

# Scandinavian Studies in Turkey

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**Abstract:** Regional Studies is a newly evolving area in order to follow developments in the world closely, to analyze the dynamics of change and the relations between different regions in a better way. Scandinavian countries, which are one of the leading countries in the world in terms of education, technology, income per capita, life span and happiness, are also drawing attention with their policies. Although the Scandinavian countries are involved in the category of small states with a soft power perspective, they are noteworthy in international relations with their foreign policy. Studies related to Scandinavian countries like Denmark, Norway and Sweden are one of the least studied regions in Turkey. The Scandinavian region is a region growing in importance in terms of global politics in the last century. Turkey both being NATO member and EU candidate necessitate to follow the developments in Scandinavia and the Baltic closely. In addition, Turkey's EU membership negotiations also need the support of Scandinavian countries. The purpose of this study is to mention the available literature in Turkey and the importance of Scandinavian geography in the regional studies.

**Keywords:** Regional Studies, Scandinavian Countries, Turkey, Soft Power

## *Türkiye’de İskandinavya Çalışmaları*

**Öz:** Bölge Çalışmaları, dünyadaki gelişmeleri yakından takip etmek, farklı bölgelerin değişim dinamiklerini ve birbirleriyle olan ilişkilerini daha iyi bir şekilde analizi için yeni gelişen bir alandır. Eğitim, teknoloji, kişi başına düşen gelir, yaşam süresi ve mutluluk gibi konularda dünyanın önde gelen ülkelerinden olan İskandinav ülkeleri izledikleri politikalarla da dikkat çeken bir bölge olmaktadır. Scandinavian Countries, Yumuşak Güç perspektifiyle hareket eden ve küçük devletler kategorisinde yer almalarına rağmen izledikleri dış politika ile uluslararası ilişkilerde dikkat çeken bir alandır. İskandinav ülkeleri olarak adlandırılan Danimarka, Norveç ve İsveç araştırmaları Türkiye’de en az çalışılan bölgelerden biri olma özelliğini taşımaktadır. İskandinavya bölgesi, son yüzyılda küresel siyaset açısından önemi gittikçe artan bir bölgedir. Özellikle Rusya’nın Karadeniz’deki ve Baltık’taki faaliyetleri, NATO’nun askeri gücünü bölgede daha etkin kullanmasına yol açmaktadır. Türkiye hem AB aday üyesi hem de NATO ülkesi olması, İskandinavya’daki ve Baltık’taki gelişmeleri yakından takip etmesini gerekli kılmaktadır. Ayrıca Türkiye, AB üyeliği müzakerelerinde de İskandinavya ülkelerinin desteğine ihtiyaç duymaktadır. Bu çalışmanın amacı: Türkiye’de İskandinavya ülkeleri hakkındaki mevcut literatüre ve bölge çalışmalarında İskandinavya coğrafyasının önemine değinmektir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Bölge Çalışmaları, İskandinavya Ülkeleri, Türkiye, Yumuşak Güç

## I. Introduction

Scandinavian countries are located in North of the European continent which are also called “North Countries” in Turkey. Scandinavia and the Nordic expressions are concepts which are used interchangeably or are explained by different definitions in Turkish literature. Because of the fact that Scandinavian Peninsula constitutes some part of Sweden and Norway and Finland

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geographically, the focus point is Sweden and Norway. From a philological point of view, Sweden, Norway and Denmark are considered as Scandinavian countries and this term is the most commonly used one. The term of ‘‘Norsemen’’ also includes Iceland and the Faroe Islands because it belongs to the same language family. Finnish is the official language in Finland and is also spoken in Sweden and Norway. In addition, historically, Finland remained in Sweden sovereignty for many years and Finland's official language other than Finnish is Swedish. This necessitates a wider definition for the Scandinavian concept. Today Scandinavia is used for Sweden, Norway and Denmark on the basis of culture, while Iceland and Finland were excluded from the relevant definition. Instead, Nordic is used in Scandinavian languages to describe the 5 countries. Scandinavian term is defined differently. For example; *The Oxford Dictionary* describes Scandinavia as Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Iceland. *The Encyclopedia Britannica* defines as Norway, Sweden and Denmark and in a broader sense it makes a definition including Iceland and Finland. *Webstertedirs Online Dictionary* defines the region that constitutes the northern European peninsula as Sweden and Norway, while sometimes Finland and Iceland are considered among Scandinavian countries. (Holman, 2003: 3-4; Berezin, 2006:1-2; <https://www.tripsavvy.com/difference-between-scandinavian-and-nordic-1626695>, accessed on:22.11.2018). During the Ottoman and Republican period, the term North Scandinavian countries was used for Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland; today Scandinavia term is used for these countries. In this study, while Scandinavian countries are accepted as Sweden, Denmark and Norway, Finland is also included as it is located in the Scandinavian Peninsula.

Scandinavian studies are among the least studied regions in Turkish literature and these studies need to be carried out. Since, there is no intense political interest on Scandinavian studies apart from individual interest, no comprehensive and institutional studies are being done. Studies on Scandinavian countries done with individual efforts often focus on Turkish-Scandinavian bilateral relations. It is hopeful to see that Turkish literature on these studies is thriving day by day.

The first assumption of this study is that there are few academic studies on small states (except for ones that have special features) that do not play an active role in world political history. Secondly, it is claimed that there is an effective link between geographic proximity, political interest and academic studies. This study aims to analyze Scandinavian studies carried out in Turkey. It is out of the scope of this study to give a full explanation of all published studies on Scandinavian countries. The study aims to provide a general evaluation of the countries concerned.

