

Turkish Migration, Identity and Integration

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Traditional source countries have been rapidly becoming destination countries. However, the fact remains that there are still countries with surplus populations and others who do not want any more migration. Following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, there were large population movements between Anatolia and neighbouring territories including the compulsory population exchanges between the newly formed Turkish Republic and Greece between 1923 and 1926. While the majority of non-Muslim minorities left Turkey, Muslim Turks moved in the opposite direction from the countries gaining independence after the collapse of the Empire. However what has put Turkey firmly on the international migration map are the mass labour migrations of the 1960s and 1970s. Following the energy crisis of the early 1970s, Turkish emigration found new destinations in Arab countries, Australia, and the former Soviet Republics in addition to the already established culture and routes of migration. Initial flows have been replaced by family migrations, refugee flows, asylum seeking migrants, and in more recent times the arrival of undocumented migrants in large numbers. Given this, we can identify five distinct periods in recent Turkish migration history: 1) the migration of mainly unskilled and skilled workers dominating the initial period from 1961 to 1973; 2) migrations due to family reunions dominating the second period until 1980; 3) Following the military intervention of 1980, Turkish or Kurdish refugees seeking asylum in Europe, along with flows of contract workers to Arab countries in the 1970s and 1980s; 4) flows of undocumented persons to Western Europe during the late 1990s and 2000s; 5) the boom in migration to Turkey with Turkey turning into an immigrant receiving country in the 2000s and 2010s.

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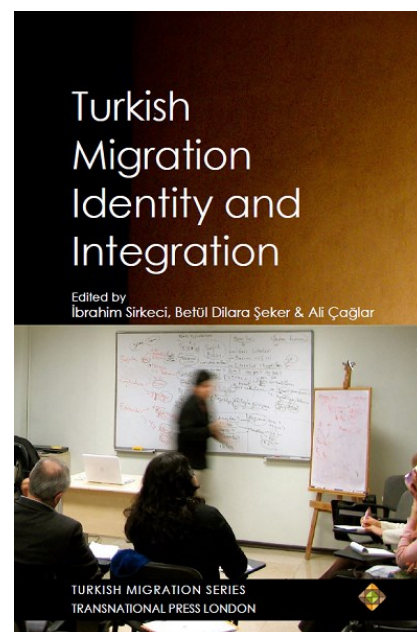
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