

CENTRAL ASIAN STUDIES IN TURKEY SINCE 2001

INTRODUCTION

Central Asian studies in Turkey have been carried out in Turkey well before 1991, the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). This was mostly related to the notion of the brotherhood concept, both common historical, ethnic, and religious ties of the Turkic people of Turkey and Central Asia. Interest towards Central Asia existed even before the establishment of the Republic of Turkey, i.e. during the Ottoman Empire. Some of the topics about Central Asian people, politics, and historico-political figures of Central Asia, which were studied and published in the Republic of Turkey, were not even known by the Central Asians till the independence.

Central Asian studies flourished right after 1991, the collapse of the USSR, and with the emergence of independent Central Asian republics. These so-called “romantic” years witnessed warm politics, many common projects, meetings, and publications.

Throughout the almost 30 years after the dissolution of the USSR, some key institutions have kept playing active roles in promoting and supporting Central Asian studies. Indeed, many universities have research centers and institutes that contribute much to Central Asian studies. Such universities as Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, Ege, Pamukkale, Istanbul, Gazi, Ankara, and Hacettepe Universities play pioneering and lead-

ing roles in Central Asian studies.

Additionally, such institutions as Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University, Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), the International Organization of Turkic Culture (TÜRKSOY), the Writers Union of Eurasia, etc., play crucial roles in publishing books, journals, and magazines, introducing Turkish readers with important publications on the Turkic world. TRT Avaz, one of the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation's channels, broadcast by focusing on the Turkic world, including Central Asia.

Besides, such prestigious journals on humanities as *Bilig*, *Milli Folklor*, *Türkiyat*, *Dil Araştırmaları*, *Teke*, and many other academic journals regularly publish articles on Central Asian studies.

Additionally, publishing houses such as Ötüken, Bengü, Akçağ, Bilge Kültür Sanat, Nobel, Selenge, Gazi, Gece, etc. have been publishing numerous books on Central Asia.

There are strategic research centers studying Central Asia as well. Among them there are the Center for Strategic Research under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SAM, Ankara), the 21st Century Turkish Institute (21. Yüzyıl Türkiye Enstitüsü, Ankara), the Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies (TASAM, Istanbul), and so on. These institutions have paid attention to the current situation and international relations in the Turkic world for the last quarter of the 20th century, and have analyzed the prospects.

Moreover, Central Asian republics have always been within the scientific interest and scope of Turkey. Therefore, this tradition has continued after the new millennium. In this article, Central Asian studies in Turkey for the last two decades will be elaborated and analyzed. As a geographical scope, the Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan will be focused on. Tajikistan—though situated in Central Asia—would not be examined, as there is less study of this country in Turkey.

Regarding the structure, the research trends of Central Asian studies in Turkey since 2001 constitute the main core of this article. Firstly, an overview of general and comprising works on Central Asia will be dealt with. Then, language and literature studies will be elaborated, as they form the most voluminous part. Here each republic is elaborated separately. In each part, firstly books, secondly articles, and then graduate theses are evaluated. Here it should be noted that in Turkey, increasing amount of PhD and master's theses are written on Central Asia. It is impossible to mention all of them in this article due to the limitations of space; therefore, for further information on graduate theses, an online database is available at <https://tez.yok.gov.tr/>.

Moreover, after the part on language and literature historical studies will follow, which constitute another popular interest area. Works on sociology and archaeology will be included into this part. Then, the field of international relations and political science will be reviewed. Lastly, studies on Central Asian economics, business administration, finance, and tourism will be reviewed briefly. The article ends with concluding remarks and select bibliography.

1. GENERAL WORKS ON CENTRAL ASIA

There are some summative and analytical works on Central Asian studies in Turkey. Indeed, *Türkler* [Güzel, H., et al. 2002], a 21-volume work (the 21st volume is an index), was published at the beginning years of the millennium, but this voluminous collective work is still highly referred to. This collection is composed of works on the history, covering various aspects of politics, society, economy, philosophy, science, language, literature, culture, and art. In the preparation of this work, scholars and researchers from 48 countries participated in this project with their studies. 1,622 articles are published in this collection, and the 21 volumes consist of 21,000 pages in total. The collection includes some fundamental works that had been published before by the late experts, new articles, as well as translations.

Besides, an edited book, that was dedicated to the 10th year of the independence of the Turkic Republics, was prepared by Emine Gürsoy-Naskali and Erdal Şahin [2002]. This book gives a general look to the 10 years, and focuses on identity issues, symbols, the questions of Turkism and nationalism, the problems of neighboring global powers, foreign policies, energy, economy, and history perception. Some chapters of this book deal with arts, philosophy, literature, as well as media, censorship, and the relations between Turkey and the Turkic Republics.

Another book, dedicated to the 20th anniversary of independence, was edited by Ayşegül Aydınğün and Çiğdem Balım [2012]. The first volume of the four-volume work deals with Central Asian republics and their relations with Turkey. This work starts with a historical retrospective, and then five Central Asian republics are studied separately. Later, Turkey's foreign policy towards Central Asia throughout the 20 years of independence, and the Turkish presence in Central Asia are analyzed. Another chapter assesses Turkey and nation-building process in Central Asia. This edited book comes to a close with a prognosis chapter.

A book edited by Okan Yeşilot [2012] was published for the 20th an-

niversary of the independence of the Turkic Republics, and it deals with their relations with Turkey. This book focuses on bilateral diplomatic, political, cultural, and educational relations, as well as some linguistic issues such as language, alphabet, and literature.

Proceedings of the international conference on the occasions of the 20th anniversary of the independence, edited by Murat Yılmaz [2012], were published by Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University. This book includes chapters devoted to each country separately: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. Then, it pays attention to redrawn borders and constructed identity issues in Eurasia; the regional and global policies of Central Asian Turkic republics; cultural interrelations; interrelations in the fields of education and science; and political and economic relations separately.

Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University and its Board of Trustees support the publication of many scholarly works on the Turkic Republics, especially studies on cultural, historical, educational, and socio-political aspects. Indeed, another book was edited by M. Savaş Kafkasyalı [2012], and 21 authors contributed to this work. In the book *Central Asia in Regional and Global Politics*, Part 1 includes chapters on culture, language, and history, Part 2 concerns issues on international politics, and Part 3 deals with economics. This book, that was prepared for the 20th year of the independence, examines Central Asian Turkic republics from various perspectives, focusing on the importance of regional and global policies.