## II. The First Studies on Scandinavian Countries in Turkey

From the 16th century, the Ottoman Empire started to establish political and diplomatic relations with the Scandinavian countries, and relations varied in other areas in time. The first publications on Scandinavia in the Ottoman period began to emerge from the 18th century. Sweden is the most studied country among Scandinavian countries in Turkey. The fact that Sweden is an independent country for many years, it is an effective force in Scandinavia and the Baltic geography, and it followed policies against Tsarist and it was effective in the development of Ottoman-Sweden relations.

Sweden-Norway and the Kingdom of Denmark were among the European states in which the Ottoman Empire established relations and made various alliances. Even though they were located in different geographies, the relations between Scandinavian countries and the Ottoman Empire began to be established from the 16th century. A significant portion of the documents related to Sweden and other Scandinavian countries are included in the Prime Minister's Office Ottoman Archive (BOA) in Istanbul. The documents and notebooks included in the various funds of this archive shed light on the Ottoman-Scandinavian relations. The Ottoman Archive is one of the archives that should be consulted in the Scandinavian and Baltic region studies. The Swedish-Norwegian Kingdom, which became a major force in European political history since the 16th century, established friendly relations with the Ottoman Empire which controlled an important geography in the east. Since the Ottoman Empire and the Kingdom of Sweden were allies due to the balances in Europe (the Ottoman-Swedish alliance against Russian expansionism), the documents related to this association constitute an important part of the Ottoman documents. (Küçük, 2018: 415-428). With the proclamation of the Republic in Turkey (since 1923) documents related to the Scandinavian countries began to be accumulated in Archives of the Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry in Ankara, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archives and in the Presidential Archive.

The first studies on the Scandinavian region are the reports (*sefaretname*-the records of the ambassadors)<sup>1</sup> prepared by the Ottoman ambassadors about the countries they went to and the literal works written by travellers. It is not known whether Kozbekci Mustafa Agha (1727-1728), one of the first Ottoman ambassadors to visit Sweden, wrote any *sefaretname*. In fact, there is not enough information about the subject in the Ottoman Archives. However, the first and most comprehensive study about Kozbekci Mustafa Agha was done in Sweden. (Theodor Westerlin, Ett Ar 1 Stockholm, Samtida Anteckningar om Turkiska Sandebudet Mustafa Agas Vistelse i Sverige 1727-1728, Centraltryckeriet, Stockholm, 1904). Ambassador Mehmed Said Efendi's *sefaretname* (1733) is the

<sup>1</sup> *Sefaretname* (the records of the ambassadors): The ambassadors', who were sent to foreign countries, reports that they prepared about the statesmen they met, political events and the works they did starting from their movements in Istanbul are called as *sefaretname*. (Pakalın, 1993:138).

first known and written inscription on Sweden (*The deceased Grand Vizier Said Mehmed Pasha's embassy in Stockholm when he was in Supreme Court in Ottoman Empire*) The sefaretname written by Mehmed Said Efendi is important for both Ottoman and Swedish history as it contains important information about the 18th century. Mr. Said gave detailed information about the route he passed through during his expedition and Sweden, and at the same time he revealed his own world of mind. This gives us data about an Ottoman diplomat's perception of Europe (especially Sweden) and the reflexes he showed.

According to Mehmed Said Efendi, the Swedish people are well-educated, people are tall, they are beautiful, they live a healthy life and they are very hospitable. He also reported that Sweden didn't have fertile lands, Stockholm was the capital of the country and explains comparatively that its households were not famous in Europe. He mentioned that there was a Russian hostility in Sweden but they had very good feelings towards the Ottomans. In Sefaretname, Mr. Said mentioned the difficulties of climate conditions (snow in June) and he stated that in Sweden some fruits were not known (eg. melon) and that even the Swedish king demanded seeds. Mehmed Said Efendi, who analyzed his observations well, drew attention to the state of the army by referring to the disciplined and orderly structure of Swedish soldiers by giving explanatory information about the army and military situation. Said Efendi compared the Swedish and Ottoman navies with the information he had and said that Swedish ships were stronger due to geographical conditions. As a result of the meetings, he was convinced that a Swedish-Russian alliance was hardly possible, and on the contrary, Sweden had great friendship towards the Ottomans. On the way back, Mehmed Said Efendi also visited Poland and he included struggles for throne and political conflicts in this country in his sefaretname. (Hoçi, 1327:674-677). Other studies include Şemseddin Sami, *Esâtîr*, (1880); Ahmet Mithat Efendi, "A Wandering in Europe (*Avrupa'da Bir Cevelan*) (1890); The first physical education teachers' trainer and the founder of volleyball in Turkey Selim Sırrı Tarcan, wrote various publications by drawing attention to the aspects of the Scandinavian countries that were not mentioned before. Selim Sırrı Tarcan, "Training Bodies with Swedish Method (*İsveç Usulu Terbiye-i Bedeniyye*) (1902); F.F. Potsikoviç, Finler, (Translated by Mehmed Fatih el-Kerimi) (1908); Selim Sırrı Tarcan, "Swedish School Gymnastics and School Games (*Terbiyevî İsveç jimnastikleri ve mekteb oyunları*)" (1911), Selim Sırrı Tarcan "The Life Unknown To Us: The Things I Saw In Sweden (*Bizce meçhul hayatlar İsveç'de gördüklerim*) (1911), Celal Nuri (İleri) referred to the political, economic, ethnic and cultural aspects of the Scandinavian countries, which he called the 'northern countries', and provided a foundation for scientific knowledge and he made these publications to gain the identity of a popular travel book. Celal Nuri (İleri) "Memories in the North (*Şimal Hatıraları*)", (1912); Celal Nuri (İleri), "Pole Meetings (*Kutup Musahabeleri*)" (1913); Ahmet Refik Altınay, "Memâlik-i Osmaniye'de Demirbaş Şarl", (1916); Selim Sırrı Tarcan, "Swedish Physical

