

# JAPAN IN THE TURKISH PRESS: An Essay on Books Written about Japan in Ottoman Script during the 19th and 20th Centuries

## INTRODUCTION

Japan and the Japanese people find themselves near the top of Turkey's list of favorite foreign countries and peoples. This fact has been confirmed by a survey conducted between 2 December 2010 and 4 February 2011 by the international research company GlobeScan for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). According to the results of that survey, 64% of all Turks have a positive opinion about Japan, a result which is no doubt related to the positive image of Japan ingrained in the Turkish collective memory. Japan has made a name for itself in contemporary Turkey, especially in that country's automotive and electronics sectors and through loans which have contributed to its development, thus deepening the sympathy towards Japan that already existed within Turkish society. An investigation of the stages in the formation of the image of Japan in the Turkish collective memory produces interesting results; while it is also possible to claim that the Turkey's love for Japan is unrequited. Although I have no absolute data, personal observations in Japan, where I have lived for 3 and a half years, show that the Japanese people do not know Turkey or the Turkish people, indicating the absence of a mutual love which is taken for granted in Turkey. This is

why one should ask why the Turks love the Japanese so much.

One of the most important reasons for the existence of a widespread love for Japan in Turkey is that the two countries have never been directly at war with each other. Another important reason is the Ertuğrul Frigate Disaster of 1890, an incident that can be said to have brought the rulers and the peoples of both countries closer emotionally following their first contacts during the 1870s. Thirdly, one should also take note of Japan's victory in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904–1905, which was received with great sympathy and appreciation within Ottoman-Turkish public opinion. The Ottoman archival documents of the era contain interesting information on the subject.

Beginning in the second half of the 16th century, the Russian conquests in Turkestan (Central Asia) gave way to concerns in the Ottoman world, which escalated with the strengthening of the Russian presence into direct armed conflicts during the 18th and 19th centuries. Russia became the most significant regional competitor to the Ottoman state during that era; and the wars resulted mostly in the loss of Ottoman-Turkish territory to Russia. Attempts by the upstart “Great Western Powers” to turn Japan into a semi-colony and Japan's victory over such a major power as Russia through not only the modernization model arising from the 1868 Meiji Restoration, but also the country's progress in economic, governmental, and military affairs was followed with great interest by Ottoman-Turkish intellectuals. (Japan's victory over Russia had much more of an impact on Ottoman society than the Sino-Japanese War of 1894–1895.) It is possible to identify traces of such interest and appreciation in the intellectual background of the soldier-intellectuals who founded the Turkish Republic. Japan's development both in military and economic affairs not only drew the interest of intellectuals, but also became embedded in the mind of the people. In fact, this kind of interest in Japan helped boost sales of newspapers and journals, which in turn resulted in the publication of pseudo-travelogs on Japan. For example, the writer known as Traveller Süleyman Kâmi Bey, who published letters supposedly written from Japan, is still encountered even in contemporary books. The four letters published in “Umrân Journal,” by Ahmet İhsan (Tokgöz), under the title *Maşrık'ı Akse'da Seyahat* (Voyage to the end of the East) are also products of that author's imagination [Polatel 2011].

Furthermore, during the Turkish Republican period, which began with the breakup of the Ottoman state following World War I, the perception in society towards Japan remained positive. The most significant factor that gave rise to this perception was doubtless the attitude of the

press. The purpose of this study is to evaluate how Turkish books printed in Arabic (that is to say, “Ottoman books”) concerning Japan contributed to the formation of the perception of Japan and the Japanese during the Ottoman and the Republican eras in Turkey before the adoption of a modified Romanized Turkish alphabet on 1 November 1928. Since my study of post-1928 books and articles printed in that alphabet is still under way, these works will not be touched upon in the present article. The books regarding Japanese politics, state structure, history, and wars will be discussed in Sections II and III, while the books on Japanese culture, language, literature, and those with unknown publication dates or authors will be treated in Section IV. This research has made use of the bibliography known as the *Özege Catalogue* of literature compiled by Seyfettin Özege, one of the best-known scholars of Ottoman philology [Özege 1971–82], the catalogs of the Talat Öncü Library, Erzurum Atatürk University Library, and the National Library of Turkey. The *Özege Catalogue* numbers of the works covered by the study will be referenced here in order to provide easier access to them. Dating is based on the Gregorian calendar, while Islamic and Julian dates are provided in the “Select Bibliography” section. The books cited will be classified chronologically according to their dates of publication. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ethem and Cantürk Coşkun, the owners of Ankara Aşiyân Bibliopole, Prof. Dr. O. Üçler Bulduk of History Department at Ankara University, Faculty of Languages, History, and Geography, and Asst. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Özcan of the History Department at Çankırı Karatekin University for their invaluable assistance.

