

The intellectual framework for the emergence of these networks was one of ferment. From the late 1800s, anarchism, anarchosyndicalism, freemasonry, as well as wide-ranging anti-colonial movements, among them pan-Islamism, were elements in the 'bricolage' which comprised radicalism in the Eastern Mediterranean.

All of this presents the reader with a beguiling thesis. The author has searched *across* many archival collections, in several languages, and the underlying intelligence and perceptiveness which sustains the investigation shines through. Admittedly, this reviewer is more accustomed to top-down studies, of which this clearly is not an example, which derive from systematic, and linear, archival work. In terms of research, the effect here is more one of patch-work, albeit rich, varied and multi-lingual. The effect is dazzling and the subject really comes to life. If one criticism were to be ventured, then occasionally one senses that the evidence to sustain the thesis is a little thin. There are a number of occasions when the phrase 'must have' is used (twice on page 84 alone) to sustain the trajectory of an argument when primary evidence is lacking. That said, I learnt a great deal from this book and I would recommend it highly to anyone who is interested in the Eastern Mediterranean.

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Ayhan Aktar, Niyazi Kizilyurek and Umut Ozkirimli (eds), *Nationalism in the Troubled Triangle. Cyprus, Greece and Turkey*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. 288pp. (hbk).

Antonio Gramsci in the Prison Notebooks states that 'History has left in us an infinity of traces', but there is no inventory. Therefore, Gramsci continues, 'the task is to compile an inventory of the traces that history has left in us'. And this seems to be the most interesting task, the task of interpretation. The notion of writing a historical inventory is to try to understand oneself in relation to the other and to understand the other as if you understand yourself. This volume has tried to follow that task questioning the traditional nationalist discourses.

The book 'Nationalism in the Troubled Triangle' is a collection of fifteen papers presented at a 2006 conference held by the University of Cyprus delivered by academics engaged with the study of nationalism in Turkey, Greece and Cyprus. Experts and mostly young researchers challenge the established nationalist narratives by examining nationalism from a comparative critical perspective on history and politics in the context of the above countries. In particular they emphasize the differences and the similarities in the historical construction of Greek and Turkish nationalism. Differences refer to the nation-building process which took place in Greece from 'nation' to 'state' while in Turkey from 'state' to 'nation'. On the other hand, similarities refer to the nationalist strategy of homogenisation of the population and the treatment of Cyprus as an extension of the 'Greek' and 'Turkish' nations. The essays compare the prominent issues of political leadership, institutions and foreign policies which are central to the study of nationalism. The main issue that this volume addresses is the need for an understanding of the competing perceptions of nationalism through the prism of Greek and Turkish 'national' history. The book is developed in a dialectical style that is sumptuous and pleasant to read.

The introductory chapter written by Professor John Breuilly examines the relationship between history-writing and the nation-state formation. Based on the constructivist approach which claims that nationalism is not an expression of the nation but rather a transnational phenomenon which in itself constructs nations, the chapter illustrates the new approach of

historians who write a modernist history of nationalism. He indicates the need to theorise Turkish and Greek nationalisms outside the prism of their 'national' histories.

The first part (chapters 2-9) deals with the Turkish and the Greek versions of nationalism. In chapter two, Ayhan Aktar explains from an evolutionary perspective the stages of the Turkification process while the anthropologist Aydin (chapter 3) deconstructs the use of the 'Turkish History Thesis' project and the use of archaeology in early Republican Turkey. In Chapter four, Ozdogan, elaborately analysing statist Turkish patriotism, while in Chapter five, Hirschon explores the religious affiliation of contemporary Greek national identity. In Chapter six, Sofos and Ozkirimli comparatively examine the social forces that shaped Greek and Turkish Nationalism emphasizing the complicated conversion from empire to the 'nation-states'. In Chapter seven, Zanou annotates the role of distance and nostalgia in the formation of Greek national identity. In chapters eight and nine, Inanc and Tzimtras, are engaging with the implementation and the practice of nationalism in Turkish and Greek foreign policy respectively.

The second part (Chapters 10-15) deals with the past and the present of nationalism in Cyprus. In Chapters ten and eleven Michael, Nevzat and Anagnostopoulou, explore the relationship between traditional religious authority and nationalism in the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot community. In Chapter twelve Kizilyurek associates the rise and the fall of the political career of Rauf Denktas with the rise and the fall of the 'fear' among the Turkish Cypriot community of being dominated by the Greek Cypriots. The Chapters fourteen and fifteen from Mavratsas and Tombazos draw upon the relationship between the nationalism and the Left in Cyprus.

In short, the majority of the views expressed in this volume is an interesting and informative account of various aspects of politics of nationalism in what the editors argue is a "Troubled Triangle." Although some chapters have already been published they are welcomed as a contribution to the vast subject of nationalism. However readers interested in south-east Europe region, and especially in Greek-Turkish relations, have to take into account the developments in global and regional politics and the evolving power balance game in order to fully grasp the historical trajectory of the politics of nationalism in the countries in question. For instance, difficulties in reaching a solution at the Cyprus issue is often attributed to the conflicting nationalisms omitting to contextualise their emergence and development within the framework of geostrategic interests of the involved parties. Finally, the book does not take into account the particular role of British rule in Cyprus that set the political and ideological context wherein Turkish Cypriot nationalism emerged, thus providing fertile ground for further research on the specific role of British imperialism in the island.

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