

Mehmet Fuad Köprülü, *The Origins of the Ottoman Empire*, transl. and ed. by G. Leiser, State University of New York Press, Albany N. York 1992, pp. xxviii+155.

M. F. Köprülü's book *The Origins of the Ottoman Empire* has been published recently in English for the first time by the State University of New York. This is an event of great importance as the above-mentioned work is considered to be a classical one in the field of Turkish studies. In addition, this book is also valuable to byzantinologists who are studying the last centuries of the Eastern Roman Empire. The book consists of three lectures, which were given by K. during the academic year 1933-4 at the "Centre of Turkish Studies" of the Sorbonne University. One year later (1935) these three lectures were published in one volume under the title "Les origines de l'Empire ottoman". On that edition was based the Turkish version, which was published twenty four years later as "Osmanlı devleti 'nin kuruluşu". According to the editor G. Leiser, the English edition is based on the Turkish one of '59, while simultaneously he utilized the French text of '35. The English edition contains the three lectures, the editor's preface, the preface of Sebastien Charlety in the French edition, K. 's introduction in the Turkish edition, notes, glossary, bibliography and index.

As the author stresses in the introduction of the Turkish edition, his purpose was to restore accuracy in his main field of interest, criticizing the opinions of Western historians, and to put forward new interpretations and explanations concerning the research in the origins of the Ottoman state. The guide of this attempt were the Turkish sources of that era, which had not been studied by the other historians, either because of the difficulty of language or because of the prejudices of Europeans for those texts.

The first chapter of the book revolves around two axis: the criticism of Gibbon's theory concerning the origins of the Ottoman Empire and the definition of the necessary preconditions for the solution to this problem.

Afterwards, K. focuses on the specific period and location he is interested in, i.e. Asia Minor of the 13th and the first half of the 14th centuries. The political and social history of the Turkish tribes in the above-mentioned temporal and local limits have become the object of his speculation. After having described the most important events of this period, he presents the Turkish "beyliks", which have been founded in Asia Minor after the collapse of the Seldjoukids' state ("Sultanate of Rum"). Subsequently, he analyzes the socio-economic development of those populations, having divided them into three levels: the nomads, the villages' settlements (villagers) and the urban popula-

tion. The second chapter is completed with brief remarks about their religious life.

The third chapter constitutes an endeavor to describe the everyday life of the Turkish populations on the boundary between their "beyliks" and the Eastern Roman Empire. Actually, K. addresses some of the problems of the history of Asia Minor's Turkish tribes in this period. The origin of Osman's tribe, the craft's organizations of religious and military nature (akhi, baciyan-i rum, abdalani-i rum, ghazi), islamization, the exact time of the settlement of those tribes in Asia Minor are problems, which K. tackles and gives his answers, most of which are considered to be inaccurate by historians. The chapter concludes with a diagram of the Ottoman "beylik"'s history in the 14th century as it developed into an empire. K. indicates ten reasons, which justify why the above-mentioned "beylik" had evolved into an empire subjugating the other "beyliks" and the Christian empire as well. The reasons which K. mentions, are internal, as he did not want to resort to external reasons (e.g. the decline of the Eastern Roman Empire) and to repeat likewise opinions of previous historians.

A positive element of the English edition is that it offers the possibility to a wider public to have a contact with a classical study. In my point of view, the most important thing is that the editor does not present a simple reproduction of the prototype. Through the text as well as in the notes and the bibliography, using hooks ([ ]), the editor has made the required additions, which on the one hand agree with the findings of the contemporary research and on the other assist the reader to understand a text of the inter-war period with its peculiarities. By these additions the editor succeeds in two things simultaneously: a) to preserve the forward-looking —for his era— speculation of K., as the text reveals, and b) to protect (and inform as well) the reader from deficiencies, misconceptions and prejudices of K., which are considered to be exaggerated or outdated.

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Rıdvan Akar, *Varlık Vergisi Tek Parti Rejiminde Azınlık Karşıtı Politika Örneği* (Property Tax indicative of a Policy Against Minorities in a Single-Party Regime), Istanbul 1992, p. 136.

Rıdvan Akar is the second Turkish historian after Faik Ökte who has