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Book Review


Nermin Abadan-Unat, **Bitmeyen Göç: Konuk İşçilikten Ulus-Ötesi Yurttaşlığa** (Unending Migration: from Guest-worker to Transnational Citizen), İstanbul Bilgi University Press, İstanbul, 2017, pp. 488, ₺55.51 (Hardcover), ISBN 9789756857472

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Migration has been an indispensable part of human life and one of the most important social phenomena that constantly changes and gains new forms. Written by Nermin Abadan-Unat, one of the most prominent and well-known scholars in the field of migration, the book entitled *Unending Migration: From Guest-Worker to Transnational Citizenship* contributes to this phenomenon. This revised and updated 3rd edition is an output of the author's academic studies published with the target of not only examining theoretical discussions and empirical research on the history of Turkey's migration experiences for 50 years, but also explaining the new forms, concepts, and theories of international migration in the face of the globalization (p. 4). In this evaluation, the fundamental claims of the author are presented and discussed in the content of the book.

Abadan-Unat constructs her book with eight chapters, in addition to an introduction. In the introductory chapter, she claims that migration widely emerged in Turkey after the 1960 coup, as a demographic solution to eliminate issues such as unemployment and foreign exchange shortage, and it was approached as a state policy (p.1-2). Additionally, she delineates concepts such as identity, globalization, migration, multiculturalism, and transnationalism that form the analytical framework of her book. In chapter 1, she evaluates the current issues of Turkey's migration experienced in the 21st century. Initially, she discusses the changes experienced by Turkey as a country of emigration. In this context, she both presents the legal transformations initiated by Turkey that give Turkish citizens the right to vote abroad and the German migration policies applied to Turkish immigrants. According to her claim, Islamophobia and xenophobia are crucial issues for Turks living in European countries, particularly Germany. Subsequently, she discusses the changes experienced by Turkey as a country of immigration. In this context, she presents the Readmission Agreement between Turkey and the European Union (EU) and gives statistics about asylum seekers who applied for asylum in Turkey. According to her assertion, migration has become the main topic of national and international policies in all developed and developing countries, and it will remain on the agenda for a long time

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(p. 48). In chapter 2, she elucidates and interprets the theories of international migration, such as neoclassical economics theories and migration systems theory. She claims that segmented labor-market theory manifests itself in interstate bilateral agreements, as in the case of Turkey and Germany (p. 68).

In chapter 3, the author details the processes of Turkish emigration from guest labor to transnational citizenship through five phases: the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and the 1990s. She asserts that the migration processes of Turkish citizens started with individual attempts, afterward it evolved into labor migration, family reunification, and the desire for asylum, then finally gained a transnational identity. Moreover, she underlines the radical changes that migration movements have brought about in Turkey's social structure. To her, deprivation of a qualified workforce, stratification in the socio-economic structure, and the formation of a new type of people, like the German (*Almanyalı*), epitomize the radical changes (p. 117-119). In chapter 4, she dwells on two fieldwork studies conducted in Federal Germany in 1963 that scrutinize the problems faced by Turkish workers, and *Boğazlıyan/Turkey* in 1975, which investigates the impacts of international labor migration. Regarding the first study, she claims that the major problems faced by Turkish workers stem from the lack of information about issues, such as the legal rights they have in Germany, lack of efforts for family reunification, and the absence of social workers to guide them (p. 152-154). Concerning the second study, she asserts that neither did Turkish workers contribute to Turkey's industrialization while they were abroad, nor created conditions that facilitated industrialization when they returned (p. 169). In chapter 5, she initially focuses on Turkish migrant women and maintains that migration mobility has affected both the family structure, as it causes the fragmentation of family and the emancipation of women, as it introduces the different societies in which men and women have equal rights. According to her belief, the degree of emancipation of women may increase with the duration of stay abroad and the adoption of a different civic identity (p. 181-182). In addition, she analyzes the issues faced by the Turkish migrants associated with education, language, and integration. According to her claim, Turkish migrants have endeavored to protect their national identity while struggling to achieve economic integration (p. 206). Finally, she deals with the transformation of paradigms in academic studies. To her, researchers widely approached migration with economic theories in the 1960s, with concepts of assimilation and integration in the 1970s, and with ethnic identity and non-governmental organizations established by Turks abroad after the 1980s (p. 236).

