibi konular kronolojik sıraya göre akademik bir perspektiften ele alınmıştır. Zenci ayaklanması, aslen beyaz olan ve Hz. Ali'nin soyundan geldiğini öne süren Ali b. Muhammed'in (ö. 883), Basra ve çevresindeki büyük çiftliklerde zor şartlar altında çalışan zenci köleleri organize etmesi sonucu 869'da Basra bataklıklarında başlamış ve isyan kısa sürede büyüyerek yayılmıştır. Aslen zenci olmayan birinin zenci ayaklanmasında başat rol oynaması hem tarihsellik bağlamında toplum içi güç mücadelesine güzel bir örnek, hem de dönemin Bağdat kozmopolitliğinde Afrika etnik grubunun bu güç

* Bu araştırma sürecinde; TR Dizin 2020 kuralları kapsamında "*Yükseköğretim Kurumları Bilimsel Araştırma ve Yayın Etiği Yönergesinde*" yer alan tüm kurallara uyulmuş ve yönergenin ikinci bölümünde yer alan "*Bilimsel Araştırma ve Yayın Etiğine Aykırı Eylemlerden*" hiçbirini gerçekleştirilmemiştir. Ayrıca bu araştırma "*Etik Kurul İzni*" gerektirmeyen bir çalışmadır.

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mücadelesindeki rolünü anlamak açısından oldukça önemlidir. İsyanı bastırmakla görevlendirilen Abbasi Halifesi Mu'temid Alallah'ın (843-892) kardeşi Muvaffak Billah (843-891), çetin mücadelelerden sonra âsilere karşı galip gelmiş, isyanın lideri Ali b. Muhammed'in 883 yılında öldürülmesiyle isyan sona ermiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Abbasiler, Ali bin Muhammed, Zenci, İsyan, Köle.

During the Abbasid period, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Demirci's monograph on the 'black rebellion' that took place between 869-883 A.D. and was led by the Shiite leader Ali b. Muhammad, titled "*Black Rage: The Rebellion of Zanj Slaves in the Medieval Islamic World (869-883)*" by Prof. Dr. Mustafa Demirci is one of the most important studies both in terms of its subject matter and the author's approach and perspective on the subject.

The study, which was prepared with a rich academic literature using basic sources and modern research on the subject, deals with issues such as the geography of the event, the causes and spread of the rebellion, the wars and warfare techniques to suppress the rebellion, the short and long-term effects of the damage left behind by the rebellion from an academic perspective in chronological order.

The Abbasid rule has an important place in the historical experience of Islamic society in the political, military, religious, social, economic and cultural fields, since it constituted a long period of time compared to other rulers in Islamic history. Likewise, during this period when the Abbasids were in power, many important events that affected the society and the caliphate took place. One of them was the Zanj Rebellion, which emerged as an important period for the Abbasids and left the state in a difficult situation.

This rebellion started in 863 and lasted for 14 years. The Zanj Rebellion differs from the other rebellions that took place due to its position in Islamic history, its masses and the fact that it included more than one sectarian element. Ali b. Muhammad claimed to be a descendant of the Prophet Ali and although he was not originally a black person, he started a rebellion by gathering a mass of black people working on large farms.

The fact that a non-black person played a leading role in the black revolt is both a good example of intra-communal power struggle in the context of historicity and very important in terms of understanding the role of the African ethnic group in this power struggle in the cosmopolitan Baghdad of the period.

The Zanj Rebellion started in the marshes of Basra in 869 as a result of Ali b. Muhammad (d. 883), who was originally white and claimed to be a descendant of the Prophet Ali (d. 883), organizing black slaves working under difficult conditions in the large farms in and around Basra, and the rebellion grew and spread in a short time.

Muvaffak Billah (843-891), the brother of the Abbasid Caliph Mu'temid Alallah'ın (843-892), who was assigned to suppress the rebellion, was victorious against the rebels after tough struggles, and the rebellion ended with the killing of the leader of the rebellion, Ali b. Muhammad, in 883.

To be examined the work consists of an introduction, four chapters and a conclusion: In the introduction (pp. 1-32), the purpose, importance, rationale, methodology and sources used in the study are explained, and the situation of the Abbasid State before the black revolt is mentioned.

In Chapter One (pp. 33-88), under the title "*The Causes and Roots of the Rebellion*", the geography of the rebellion, the natural features of the marshland, the economic opportunities provided by these natural features, and the social groups and structures produced by these opportunities were tried to be revealed. The emergence of large farms created by draining the marsh near Basra during the Umayyad period is pointed out, and then, with the Abbasid period, the establishment of farms for commercial purposes due to the orientation of commercial capital

towards land in the region and the establishment and employment of slaves to meet the labor force needed in these farms are examined. In this section, the infrastructure of the process leading up to the rebellion and the major milestones related to the rebellion are also mentioned.

In the Second Chapter (pp. 89-166), under the title "*The Beginning of the Rebellion and its Brightest Years*", after briefly providing information about the life of the leader of the rebellion, 'Ali b. Muhammad, the developments that led him to such a rebellion were tried to be revealed in connection with the process that the Abbasids went through just before the rebellion. Then, Ali b. Muhammad's journey to Bahrain, his first attempts there, and the events that took place during the five-year period from the time he actually started the rebellion are discussed. Then, the actual start of the rebellion, the strengthening of the rebels and their destruction of the cities of lower Iraq by becoming an invincible force against the Abbasids are analyzed in chronological order.

Chapter Three (pp. 167-222) is titled "*The Suppression of the Rebellion*" and in this chapter, detailed information about the suppression of the rebellion given by the sources is summarized. It is a descriptive account of a four-year arduous struggle that began with the siege of the cities founded by the blacks by the Abbasids.

The Abbasid army, under the command of Muwaffak-Billāh, followed a good strategy and besieged the rebels in the capital city of Mukhtāra, which was established by the rebellious blacks, and the events that took place in the last period of three years, until the fall of the city after fierce clashes and the end of the rebellion with the killing of the black leader Ali b. Muhammad, are described. Again in this section, the vivid descriptions of the events that took place draw the reader into the conditions of the time and give the reader the opportunity to look at the events from the perspective of history.

In Chapter Four (pp. 223-276); "*The Organizational Structure and Effects of the Zanj Rebellion*" provides information about the internal order and organizational structure of the rebels. In this chapter, the ideas, program and sectarian views of the Zanj leader are discussed and it is tried to determine what the true beliefs of the Zanj, who put forward ideas mixed with Shiism and Khāricism, were. Then, the political, military and administrative organizations of the rebels and their peculiarities in this field were investigated. The economic resources of the rebels and their economic relations with other social groups such as Bedouins, peasants and merchants are among the main topics covered in this section.

Again in this section, how the black rebellion affected the Abbasids, who were in the process of disintegration, the signs of weakness in the central authority, and the relationship between this rebellion and the contraction in the economic and financial structure are discussed and analyzed.

The conclusion (pp. 277-280) brings to an end with a general evaluation of the study.

In conclusion, the study is an important reference source for academics and researchers interested in the field because it is prepared using a rich academic literature, it is one of the first studies in its field, it deals with the issues in a holistic and systematic manner, the author's command of the subject, original comments and evaluations, and it provides a serious literature contribution to the academic researches to be conducted in its field. On the other hand, the findings obtained in the study are also very important in terms of the causes of the black rebellion, its historical background, its social movement dimension, the structural analysis of the society in which the rebellion occurred, and the economic, natural and human characteristics of the geography where the uprising broke out.