*Education for Girls and Boys from Age Twelve to Ten (On İki Yaşından On Beş Yaşına Kadar Kız ve Erkek Çocuklara mahsus İsveç Usulü Terbiye-i Bedeniye), For Primary School Third Class'' (1919); "Russian prisoner Envoy Yusuf Akçura Bey's Report (Rusya Üsera Murahhası Yusuf Akçura Bey'in Raporu)", (1919). These publications mentioned above were prepared during the last term of the Ottoman Empire.*

### III. Institutions and Organizations Carrying Out Scandinavian Studies

In Turkey, there is no center for research and think tank on Scandinavia (or Nordic) and the Baltic countries. The Swedish Research Institute was founded in 1962 by the Swedish Government. The Swedish Research Institute (SRII) aims to promote academic research on Turkey, the Middle East and Central Asia on humanities and social sciences. Researches on Archeology, Art and Architectural History, Classical and Byzantine Studies, Educational Studies, History, Ottoman and Modern Turkish History, International Relations, Religion, Social Anthropology, Political Science, Sociology, Western and Central Asian Languages and Literature are carried out at this institute. The SRII organizes lectures, seminars, workshops, doctoral and graduate courses and course series on various subjects. On the other hand, it also provides scholarships to students and researchers studying at Scandinavian universities (in the fields of social sciences and humanities). (Küçük, 2017: 116; <http://www.srii.org/>, accessed on 13.4.2018). The institute has published scientific journals called "*Meddelanden från Svenska Forskningsinstitutet i Istanbul*" (1976-1995) and "*Dragomanen*" (1996—) in Swedish since 1976. *Meddelanden*, is the first journal about Scandinavian countries (Sweden in special) in Turkey. The journal of *Dragoman* has a broad interdisciplinary theme of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Turkey, Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa<sup>2</sup>.

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Üniversitesi

<sup>2</sup> The books that the institute published are: Jesper Blid, *Labraunda 4: Remains of Late Antiquity*; Inga Brandell (red.), Marie Carlson (red.), Öner A. Çetrez (red.), *Borders and the Changing Boundaries of Knowledge*; Birgit N. Schlyter (red.), *Historiography and Nation-Building among Turkic Populations*; Stefano Bigliardi, *Islam and the Quest for Modern Science: Conversations with Adnan Oktar, Mehdi Golshani, Mohammed Basil Altaie, Zaghoul El-Naggar, Bruno Guiderdoni and Nidhal Guessoum*; Michele Micheletti (red.), *Democratization and Citizenship Discourses in the Mena Region*; Elisabeth Özdalga (red.), M. Sait Özervarli (red.), Feryal Tansug (red.), *Istanbul as Seen From a Distance: Centre and Provinces in the Ottoman Empire*; Elisabeth Özdalga, Sune Persson, *Contested Sovereignities: Government and Democracy in Middle Eastern European Perspectives*; Ingmar Karlsson, *Istanbul Lectures 2003-2008*; Marie Carlson, Annika Rabo, Fatma Gök, *Education in 'Multicultural' Societies: Turkish and Swedish Perspectives*; Adrian Marsh, Elin Strand, *Gypsies and the Problem of Identities: Contextual, Constructed and Contested*; Edt. Elisabeth Özdalga, *The Last Dragoman: The Swedish Orientalist Johannes Kolmodin as Scholar, Activist and Diplomat*; Edt. Karin Ådahl, *The Sultan's Procession: The Swedish embassy to Sultan Mehmed IV in 1657-1658 and the Rålamb paintings*; Vera Geelmuyden Bulgurlu, Ulf Abel, Nelly Lindgren, Helena Bodin, Ewa Balicka-Witakowska, *Five Essays on Icons*; Birgit N. Schlyter, *Prospects for Democracy in Central Asia: Papers Read at a Conference in Istanbul, 1-3 June 2003, and Additional Chapters*; Annika Rabo, Bo Utas, *The Role of the State*

In Sweden there are two important institutions regarding Turkish studies. One of them is Turkish Studies at Uppsala University and the second one is Institute for Turkish Studies (2013) at Stockholm University. The country studies of Scandinavia countries as well as Turkey are conducted through NGO's; it is known that many of them are not political / ideological, independent from their governments. It is well known that the works of the mentioned organizations by taking into the international relations are daily, long-short-term cut-off reports, reports of the domestic-foreign policy, economy and they are not related to the "history" as well. There are no books about Scandinavian studies (country by country, the nation-state-based, history, language, literature, art, ethnography, politics, out of the main discipline) except a few studies in Turkey. Akdes Nimet Kurat, Evren Küçük ve Tulin Uygur are persons who contributed to the Scandinavian studies with the academic studies they prepared. Turkish language and studies about Turkey are carried out at the mentioned department and institute. Despite the lack of research centers and think tanks focusing on Scandinavian and Baltic countries directly in Turkey, organizations that study on Europe sometimes deal with Scandinavia and the Baltic countries. For example, Ankara University European Communities Research and Application Center (ATAUM), which has been active since 1987, published articles on Scandinavian countries in Ankara European Studies Journal. (Kılıç, 2017: 85-120; Karlı, 2017: 8; Temel, 2017:22-23; Aygün Karlı, 2017b: 89). One of the research centers that give current issues about Scandinavian countries is Wise Men Center for Strategic Studies (BİLGESAM-Wise Men Center for Strategic Studies) operating in Istanbul. The research center generally includes articles on Scandinavian countries as well as the developments in Europe. (Sevinçer, 2009; Sevinçer, 2009; Sevinçer, 2009; İsmayıl, 2014; Batur, 2010; Parlakyıldız, 2014; Güler& Ayata, 2014).

