

Abstracts (İngilizce özetler)

The politicization of Islam and the journey of Islamism (II): Orientalism

NURAY MERT

In this study, I try to show that, albeit in different forms, generalizations that Orientalists made under the name of “the East” and “the Islamic World” proceed collaterally with generalizations which reduced the West as a pure essence and hegemonic tool under the title of anti-imperialism. We argue that these generalizations, as long as focuses on the Western hegemony, prevent us from recognizing the real power structures and struggles in Eastern society. That anti-modernist Westerners’ admiration of the Orient was determined by awry impressions and wishes, and their romantic commitment to the idea that the East couldn’t modernize, and that shouldn’t modernize didn’t derive from the concern that the spell of the East would be broken. This romantic reaction included the risk of disappearance of the East, which Orientalists had Orientalized as a career space. The mindset that saw modernization as alienation to its own society was creating its own East, rather than perceiving interactions that had taken place since the 14th century. On the other hand, it is necessary to focus on interactions to explain and comprehend the political and intellectual processes between the West and the East. These interactions didn’t compose of the relation that was not only experienced and then abandoned. It had a continuum and didn’t end up with the modernization process. Therefore, it is necessary to focus on interactions rather than limiting them to one-directed conceptions; such as “colonization”, “imitation of the West”, “imposition of the West”. In this article, therefore, I try to explain the process of transforming Orientalism to the basis of the ideologies (non-Western nationalism, nativism, and Islamism) by focusing on the line at which the critics of Orientalism and

Orientalist perspectives, dating back to the 20th century, converged and abstaining from culturalist and essentialist understandings.

Keywords: Orientalism, Ottoman, Islamism, Westernism, the West, the East.



Rural views of indebtedness: Manifestations of indebtedness on small-scale producers

ÖZGÜR ÖZTÜRK - ELİFE KART

In this study, which focuses on the indebtedness of small-scale agricultural producers in the neoliberal context of indebtedness with the process of marketization in the rural area and the transformation in the agricultural sector, attention is drawn to the signs that the continuity of small-scale production has/will become increasingly impossible. Indebtedness practices, networks and strategies developed by small-scale producer in order to maintain productivity in the market conditions and socioeconomic problems generated by indebtedness are analyzed in relation to the data obtained from in-depth interviews with 18 (eighteen) small-scale producers in three villages of Antalya province (Aşağıkaraman, Akdamlar and Geyikbayırı). The reduction of state subsidies for agriculture within the framework of neoliberal policies, paving of the way for agricultural corporatization and global free market conditions in agriculture, and the rapid commodification of agricultural inputs from seed to fertilizer leave small-scale producers alone in the face of capital forces within the global competitiveness and create significant risks in terms of the continuity of small-scale production. While all agricultural inputs from fertilizer to seed are commodified, the globally determined price balance has been rapidly reducing the incomes of small-scale producers. This process is accompanied by a transformation in agricultural subsidies in which reduction of state subsidies are replaced by agricultural credits and also which evolve from agricultural subsidies to indebt(ed)ness by means of activating financial instruments in rural areas. Appearing as an evident strategy that enables the continuity of production for small-scale producers, indebt(ed)ness uncovers the new forms of domination and the new socio-economic problems in rural areas stemming from the relations of small producers with the actors (banks, agricultural credit cooperatives, brokers, etc.), which are located within the debt networks. Growing each other up in an inter-related way, these problems accelerate the long-term dissolution process of small-scale production.

Keywords: Neoliberalism, marketization in agriculture, indebtedness, small-scale producer.



