

ATA 588

Selected Topics in Turkish Political Thought: Social Darwinism and Eugenics in Comparative Perspective

ATA 588 (3 cr)
Spring 2015
ATA Seminar Room
Thursday 678

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Social Darwinism and eugenics became hot topics from about the 1860s to the 1940s. Eugenics, a term coined from the Greek, means "well-born." All around the world governments and intellectuals were very much involved in the pseudo-scientific Social Darwinist projects whose social costs were enormous. This course focuses on the rise and decline of the ideas and practises of eugenics in Turkey and the world and aims to assess the extent to which such practises and thoughts reached in the early Republican Turkey. We will have extensive readings about intellectual and scientific bases of eugenics and focus also on the experiences of many countries where they were directly related to government policies. Particular attention will be devoted to the Turkish intellectuals, doctors and the governing elite who raised issues regarding eugenics and Social Darwinism.

The grade in this course will be based on

a) Term paper	40%	b) Participation	30%
c) Final Exam	30%		

As for the reading materials, please first check the Boğaziçi Bookstore just across the university library. When and if possible, we can use the digital versions of the texts.

Paper Assignment:

Paper assignment will be announced later.

LEC #	TOPICS	READINGS
Week 1 Feb. 12	Introduction to Darwin and the "Nature vs Nurture" Debate	Video: <i>Tales from the Jungle: Margaret Mead</i> , BBC, 2006.
Week 2 Feb. 19	The Birth of the Evolutionary Theory	Thomas R. Malthus, <i>An Essay on the Principle of Population</i> (London, 1798): 1-11, 23-31, 49-68, 110-125. Michael Ruse, <i>Charles Darwin</i> (Oxford: Blackwell, 2008), 1-53. Baran Tuncer, "Nüfus Alanında Eğilimler," <i>Radikal</i> , 7.2.2010. <i>The Economist</i> , "The Tale of Three Islands," October 22, 2011. "BM yaşlı nüfusun artışına karşı uyarıyor," BBC, October 1, 2012.

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		<p>M. Asım Karaömerlioğlu, "Nüfus Mühendisliğinden Gezi Parkı Direnişine," <i>T24</i>, July 19, 2013.</p> <p>Video: <i>How Many People Can Live on Planet Earth</i>, BBC 2009.</p>
Week 3 March 26	The Rise of Eugenics	<p>Daniel J. Kevles, <i>In the Name of Eugenics, Genetics and the Uses of Human Heredity</i> (New York, 1985): 3-211.</p> <p>Video: <i>A Science Odyssey: Origins</i>, PBS, 2005.</p> <p>Video: <i>What Darwin Didn't Know</i>, BBC, 2009.</p>
Week 4 March 5	Eugenics & Racial Nationalism	<p>Diane B. Paul, "Darwin, Social Darwinism and Eugenics," <i>Cambridge Companion to Darwin</i> (Londra, 2003) ed. Jonathan Hodge and Gregory Radick: 214-239.</p> <p>James D. Watson (with Andrew Berry), <i>DNA: The Secret of Life</i> (New York: 2003): 3-33.</p> <p>Mark B. Adams, "Eugenics in the History of Science," & "Toward a Comparative History of Eugenics," in <i>The Wellborn Science: Eugenics in Germany, France, Brazil, and Russia</i> (New York: 1990): 3-7; 217-226.</p> <p>Roger Griffin, "Tunnel Visions and Mysterious Trees: Modernist Projects of National and Racial Degeneration, 1880-1939," in <i>Blood and Homeland: Eugenics and Racial Nationalism in Central and Southeast Europe</i>: 417-456.</p> <p>Video: <i>Racism, A History: Fatal Impacts</i>, BBC, 2007.</p>
Week 5 March 12	Social Darwinism and Eugenics in the World	<p>Franz Boas "Eugenics," <i>The Scientific Monthly</i>, V. 3, No. 5 (Nov., 1916): 471-478.</p> <p>Gregory Claeys, "The 'Survival of the Fittest' and the Origins of Social Darwinism," <i>Journal of the History of Ideas</i>, Vol. 61, No. 2 (Apr., 2000), pp. 223-240.</p> <p>Diane Paul, "Eugenics and the Left," <i>Journal of the History of Ideas</i>, V. 45, No. 4 (Oct. - Dec., 1984): 567-590.</p>
Week 6 March 19	Social Darwinism and Eugenics in the World: Germany and Russia	<p>Loren R. Graham, "Science and Values: The Eugenics Movement in Germany and Russia in the 1920s," <i>American Historical Review</i> 82 (1977): 1135-64.</p> <p>Mark B. Adams, "Eugenics in Russia: 1900-1940, in <i>Wellborn Science</i>: 153-216.</p> <p>Sheila Faith Weiss, "The Race Hygiene Movement in Germany: 1904-1945, in <i>Wellborn Science</i>: 8-68.</p>
Week 7 March 26	Social Darwinism and Eugenics in the World: Europe	<p>Aristotle A. Kallis, "Racial Politics and Biomedical Totalitarianism in Interwar Europe," In <i>Blood and Homeland</i>: 389-416.</p> <p>Mark B. Adams, Garland E. Allen and Sheila Faith, "Human Heredity and Politics: A Comparative Institutional Study of the Eugenics Record Office at Cold Spring Harbor (United States), the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology, Human Heredity, and Eugenics (Germany), and the Maxim</p>

