A RESEARCH ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF TURKISH INTELLECTUALS IN ANATOLIA

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My method of approach to the question was as follows:

Have there been any regions, in any definite period of history in Anatolia, as for instance in the Ottoman period, that have produced men, above the ordinary literate type, who have thought, written and left works on their own field of intellectual activity? If such regions exist, what is the comparative ratio of intellectual men produced in the various regions? How can this ratio be determined? And last, what is the historical and the sociological importance of such a research?

That is how I first thought on my subject, and keeping myself completely free from prejudices, I started to examine it, I set about my object in this way:

I. To determine the geographical distribution of intellectuals in Anatolia, it was first necessary to choose a definite period of history. I took the Ottoman period.

II. It was necessary to card-index, one by one, the birthplaces of the intellectual men who had lived in this period. To get the material for this, I referred largely to the "Osmanlı Müellifleri - Ottoman Authors", by Mehmet Tahir of Bursa. From this book, which, in the words of its author, "gives the short biographies and a sufficient information about the works of Turkish sheikhs, ulemas, poets, men of letters, historians, mathematicians, physicians, and geographers who have lived since the arrival of the Ottomans down to our time, and who have written works on their several professions,, I made summarized records on a card-index plan of 908 persons who were born within the present political frontiers of Turkey, and these summaries were classified alphabetically according to birthplaces. The records

1 In addition to the "Osmanlı müellifleri" the chief source of reference for my research, I referred to Şemsettin Sami's "Kamuau-el-Âlâm - Universal Cyclopedía", Charles Texier's "Asia Minor" and Nafi Atuf Kansu's "Türkiye Maarif Tarihi - The history of the Turkish Education". "The Universal Cyclopedía,, and the "Asia Minor" I employed for tracing out the regions towns and populations that have produced intellectual men, and for collecting information about the life in Medreses, Türbes and mosques, and also in the world of trade.
of the authors who were born in any one of the 53 vilayets, from Amasya to Yozgat were thoroughly sought out. These records were also classified according to the professions of the men, since I had their biographies; they were then arranged according to professions and birthplaces. In this way I was able to obtain the number of sheikhs, poets, men of letters, historians, physicians, mathematicians and geographers, born in the various places.

After this initial research and its classification, the main question was to examine the facts to find out whether there had been regions that had produced intellectual men, and if such regions existed, to compare their respective abilities in this respect, and to determine the ratio of production.

This is the manner in which I proceeded:

I considered the population of each vilayet in Anatolia, I set a norm, and according to this norm I worked out the ratio of production; I then made a comparison of ratios. The population of the vilayets in Anatolia I based upon the returns of the first complete census, that made in 1927 by the Bureau of Statistics. My reason for employing the figures given by this census was this: it provided the only statistics that could give to any degree of accuracy the number of a population nearest to the Ottoman period, which came to an end in 1920. Before this census of 1927, it was impossible to make anything but a rough estimate of the population. No reliance could be placed on the accuracy of numbers that may have been received from various sources. Further, as I shall explain below, what I was looking for was not mathematical certainties, but tendencies and expressions. These tendencies and expressions can be seen most clearly in the statistics, graphs and tables appended.

As I mentioned above, the second step was to discover the population of regions that had produced intellectual men, then to take as a basis a fixed norm according to this population, and determine the ratio in which each region had produced intellectuals.

This was my method of procedure:

I took a fixed unit of 100,000 and I calculated the ratio of intellectual men produced in each vilayet. These calculations made, they were then arranged in a table of relative values.

The most interesting phase of our research had begun.

The capacity of each vilayet to produce intellectual men per 100,000 was made plain in the first table, and it became possible to classify the vilayets according to their production of intellectual men during the course of the Ottoman rule, in Anatolia. So, as can be seen from Table I, the ratios were duly put in order. These ratios show a scale of relative values between the vilayets of Amasya which
has produced 43.4 intellectual men per 100,000, and the vilayet of Yozgat which has but 0.48 intellectual men per 100,000.

These first results having been obtained, the existence, in Anatolia, of centres which had produced intellectuals became evident. As I was beginning to examine the historical and sociological indications of these first results, another thought struck me. Can these regions which I have determined, have any relation with an anthropological factor? What method should be followed to determine this relation, if any? This method could only be some cartographic method. I, therefore, examined the anthropometric enquiry made into 59,728 Turkish men and women. This enquiry was made in 1937 by the order of Atatürk and published by the Bureau of Statistics. For this enquiry the country was divided into 10 regions; and the map below shows the superposition of the intellectual regions on these 10 regions. However, as the 9th and the 10th regions regions where anthropometric enquiries were made belonged to Eastern Anatolia (which corresponds to one intellectual region), these have been treated together in our map, and thus, the anthropometric regions are reduced to 9.

Now the main point that emerged from this superposition was this: in considering the statistical returns on the height, the cephalic index, the nasal, the facial indices, the colours of the skin, hair and eyes of the Turks who had lived in the 10 regions where the anthropometric enquiry was made, the relations of the intellectual regions with these morphological and qualificatory characteristics came into light.

1. — The 7th anthropological region, that which includes Amasya, Sinop, Bolu, Kocaeli and İstanbul corresponds to our first region most productive of intellectual men. In this region the ratio of intellectual men to a population of 100,000 is 88.54. The cephalic index of the men in this region is 86.29, a figure which shows a strongly brachycephalic type of men.

2 — Then comes the 9th and the 10th anthropological regions which we have treated together and called the 9th region. This region comes second, in the intellectual grouping, with a ratio of 68.90 of intellectual men to a population of 100,000. The cephalic index is 82.17. This region includes the vilayets of Tokat, Sivas, Trabzon, Erzurum, Van, Siirt, Diyarbakır, Malatya, Elazig.