SETA-Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research studies on different topics about regional and international problems. In addition to developments in Europe, SETA preparing analysis, book and report about various regions of the world also includes a limited number of analyzes on Scandinavian countries. Gür, 2014; Kırmızı, <https://www.setav.org/danimarka-ikidir-kriz-uretiyor/>, Accessed on:14.11.2018).

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*in West Asia: Papers Read at a Conference Held at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, 14-16 November 2002; Jan Olof Rosenqvist, Interaction and Isolation in Late zantine Culture: Papers Read at a Colloquium Held at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, 1-5 December 1999; Rita Liljeström, Elisabeth Özdalga, Autonomy and Dependence in the Family: Turkey and Sweden in Critical Perspective; Anders Hammarlund, Tord Olsson, Elisabeth Özdalga, Sufism Music and Society: In Turkey and the Middle East; Elisabeth Özdalga, Naqshbandis in Western and Central Asia: Change and Continuity; Tord Olsson, Elisabeth Özdalga, Catharina Raudvere, Alevi Identity: Cultural, Religious and Social Perspectives. <http://srii.bokorder.se/tr-TR/Shop/Books/1> ; The Institute also publishes books, excavation reports and serial publications in addition to journals. <http://www.srii.org/Page/Dragomanen>, Accessed on:13.4.2018.*

The Center for Eurasian Studies in Ankara organizes national and international conferences and workshops on the political developments in Eurasia and on the other hand, it transfers the developments in the world to the readers in the form of analysis, interpretation, report and bulletin in regions. In the published bulletins, generally an analysis and news about Scandinavian countries are given. (Elbir, 2018; Tulun, 2018; Özer, 2012).

Scandinavian languages are not taught at any state or private educational institutions in Turkey. Swedish courses are offered at certain periods at İstanbul Bilgi University. Danish is the only Scandinavian language among 23 languages selected for the Foreign Language Proficiency Examination held in Turkey (YDS) by ÖSYM- Student Selection and Placement Centre. The number of applicants from Danish (5 persons according to 2017 data) is the least number of other languages. (<https://dokuman.osym.gov.tr/pdfdokuman/2017/YDSILKBAHAR/SayisalBilgiler20042017.pdf>, Accessed on:13.11.2018). The lack of opportunity to learn the Scandinavian languages in Turkey, lack of interest in the region, being not popular for career opportunities reduce the demand to learn these languages.

Chambers of Commerce and Business Councils make a significant contribution to the promotion of these countries by introducing Scandinavian countries and by issuing reports and country profiles on economic opportunities. However, in these reports, economic information is given weight on and attention is drawn to possible investment areas. Bilateral business councils established within DEİK- Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey makes significant contributions to the Turkish-Scandinavian economic relations<sup>3</sup>. Trade

<sup>3</sup> Konya Chamber of Trade, The Country Report of Finland Republic (Finlandiya Cumhuriyeti Ülke Raporu), September 2008; Konya Chamber of Trade, The Country Report of Denmark (Danimarka Ülke Raporu), November 2006; Uludağ Exporters' Association General Secretariat Research and Development Branch, The Country Report of Finland (Finlandiya Ülke Raporu), November 2017; İzmir Chamber of Trade, The Country Report of Finland (Finlandiya Ülke Raporu), prepared by Hande Türker, December 2013; Gaziantep Chamber of Trade, The Country Report of Finland (Finlandiya Ülke Raporu), September 2010; İstanbul Chamber of Trade, The Country Report of Finland (Finlandiya Ülke Raporu), April 2011; İzmir Chamber of Trade, The Country Report of Sweden (İsveç Ülke Raporu), prepared by Gürhan Demirel, May 2009; İzmir Chamber of Trade, Swedish Economic Indicators and Turkey-Sweden Foreign Trade (İsveç Ekonomik Göstergeleri ve Türkiye-İsveç Dış Ticareti), March 2013; Foreign Economic Relations Board, The Country Bulletin Sweden (İsveç Ülke Bülteni), May 2009; İzmir Chamber of Trade, The Country Report of Denmark (Danimarka Ülke Raporu), prepared by Hande Türker, July 2014; Gaziantep Chamber of Trade, The Country Report of Denmark (Danimarka Ülke Raporu), March 2010; Konya Chamber of Trade, The Country Report of Denmark (Danimarka Ülke Raporu), May 2011; İzmir Chamber of Trade, The Country Report of Norway (Norveç Ülke Raporu), prepared by Hande Türker, July 2014. Turkey-Sweden Business Council, It was established in February 1993 by the Business Council Agreement signed between the DEİK and the Swedish Trade Council (Exporttradet). Turkey-Sweden Business Council was established in 1991 in order to develop trade and economic relations between Turkey and Finland, to develop business relations between two countries and to move bilateral relations to new areas. Turkey-Denmark Business Council was established with a

consultancy in Scandinavia also prepares important reports on bilateral economic relations. These reports are an important source of information because they are prepared in the light of official data<sup>4</sup>.