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		<p>Gorky Medical Genetics Institute (USSR)," <i>Osiris</i>, v. 20, 2005: 232-262.</p> <p>Marius Turda and Paul J. Weindling, "Eugenics, Race and Nation in Central and Southeast Europe, 1900-1940: A Historiographic Overview," in <i>Blood and Homeland</i>: 1-20.</p>
Week 8 April 2	The Sociobiology Controversy	<p>Ullica Segerstrale, "Evolutionary Explanation: Between Science and Values," <i>Missing the Revolution: Darwinism for Social Scientists</i> ed. Jerome H. Barkow (Oxford, 2006): 121-148.</p> <p>Michael Ruse, <i>Charles Darwin</i> (Oxford: Blackwell, 2008): 158-190.</p> <p>M. Asım Karaömerlioğlu, "Darwin ve Sosyal Bilimler," <i>Birikim</i>, no. 251, April 2010.</p> <p>Dipesh Chakrabarty, "The Climate of History: Four Theses," <i>Critical Inquiry</i> 35, Winter 2009: 197-222.</p> <p>Geoffrey Miller, <i>The Mating Mind: How Sexual Choice Shaped the Evolution of Human Nature</i> (New York, 2000) (<i>Sevişen Beyin</i>, NTV Yayınları): 292-340.</p>
Week 9 April 9	Darwinism in the Ottoman Empire	<p>Atila Doğan, <i>Osmanlı Aydınları ve Sosyal Darwinizm</i> (İstanbul, 2006): 147-337.</p> <p>Mehmet Ö. Alkan, "Osmanlı Darwinizmi," <i>Cogito: Darwin Devrimi: Evrim</i>, no.60, Winter 2009: 333-358.</p> <p>Baha Tevfik, "Mukaddime" in <i>İnsan'ın Menşei Nesli Beşer</i> by E. Haeckel, translated by Ahmet Nebil, (İstanbul: 1911), in Ottoman Turkish.</p>
Week 10 April 16	Eugenics in the early Republican Era I	<p>Zafer Toprak, <i>Darwin'den Dersim'e Cumhuriyet ve Antropoloji</i> (İstanbul, 2012).</p> <p>Cem Behar & Alan Duben, <i>Istanbul Households: Marriage, Family and Fertility, 1880-1940</i> (Cambridge, 2002): 194-248.</p> <p>Dr. Perihan Çambel, <i>Ögenik (Eugenics) Hakkında Düşünceler</i> (İstanbul: 1946).</p> <p>Mustafa Rahmi, <i>İslah-ı Irk</i> (İstanbul: 1339), in Ottoman Turkish.</p> <p>Mustafa Rahmi, "Öjenin Aslı Hayat İlminin Esasları," <i>Fikirler</i> 18, 15 March 1918, no. 7: 9-12.</p> <p>Sabiha Zekeriya, "Çocuk Yapmak Kanunen Men' Edilebilir mi ?" (in Ottoman Turkish) <i>Resimli Ay</i>, v. 5, no.57/9, Kasım 1928.</p> <p>Dr. Tevfik Remzi, "Türk Irkının Hıfssıssıhası ve Milli Şuur," (Ottoman Turkish) <i>Hayat</i>, v.3, no. 75, 3 May 1928: 19.</p> <p>Mahzar Osman Uzman, "Öjenik," <i>CHP Konferanslar Serisi</i>, 2. Kitap. (Ankara: 1939), pp.3-12.</p> <p>Ömer Celal Saraç, "Avrupa'nın ve Türkiye'nin Nüfus Meseleleri,": 51-68.</p>

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Week 11 April 23	Spring Break	No Class
Week 12 April 30	Eugenics in the early Republican Era II	<p><i>Yedinci Milli Türk Tıp Kurultayı, Eugenik Bahsine Umumi bir Bakış</i>, (İstanbul, 1938). Zafer Toprak, <i>Darwin'den Dersim'e Cumhuriyet ve Antropoloji</i> (İstanbul, 2012).</p> <p>Fahreddin Kerim Gökay, "İrk Hıfzıssıhhasında İrsiyetin Rolü ve Nesli Tereddiden Korumak Çareleri", CHP Konferanslar Dizisi, Kitap: 12, 1940: 11-15.</p> <p>Mahzar Osman Uzman, "Cumhuriyetin Sıhhat Siyaseti," <i>Sıhhat Almanığı</i>, İstanbul, 1933: 35-45.</p> <p>Sadi İrmak, "Milletlerin "Tereddi" ve "İstifa" sı," CHP Konferanslar Serisi, 12. Kitap. : 19-35.</p> <p>Sadi İrmak, <i>Kendimize Doğru, Memleketimizin Bazı Meseleleri</i> (İstanbul: Foto Magazin Basımevi, 1943): 60-99.</p> <p>Ayça Alemdaroğlu, "Eugenics, Modernity and Nationalism", in <i>Social Histories of Disability and Deformity</i>, ed. by David Turner and Kevin Stagg (London, 2006): 126-141.</p> <p>Murat Ergin, "Biometrics and Anthropometrics: the Twins of Turkish Modernity," <i>Patterns of Prejudice</i> 42(3), 2008: 281-304.</p>
Week 14 May 7		<i>Work on your papers.</i>