## I. FORMATION OF THE PERCEPTION OF JAPAN DURING THE OTTOMAN ERA

According to the existing data, Japan was first mentioned in pre-Ottoman Turkish sources in Mahmud Kashgari’s (Mahmûd el-Kâşgarî) manuscript *Divânü Lugâti’t-Türk* (Dictionary of Turkic languages), which was written in 1074 (or 1077) and copied in 1266 [Kâşgarî 2007:22]. It seems that the place marked as Câbarqâ (or Çaparga) on the map appearing at the beginning of the work coincides with Japan. In the text Kashgari states, “The language of the Câbarqâ people remains unknown because of the great distance between the countries and the Great Sea located between her and Machin” [Kâşgarî 2007:22; Koloğlu 2001:19]. The works of Islamic geographers, merchants, and Western travelers that sometimes contained fictitious information must have been read by

Ottoman intellectuals and then spread to the public through them. For example, Kâtip Çelebi offers information on the Japanese people in the addendum to his work *Cihannüma* (Universal geography), although this information is not based on his own observations [Karakartal 1996:23]. When newspapers geared towards public opinion appeared during the first half of the 19th century, European-based information on Japan started to be disseminated among the people. Since that information, which was based mostly on translations from foreign-language sources, was exaggerated and written from an orientalist perspective, it was by no means able to provide the Ottoman public with an objective view of Japan. It is possible to claim that reports on Japan published in Ottoman newspapers up until the 1890 Ertuğrul Frigate Disaster are mainly translations, although we should also take into consideration the newspaper coverage of the missions traveling from Japan to Europe and the USA which passed through Istanbul and their reception by the sultan. A short article by Koloğlu [2001:19–21] and articles by Karakartal and Worringer [Karakartal 1991:115–29; 1996:231–37; Worringer 2008:87–118] are important in terms of their information on the initial news about Japan that appeared in the Turkish press in both Turkish and other languages like French.

It is quite natural to see that many reports on Japan and the Japanese people found their ways into the Ottoman newspapers about the Ertuğrul Frigate Disaster and its aftermath. (See for example the published PhD dissertation by Şahin [2001].)

## II. BOOKS OF THE OTTOMAN ERA

To the best of our knowledge, there are 47 books concerning Japanese history published during the Ottoman era. Some of these books, written in Ottoman between 1891 and 1917, are translations, while others are original works. To repeat, the books covered by this study are important not only because they offer invaluable information on the formation of the image of Japan in the Turkish collective memory, but also because they play a part in the formation of Turkish popular historiography. For a more detailed study of Turkish popular historiography, see [Özcan 2011].

Of the three books that were published during the last quarter of the 19th century, the first, entitled *Japonyanın Mazisi, Hâli, İstikbali* (The past, present, and future of Japan) was written by Mehmed Zeki [1891]. This work, listed as no. 9767 in the *Özege Catalogue*, is 131 pages long

and includes one map. As the title suggests, the work offers a survey of Japan and its history. The second book is a translation of the travelog, *Japoneries d'Automne*, by M. Safvet, following his receipt of a letter of permission from the original author Pierre Loti, whose real name is Louis Marie Julien Viaud. It was published in 1892 under the Turkish title of *Japonya Seyahatnamesi* (Japan travelog) [Loti 1892]. This work, listed as no. 9762 in the *Özege Catalogue*, is 408 pages long and includes 8 illustrations and maps. Loti's impressions about Japan is analyzed by Erdemir in his work titled *Loti'yi Anlamak* (Understanding Loti) [Erdemir 2011]. The final book, *Japonya* (Japan), is also a translation of a Western-language work published in 1894 [Mehmed Süleyman 1894]. This 10-page booklet, whose author is unknown, was translated into Turkish by Avanzâde Mehmed Süleyman and is listed in the *Özege Catalogue* as no. 9761.

