



AFRİKA'DA ASKERİ DARBELER VE DIŞ MÜDAHALE

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MILITARY COUPS AND FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA

ÖZ Afrika'da Askeri Darbeler ve Dış Müdahale kitabında öncelikle askeri darbe kavramını ele alan Murat Yiğit, askeri darbelerin gerçekleşmesinde dış dünyanın rolünün önemli bir etkiye sahip olduğuna işaret etmekte ve darbelerin dışarıdan her türlü müdahale ve etkiye açık bir olgu olduğuna dikkat çekmektedir. Bu doğrultuda yazar, askeri darbelerin bir dış müdahale aracına dönüşmesi konusunu ele alırken, hem askeri darbelere dayalı dış müdahalelerin faktör ve unsurlarını hem de askeri darbelerin uluslararası sistemde dış aktörler tarafından bir müdahale aracı olarak kullanılmasında gerekli olan dış müdahalenin boyutlarını ve bu müdahalenin analizindeki temel göstergelerin neler olduğunu kitapta cevaplamayı amaçlamaktadır. Bu amaçla Yiğit, tarihsel bağlamda özellikle Batı Afrika ülkelerinde askeri darbelerin ve darbe girişimlerinin meydana gelmesinde dış müdahalelerin etkisini sorgulamayı amaçlıyor. Ayrıca yazar, bölgede meydana gelen askeri darbe ve darbe girişimlerinde öne çıkan aktörler olarak ABD ve Fransa'nın varlığını ve etkisini incelemektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Afrika, Askeri Darbe, Dış Müdahale

ABSTRACT In the book *Afrika'da Askeri Darbeler ve Dış Müdahale*, Murat Yiğit, firstly, who deals with the concept of military coup, points out that the role of the outside world has an important impact on the realization of military coups and draws attention to the fact that coups are a phenomenon that is open to all kinds of interventions and influences from outside. In this respect, author, while dealing with the issue of turning military coups into a tool of foreign intervention, aims to answer both the factors and elements of foreign interventions based on military coups and the dimensions of foreign intervention required in the use of military coups as a tool of intervention by foreign actors in the international system and what are the basic indicators in the analysis of this intervention in the book. For this purpose, Yiğit aims to question the impact of external interventions on the occurrence of military coups and coup attempts in the historical context, particularly in West African countries. Also, author, examines the presence and influence of the United States and France as prominent actors in the military coups and coup attempts that have taken place in the region.

Keywords: Africa, Military Coup, Foreign Intervention

INTRODUCTION

In the book *Afrika'da Askeri Darbeler ve Dış Müdahale*, Murat Yiğit, firstly, who deals with the concept of military coup, points out that the role of the outside world has an important impact on the realization of military coups and draws attention to the fact that coups are a phenomenon that is open to all kinds of interventions and influences from outside. In this respect, author, while dealing with the issue of turning military coups into a tool of foreign intervention, aims to answer both the factors and elements of foreign interventions based on military coups and the dimensions of foreign intervention required in the use of military coups as a tool of intervention by foreign actors in the international system and what are the basic indicators in the analysis of this intervention in the book. For this purpose, Yiğit aims to question the impact of external interventions on the occurrence of military coups and coup attempts in the historical context, particularly in West African countries. Also, author, examines the presence and influence of the United States and France as prominent actors in the military coups and coup attempts that have taken place in the region.

Yiğit emphasizes the phenomenon of military coups, stressing that this phenomenon is formed within society, that is, it is fed by internal dynamics and is formed by the relationship between society and the military in the introduction. However, emphasizing the importance of external factors in the formation, development and transformation of military coups into action, author underlines that external factors play a key role in the formation of military coups as well as internal factors, and underlines that external factors should be discussed in the occurrence of coups. In addition, Yiğit argues that many examples of military coups in the international system are characterized by external connections and interventions and emphasizes that external dynamics in the occurrence of coups include both regional and global factors.