A book edited by Abdulvahap Kara and Fahri Solak [2017] is called *Turkic Republics in the 25th Anniversary of Their Independence*, and focuses on political, economic, and cultural developments. It elaborates each Turkic republic separately as well as the Russian Federation, and also evaluates 25 years of collaboration in the Turkic world.

Another book edited by Ayşe Yıldız and Murat Yılmaz [2018] was published on the occasion of the 27th year of the independence. It includes a chapter devoted to the role of the institutions in the interrelations of Turkey with the Turkic Republics in 27 years, as well as chapters on five Central Asian republics and Azerbaijan separately.

Currently a new trilogy, edited by Fırat Yıldız [in press], is in the process of publishing, and it is dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Turkic Republics, by focusing on the national, regional, and global politics. Around 20 authors have been contributing to elaborate national, regional, and global issues, as well as the issues of identity, social structure, political and economic transformation, migration, media, security, energy, the questions of common history and alphabet problems, and regional and global

cooperation. This work has a thematic approach in studying the region rather than studying the countries separately.

Moreover, another book *Central Eurasian Studies: Past, Present and Future*, edited by Hisao Komatsu, et al. [2011], gives a picturesque panorama of Central Asian studies in Turkey. This edited book draws attention to Central Asian studies—geopolitical and integration issues, role of international organizations, identity and politics, historical and current problems, oral history and society, religion, and education—and includes a future prognosis for the region.

Furthermore, a three-volume work on *Altay Communities*, edited by İlhan Şahin, et al. [2017], focuses on *History Issues* (Vol. 1); *Language and Literature Issues* (Vol. 2); and on *Religion and Belief Rituals Issues* (Vol. 3). This work includes Central Asian studies with a broader concept of Altaic language family and civilizations, including studies on Korea and Japan as well.

Another two-volume publication, edited by İlhan Şahin, et al. [2019], covers studies on dwellings and family issues. One of the volumes is called *Altay Communities: Family and Family Values*, and deals with the terms related to family and kinship, traditions and customs related to the marriage, family values, socio-cultural relations, women and children, cultural heritage, and some other issues on this topic. Another volume is called *Altay Communities: Dwellings and Home Culture*, and it concentrates on the concept of dwellings, types of accommodation, dwellings and family relations, city planning, settlement, and architecture, not only among the Central Asian Turks, but from a broader perspective of the Altaic communities.

Besides, a book named *Capitals of the Turkic World* edited by Ayşe Kavuncu and Murat Yılmaz [2014] investigates the capital cities of the Turkic Republics, also including Dushanbe, the capital city of Tajikistan. It gives a broad chapter on each city from past to present. It not only deals with city history, but also analyzes the countries and societies.

Moreover, there are some bibliographical works on Central Asian studies. A book edited by Isakov and Murzakulova [Murzakulova 2019] compiles Kyrgyz studies in Turkey, including some researchers and institutions, as well as the bibliography on the Manas epic and the works of Chyngyz Aitmatov. Besides, an article by Fahri Solak [2004] is a bibliographic work in Turkish related to Kyrgyzstan between 1928 and 2003, especially dealing with dissertations, books, and articles. He lists 800 studies for the mentioned time period.

Furthermore, Biray and Keskin have published a bibliographical article [2015] on books and dissertations in Turkey on the Kazakhs and the

Kazakh language, literature, history, and culture. Besides, Biray and Eynel have a bibliographical study of published articles [2015] and presented conference/symposium papers in Turkey on the Kazakh language and literature.

A book edited on the common alphabet in the Turkic world [Yeşilot, et al. 2020] reviews the alphabets used in Turkic states and communities, the current situation, and the transition processes to the Latin alphabet. It also discusses the possibility of using the common Latin alphabet in Turkic states and communities, problems encountered in the transition to the Latin alphabet, and solution offers.

Indeed, a book by Ata Yıldız [2015] deals with epics and epic traditions in the Turkic world. In this voluminous book, epics from the wide Turkic world are classified and analyzed. Moreover, in a book edited by Ata Yıldız and Turan [2016], research and analyses on the minstrel literature of the Turkic world are collected.

Furthermore, Çobanoğlu [2011] conducts research on the epic traditions of the Turkic world. Çobanoğlu [2004] has also prepared a dictionary of common proverbs of the Turkic world.

It should be noted here that general and summative works on Central Asia are not restricted to the works above, only selected works are reviewed.

2. STUDIES ON THE CENTRAL ASIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Of the nearly 200 universities in Turkey, 18 universities have departments for teaching Turkic languages, literatures, and area studies. Many specialists on Turkic studies work in these departments. These departments teach the languages, literatures, histories, and cultures of the whole Turkic world from Crimea and Volga-Ural region, including Central Asia, up to Siberia. Undergraduate and graduate students learn and conduct studies on Turkic countries, and Central Asia take a considerably important place.

The majority of the studies, including a great number of dissertations written in Turkey on Central Asia, concerns the fields of language and literature. Many theses deal with grammar issues, morphology, vocabulary, and some other similar topics in the philology field. In addition, comparative works and separate grammatical studies of each Turkic language are carried out and published in Turkey.

Besides, in the literature discipline, biographies of many Central Asian poets and writers, their works, and their main masterpieces are translated

into Turkish, and analyzed in terms of content or linguistic features. Additionally, many articles and books are published on the Central Asian literature. Indeed, folk tales, epics, poems, and folkloric heritage samples are translated and analyzed. Proverbs are studied with comparative approaches. Dictionaries of Turkic languages are published.

2.1. Works on the Kazakh Language and Literature

Books, articles, and PhD and master's theses on the Kazakh language and literature will be examined in their turn. Many fundamental works, including dictionaries [e.g. Ercilasun, et al. 1991] and comparative grammar books, have been published since the independence. Concerning the books published after 2001 on the mentioned topic, there are some other newly published works on grammar and philology prepared by Nergis Biray, et al. [2015], Kenan Koç and Oğuz Doğan [2004], and Oğuz Doğan [2015].