#### IV. Political and Academic Indifference towards Scandinavian Countries (1923-2017)

The heir of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey has become a medium-sized state over time with the Treaty of Lausanne (24 July 1923) after the recognition on international conjuncture (under ideal conditions). However, Republic of Turkey stepped into international politics from a much lower position left by its predecessor Ottoman Empire. (Barlas- Güvenç, 2014: 49).

The Ottoman Empire began to follow the developments in countries by opening diplomatic representations in European capitals later than European states. While The Kingdom of Sweden, which had an imperial tradition among Scandinavian countries, had a permanent diplomatic representation in Istanbul since 1734, the Ottoman Empire opened its diplomatic representation in Stockholm in 1877. (Küçük, 2017:353-354). Tsarist Russia's policies played an active role in the interest and policy of the Ottoman emperors towards the Scandinavian countries. With the opening of the diplomatic representation in Stockholm, the documents about the Scandinavian countries gathered in Ottoman archives also provided the knowledge. The Republic of Turkey activated its sole representative in 1923 as represented previously by the Ottoman Empire by covering all the countries of Scandinavia in Stockholm. During the period of M. Kemal (Atatürk), Turkish-Scandinavian relations continued at the diplomatic and economic levels during the Ottoman period, and there was also an increase in cultural interest. During World War II, the struggle of Finland against Soviet Russia (Winter and Endurance War) was followed curiously and appreciated by the Turkish public. This situation gave rise to a positive impression towards the Finnish and Finland perception in Turkey. Finland was the country with the highest number of relations in the region during the Cold War. Regarding the Finns as Turkish origin in Turkey was an important factor. In addition, thanks to Finnish-Turks' relationship with Turkey for cultural and educational purposes led

protocol signed in 1999. Turkey-Norway Business Council was established with Turkey-Norway Business Forum held within the visit of King of Norway Harald V to Turkey in 2014. <https://www.deik.org.tr/turkiye-avrupa-is-konseyleri-turkiye-isvec-is-konseyi>; <https://www.deik.org.tr/turkiye-avrupa-is-konseyleri-turkiye-finlandiya-is-konseyi>; <https://www.deik.org.tr/turkiye-avrupa-is-konseyleri-turkiye-norvec-is-konseyi>; <https://www.deik.org.tr/turkiye-avrupa-is-konseyleri-turkiye-danimarka-is-konseyi>. Accessed on:28.4.2018.

<sup>4</sup> Republic of Turkey. Commercial Counselor of the Embassy of Helsinki, The Country Report of Finland in 2014 (2014 Yılı Finlandiya Ülke Raporu), March 2014; Republic of Turkey, Commercial Counselor of the Embassy of Oslo, The Country Report of Norway in 2012 (2012 Norveç Ülke Raporu), 2013; Republic of Turkey, Commercial Counselor of the Embassy of Stockholm, Sweden Foreign Trade in 2015 (2015 Yılında İsveç Dış Ticareti), 23 May 2016.



to the increase of Turkish publications in Helsinki, in Tampere and in Istanbul. Since the 2000s, interest to the Nordic countries has increased and Saime Selenga Gökgez's article named "The Finland Turks and Turkish Foreign Policy" ("Finlandiya Türkleri ve Türk Hariciyesinin Siyaseti; *Bilig*, 2008, issue 47) was one of the first studies on Finnish Turks. Again after 2000s the work of Sait Dilek named "The Beginning of Diplomatic Relations Between Turkey-Finland and Turkey From the Perspective of Finnish" (Türkiye-Finlandiya Siyasi İlişkilerinin Başlaması ve Finlandiya Cumhurbaşkanı Pehr Evind Svinhufvud ile Dışişleri Bakanı Yrjö Koskinen'e Göre Türkiye; *Atatürk*, 2005, vol.4, Is. 3) was one of the first studies of Turkey-Finland relations. (Böre, 1947; Hızaloğlu, 1959; Tahir, 1955; Taymas, 1943; Taymas, 1958; Taymas, 1958b).

During the period of Atatürk, while the limited attention to the Scandinavian countries continued, the studies gained a small diversity. Spiridonovic Grigory Petrov's book called "The Land of the Lily Whites" (1928) has become one of the most widely read and bedside book in Turkey and an interest and sympathy raised in Turkey towards Finland.