CHAPTER 1

The first chapter "*Sivil-Asker İlişkilerinde Teorik Yaklaşımlar ve Dış Aktörlerin Rolü*" includes and discusses and the theoretical framework of the mutual relations and interactions in the axis of Civil-Military relations, the external factors in the mutual relations, the elements in the realization of external intervention against the military and the level of this mutual relationship in terms of institutional closeness and socialization. Yiğit claims to develop an approach centered on civil-military relations, with a focus on military coups, and explains the main reason behind this claim as the possibility that focusing only on military coups makes it difficult to examine many internal and external factors in a holistic manner and that many factors in the formation and development of coups may be overlooked. Furthermore, while analyzing civil-military relations, Yiğit takes West Africa as an example and argues that the interaction between civilian politics and the military played an effective and key role in the governance mechanism of the states established after the colonial period in the West African region. Moreover, Yiğit underlines that the main indicator of mutual relations is which side's decisions and actions will prevail in the event of a dispute between the military and civilian rulers. According to author, in civilian-military relations, politics is generally seen as the open and disorganized side, while the military is seen as the closed and organized side. Also, emphasizing that the main and fundamental approach to civilian and military relations is western-centered, Yiğit bases the theoretical framework of his study on military coups on the praetorian analysis and sees the phenomenon of praetorianism as the main factor affecting the formation of military coups. At this point, author argues



that the harsh social struggle that Huntington explains with praetorianism is very effective in understanding civil-military relations, and underlines that the role of external influences in the intervention of the military in politics is undeniable, but that these interventions cannot be kept independent of domestic political development and mutual civil-military relations. However, he also emphasizes that the inclusion of external environmental factors in the discussion of civil-military relations plays a holistic role in understanding the direct or indirect interventions of the military in politics. Moreover, while addressing the issue of foreign support in military interventions, author gives the example of Africa and formulates and defines the military-civilian relations that exist in African countries that gained their independence through the colonial activities of the modern period as the struggle of central politics for survival against the military. Furthermore, in line with what he has emphasized, he associates the points that facilitate the opening of armies to external factors and pressures with many factors, including the structure of political and social systems, the educational structure of the soldiers, technology transfer and the approach of international institutions and media, and Yiğit argues that the diversion of the army and soldiers, which should be used against external threats, to domestic security-oriented issues weakens the existing civil-military relationship against external factors. On the other hand, author, referring to the level of institutional closeness and socialization in civil-military relations, states that external factors and influences are not only related to the means but also to the political and diplomatic attitudes and approaches of the governments with which the state actors are in alliance and cooperation, and underlines that explicit and implicit external interventions of state actors in military coups or attempts in other countries should require a certain socialization and closeness. In explaining and analyzing the level of closeness and socialization, Yiğit uses 4 different indicators: military socialization, economic cooperation, military materiel, and personal and institutional networks, and argues that as the level of institutional closeness and socialization increases and improves, the likelihood of successful foreign interventions in military coups increases.

CHAPTER 2

The second chapter "*Batı Afrika'da Askeri Darbeler ve Dış Müdahalelerin Arka Planı*" includes foreign policy and security-oriented analysis of the policies of France and the USA, which are used as examples as interventionists, the interests and instruments adopted by the actors, and the attitudes and approaches of these states towards West Africa, while also including the forms of intervention of these exemplary actors. The author, while mentioning the difficulty of the formation of political and central authority in the African states established after colonialism, argues that the formation of the army in these states cannot take place independently from the administrations that adopted the old colonialist understanding due to technical and financial factors. In particular, he strongly emphasizes that after independence, both the failure to provide civilian control mechanisms and the critical constitutional institutions were shaped according to the accumulation and line of the colonial state understanding, far from social reality, and thus these countries were open to foreign intervention. Moreover, in defense of this claim, Yiğit underlines that the external factors that were influential in the establishment of the army in these states have turned into a parameter of foreign influence in these countries in the process. On the other hand, Yiğit emphasizes the methods and tools used in foreign intervention in the realization of military coups in Africa and argues that Western states with neo-colonial political thought direct weak states according to their own interests and plans and see the problems in the internal dynamics of weak states as an opportunity for themselves. The