In addition to the existing dictionaries prepared in the earlier time periods, new dictionaries were also published since the millennium. Kazakh language dictionaries were prepared by Kenan Koç, et al. [2003] and Bayniyazov and Bayniyazova [2009].

Besides, a comprehensive two-volume bibliography of the works on the Kazakh language and literature by Sarıbayev, published in Kazakhstan, was edited by Kenan Koç and published in Turkey [Sarıbayev 2008].

Moreover, distinguished Kazakh poets' and writers' works have been translated into Turkish. Some Kazakh intellectuals, poets, and writers, such as Abay Kunanbay, Ybyrai Altynsarin, Shakerim Kudayberdi, and many others are studied in Turkey. Besides, early Kazakh newspapers are studied.

Türk Dil Kurumu (TDK, Turkish Language Association), founded in 1932 with Atatürk's initiative, is one of the institutions contributing tremendously to the study of the Turkic Republics and communities. Indeed, this institution has been publishing many fundamental books and academic journals on Turkology studies. Moreover, the project of "Determination, Translation, and Publishing Project of Turkic World Epics" has been carried out by TDK since 1997. When the project is completed, a 140-volume work will be published [AYK 2018]. Almost 70 volumes have been published so far. Indeed, a series of around ten-volume Kazakh epics are translated and published by TDK.

In this context, Bengü Yayınları, another active publishing house belonging to the Writers Union of Eurasia, has been translating from Turkic languages into Turkish and publishing a great number of novels, books, and poems so far; and the Kazakh literature takes a considerable place and

role in this publishing activities. For instance, a book on the famous Kazakh poet Shakarim written by Yerlan Sıdıkov [2014], a book of the famous poet Ulugbek Esdaulet [2014], and pretty many other works are translated into Turkish and published by the mentioned publishing house. Besides, the Writers Union of Eurasia also publish a monthly journal *Kardeş Kalemler*, dedicated to the Eurasian literature.

In addition to the local universities and institutions, the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Ankara also makes a great contribution to the studies on Central Asia, with the works and activities on Kazakh history, literature, and culture in Turkey. Many books about Kazakhstan have been published in Turkish with the support of the Kazakh Embassy in Turkey.

Metin Arıkan [2014], who is one of the leading names working on the Kazakh literature, has published a book on the Kazakh poets from the early periods till the 20th century. Arıkan has also prepared a volume [2007] on Kazakh epics. Ayşe Yücel Çetin has published a book [2003] on folklore and anonym narration traditions. Besides, Kenan Koç, et al. have published a two-volume work [2007] on the Kazakh literature. Moreover, Ekrem Ayan has worked on the first Kazakh enlighteners and poets Ybyrai Altynsarın and Abai Kunanbayev [Ayan 2015; 2017].

In addition to books, a great number of articles have been published in Turkey on the Kazakh language and literature. Grammar and philological features, dialects, alphabet issues, literature, and folklore are some of the studied topics. Ali Akar, who has a number of works on the Kazakh language, has written an article [Akar 2005] on Köktürk lexical features in the Kazakh language. Furthermore, Murat Ceritoğlu, who also has many studies on the Kazakh language, in his article [Ceritoğlu 2016] focuses on the history of the Kazakh written language, and on *Élib-biy (Caña Qural)*, a work of Ahmet Baytursynuly (mentioned as Aqımet Baytursınulı in the article). In the 1920's, Ahmet Baytursynuly, one of the early intellectuals, proposed an alphabet that was based on the Arabic alphabet but included phonetic features of the Kazakh language, and he improved the alphabet with his version to read, write, and teach the Kazakh language faster. In this article, Ceritoğlu compares and analyzes mutual morphemes with phonetic differences in *Élib-biy (Caña Qural)* and in modern Kazakh written language. Moreover, Mehmet Kutalmış, in his article [2004], has touched alphabet problems in Kazakhstan in the past and at the present. Öner also has an article [2017] on the new Kazakh alphabet, with historical retrospective data and including his analytical views on the new alphabet. Besides, Ferhat Karabulut, in his article [2004], pays attention to endangered languages, and the condition of the Kazakh language in this process.

Kuanyshebek Kenzhalin and İbrahim Yıldırım have published an article [2009] on the history of the Kazakh literature. Seyfullah Yıldırım, who works on the Kazakh literature, in his article [2014] concentrates on the Er Töstik (Er Töştük) epic according to the version of G. N. Potanin, who collected this epic during his expedition to the Kazakhs in the 19th century. Vahit Türk, who has conducted numbers of studies on the Kazakhs, has also written an article [Türk 2005] on the newspaper *Kazak*, that started being published in 1913 in Orenburg. Enver Kapağan [2015] touched thematic changes in Kazakh poetry, and conducted this study on the basis of Magjan Jumabayev's poems.

Besides, many dissertations studied the questions of the Kazakh language, linguistics, and philology. Among PhD theses written on the Kazakh linguistics, comparative grammar issues are studied [Mussa 2004] and comparative studies on proverbs [Gürsu 2009] and idioms [Kenzhalin 2012] are conducted between the Kazak and Turkish languages.

Some of the theses translated Turkish masterpieces into Kazakh and analyzed their content [Abuova 2003; İbrahim 2006], or compared Turkish and Kazakh masterpieces [Düseybayeva 2008].

Among PhD theses on the Kazakh literature and folklore, Kazakh legends [Osmanaliyeva 2011], Kazakh heroic epics [Özcan 2011], epic narratives [Yıldırım 2012], and typological features of the archaic epics [Arıkan 2003] are analyzed. Furthermore, the Kazakh stories and novels published before the Soviet rule [Panayeva 2014] and the image and identity issues in the Kazakh literature during the Soviet time [Kınacı 2014] are studied. Besides, early Kazakh publications (1890–1930) and linguistic views and regulations [Auelbekova 2003] were also dealt with. Moreover, Alash intellectuals, i.e. Kazakh intellectuals, such as Ahmet Baytursynuly (Baytursynov) [Kokybassova 2009], Magjan Jumabay, and Mirjakyp Dulat, who were active within the Alash movement in the first quarter of the 20th century, are studied in details in Turkey in dissertations and other publications [Biray 2011; Kapağan 2015].