The first book published during the first quarter of the 20th century was also translated by Mehmed Süleyman. It is a 64-page illustrated work entitled *Japonya ve Japonyalılar* (Japan and the Japanese) published in 1902 and listed in the *Özege Catalogue* as no. 9765 [Mehmed Süleyman 1902]. The following year the book, *Japonya Sularında* (In Japanese waters) by Count Bouvard was published [Bouvard 1903]. The 141-page illustrated work was translated into Turkish by Ayanzâde Namık Ekrem of Birecik and is listed as no. 9763 in the *Özege Catalogue*. A year later another translation, by an unknown author under the title *Rusya ve Japonya Muharebesine Müteallik Panorama* (Panorama of the Russo-Japanese War) was published [Anon. 1904a]. It is 35 pages long, and is listed as no. 17173 in the *Özege Catalogue*. 1904 proves to be a year when the number of the publications concerning Japan increased in the Ottoman press due to interest in the Russo-Japanese War.

There were also journals visually introducing the Russo-Japanese War to the Ottoman public through illustrations alongside technical works depicting the war. The first work that comes to mind is the illustrated journal *Musavver Rusya ve Japonya Vakayi'-i Harbiyesi* (A pictorial Russo-Japanese War) edited by Mehmed Arif [1904a; *Özege Catalogue* no. 14474]. It consisted of three issues and two separate editions, to the best of my knowledge. It was released by two different publishing houses, and it seems that the 2nd edition was a combined reprinting of all three issues. Another journal first released in 1904 was a bilingual work published in Turkish and French and entitled *Rusya ve Japonya Muharebesine Ait Musavver Resim Mecmuası* (*Album de la Guerre Russo-Japonaise*), which ran for four issues and included a total of 97 engravings. Another Turkish-French journal also released in 1904 was *Rusya*

ve Japonya Muharebesine Aid Musavver Resmi Mecmuası (*Panorama de l'Extrême Orient la Guerre Russo-Japonaise*). The French cover of this 8-page photo-journal bears the name I. Hilmi, Military Library editor, while the Turkish cover includes no name. The final bilingual journal published in 1904 is *Akasay-ı Şark Tasvir ve Münazırı: Rus-Japon Muharebesine Aid Panorama (Panorama de la Guerre Russo-Japonaise)*, which is part of my personal archives. The French cover states that the issue is the journal's first fascicle, and I have not been able to locate any others.

In addition to these journals, a considerable number of books have also been published: *Musavver Yeni Japonya* (Pictorial new Japan) written by Mehmed Arif [1904b; *Özege Catalogue* no. 14497] is one of the books published in 1904. Demoge's *Japonya'da Seyahat* (Travels in Japan) translated by Ali Muzaffer [Demoge 1904; *Özege Catalogue* no. 9766], and a 60-page supplement to *Japonya Sularında*, written by Ayanzâde Namık Ekrem of Birecik [Namık Ekrem 1904; *Özege Catalogue* no. 9760]. Interest in the Russo-Japanese War continued in the Ottoman-Turkish press even after 1905: The most comprehensive work on the Russo-Japanese War was *Musavver 1904–1905 Rus Japon Seferi* (Pictorial 1904–1905 Russo-Japanese War) written by Ali Fuad (Erden) and Osman Senai (Erdengil) [1906; *Özege Catalogue* no. 14434]. In *Özege Catalogue* the publishing date was written as 1903. But this book was published in Rumî year 1321. Yet if we converted Rumî year 1321 to Gregorian calendar the date would be 1905 or 1906, therefore the publishing date should be either 1905 or 1906. We admit that this book was printed in 1906. The work comprises five volumes totaling 1604 pages and includes five maps. The first three volumes were published by Şirket-i Mürettibiye Printing House in İstanbul and the final two volumes were published by Mahmud Bey Printing House also of İstanbul. In the same year another translation was published; *Asya-yı Şarki Sefer-i Ahirinde Japonların Suret-i Taarruzları* (The Japanese methods of attack after the East Asian war) by Frayher Von Lotobs translated by Naci (Eldeniz) in 1906 [Lüttwitz 1906; *Özege Catalogue* no. 1154]. In 1907 we saw the release of a work entitled *Aksa-yı Şark Hükümetleri: Japonya, Kore, Mançuri Ahvali* (Far Eastern governments: The situation in Japan, Korea, and Manchuria) published by Caferzâde Mehmed Tevfik of Harabolu [Mehmed Tevfik 1907; *Özege Catalogue* no. 362], following, *1904–1905 Rus Japon Seferinden Ropartör (Port-Arthur)* (Port-Arthur from the 1904–1905 Russo-Japanese War) translated by Yusuf Ziya [1907; *Özege Catalogue* no. 2049], a booklet by Fouquet entitled *Piyade Tabiyesi ve Rus-Japon Seferinden Alınan Dersler* (The infantry bastion and lessons taken from the Russo-Japanese War) translated by Osman Nuri in 1909

[Fouquet 1909; *Özege Catalogue* no. 16302], and *Japonya: Ahval-i Hazıra ve Suret-i Tekâmülü* (Japan: Its current condition and state of progress) written by Yusuf Osman [1910; *Özege Catalogue* no. 24941].