Contradictory continuation of tea agriculture in Eastern Black Sea

ELİF KARAÇİMEN - EKİN DEĞİRMENCI

While together with the implementation of neoliberal policies in Turkey, destruction tendencies have been observed in the agriculture of many products such as hazelnut and tobacco, the support of state in tea agriculture still prevails. This study analyses this different pattern in tea agriculture by focusing on specific characteristics of tea. Based on a fieldwork conducted in Rize, changes in the social relations shaped around the commodity of tea along the capitalist development and the role of the state in this process are examined. With the proliferation of tea agriculture in the 1950s in the East Black Sea, peasants engaging in subsistence production left their place to petty commodity producers who use family labour. As of today what is observed is the proliferation of different forms of business organisations in the tea production such as the use of migrated labour and sharecropping. Along the process, tea which is a monoculture plant ceased to be a as a source of subsistence to a great extent. Both the division of tea lands and commodification of tea growers' reproduction played a role in this. While the tea lost its qualification of being a source of subsistence, owners of tea lands has become less connected to agriculture and alienated from their land and product. Despite all of these, the reason for the continuation of tea agriculture is the maintenance of state support for tea. This state support shaped, on the one hand, by the government(s) sake for not losing tea growers votes and, on the other hand, by the need for taking care of interests of capital owning the half of the shares in the tea manufacturing sector. Hence drawn by these motivations state support in tea sector turned out to be a tool for reproduction of power for the government(s). This study argues that promotion of tea agricultural by the state support completed its mission of being a tool for preventing migration from the region and providing a source of subsistence for peasants and now it maintains its existence in a challenging context.

Keywords: Political economy of agriculture, commodity analysis, tea, Rize.



Gerede in the mid-1840s: On the drought, famine, migration and survival in an Anatolian town

YAHYA ARAZ

This paper trying to understand how the Central Anatolian drought and famine of 1845 took place in a medium-sized town and its impact on people's lives. Gerede, the subject of this paper, was one of the centers that formed the northern boundary of the region affected by drought. Even though, it is neglected in the limited number of studies on the subject, Gerede was among one of the most affected ar-

eas from the drought and famine. The famine and drought caused tragic effects on the lives of people (and animals) in Central Anatolia and surrounding regions that expanded over the years. For the next few years, the lives of the people live in the affected region shaped around the problems created by drought and famine. The migration from the rural areas, the difficulty of tax payments, and the shortage of animals and seeds were just a few of these problems. This paper addresses these problems, by focusing on daily life of Geredelis and the measurements taken by the state. The paper claims that Geredelis showed strong resistance to the famine and drought and tried to make out the best of the tools they own. In this difficult period, they will effectively use their kin and fellow countrymen networks in Istanbul.

Keywords: Central Anatolian famine of 1845, Gerede, migration, Istanbul, children, kinship and fellow countrymen networks.



What could middle-class men's "respect" for housework and childcare mean?

YASEMİN YÜCE - KEZBAN ÇELİK

This study focuses on the traditional and non-traditional practices and perceptions of middle-class men about housework and childcare. The research carried out for this purpose is based on in-depth interviews with 40 men, who are educated, occupied, married and living in the Central Black Sea provinces (Samsun, Çorum, Amasya, Tokat) of Turkey. The majority of the men who participated in the study were married to women who were educated, occupied and having paid work. Women's experiences of paid labour therefore need to address the division of unpaid labour. By increasing women's participation in earning money, it can be expected that men's participation in housework increases. However, the studies show that the stereotypes on the sharing of household works are more resistant than the stereotypes on earning money. The study presented at this point was meant to understand the judgments and practices of middle-class men in relation to housework and sharing. One of the important results of the study is that middle-class men live in some non-traditional life practices, but they maintain the traditional gender ideology that determines to be men and women. They are married to women who do not claim egalitarian values and do not believe in gender equality. The fact that domestic work can be transferred to another woman as a paid work, and the support of close family members can be taken are the main factors leading men to maintain the traditional gender regime. On the other hand, another important finding pointed out by the study is that middle-class males see, and with respect to the labour that women spend in the home. This recognition and respect for the unpaid labour of women cause the non-conflict in the pri-

vate sphere. At the end of the study, it has been possible to say that middle-class men have some non-traditional practices related to domestic sphere, but the traditional gender regime, which determines what men and women should do, is not changed very much.

Keywords: Masculinity, domestic work, gender.