author supports his claim with the idea that the reason for the effective and dominant nature of the military coups that occurred in the political history of the states in West Africa after they gained their independence cannot be separated from the preferences of foreign state actors who are powerful and have influence in the region, and by giving the example of France and the USA, he states that these states make their presence felt in the region militarily, especially in terrorism and military-oriented issues, and intervene directly in case of any threat and danger. In addition, Yiğit strongly emphasizes the significant sphere of influence that the US and France have over West Africa and provides a comparative perspective on the instruments of influence used by the US and France. Specifically, he notes that the U.S. adopts a more institutional-based approach in the region, focusing on military cooperation, aid, military bases, and private security companies. In contrast, France pursues a political strategy with two distinct characteristics: one based on formal relations derived from aid, trade activities, and agreements with regional countries, and the other rooted in a personal and discreet communication network between French top decision-makers and their West African counterparts. Yiğit, therefore, links actors' interventionist approaches and tendencies in the region to their strong networks of influence and strongly emphasizes that these networks serve as an operational function in the intervention process.

CHAPTER 3

The third chapter "*Batı Afrika Askeri Darbelerinde Dış Müdahale Analizi*" includes an analysis of the historical periods of military coups and foreign interventions in seven different countries (Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Benin, Liberia, Mauritania, Mali) in West Africa, most of which gained independence in the 1960s, and an analysis of the periods and external conditions. Yiğit attributes his choice of West Africa as a research area and the countries he used as examples primarily to the similar experiences of the countries in the region, while focusing on the internal conditions of the sample countries and their relations with external actors that have an influence on foreign interventions. The author classifies France and the United States as interventionist actors during the analysis and associates their prominence with the frequency and impact of their interventions in the region. Focusing particularly on the successful and unsuccessful interventions of these actors in military coups in the region, Yiğit emphasizes their capacity for influence. Also, he argues that the weak political-bureaucratic institutions in the countries where military coups occurred create opposition, while asserting the existence of a lack of political institutionalization in these countries. Moreover, Yiğit emphasizes the elements of institutional proximity and socialization in the comparison and analysis of coup attempt events in the sample countries, and argues that the success or failure of foreign interventions in the cases of the selected country cases is shaped by the level of social proximity and socialization. He also concludes that the interventions of actors such as France and the United States in countries where they have hegemonic influence in the region are successful, but when they do not have sufficient influence capacity in bilateral relationship dynamics, the intervention attempt fails. In addition to his conclusion, Yiğit underlines that the proximity of states to each other and the high level of foreign influence facilitate the external influence in characterizing military coups as successful.

The book offers readers an important approach to the factor of foreign intervention in the formation of coups, with a focus on military coups in Africa. Yiğit, who presents the military coups in these countries from a historical perspective and focuses on foreign influences in the formation of coups with his study diversified with the examples of seven different countries, especially from West Africa, emphasizes that



four different indicators of institutional proximity and socialization level play a key role in analyzing and understanding the dimensions of foreign influence.

Accordingly, the first indicator highlighted is the level of military socialization, which provides an assessment of both the external actors who have a say in the establishment and development of national armies in West African countries, and the alliance situation, which serves as a diplomatic representation of military cooperation and civil-military relations.

The second indicator emphasized is the economic relations that generate cooperations, which is argued to reveal the level of dependency in the economic axis and contribute to the understanding of the mutual interests between the actors.

Yiğit explains military material as the third key indicator, arguing that the existing arms trade, the presence of military bases, and the role of private security companies are essential for determining military material superiority during the intervention process.

In the fourth indicator, the author discusses personal and institutional networks, strongly emphasizing how these networks reveal the active elements of neo-colonial relations, which reflect the colonial era, and exposes the different approaches adopted by the U.S. and France. Relatedly, the author emphasizes that the framework developed for the dimension and measurement of external influence could also be applicable beyond the events in the selected region and suggests that this framework, along with the analytical perspective provided in the book, could shed light on other examples of military coups as well.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the author provides an important perspective by addressing the importance of external factors in the formation, development and realization of military coups and conveying his arguments to the reader in a comprehensive manner through the examples he has chosen. The examples used throughout the study concretely illustrate how these external factors take shape, how they interact with local dynamics and in what ways they influence coup processes. In addition, through historical contexts and comparative analyses, it strengthens the argument that coups are not only a domestic issue but are closely related to regional and global balances. This perspective provides readers with a broader understanding of coups and offers an important awareness. At this point, the book is especially recommended for those who want to examine the instruments of foreign intervention and the effects of actors' influence in the formation of military coups in different countries in different years in West Africa.

REFERENCES

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