3 — The 6th anthropological region, that which includes Ankara, Yozgat, Kayseri, Konya, Çankiri, Niğde, Kirşehir, corresponds to our 3rd intellectual region. The ratio of intellectual men in 100,000 is 31.87. The cephalic index is 85.41.

4 — The 4th intellectual region corresponds to Region I in the
anthropometric enquiry. The main vilayet is Edirne. The intellectual ratio per 100,000 is 28.90, the cephalic index 82.93.

5 — The 5th intellectual region is a part of the Aegean region, including İzmir and Denizli, and forms the 4th anthropological region. The ratio per 100,000 is 23.10, the cephalic index 83.95.

6 — The 6th intellectual region corresponds to the 5th anthropological region, that which includes the vilayets of Kütahya, Eskişehir, Isparta and Antalya. The intellectual ratio is 22.80, the cephalic index 84.53.

7 — The 7th intellectual region is the 3rd anthropological region which includes the vilayets of Çanakkale, Balıkesir. The ratio is 21.90, the cephalic index 82.61.

8 — The 8th intellectual region corresponds to the 2nd anthropological region which includes the vilayets of Bilecik, Bursa. The ratio is 20.00, the cephalic index 83.07.

9 — The 9th intellectual region corresponds to the 8th anthropological region, including the vilayets of Adana, Maraş, Gaziantep, Urfa, Mardin. The ratio is 18.84, the cephalic index 79.78.

Our attention at this point of our research is drawn to this outstanding fact:

The ratio tables and the anthropological map show clearly the difference between the anthropological character of the region that has produced the greatest amount of intellectual men, and the anthropological character of the region that has produced the least. Against the region most productive of intellectual men, that is North West Anatolia, with a cephalic index of 86.29 - a strong brachycephalic type- and a ratio of production of 88.54 per 100,000, we have South Anatolia with an average cephalic index 79.78 - a mesaticephalic type- and a ratio of 18.84 per 100,000. In the first intellectual region we meet the “homo alpinus,” while the 9th region shows types which have come under the influence of the “homo meridionalis,” and border on the brachycephalous. This fact stands out so clearly from our research that I shall be content with merely stating it.

In determining the first results of the geographical distribution of Turkish intellectuals in Anatolia, during the Ottoman period, we are led to believe that there is a historical, sociological and cultural side to the question, as much as anthropological. The Ottoman Anatolia has its sources in the Seljukian Anatolia. Professor Fuad Köprülü has dwelt with interest and knowledge, in his Review of National Studies on the History

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1 The average cephalic index of the two first intellectual regions are 84.23, of the last two is 81.42. On the other hand, the cephalic index of the first 6 intellectual regions is 84.69, and of the last three 81.82.
of Turkish Literature, and in his Origins of the Ottoman Empire, which he published in French, on the political, social, economic and cultural constitution of the Ottoman Empire. Fuad Köprülü records that in the 13th century, the Turkish society in Anatolia was from the point of view of division of labour and economic development, one of the most advanced societies in the early Middle Ages; he also states that in the Seljukian period, Anatolia had reached a high degree of culture, with schools for children, attached to mosques, and medreses all over the country. Following the Mongol invasion especially, many learned men, poets and mystics came from the East, and settled in Anatolia. This gave an impetus to intellectual activity and made the Seljukian medreses rightly famous. My object in talking about the studies of Prof. Fuad Köprülü is to recognize the place, in our research, of economic and social factors, as much as of those historical. The point I want to stress, however, is this: Why is it that one definite region of Anatolia produces more intellectual men than the others? To what causes should we attribute these differences? Are they only historical, or are they social and economic or anthropological? I personally think that, besides the historical and social factors which may be called mesological, we must also give an important place to biological and anthropological factors.

Before I finish my lecture, I must state this: the fact that our Eastern vilayets occupy the second rank in our cultural geography, has not escaped our attention. A famous Turkish learned man of the first half of the 18th century, Kâtip Çelebi, writes in his book “Keşfizünün”, that in the Ottoman period, this region had a great intellectual activity, and that rational sciences and philosophy were much in favour.

Conclusion. As. W. Ostwald says, thought is one of the highest products of a long civilisation.

That in the Ottoman History there existed an intellectual life whose source was the Seljukian Empire, is well known.

In this research, we have tried to determine the intellectual regions in the Anatolia of the Ottoman period, which regions we limited to our present political frontiers, and we believe that, according to the documents in our possession, we discovered these regions.

The study with the cartographic method, of the 9 intellectual regions on one side, and the 9 anthropological regions on the other, has shown to us that the regions that have produced intellectual men

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*A. Ü. D. T. C. Fakültesi Dergisi F: 3*
are worth considering from the point of view of their anthropological characteristics. The fact that the regions which have produced the greatest amount of intellectual men in the Ottoman period of history are the regions that came under the influence of the Seljukians has also attracted our attention.

It may be that, in this research, I have thrown light only on one side of the question; but there is no doubt that, with the geographic, economic and social constitutions of the regions that have produced intellectual men, the genealogy and the heredity of these men, too, should be the object of detailed study and comparison, since they are living organisms.

Translated by assistant Prof. İRFAN ŞAHİNBAŞ
The Roman numerals show the intellectual regions, the figures in brockets show the anthropological regions, according to the anthropometric enquiry made in the same regions.

The 9 th and the 10 th anthropological regions that correspond to the second regions are treated together.
HARTA (MAP): II

Nüfus kesafeti bölgeleriyle Tefekkür bölgeleri arasında takrihi bir ilgiyi gösteren harta.

This map is drawn to see if there is a relation between the density of population and the intellectual regions.