A great number of dissertations were written on Kazakhstan. Among defended theses, around 100 master's theses research the Kazakh language and literature within the mentioned time period. Kazakh grammar issues are studied [Ayan 2001; Kenzhalin 2002; Özcan 2004; Balci 2010; Türkdil 2013], and there are some other studies on these topics.

Kazakh proverbs are dealt with in master's theses [Zhussupova 2001; Daşdan Culfayeva 2004]. Kazakh epics are widely studied in Turkey. The heroic epics of Kobylandy Batyr [Kuanyshebayeva 2002], Kambar Batyr [Yumrutaş 2009], Er Targyn [Panayeva 2011], Alpamys Batyr, and Er Töstik [Bolatova 2014] are studied as master's theses.

In some theses, Kazakh Alash intellectuals' works are translated and analyzed. Jüsipbek Aimauytov (1889–1931) is one of the most studied writers in Turkey [Kazak 2001; Türkmemetoğulları 2001; Mailybayeva 2001; Sar-kanbayeva 2003; Özaydın 2007; Açikel 2013]. Other Alash intellectuals are also studied; indeed, Ahmet Baytursynuly [Alibekiroğlu 2005; Şen 2014], Mirjakyp Dulatuly [Arslan 2007], and Magjan Jumabay [Bacaklı 2014] are studied in several theses. Other Kazakh intellectuals, such as Beyimbet Maylin [Kuş 2012], Saken Seyfullin [Kokıbasova 2003; Kınacı 2007], and Shakarım Kudayberdiuly [Işık 2004], who also lost their lives during the Stalin era like the previously mentioned intellectuals, are dealt with in master's theses. Kazakh Soviet and post-Soviet writers are also studied; Gabit Müsirepov [Demir 2002], Abish Kekilbayuly [Akkoca 2014], and Muhtar Shahanov [Tufaner 2014] are among them.

Language planning policies in post-Soviet Kazakhstan [Güney 2007], language situation in independent Kazakhstan on the basis of a newspaper *Ana tili* [Yurtman Saraç 2019], and Kazakhstan's transition process and the way towards the Latin alphabet and the discussions developing around this process [Ktanova 2019] are researched in some defended master's theses.

Kazakhstan is one of the most studied countries among the Turkic Republics, and the field of language and literature is the one which is most studied as well.

2.2. Works on the Kyrgyz Language and Literature

In Turkey, a great number of works have been published on the Kyrgyz language and literature. Since 2001, new publications have been supplemented to this field. In addition to a fundamental work edited by Ahmet Bican Ercilasun [2007], principal grammar books of Kyrgyz are written by Tuncer Gülensoy [2016], Hülya Kasapoğlu Çengel [2017], and Tan [2018]. Caştegin Turgunbayev, who has many works on Kyrgyz, published his book on adjective-verb suffixes in 2004 [Turgunbayev 2004].

Tuncer Gülensoy, one of the distinguished scholars, has contributed to Turkology, especially to the study of Kyrgyz philology in Turkey. He has prepared several dictionaries, such as a dictionary of Kyrgyz-Turkish and Turkish-Kyrgyz [Gülensoy and Sagynbaeva 2004], a dictionary of Kyrgyz language concepts [Gülensoy 2004a], and a dictionary of Kyrgyz-Turkish and Turkish-Kyrgyz grammar terms [Gülensoy 2004b]. Moreover, Gülzura Cumakunova has prepared a Turkish-Kyrgyz dictionary, which was published both in Kyrgyz and Turkish in Bishkek [Cumakunova 2005]. Furthermore, Ekrem Arıkoğlu and his colleagues have prepared a two-vol-

ume Kyrgyz-Turkish dictionary [Arıkoğlu, et al. 2018]. This dictionary is considered to be the most voluminous one so far.

İbrahim Atabey has published an article on the Latin alphabet, the version prepared for Kyrgyz by Kasym Tynystanov [Atabey 2018]. Tynystanov, one of the Kyrgyz intellectuals of the early 20th century, participated in the Baku Turkology Congress in 1926, and had expressed about the necessity of transition to the Latin alphabet.

Kyrgyz literature is studied from various perspectives in Turkey. Furthermore, Kyrgyz epics are translated and analyzed from different angles. Indeed, Naciye Yıldız studied the famous Manas epic as a PhD dissertation in 1994. She studied Wilhelm Radloff's version of the Manas epic, the world's longest epic, and this book's second edition was re-published a few years ago [Yıldız 2017a]. In addition to many works on this topic, she is a chief editor for translating a sizable three-volume Manas epic (Sagymbai Orozbek uulu's variant) into Turkish [Yıldız 2017b]. Tuncer Gülensoy also has several works on the Manas epic [Gülensoy 2018].

Within the project of TDK on the translation into Turkish and publishing of Turkic world epics, more than ten Kyrgyz epics have been translated and published so far. *Kyrgyz Epics'* 15th volume was prepared by Alimcan İnayet on the Manas epic, Cusup Mamay's variant [İnayet 2018]. Moreover, Ülkü Çelik Şavk has worked on Kyrgyz proverbs [Çelik Şavk 2018].

Besides, Kyrgyz novels are translated into Turkish. The novels of Chyngyz Aitmatov, a prominent and famous Kyrgyz writer, have always met a greater audience; his works have been translated and read for decades. The novels of other famous Kyrgyz writers, Tölögön Kasymbekov's two-volume *Broken Sword* [Kasymbek 2003; 2004] and Ashym Jakypbekov's *We Grew Up without a Father*, are translated into Turkish [Cakırbekov 2008].

Mustafa Kundakcı's book [2019] on Kyrgyz modern literature introduces Kyrgyz oral culture and prominent poets from the 19th century till the Soviet period. Nurcan Özgen's book deals with the history of the Kyrgyz literature in the first half of the 20th century [Özgen 2014]. Gül Banu Duman's book on the Kyrgyz child literature is an important contribution, as there was a lack in this genre [Duman 2016].

Regarding graduate theses, the field of Kyrgyz language and literature is one of the most researched among Central Asian studies. Some dissertations study Kyrgyz grammar and other philological problems, whereas theses on literature mostly study epics or works of Kyrgyz writers.