The author who probably broke new ground in terms of our subject was Kadi Abdürreşit İbrahim Efendi. Originally a Turk from Russia, İbrahim was naturalized as an Ottoman citizen in 1912 [Türkoğlu 1997:169] and then stripped of his citizenship in 1935 during the Republican era [Dündar 2006:165]. İbrahim, who had dedicated his life to the liberation of Russian Muslims, reached Japan following an Asia-wide journey and turned his observations there into a two-volume propagandist memoir in praise of Japan, entitled *Âlem-i İslâm ve Japonya'da İntişar-ı İslâmiyyet* (The world of Islam and its spread in Japan) published in 1911 [Abdürreşit İbrahim 1911–13; *Özege Catalogue* no. 411]. In the *Özege Catalogue* the printing date of this book appears as 1912. However, in the cover page of the original book the printing date is Hicrî 1328. Converted into Gregorian calendar, this date reads as 1911. This means that the first volume of this book was published in 1911. The most important research done to date on İbrahim and his travelog are [Komatsu and Komatsu 1991] and [Sakamoto 2008]. The year 1911 also saw the publication of Hüseyin Hüsni's *Alman Kol Ordusunda Kıtaatdan Alınan Raporlarla Rus-Japon Muharebesinden Çıkan Tecaribe Nazaran Gece Talim ve Terbiyesine Aid Zühde-i Mülahazât* (Final thoughts on night instruction and education according to the reports of German Army Corps Troops concerning experiences collected from the Russo-Japanese War) [Hüseyin Hüsni 1911; *Özege Catalogue* no. 450] and *Ba Emr-i Sâmî Bahriye Topçu Mektebinde Kaymakam Mümtaz Bey Tarafından Çin-Japon ve İspanya-Amerika Muharebesi Hakkında Verilen Konferans* (Conference on the Sino-Japanese and Spanish-American wars held by District Governor Mümtaz Bey at the Navy Artillery School) [Mümtaz 1911; *Özege Catalogue* no. 1448], the proceedings of a conference that were published in book form by order of the higher authorities. As the latter title suggests, this work does not deal exclusively with Japan, and another interesting point is that it does not concern the Russo-Japanese War, but rather the 1st Sino-Japanese War. Finally, *Ertuğrul Firkateyni Faciası* (The Ertuğrul Frigate Disaster), which was written that same year by Süleyman Nutkî [1911; *Özege Catalogue* no. 5041], still remains one of the major reference works for current journalistic and academic research on the Ertuğrul Disaster, despite being published 21 years after the incident occurred.

Most of the books published the following years are interestingly about the Tsushima Naval Battle; *Kaptan Viladimir Semenof'un Ruz-*

*namesi ve Çuşima Muharebe-i Bahriyesi* (Captain Vladimir Semenov's diary and the Tsushima Naval Battle) by Vladimir Semenov translated into Turkish by M. Nahid [Semenov 1912a; *Özege Catalogue* no. 10147], *Çuşima Deniz Meydan Muharebesinde Moskof Donanmasının Perişanlığı* (The misery of the Moscow Navy in the Tsushima Naval Battle) translated by M. Muhiddin and Hasan Muhiddin [1912; Erzurum Atatürk University, Seyfettin Özege Library no. 2401], and a translation of Vladimir Semenov's *Çuşima Muharebesi* (The Battle of Tsushima) [Semenov 1912b; *Özege Catalogue* no. 3514], attributed to one Captain Mustafa Kemal, who is not the same person as Mustafa Kemal Atatürk [Özgül 1988:1140].