Although this book is not remarkable in Finland, it serves as an "icebreaker" in Turkish-Finnish relations. It is the work of Petrov which comes to mind first when it comes to Finland in Turkey. The other written works about Scandinavian countries are: "The Armies of Poland, Finland and Latvia (Lehistan, Finlandiya, Estonya, Litvanya Orduları)", General Staff Chairmanship Intelligence Service, 1341 (1925): The Group of Sweden and Denmark, The Construction of *Fevzipaşa-Malatya-Diyarbakir and Irmak-Çankırı-Filyos Railway (Fevzipaşa-Malatya-Diyarbakir ve Irmak-Çankırı-Filyos Demiryolları İnşaatı)*, (1931): Şükûfe Nihal, "Finlandiya (Finland)" (1935); Akdes Nimet Kurat, "Prutfälttåget och Prutfreden 1711" (1939), Selim Sırrı Tarcan, "Three Wisdom Countries in North, Finland-Norway-Sweden-Denmark (Şimalin Üç İrfan Diyarı, Finlandiya-İsveç-Danimarka)" (1940); Akdes Nimet Kurat, King of Sweden XII. Karl's Life and Activity 1682-1718 (İsveç Kralı XII. Karl'ın Hayatı ve Faaliyeti 1682-1718), (1940); Akdes Nimet Kurat, "King of Sweden XII. Karl's Staying in Turkey and The Ottoman Empire at this Time (İsveç Kralı XII. Karl'ın Türkiye'de Kalışı ve Bu Sıralarda Osmanlı İmparatorluğu)" (1943), Pierre Loti, "Fisherman of Iceland (İzlanda Balıkçısı) (1886) (translation 1957); Akdes Nimet Kurat, "Prut Military Expedition and Peace (Prut Seferi ve Barışı)" (1951); Burhan Arpad, Flying Diary (Uçuş Günlüğü), (1959); Ingolf Boisen, "Turkey and Denmark for Centuries (Asırlar Boyunca Türkiye ve Danimarka)" (1962); Leman Arbatlı, "Finnish Turks and Finland (Finlandiya Türkleri ve Finlandiya)" (1966).

In Turkey, rather than scientific studies about the Scandinavian countries during the Cold War era and earlier, it is seen that popular and memoir publications come into prominence. The factors such as democracy, human rights, education, equality, economic prosperity and social state understanding of Scandinavian countries constitute the reasons of preference of Turkish

intellectuals. The people writing about their memories mentioned frequently about the features of Scandinavian Countries referred above and they compared them with Turkey. In addition, the social state understanding of these countries may be a model for Turkey or not is among the controversial issues. Other written works of Scandinavian countries are; Çetin Altan, "Sweden that I could'nt Forget (Unutamadığım İsveç)", (1963); Abdi İpekçi, "Sweden, A Socialist Country (İsveç, Bir Sosyalist Ülke)", (1966); Abdi İpekçi, "Sweden, The Other Side of the Coin (İsveç, Madalyonun Öteki Yüzü)", (1966); İsmet Giritli, "Development, Sweden and Turkey (Kalkınma, İsveç ve Türkiye)",(1966); Bülent Ecevit, "Four Northern Countries (Dört Kuzey Ülkesi)", (1976); Metin Toker, "A Heaven or a Hell: Sweden (Cennet mi, Cehennem mi: İsveç)", (1972); Mümtaz Soysal, "The Aid from the North (Kuzeyden Uzanan El)", (1974); M. Ali Birand, "After Sweden Trip (İsveç Gezisinin Ardından)",(1978).

The fact that Scandinavia and the Baltic region do not have an important place in Turkish foreign policy brings academic indifference with it (it is possible to say similar policy for Scandinavia and the Baltic countries).

The interest towards Scandinavian countries in Turkey raised during the period of Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit. Ecevit was interested in the Nordic countries since the 1970s and he took "Scandinavian model" as an example and he believed that the formation of a similar structure in Turkey was possible. (Milliyet, 1984: 10). Ecevit, mentioned that Turkey could be adapted to Scandinavian practice of social justice and development and in their countries and the Nordic countries were deprived of their underground and surface wealth, but he said that they had managed to develop with liberal democracy and social justice. He noted that "aspiring the Scandinavian countries cannot be considered as over-imagination". When he was politically prohibited, Ecevit devoted most of his time to the examination of political system of Sweden and these countries. Ecevit tried to construct Scandinavian model in Sweden in the first half of 1980s but he couldn't find any supporters even at his own party (first in the CHP and then in the DSP).

Ecevit claimed that potential democratic left power would create a driving force in the development of bilateral relations with the Scandinavian countries in Turkey. (Çolak, 2015:173,180; Gaytancıoğlu, 2013:261-262). Although Ecevit led a significant acceleration in bilateral relations in Turkey-Scandinavian relations, it was not possible to see a similar interest in academic research.

The publications became prominent during and after the Cold War are: Namık Zeki Aral, Socialist Sweden (*Sosyalist İsveç*), (1963); Kenan Öztürkmen, The Letters of Sweden Red Soul Red World (*Kızıl Ruh Kızıl Dünya İsveç Mektupları*), (1965); Çetin Altan, From End to End (*Bir Uçtan Bir Uca*), (1965); Yrjö Raevuori, Sadri Maksudi and Turkey-Finland Relations (*Sadri Maksudi ve Türk-Fin Münasebetleri*), (Translation 1968); S. Babüroğlu, Swedish Economy and Private Enterprise (*İsveç Ekonomisi ve Özel Teşebbüs*) (1970); Nilgün Arıt