In his PhD thesis, Ufuk Deniz Aşçı investigated Kyrgyz and Kazakh words in W. Radloff's work "Opit Slovaryä Tyurkskih Nareçiy" [Aşçı

2003]. Gülsine Uzun, in her PhD thesis [2006], studied Kyrgyz grammar in the texts collected from the Kyrgyz of Eastern Turkistan. Aysel Baytok, in her PhD thesis [2013], worked on the formation of question sentences in Kyrgyz. Mayrambek Orozobayev, in his PhD thesis [2010], studied Kyrgyz vocabulary regarding the traditional belief and faith, excluding Islamic terms. Nurgül Moldaliev, in her PhD thesis [2010], studied Kyrgyz vocabulary related to health. Jyldyz Alimova made a comparative work of Turkish and Kyrgyz vocabulary [Alimova 2011]. Moreover, İnayetulla Azimov studied teolinguistics and phrases in Qur'an and its equivalents in the Kyrgyz language [Azimov 2012].

More than 100 master's theses are defended on the Kyrgyz language and literature. Hanako Komatsu, in her master's thesis [2002], studied the verbs in the novel "Samançının Colu" by Chyngyz Aitmatov (referred to as Cengiz Aytmatov in the thesis). İsmail Turan Kallimci studied the role of Alykul Osmonov in modern Kyrgyz poetry [Kallimci 2002]. Merim Ryspakova compared the Kyrgyz language and Codex Cumanicus [Ryspakova 2007].

The Kyrgyz language and literature is one of the most studied fields in Turkey. Quite a great number of theses, articles, and books are published on the Kyrgyz language and literature.

2.3. Works on the Uzbek Language and Literature

In Turkey, there are quite a number of books on the Uzbek language and grammar issues. The Uzbek language and its grammar is studied by a number of academicians [Yaman 2005; Uygur 2008; Eltazarov 2010; Öztürk 2011; Üşenmez 2012; Yıldırım 2012; Gültekin 2013; Coşkun 2014; Gültekin, et al. 2019].

A book on the Uzbek literature was published by Fatma Açık [2007], and she has also prepared another book on Uzbek novels [2012]. Açık has many other works on the Uzbek language and literature. Besides, Karakaş [2012] has published a book on the Uzbek literature. Modern Uzbek literature was also studied by Üşenmez [2013]. Moreover, Uzbek epics are translated into Turkish [Yücel 2007]. A bibliography of the Uzbek folk literature in the 20th century was prepared and published by Fedakâr and İşankul [2009]. An anthology of Uzbek literary texts was published by Yuldashev [2014]. Uzbek folk tales are studied by Baydemir [2013]. Öz Özcan [2009] has studied Uzbek proverbs about women. Yelok [2016] has worked on Erkin Vahidov's poems. In addition, Yelok has translated and studied selected stories from the Uzbek literature of such intellectuals and writers as Mahmudhodja Behbûdî, Abdullah Kâdirî, Abdurrauf Fıtrat, Çolpan, Ab-

dullah Kakhâr, Gâfur Gulâm, etc. [Yelok 2019a], and of Tâhir Melik, Şâdikul Hemrâjev, Nazar Eşânkul, and many other contemporary authors [Yelok 2019b]. He has also prepared a book on the stories in modern Uzbek literature between 1900 and 1930 [Yelok 2019c].

Moreover, there are many articles on the Uzbek language and literature. Fedakâr [2004], along with many other studies on the Uzbeks, has a number of works on Uzbek epics. Furthermore, Imamova [2010] and Amanova [2014] have separate comparative works on proverbs in Uzbek and Turkish. Furthermore, the Uzbek intellectual Begali Kasymov's life and works was studied by Fedakâr [2006], and the Uzbek Turkologist Kazakbay Mahmudov was studied by Üşenmez [2012]. Besides, the Karakalpak language and literature has been studied and a dictionary was prepared by Uygur [2018; 2019].

PhD theses on the Uzbek language were prepared by Uzman [2005], and on the metaphors by Gen [2015]. As for the Uzbek literature, its epic traditions were studied by Fedakâr [2003]; fairy tales by Saçkesen [2010]; the Uzbek writer Otkir Hashimov's novel translated and analyzed by Erdoğan Öztürk [2001]; and another Uzbek writer Pirimkul Kadirov's novel examined by Giray [2016].

More than 100 master's theses were written on the Uzbek language and literature in Turkey. The issues related to the Uzbek language and its grammar were studied by Atak [2004], Yaman [2012], Sağır [2015], and many other young researchers. Yeloğlu [2011] and Atar [2013] studied Uzbek grammar on the basis of the novel "Ötken Künler" of Abdullah Kadi-riy.

Concerning master's theses on the Uzbek literature, Çolak [2001] conducted research on the Uzbek heroic epic Zülfizar; Korkut [2002] on the Uzbek oral literature genre; Iwaki [2001] explored the Uzbek writer Aman Muhtar's novel; Uralbayeva [2002] studied Adil Yakubov's novel; Saltık [2005] worked on the novel by Şükrullah Yusufoğlu; Kılıç [2011] worked on selected poems of the Uzbek poet Shevket Rahman; Öztürk [2011] studied Halime Hüdayberdiyeva's poems; Bayrakdarlar [2012] has worked on the dictionary of Uzbek literature terms; Özcan Koç [2008] examined selected stories from the Uzbek literature of the Soviet period. Karadeniz [2013] studied the work by the Jadidist intellectual Abdullah Kâdirî; and Gökçe [2014] studied some stories of the Uzbek writer Otkir Hâshimov as a master's thesis.

In general, there are many quantitative and qualitative works on the Uzbek language and literature carried out in Turkey. Many books deal with grammar and linguistic issues, whereas a series of works are published in the literature field. The epics, proverbs, and folk literature are

studied, as well as the works of Uzbek intellectuals, poets, and writers are translated into Turkish.

2.4. Works on the Turkmen Language and Literature

Among the books published on Turkmen grammar, the most popular ones are of Mehmet Kara [2005; 2012], Hüseyin Yıldırım [2018], and Ceyhun Vedat Uygur [2011]. There are some other philology books, such as a work on Turkmen metaphors [Erdem 2003], a Turkish-Turkmen and Turkmen-Turkish dictionary [Ünsal and Ünsal 2014], and a dictionary of Turkmen dialects [Türkmenoğlu 2008]. Besides, Oskar Hanser's Turkmen Manual (1977) on Turkmen grammar was translated into Turkish [Hanser 2003]. Moreover, a catalogue of Turkmen books with Arabic script between the years of 1802 and 1917 was translated into Turkish [Yazberdiyev and Annaberdiyev 2005].