One of the most important books published in Istanbul during the Ottoman era is, in the estimation of this author, *Asya Tehlikede* (Asia in danger) [Hatano 1912; *Özege Catalogue* no. 1151], which is claimed to have been written by Hasan Hatano Uho in 1912. The inside cover of the book states that it was rendered into Ottoman by a Japanese translator named Muhammed Hilmi Nakawa and one Abdürreşid İbrahim. While the work could be interpreted as a manifesto of the Japanese version of Pan-Asianism to the Turkish and Islamic worlds, it is in fact merely a good example of Japanese propaganda. According to an interview conducted with Professor Misawa Nobuo, the author of the book is not Hasan Hatano Uho, but most probably Muhammed Barakatullah, an Indian Muslim. The Japanese co-translator, Muhammed Hilmi Nakawa, is none other than Nakao Hideo, who converted to Islam in 1912 at Tbilisi and received the name Muhammed (or Mehmet) Hilmi. After his death he was buried in Ankara. More detailed research on Nakao is nearing completion and will be published soon, but the Ottoman rendering of Japanese names allows Mehmet Hilmi's surname to be read either Nakao or Nakawa. The work was re-published in March 2009 as a cultural service of the Türk Japon Kültürünü Araştırma ve Dayanışma Derneği Kültür Yayınları (Turkish-Japanese Friendship Association) and was translated by Mahir Ünsal Eriş and edited by the present author [Hatano 2009].

In 1913 the second volume of Abdürreşid İbrahim's travelog entitled *Âlem-i İslâm ve Japonya'da İntişar-ı İslâmiyyet* [Abdürreşid İbrahim 1911-13] was also published. On the cover page of this book the printing date was written as (Hicrî 1329-1331) 1911-1913 therefore we are not sure about the certain date, but we can admit that the book was published in 1913.

*Büyük Milletlerden Japonlar, Almanlar* (The Japanese and Germans as great nations), the published version of the proceedings of a confer-

ence convened by Faik Sabri (Duran) and educator Satı Bey, was also published in 1913 [Satı and Faik Sabri 1913; *Özege Catalogue* no. 2761]. Further, Satı Bey was the author of a 37-page illustrated booklet published that same year entitled *Japonya ve Japonyalılar: Japonların Seciyyeleri, Sûret-i Terakkileri* (Japan and Its people: The characteristics of the Japanese and their methods of progress) [Satı 1913].

One of the most important works based on eyewitness accounts in Japan is *Rus-Japon Harbinde Alınan Maddî, Manevî Dersler ve Japonların Eshab-ı Muzafferiyetleri* (Material and spiritual lessons learned from the Russo-Japanese War and the reasons for Japan's victory) [Pertev 1913; *Özege Catalogue* no. 17139], written also in 1913 by General Pertev Demirhan, who was an Ottoman observer during the war. This book, which was written originally in Ottoman, has been translated into modern Turkish by one of my students, Özcan Kılıç with my annotations, and will be published under our joint editorship in 2012 under written consent in 2011 from Pertev Pasha's son Mr. Ömer İlhan Demirhan.

Apart from wartime, there is a book entitled *Japonya Tarih-i Siyasi* (Political history of Japan) said to be written by a "Dr. Iticikava" and translated from the original German by Mübahât Bey in 1914 [İtçikava 1914; *Özege Catalogue* no. 9764]. According to information provided by Ono Ryosuke, a researcher active in Turkey, this "Dr. Iticikava" is most probably Ichikawa Daiji 市川代治, an instructor of Japanese at the Berlin University's Seminar für Orientalische Sprachen, who entitled the work *Die Kultur Japans* (Berlin: K. Curtius, 1907). It has been translated and annotated by Mahir Ünsal Eriş and published by the Association for the Research and Cooperation of Turkish-Japanese Culture under my editorship [İtçikava 2007]. Returning to the Russo-Japanese War, there is *Rus-Japon Muharebesi Tecrübelerinden* (Experiences from the Russo-Japanese War) translated by M. Sadık [1914; *Özege Catalogue* no. 17140] and published as a supplement to the military journal *Zafer Askeri Mecmuası*. The original author is unknown. We have not come across any book on Japan published by the Ottoman press dated 1915 or 1916. After this two-year interval, *Day Nipon-Büyük Japonya* (The great Japan) came out in 1917 containing the important observations of Samizâde Süreyya about Japan [Süreyya 1917; *Özege Catalogue* no. 3649]. A booklet was also published that same year entitled *Japon Kuva-yı Bahriyesi* (The Japanese Naval Forces) [Anon. 1917; *Özege Catalogue* no. 9758].