(prepared by) The Heaven of Europe: Sweden (*Avrupa'nın Cenneti: İsveç*) (1970); Muammer Obuz (translated by), Finland Marshall Mannerheim's Memories (*Finlandiya Mareşali Mannerheim Anılar*) (1971); Komisyon, Turkey-Finland Relations Throughout History (*Tarih Boyunca Türk-Fin İlişkileri*) (1971); Ergun Özsunay, Scandinavian Trial in Law's Union (*Hukukun Birleştirilmesinde İskandinav Denemesi*) (1973); Mahmut Baksı, The Thing They Call Sweden (*İsveç İsveç Dedikleri*) (1976); Basri İmece, The Heaven of Cooperation: Sweden (*Kooperatif Cenneti İsveç*), (1977); Hayati Tahsin Yılmaz, A Land of Milk and Honey: Sweden (*Bolluk Ülkesi İsveç*) (1976); Immigrants in Sweden: Information for Immigrants (*İsveç'te Göçmenler: Göçmenler İçin Bilgiler*) (1976); Ivar Strahl, Swedish Penal Policy (*İsveç Ceza Politikası*) (Translation 1975); Özer Ozankaya, Social Democracy Practices in Sweden (*İsveç'te Sosyal-Demokrasi Uygulamaları*) (1975); Louis Armand, Socialist Sweden and Free Enterprise (*Sosyalist İsveç ve Hür Teşebbüs*) (1974); The Economic Situation of Scandinavian Countries and their Relations with Turkey (*İskandinav Ülkelerinin Ekonomik Durumu ve Türkiye ile İlişkileri*) (1977); Helsinki and Afterwards (*Helsinki ve Sonrası*) (Translation 1977); Hadiye Tuncer, The Ottoman Empire- Denmark Relations in 17th and 18th Century (*17. ve 18. Yüzyıllarda Osmanlı İmparatorluğu Danimarka İlişkileri*), (1991); Knut Hamsun-Hanschristian Andersen, Two Scandinavian Travellers in İstanbul (*İstanbul'da İki İskandinav Seyyah*) (1995); Tarık Minkari, Norway Shoers and Cerrah Gentleman's Memories (*Norveç Kıyıları ve Cerrah Çelebi'nin Anıları*), (1997); Oral Çalışlar-Gürkan Uçkan, Womens' Sweden (*Kadınların İsveç'i*), (1997).

An investigation was conducted in Council of Higher Education thesis data center covering 1996-2017<sup>5</sup>. Within this scope; 2 MA theses on economy field of Scandinavian countries, 6 MA theses and 2 PhD dissertations on Scandinavia; 38 MA theses and 12 PhD dissertations on Sweden, 27 MA theses and 11 PhD dissertations on Finland, 13 MA theses and 5 PhD dissertations on Denmark, 10 MA theses and 2 PhD dissertations on Norway, 2 MA theses and 2 PhD dissertations on Iceland are prepared.

<sup>5</sup> 'Scandinavia, Nordic, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Iceland' keywords are used in thesis catalogue.

Table.1. MA and PhD theses on Scandinavian Countries

Country	MA	PhD
Sweden	38	12
Finland	27	11
Denmark	13	5
Norway	10	2
Iceland	2	2
Scandinavia	6	2
Nordic	2	---

The fields of research mainly focus on social sciences; History, Economics, Sociology, International Relations, Political Sciences, Education and Teaching, Public Administration, Advertising, Law, Business Administration, Economics, etc. 5 theses on history, 4 theses on international relations, 3 theses on political sciences were prepared about Sweden. Only one of the thesis prepared about Denmark is on international relations. 1 MA thesis about Finland is on history. 3 MA theses are prepared about Norway. 1 MA thesis is prepared about Iceland. The other theses generally focus on education.

There is an increase in the number of academic and popular studies about Scandinavian countries in Turkey in 2000s. Şerefhan Ciziri, The Model of Scandinavia (*İskandinav Modeli*), (2000); Falkman, Kaj; Turkey/ Frontiersman, The View from the Scandinavian Mansion in Istanbul (*Türkiye/ Uç Beyi, İstanbul'daki İsveç Konağından Bakışlar*), (1999), (translation 2001); Sture Theolin, *The Swedish Palace in Istanbul, İstanbul'da Bir İsveç Sarayı*, (2001); Durusoy Yazan, *Svensk-Turkiskt Lexikon, Översättning* (2002); Murat Özsoy, Sweden and the Second Half of the Film (*İsveç ve Filmin İkinci Yarısı*), (2002); Durusoy Yazan, The Memories of a Turkish Prosecutor (*Bir Türk Savcısının İsveç Anıları*), (2003); Salname-i Nezaret-i Hariciyye, *Osmanlı Dışişleri Bakanlığı Yıllığı*, Vol.1-4, (2003); Ådahl, Karin (ed.); Great Imperial, The visit and the Pictures of Swedish Ambassador Rålamb (*Alay-ı Hümayun, İsveç Elçisi Rålamb'ın İstanbul Ziyareti ve Resimleri*) 1657-1658, (2006); Nesteren Davutoğlu, Norway Notebook (*Norveç Defteri*), (2006); Arslan Mengüç, Twenty-six Years in Prosperity Country of Sweden in My Memories (*Anılarımdaki İsveç Refah Ülkesinde Yirmialtı Yıl*), (2007); Ömer Bozkurt, Iceland Traveller (*İzlanda Yolcusu*), (2007); Abdullah Gürgün, Aziz Nesin and Sweden Adventure (*Aziz Nesin ve İsveç Serüveni*), (2009); Rohat Alakom, Swedish Traces in Istanbul and Izmir (*İstanbul ve İzmir'de İsveç İzleri*) (2009); Zeynel Kozanoğlu, Turkey and Denmark for Centuries (*Yüzyıllar Boyunca Türkiye ve Danimarka*), (2010); Müslüm Akıncı, Swedish Administrative Law (*İsveç İdare Hukuku*), (2010); Sven Lagerbring, The Similarities Between Turkish and Swedish (*İsveççenin Türkçe ile Benzerlikleri*), (2010); Abdullah Gürgün, On Turkish Origins of Swedish People (*İsveçlilerin Türk Kökenleri Üzerine*), (2011); Zülfü Livaneli, One Cat, One Man, One Death, (Bir Kedi, Bir