In chapter 6, the author deals with international migration and adds that globalization and immigrants' quest for identity have impacted the emergence of transnational communities. While arguing that as several countries encounter the phenomenon of migration, the possibility of maintaining the idea of a nation-state based on ethnic homogeneity is gradually weakening, she addresses how immigrants can be integrated into receiving countries (p. 315). In chapter 7, she details the impacts of globalization


on nation-states and migration. Firstly, she discusses the contradictions between concepts, like insertion and exclusion. In this context, she claims that the policies pursued by both sending and receiving countries towards immigrants, the quest for identity, and immigrants' social relations of cause constant conflicts (p. 334). Secondly, she points out the legal categorizations that identify the status and rights of immigrants, such as asylum seekers, highly skilled migrants, and refugees (p. 339). Lastly, she briefly mentions multiculturalism policies applied by Western countries and claims that solving the identity problem with democratic methods would bring social peace (p. 346). In chapter 8, she addresses developments in international migration after the 2000s. To begin with, she points out the new categorizations of international migration, including the feminization of migration and climate migration. In addition, she clarifies the radical changes in migration policies applied by countries such as Austria, Denmark, and Germany. Furthermore, she highlights the problems faced by immigrant women. She claims that migrant women are deprived of gender equality, and exposed to domestic violence, illegal employment, honor killings, and sex trade. In conclusion, she discusses the status and future of Turkish immigrants in Europe and suggests that Turkey should produce an outward-looking policy that embraces Turkish people outside its national borders (p. 394).

Perhaps, the best aspect of the book is that it contributes a comprehensive and fruitful analysis of migration. Not only does it provide a considerable explanation for how Turkey's migration experience has gained new forms, but it also supplies valuable information on how migration typologies have changed through globalization. It enables the reader to understand typologies, theories, concepts of migration, and non-governmental organizations established abroad. Apart from this, it exemplifies the issues addressed by other studies in the field of migration (i.e., p. 33, p. 47, p. 321, and p. 326). These examples shed light on the status, problems, and expectations of Turkish immigrants in Europe, and their views of the EU. They also reveal the problems that arise from the Readmission Agreement. What distinguishes this book from similar studies in the literature is that it analyzes migration through a wide variety of dimensions. It classifies Turkey's migration experience and addresses the 50-year process by not only referring to various concepts used in migration literature, such as multiculturalism (p. 11 and 233), transnationalism (p. 8), xenophobia (p. 102 and 283), and diaspora (p. 293-295), but also new typologies of migration (p. 352-354) and theories of migration (p. 53-68). To demonstrate the dynamic changes and forms in migration, the applications of these concepts are enlightening. However, as in every study, this study is also open to criticism. For instance, in the first chapter, the migration movements towards Turkey are not adequately addressed compared to the migration movements from Turkey. In the third chapter, while Turkish migration to Europe is explained in detail, Turkish migration to the Middle East is only briefly mentioned. Moreover, instead of detailing the processes of Turkish migration from guest worker to transnational citizenship in five stages, it would be beneficial to

evaluate all processes in six stages, including the 2000s. These shortcomings overshadow the comprehensive nature of the book. Apart from this and since the book was published five years ago, it differs from current figures showing migration movements to and from Turkey. Therefore, the statistical information needs to be updated.

In a nutshell, the book makes a distinct contribution to the literature as it examines the changes in migration tendency and intergenerational differences that occur as a result of this change, and it is a pioneering reference source for academics, experts, and students who are interested in migration studies.

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