### III. BOOKS OF THE REPUBLICAN ERA

It seems that the publication of books concerning Japan ceased with the defeat of the Ottoman State in World War I, followed by the occupation of its territory by Western powers and the outbreak of the Turkish War of Independence. Publishing was probably resumed in 1925 following the end of the occupation and the foundation of a Turkish Republic replacing the Ottoman State. However, the conditions under which books were published differed greatly compared to the past. Besides those books related to Japan published previously and sold in the bookstores of Istanbul, new publications were printed or copied via lithography in military printing houses to be used as textbooks for military schools. *Sedan Seferi ve 904–905 Rus-Japon Harbi Meseleleri* (Issues concerning the Battle of Sedan and the 1904–1905 Russo-Japanese War) written by Mehmed Nihad [1925; *Özege Catalogue* no. 25446] is one example of this type, as is *904–905 Rus-Japon Harbi* (1904–1905 Russo-Japanese War) written by Mehmed Nihad of Bursa (whom we think is the author of the previous book) for third grade military school students during the 1924–1925 academic year [Mehmed Nihad. n.d.; *Özege Catalogue* no. 4336]. There is also *Tarih-i Harb Notları: 1904–1905 Rus-Japon Seferi* (Historical warfare notes: 1904–1905 Russo-Japanese War), which is listed in the National Library Catalog, and *Tarihi Harp Notları: 1806 seferi–1813 son bahar seferi* (Historical warfare notes: The 1806–1813 Fall War) in the *Özege Catalogue* (no. 19819), written by Ali Rıza Nihad in 1925 for the freshmen at the military academy [Ali Rıza 1925a]. Similarly, the National Library Catalog contains a book dated 1925 by Ali Rıza entitled *Tarih-i Harb Notları: 1904–1905 Rus-Japon Seferi* (Historical warfare notes: 1904–1905 Russo-Japanese War), which the *Özege Catalogue* (no. 19820) lists as *Tarih-i Harb Notları: 1877–1878 seferi* (Historical warfare notes: The War of 1877–1878 [Ali Rıza 1925b]. I have not been able to examine these books and cannot include them in the total number of published works, because I think they were mistakenly cataloged. To the best of my knowledge, the last book published for military institutions is Hans von Ritter's *Harb Tarihi Tedkiki: Rus-Japon Harbi ve Büyük Harb* (Enquiry into the history of warfare: The Russo-Japanese War and the Great War) [Ritter 1928; *Özege Catalogue* no. 6845], lithographed in 1928 for sophomores in the History of Warfare course at the Military Academy during the 1927–1928 academic year.

#### IV. OTHER BOOKS ON JAPAN IN OTTOMAN SCRIPT

This section is related to those books whose content has no direct relation to Japanese history, whose dates of publication and authors are unknown, were published abroad, or are works of literature. *Yaponlar* (The Japanese) written in 1905 by F. F. Potsikoviç and translated by Mehmed Fatih al-Kerimi, was published in Orenburg, Russia [Potsikoviç 1905; *Özege Catalogue* no. 22865] and in two separate editions, the second entitled *Yaponlar Niçe İman Getireler* (Why do the Japanese convert to Islam) translated by Süleyman el-Osmanî [1910; *Özege Catalogue* no. 22866]. The original language of the text is not known. Another dateless book, *Mühim Bir Ders-i Tarihi* (An important historical lesson) translated by Mehmed Hilmi, offers more important information about the Russo-Japanese War [Totenham n.d.; *Özege Catalogue* no. 14686]. Although Kadri's, *Küçük Kitablardan Kore, Japonya ve Çin'de Kadınlar* (A short book on women in Korea, Japan, and China) [Kadri 1895; not listed in the *Özege Catalogue*] is not exclusively about Japan, it is one of the oldest works (1895) that inform the Turkish public about Japanese society. Karakartal mentions a book translated by someone named Rıza in 1901 and entitled *Japonya Ahlak ve Müessesatına Dair Nümüne* (One example of Japanese morality and institutions) [Rıza 1901], but I have been unable to find such a title in any of the catalogs. In light of current information, the booklet entitled *Japon Elifbasi* (The Japanese alphabet), which was compiled by Anesti and Isakcalızâde Ali Rıza [1908; *Özege Catalogue* no. 24940], should now be considered the first-known Japanese language instruction manual published in the Ottoman Empire. The second-oldest book containing information about Japanese family structure is an illustrated work entitled *Japon Çocukları* (Japanese children) translated by Fatma Ünsiye [1914; *Özege Catalogue* no. 9757].