Regarding books on the Turkmen literature, a bibliography of the Turkmen folk literature (1920–1969) was published [Seyidov 2011]; a book was prepared on Turkmen epics and epic traditions [Şahin 2010]; the famous Turkmen poet Mahtumkulu's all works were translated [Aşırov and Güzel 2014]; and another book, devoted to Mahtumkulu, was prepared by Sarıyev [2004]. The year of 2014 was noted as the 290th year of Mahtumkulu's birth; on this occasion, another very comprehensive book on Mahtumkulu was published in Turkey, and it was devoted to the late researcher Dr. Himmet Biray, who was the first person who translated Mahtumkulu Firaki's Divan into Turkish [Güzel A. 2014]. Furthermore, Tulu's book [2005] also contributed to the Turkmen literature studies in Turkey.

Around 30 PhD dissertations were devoted to the Turkmen linguistics and literature in Turkey in the last two decades. Turkmen language and linguistics issues were studied in PhD theses [Uyar 2004; Yıldırım 2008; Beşen Delice 2010; Şahin 2012; Dinç 2014]; similarly, literature, folkloric ethnography, and the works of Turkmen writers and poets were studied in various PhD theses [Sarıkaya 2003; Kalenderoğlu 2007; Şahin 2009; Hança 2009; İdem 2011; Sağlam 2011].

Furthermore, there are quite a large number of articles devoted to the Turkmen language and literature issues in Turkey. Articles dealing with Turkmen grammar were written by Aslan Demir [2013], Dinç [2014], Beşen Delice [2007], Beşen Delice [2013], Biray [2015], Şahin [2012], and Piltin [2010]. Comparative studies dealing with the grammatical features and simple verbs in the Turkmen and the Turkish languages [Beşen Delice 2010], as well as few works on the translation issues and problems [Kara-

doğan 2004; Kirişcioğlu 2006], were published.

An article on the modern Turkmen literature was published by Sarıyev [2002]. The other articles on the literature, tales, and folk epics by Mammetcumayev [2010] and on the contribution of A.N. Samoylovich to the studies of the Turkmen literature and folklore by Kalenderoğlu [2010] were also published. Furthermore, a bibliography of the works on the Turkmen language, linguistics, grammar, and philology issues was published by Sinan Dinç [2013], and this work includes the studies not only published in Turkey, but also in Turkmenistan; therefore, this is an extensive bibliographic work. Moreover, Salim Çonoğlu's work on the Turkmen literature from the 18th century till the independence period gives a comprehensive overview and analysis of the Turkmen literature [Çonoğlu 2011].

Almost 100 master's theses on the Turkmen language and literature are written. Some of these theses that have studied the language and linguistics issues are defended by Pilten [2001], Selcan [2001], Nergiz [2002], Beşen [2002], Şahin [2008], and Çakmak [2010].

Most of the master's theses on the Turkmen literature translate and analyze the works of Turkmen poets and writers. Moreover, Özdemir [2003] conducted a comparative study on proverbs in the Turkish and Turkmen languages, and Bayraktar [2003] studied Turkmen folktales. Uçar [2003] has translated and analyzed all poems of Annagylch Meteci; Sağlam [2005] has translated and analyzed the poems of Mollanepes; Kanter [2002] studied the novels of Annaguli Nurmehmet; İpek [2016] studied and translated the novel by Jumageldi Mülkiyew; Emrah Yılmaz [2016] studied the Turkmen folk epic of Necep Oglan; and Yeğin [2018] translated and analyzed Chary Ashyrov's novel.

While analyzing generally the works on the Turkmen language and literature, it is possible to say that this field is studied less than the Kazakh and Kyrgyz languages; however, despite this, there are quite a number of studies on the mentioned field.

3. STUDIES ON CENTRAL ASIAN HISTORY

Studies on Central Asian history have been conducted systematically after the establishment of the Republic of Turkey. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey, paid special attention to history, to the roots of the Turks, and inevitably to Central Asian history. As the history of the Huns and the ancient Turkic state is accepted as the common history of all Turkic peoples, there are many works related to these epochs in Turkey.

Besides, intellectuals and historians from the Volga-Ural region and Central Asia, such as Zeki Velidi Togan, Yusuf Akçura, Akdes Nimet Kurat, Sadri Maksudi Arsal, Abdülkadir İnan, Baymirza Hayit, and many others have contributed incredibly to the Central Asian studies in Turkey in the mid-20th century. This tradition and interest in Central Asian history have continued up until 1991, the dissolution of the USSR. After the independence, the interest as well as the weight and scope of the studies on the region have risen dramatically.

A historian, Professor İsenbike Togan, notes that “history in Turkey is twofold, the history of the country and the history of the people,” and states that Turkey and Inner Asia are geographically distant from each other, but when it comes to history there is a proximity, in terms of the history conception of Turkey [Togan 2015: 209].

Turkish Historical Society (Türk Tarih Kurumu, TTK), founded in 1931 under the auspices of Atatürk, is one of the leading cores of scientific work and research. Works on Turkic history are also published with the support of this institution.

Many universities in Turkey have departments on the general Turkic history, with undergraduate and graduate programs. Furthermore, historians working on the general Turkic history hold a workshop on the questions of this discipline each year. Papers of these workshops are published. Indeed, *General Turkic History Workshop I* edited by Alpargu, et al. [2018] focused on the current condition of general Turkic studies, their problems, and solution offers. In addition, Kanlıdere has an analytical article [2018], reviewing the trends of modern Central Asian historiography in Turkey between the years of 1985 and 2018.

Moreover, a project for writing common historical texts of Turkic historians (project contractor Prof. Dr. Mehmet Saray) has been carried out. Historians from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Turkey have been writing the history in the years of 1994–1996. Each historian wrote the history of his/her country, but there was a common framework. These texts were published as a book [Saray 2018].

Saray’s book [2014] deals with the history of the newly independent Turkic Republics. The book gives the history of Azerbaijan in addition to the Turkic Republics in Central Asia separately; and in the last chapter, it elaborates the bilateral relations of the Turkic Republics with Turkey.