Adam, Bir Ölüm), (2012); Claes Rålamb, A Trip to Istanbul (*İstanbul'a Bir Yolculuk*) 1657-1658, (translation 2013); Niels Hav, The Women of Kopenhagen (*Kopenhagen Kadınları*), (translated 2013); Serkan Yazıcı, A Leader in Communication From Ottoman to Present, Ericson Turkey (*Osmanlı'dan Günümüze İletişimde Bir Lider, Ericsson Türkiye*), (2014); İlhami Alkan-Olsson, “Bir Dış Politika Modeli Olarak ‘Nordik Model’ ve İsveç’in Dış Politikası” (2014); Ayten Bakioğlu-Ali Yıldız, Finland Education System and Teacher Training in the Context of Pisa (*Pisa Bağlamında Finlandiya Eğitim Sistemi ve Öğretmen Eğitimi*), (2015); Emrah Sönmez, Abdullah Yücel: The Life of a Turkish Pioneer in Sweden (*Abdullah Yücel İsveç'te Bir Türk Öncüsünün Hayatı*), (2015); Şükrü Mert Karıcı, Ombudsman Scandinavian Models and Implementation in Turkey (*Ombudsman İskandinav Modelleri ve Türkiye Uygulaması*), (2016); Osman İkiz, Blonde People and Deers (Sarışanlar ve Geyikler), Sweden Written Works (*İsveç Yazıları*) (2016); Zeyyat Bandoğlu, Effect of the Copenhagen Political Criteria on Turkey's National Security (*Kopenhagen Siyasi Kriterlerinin Türkiye'nin Ulusal Güvenliğine Etkisi*), (2016); Evren Küçük, Turkey-Sweden Relations (*Türkiye-İsveç İlişkileri*) (1914-1938), (2017); Evren Küçük, Turkey-Finland Relations (*Türkiye-Finlandiya İlişkileri*) 1917-1980 (2017).

When the recent Turkish-Scandinavian political is considered, cultural and economic relations, it is possible to see a steady increase in the economic area. Turkey-Sweden relations dating back to the early 17th century evolved with the 1924 Treaty of Friendship and reached the level of strategic partnership with a declaration signed in 2013. Turkey's largest trade partner among the Scandinavian countries is Sweden. In 2016, the bilateral trade volume was 2.69 billion dollars (exports:1.21 billion dollars, imports: \$ 1.47 billion dollars).

In Turkey-Norway relations, there is a relationship based on solidarity within the NATO alliance. Although not being a member, Turkey and Norway having a close cooperation with the EU share similar views on various international and regional issues as being NATO wing countries. The bilateral trade volume with Norway was 1.18 billion dollars (exports: 559 million dollars, imports: 627 million dollars) in 2016.

Turkey-Denmark relations are shaped in terms of negotiating issues such as migration and the fight against terrorism with NATO, EU and, the Council of Europe and regional and international organizations. Turkey's trade volume with Denmark increased by 8.7% in 2016 compared to the previous year and was 1.85 billion dollars (export: 947 million dollars, imports 911 million dollars). As of 30 June 2017 in Turkey, there are 665 Danish owned companies operating in Turkey<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> The Republic of Turkey Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, “Our Entrepreneurial and Humanitarian Foreign Policy in turning of 2018 (*2018 Yılına Girerken Girişimci ve İnsani Dış Politikamız*)”, Presentation to the General Assembly of the Parliament on the Occasion of the 2018

## **V. Conclusion**

The fact that Scandinavian countries is not a conflict zone is directly related to academic and political interest. However, as Russia's recent activities in the Crimea, Ukraine and the Baltic Sea have caused the NATO countries and regional countries to worry about the region, the region frequently became the main topic of conversation. Russia and NATO's military exercises lead up to warming of the region. This, in particular, cause Sweden and Finland to develop their relations with NATO, and their membership status is often the main topic of conversation. In addition, NATO's policy of enclosure sensitizes the situation of Sweden and Finland. This leads to an increase in the number of academic studies on the countries concerned in Turkey.

Because of the fact that Scandinavian countries's being far from Turkey and having limited relations with Turkey throughout history, these countries are viewed as "cold, uninterested and distant". This was the basis for a limited number of studies on the countries in the region. The number of researches on Scandinavian countries is increasing day by day. It is possible to evaluate the mentioned number with prepared master and doctoral theses. It is also possible to observe that the non-scientific popular works are in an increase. Studies on Scandinavian countries are carried out with personal efforts rather than being supported by institutions. There are no institutions or organizations only focusing on the Scandinavian countries, in Turkey. The fact that the countries in the region have a low population and the trade relations remain low compared to other states is directly related to the interest in these countries.

Scandinavian countries' supporting or opposing the Turkey's EU membership from time to time causes ups-and-downs in relations between Turkey and Scandinavia. Scandinavian countries' activities on human rights and terrorism during the process of Turkey's EU membership constitute the sensitive point of the relationship.

Feminist foreign policy, human rights, democracy, the rule of law, economic and social issues of Scandinavian countries are followed with interest all over the world. This raises the necessity to benefit from scientific studies in Turkey about these countries. Turkey and Scandinavia act within the win-win policy in their relations and this causes economic relations to get better. It is possible to say that Turkey's political interest in Scandinavian countries intensified during the period of Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit and experienced a "golden age" in 1970s. The archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are closed and it is difficult to carry out political history studies in Turkey. Due to this, analysing Turkey-Scandinavian relations with documents is hard.

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