The date of the pamphlet titled *Japonya'nın Hapis ve İnfâz Müesseseleri* (Japanese institutions of incarceration and correction) [Anon. n.d.], which offers information about the Japanese penal system, is unknown, but we do know that it was published as a supplement to the journal *Cerideyi Adliye*. Another seemingly technical book is *Japonya'da Çay Ziraati* (Tea cultivation in Japan), published in 1925, but of unknown authorship [Anon. 1925; *Özege Catalogue* no. 24942].

Japan was also introduced to the Turkish public through short literary works or translations. To the best of our knowledge, there is at least one work published in book format of this sort entitled *Caponun İntikamı* (Revenge of the Japanese) [Ragıp Rıfkı 1920; *Özege Catalogue* no. 2813] translated in 1920 by Ragıp Rıfkı (Özgürel), but of unknown author-

ship. There is a short story entitled *Japon Masası* (The Japanese table) by Peyami Safa, which he wrote in 1928 under the pseudonym Server Bedî [1928; *Özege Catalogue* no. 9759]. Later on, this tale would be included as the third story in Peyami Safa's collection entitled *Tiyatro Baskını* [Yiğit 2005:44]. However, besides the title, the story itself has nothing to do with Japanese society or culture.

## CONCLUSION

To the best of my knowledge, 47 books on Japan during the Ottoman era and also 6 books (in Ottoman script on Japan) during the Republican era were published in Turkey. The fact that most of these works concerned the Russo-Japanese War is an important indicator of how closely that event was followed with great interest by Turkish society. On the other hand, books on Japanese history published in Turkey during the early years of the Republican era, before the transition to modern Romanized Turkish, were published by military printing houses and also seem to have been focused on the Russo-Japanese War. The fact that these works were translated from German, French, and Russian is also important in showing us from which country's perspectives the Turks were evaluating Japan. Another interesting fact is that out of the 53 books only one directly concerns the Ertuğrul Frigate Disaster, meaning that far more emphasis was being placed upon the Russo-Japanese War in the Turkish press than on the most-significant historical event marking the start of Turkish-Japanese relations.

To the best of our knowledge, 47 books were published between 1891 and 1917, 10 to 300 pages in length, explicitly containing information on Japan. The circulation of the books according to year is as follows:

1891 = 1, 1892 = 1, 1894 = 1, 1895 = 1, 1901 = 1, 1902 = 1,  
1903 = 1, 1904 = 8, 1905 = 1, 1906 = 6, 1907 = 2, 1908 = 1,  
1909 = 1, 1910 = 2, 1911 = 4, 1912 = 4, 1913 = 4, 1914 = 3,  
1917 = 2, undated = 2

Of these 47, 20 are translations and 20 concern aspects of the Russo-Japanese War. Although some of the others are suspected to also be translations, that fact is difficult to determine, since the authors' names are unknown. In addition, it is thought that the works of Pertev Bey [1913], Abdürreşit İbrahim [1911-13], and Samizâde Süreyya [1917] are

important because they were written based on personal observations and experiences and from the perspectives of Muslim intellectuals, in opposition to Western authors, and thus greatly contributed to the formation of the image of Japan in Ottoman society more so than the others.

In the light of current information, we can state that no books on Japan were published during 1915 and 1916. It is possible to argue that the reason for this was World War I, the excitement about which superseded any interest in Japan. On the other hand, the fact that the Ottoman State and Japan were on opposing sides in the War might also be a factor. The reason for the reappearance of books on Japan in 1917 might also be regarded as the Turkish public's reaction to Japan's victory over Germany in Eastern Asia with surprise and great interest.

Six books were published in the Ottoman script during the Republican era before the 1928 Romanization Revolution. Four concerned military issues, two were works of literature and the remaining two covered technical topics. The distribution of those books according to year is as follows:

1920 = 1, 1925 = 2, 1928 = 2, undated = 1.

The interesting point here is that books on the Russo-Japanese War were still being published, showing once again that the focal point of books about Japan published in Ottoman script by the Turkish press was that particular conflict. It is possible to argue that the publications on the War following Japan's victory were one of the most-significant factors that helped establish the image of the "strong, clever, patriotic, and forthright Japanese" in Turkish public opinion. Further research on the subject will clearly establish the specific stages in the formation of that image of Japan in the Turkish collective memory.

—Originally written in Turkish

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