Gömeç’s book [2015] on the history of the Turkic Republics and communities is one of the summative books on Turkic studies. This book has several editions, and it gives a general view of the Turkic world.

A very newly released book on the history of the Turkic Republics is

edited by Çelik [2020]. This book has a broad perspective, dealing with the history of the Turkic Republics and communities as well as their bilateral relations.

3.1. Works on the History and Archaeology of Kazakhstan

Over the past 30 years, the interest in Kazakh history as well as research and works on this topic has grown rapidly in Turkey. The works on Kazakh history can be classified into the topics related to the Kazakh Khanate, the relations with Tsarist Russia, the Soviet era, and the period of independent Kazakhstan. In addition, such topics as historical figures, leaders, intellectuals, and their activities or creativity are of great interest. Much attention is paid to the history of Kazakhstan in the last quarter of the 20th century as well. In some cases, Kazakh history is studied not only as a separate country, but also within such territorial concepts as the Turkic world, Turkistan, Central Asia, Central Eurasia, or Eurasia.

There are a wide range of books on Kazakh history. Hekimoğlu's work [2018] deals with the Russian occupation and the national independence struggles of the Kazakhs in the 18th and 19th centuries. Ölçekçi [2007], in his book about the creation of Soviet identity, begins with the migration of the Russian population to the region, and further focuses on various Soviet and Sovietization policies. Kalkan's work [2013] deals with the origins of political modernization in Kazakhstan and the Alash movement (1822–1920). Türk and İbrahim [2016] have prepared a book on the mass famine in Kazakhstan, and reveals many aspects of this catastrophic period. Kurmangaliyeva Ercilasun's book [2018] on history writing in Soviet-era Kazakhstan underlines myths and realities.

Many articles deal with Kazakh history and archaeology. Bazılhan's article [Bazılhan 2014] is about the Göktürk inscriptions in Kazakhstan. Aksoy, in his article [2012], elaborates the tombs with ram and sheep sculptures in Kazakhstan. Çam [2011] deals with the metal artefacts in the museums of South Kazakhstan belonging to the early period, and evaluates their role in Turkic civilizational history. Aydingün [2007] focuses on the museums that have contributed to nation-building process and to the revitalization of history.

Durmuş, who has fundamental works on the Scythians, has an article [Durmuş 2019] on the Scythians in Kazakhstan. Güler has a bibliographic work [Güler 2010] on the studies in Turkey about Kazakh history and culture. He states that in Turkey, it is necessary to move from general works on Kazakh history to in-depth research and monographs [Güler 2010: 191]. Furthermore, Hakim [2009] elaborates the perception of histo-

ry in Kazakh history and its international dimensions. Daş and Ospanova [2019] deal with the political relations between the Ottoman Empire and the Kazakh Khanate in the 18th century. Orhan Doğan [2004] focuses on some documents about the entrance of the Kazakh Khanates into Tsarist Russia. Besides, Hekimoğlu's article [2018] reveals several dimensions of the mass famine in Kazakhstan in the first half of the 20th century. Kafkasyalı [2012] evaluates the history of the Kazakh national resistance and struggle for independence.

An article by Gündoğdu and Güler [2017] studies the process of recognition of Kazakhstan's independence and its echoes in Turkey. The article indicates that the Jeltoksan events of 1986, which fastened the independence of Kazakhstan, have been heard outside the USSR, in the world and in Turkey as well. The authors state that significant Turkish newspapers such as *Cumhuriyet*, *Milliyet*, and *Tercüman* published the news about this incident to their readers.

The number of books, articles, and theses on Kazakh history published in Turkey is extremely large, and it has been increasing every year. About 500 dissertations on Kazakhstan have been defended in Turkey in the humanities and social sciences area in general. Nonetheless, it should also be noted that a considerable part of defenders are the Kazakhs.

Indeed, quite a large number of theses are devoted to the study of Kazakh history. A PhD thesis by Ünal [2000] compared the national struggles of the Kazakhs against the Russian invasion and the role of the Kazakh heroic leader Kenesary with Turkey's struggle and its leader Atatürk. Sakenova [2002] compared Kazakhstan's national liberation struggle of Alash with Turkey's national struggle in the years of 1917–1923. Kutushova [2017] researched the expansion of the Soviet rule into the Turkistan region and its impacts on the modern foreign policy of Kazakhstan.

Among PhD theses some are devoted to the art history and archaeology of Kazakhstan. Ibekeyeva [2015] studied Göktürk period petroglyphs in Kazakhstan. Bubur [2007] has studied Islamic period heritages in Kazakhstan. Koshenova [2019] also worked on Turkic and Islamic constructions in Kazakhstan's Kyzyl-Orda region from the 10th to 20th centuries.

Regarding master's theses on the art history and archaeology of Kazakhstan, Sevinç [2019] worked on the socio-cultural history in the framework of material culture of Kazakhstan in the early iron age. Koshenova [2013] studied selected tombs and mausoleums in Kazakhstan's Taraz region from the 11th to 12th centuries. Sakhı [2018] studied the visiting of tombs and sacred places in today's South Kazakhstan. Quite a great number of master's theses have conducted research on various topics related to Kazakh history. Among these theses, Başkurt's thesis [2019] on the history

of Kazakhstan during the war communism, in the years of 1918–1921, draws attention.

Some significant works regarding Kazakh history were translated and published in Turkey. The history of Kazakhstan and the Kazakhs from ancient times to the present, originally prepared and published by the Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan, was translated by Abdulvahab Kara [2007]. This collective book starts with the formation of the Kazakh Khanate till the present time.

The Kazakh scholar Mekemtas Mırcahmetov's book [2012] on how the Kazakhs were tried to be Russified was translated by Z. Bağlan Özer and B. Tümen Somuncuoğlu. This book includes the Russification and assimilation policies of Tsarist and Soviet Russia towards the Kazakhs.

A great number of works are being carried out over a wide range of the historical periods of Kazakhstan, including books, articles, and PhD and master's theses. The history and archaeology of Kazakhstan is one of the most studied fields in Turkey in comparison to the other republics.

