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MIGRATION IN TURKEY: A BOOK REVIEW

Erdoğan Kavaklı*

ABSTRACT

This book directly addresses those who are interested in migration studies both locally and globally. The chapters in the book will also inform readers within the scope of migration studies ranging from policies, reactions and discussions entailing the fields of economics, health, education, politics, media, law, and social belonging in Turkey.

SUBJECTS: Migration, policies, reactions, discussions.

KEY WORDS: Migration, economics, review, Turkey.

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In 'Migration in Turkey', Doğanılmaz Duman and Duman (2020) draw attention to the expanding scope of migration by virtue of policies, reactions and discussions entailing the fields of economics, health, education, politics, media, law, and social belonging. The book, therefore, offers a forum for researchers, practitioners, policy developers, educators, communication experts, health-care caterers, economists, and/or other beneficiaries in order to explore migration in Turkey that might impact their future practices. Undergraduate- and graduate-level students may also benefit from the book to understand current migration issues in Turkey.

The book fills the gap in the literature by means of seven chapters written in a format to ease the discussion of migration as a term in general through specific issues of concern. Probing into chapters, in the first chapter, a critical analysis

of a change within the scope of migration policies both in Europe and Turkey in the last decade is provided from diverging and converging aspects (Samuk Carignani, 2020). In this vein, the case of Syrian refugees in Turkey is penned down, which evidently signifies the temporariness of the Syrian refugees' settlement within the country. Besides, some good examples are presented from the policies of the European Union (EU) utilizing Migration Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) for providing a mainstream understanding of integration.

In the second chapter, the focus is directed towards post-migration by means of a terminological analysis. Since 'new minorities' are introduced in the Western Europe, there blossoms a distinction between national and new minorities. This distinction is elaborated by Kymlicka (2001) since new minorities are composed of a group of people who have left their homeland, and emigrate to a new society with their own decisions and/or those of families. However, this distinction is not preferred while labelling Syrian refugees residing in Turkey. Instead, they are accepted as the newcomers of a host country. Therefore, Akıncılar Köseoğlu (2020) tries to explain whether this distinction is valid for the case of Syrian refugees in Turkey by means of international law together with the legislations of Turkey.

In the third chapter, the interrelationship between poverty and migration in Turkey is clarified. Confirming that poverty is regarded as one of the significant factors in the development of economies, Turkey as a developing country is suffering from some major challenges due to low sharing levels of national revenue, unfair distribution of income, and economic crises (Gencel, 2020). Taking poverty as a starting point for migration, the author explains the reciprocal relationship between poverty and migration through descriptive survey method.

In the fourth chapter, state policies on health services provided to all foreigners in Turkey (including Syrian refugees) are elaborated with a broader perspective since such policies are developed in order to sustain public order and health of foreigners under temporary protection in Turkey (Bilgili, 2020). The author caters beneficiaries with the health services by representing how to finance, and use as to the conditions.

In the fifth chapter, insights and perspectives from the educational praxis are scrutinized together with the challenges faced by the Syrian school-aged students at Turkish schools (Kavaklı, 2020). So far, nearly 3.5 million Syrian refugees have been received in Turkey, meaning that nascent financial, linguistic, institutional, and social barriers are faced. Therefore, taking immigration as a focal point, the author describes the concept of Education in Emergencies (EiE) as a developmental approach that could fill the aspiration-attainment gap together with the incongruity between educational policy planning and implementation.

In the sixth chapter, the communication strategy of the Directorate General of Migration Management is embarked on by analyzing its official website, and posts on its social media accounts (Apak, 2020). Since it is an official institute that is responsible for enabling coordination between organizations and institutions in relation with the issues of migration, it is of utmost importance to seek for communication strategies with migrants to carry out activities, and actions for migrants' entry, stay-in, and exit from Turkey.

In the last (seventh) chapter, the public reactions of the Turkish people against refugees are analyzed to detect the general perception, if it is migrant-friendly, or hostile. In doing this, by means of a content analysis method, Ünür (2020) pinpoints the concepts of hate speech (e.g. xenophobia, and othering) by analyzing the comments of the social media users on refugee and/or immigrant content in a social media platform, named Onedio.

Last but not least, let alone these attributes, the book provides reader-friendly and helpful elaboration of the concept of migration with special interest to the case of Turkey. Thereby, it is possible to gain insights on the current policies, reactions, and discussions in migration by the book, and thus, it deserves a place on the beneficiaries' bookshelves.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT

The author declares that he has no conflicts of interest.

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