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HUSREV TABAK

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# THE KOSOVAR TURKS AND POST-KEMALIST TURKEY

Foreign Policy, Socialisation and Resistance

HUSREV TABAK

I.B. TAURIS

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'A key resource for anyone interested in both Turkey's relations with its kin communities in the Balkans and the over-arching role of norms in international relations.'

Tim Jacoby, Professor, The University of Manchester

'Highly recommended for all those who would like to gain an in-depth view of Turkey's Outside Turks policies and how they have been changing in the recent decades.'

Birgül Demirtaş, Professor, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Turkey

Even before the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, Turkic communities, living in states newly independent from Ottoman rule, were 'protected' by the Ottomans. With the creation of the new Turkish Republic, the notion of 'Outside Turks' became embedded in a new foreign policy which aimed to unite these communities to the homeland. This book explores why, after 1980, and particularly during the Justice and Development Party rule, the country's domestic agenda was transformed to imagine Outside Turks along cultural and religious lines, rather than in a purely ethnic sense. Husrev Tabak provides a foreign policy analysis to account for this vital shift, arguing that four post-Kemalist norms are responsible: Ottomania, de-ethnicised nationhood, Turkish Islam and Islamic Internationalism. By focusing on the case of the Kosovar Turks, the book reveals that the post-Kemalist move to de-couple Metropolitan Turkey from Outside Turkish communities was largely counterproductive. In losing Turkey as a secure point of reference for their ethnic identity, these communities began to fashion a nationalism which gained a reactionary character. The Kosovar Turks now embraced Kemalist attitudes and discourses and their sense of Turkish ethnicity was sharpened. In tracing the impact of norm changes within Turkey on Ethnic Turks beyond Turkey, the book illustrates the way in which domestic norms can be used as a significant foreign policy analysis tool. The Kosovar Turks and Post-Kemalist Turkey will therefore be essential reading for those interested in Turkish foreign policy and post-Kemalism, as well as those researching the ongoing impact of the Ottoman Empire's multinational, multicultural legacy.

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**HUSREV TABAK** is currently Assistant Professor in the Department of International Relations at Recep Tayyip Erdogan University, Rize, Turkey. He completed his PhD in Politics at the University of Manchester and his MA in Politics and Sociology at University College London. His publications include "Islam, Nationalism and Kurdish Ethnopolitics in Turkey" in the *Peace Review*, "Methodological nationalism and the study of foreign policy in Turkey" in *Uluslararası İlişkiler (International Relations)*, and the book chapter "Manifestations of Islam in Turkey's Foreign Policy" in *Turkey: Opportunities and Challenges*.

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Cover Image: A local Turkish girl in traditional Turkish outfit attends a folklore show in Prizren, Kosovo. Image by the author.