3.2. Works on the History and Archaeology of Kyrgyzstan

There are quite many books about various periods and problems of the history and archaeology of Kyrgyzstan. Gömeç's book [2009] is focused on Kyrgyz history from general perspectives. In addition, some important works regarding Kyrgyz history were translated and published in Turkey. Belek Soltonoyev, who was a Kyrgyz intellectual of the early 20th century and who was executed during the Stalinist repression, wrote a two-volume book on Kyrgyz history. His work was translated into Turkish as a conjoined volume by Diykanbayeva [Soltonoyev 2018]. Ayida Kubatova's book on the Jadidist movement in Kyrgyzstan in the years of 1900–1916, which was originally published in Bishkek, was translated by Ali Ünal and published in Ankara [Kubatova 2018]. Güngör's book [2018] is about the political repressions in Soviet Kyrgyzstan, especially during the Stalinist period (1917–1938).

Some books have been published regarding the Kyrgyz sociology. Erdem's book [2005] deals with the religion and social life of the Kyrgyz. Kulamshaeva [2016] elaborates the language and culture of the Kyrgyz in the framework of sociological studies.

Quite a great number of articles study various problems of Kyrgyz history. Murzakulova reveals how the Jadidist movement initiated by Ismail Gasprinski affected the Kyrgyz community at the end of the 19th century, and also deals with the first Jadid schools in Kyrgyz territories [Murzakulova 2014]. Güngör [2016] has also conducted research about the

Kyrgyz intellectuals before the Bolshevik Revolution. Sağol Yüksekaya [2016] elaborates *Muhtasar Tarih-i Kırgızıya*, one of the first genealogical history works by Osmonalı Sıdıkov.

Furthermore, Füsün Kara's article [2007] deals with Tsarist Russia's colonial policies towards Kyrgyzstan between 1852 and 1917. Ölçekci wrote an article [2013] about the *manaps*, local administration figures, and their role in Kyrgyz history.

The year of 1916 and the Ürkün events compose an important milestone in Kyrgyz history. This event is reflected on various studies in Turkey. Indeed, Dıykanbayeva's article [2014] deals with the Ürkün events and Kyrgyz national struggle in 1916.

Kurmangaliyeva Ercilasun's article [2016] focuses on the collectivization policies and their impacts in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan according to oral history studies conducted in the region. Derviş and Esenkan Kyzy [2019] wrote about the political respressions and executions in Kyrgyzstan in 1937–1938.

Some significant works about the archaeology of Kyrgyzstan were published. For instance, Alimov and Tabaldiev's article [2005] is about newly found old Turkic runic monuments belonging to the Göktürk period, found in Kyrgyzstan's Talas valley. The prevailing majority of the texts of the inscriptions found there carry epitaphial characters and they are considered as valuable documents for the history of writing of the Central Asian Turkic tribes of the early Middle Ages. In addition, Alimov's book [2013] on the inscriptions found in Kyrgyzstan studies on the ancient Turkic runic inscriptions.

Furthermore, many theses are devoted to Kyrgyz history. Güngör's PhD thesis [2013] researches Jadidism in Kyrgyzstan and the role of İshe-naali Arabayev as the prominent leader of this new-style education system.

Quite a lot of master's theses focus on various issues of Kyrgyz history. Altımişova [2004] studies Kyrgyzstan in the Chaghataid period. 1916 events are reflected on master's theses as well. Esenkan Kyzy [2018] evaluates it as popular uprising. Bayrakdar [2019] also works on the Ürkün events and their echoes in the Turkistan region. Kılıçaslan [2018] studies the Kyrgyz during the World War II.

Quite many works study various periods and questions of the history, archaeology, and sociology regarding Kyrgyzstan.

3.3. Works on the History and Archaeology of Uzbekistan

There are quite many works regarding the history of Uzbekistan. Macit published a book [2016] on the Shaybanid/Shibanid Uzbek Khanate, focus-

ing on its political, administrative, military, and economic structures. Moreover, a voluminous book of Andican [2020] deals with struggles for Turkistan from abroad, from Jadidism to independence. It presents a detailed narration based on primary sources and documents about the struggle of Turkistan intellectuals for 70 years in a wide geography, extending from the Indian subcontinent to Europe.

Quite a lot of articles have been published on Uzbek history and archaeology in Turkey. Maksudov's article [2019] about the Zarautsay rock paintings/petroglyphs, previously published in Uzbekistan, was translated by Karagöz, and published in Turkey.

Turan's article [2018] focuses on the modern historiography of the Ottoman-Timurid relations and the War of Ankara in 1402, one of the most discussed topics of Turkic history. This article reveals the results of comparative research on history textbooks of Turkey, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan.

Abdirashidov's voluminous work [2018] includes bibliographical evaluation of the materials about Turkistan, that were published in *Tercüman* newspaper in the years of 1883–1917. The article is published in Turkey in the Uzbek language. The author, in the first part of the article, focuses on the questions of the emergence of the press in Turkistan, and in the following bibliography part, the articles of the newspaper reflecting the lifestyle and socio-economic problems of the Turkistan society in the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century are compiled.

Açık wrote an article [2017] about Uzbekistan before and after 1917. Kavuncu's article [2018] is about the Uzbek Diaspora, not only in Turkey, but also in the world.

Many theses' topics concentrate on Uzbek history. Besides, Somuncuoğlu, in his PhD thesis [2006], examines educational issues in the Turkistan region, the socio-economic approach of Tsarist Russia to education, and old-style and new-style schools.

Gürbüz's master's thesis [2003] is about the emergence of Uzbek and Kazakh identities in the post-Chinggisid period in Eurasia. Türk's master's thesis [2017] concentrates on the Safavid state's political relations with the Uzbek Khanates and Baburid state. Jumaev prepared his master's thesis [2010] on the social and economic history of Uzbekistan at the end of the 19th century towards the beginning of the 20th century. In Turkey, many works have been published on the history of Uzbekistan, and only selected ones are mentioned here.

3.4. Works on the History of Turkmenistan

Works on the history of Turkmenistan are not as many as those on the other republics; this is related to the access to sources. One of the early books of the millennium devoted to the administration culture of the Turkic Republics, including Turkmenistan, was prepared by Tokluoğlu and Arıcı [2000]. Kasım's book [2016] on Turkmenistan deals with the country's history, domestic and foreign policy, economy, energy policies, and demographic and social structure. Özbay's book [2019] focuses on the independence issues, Tsarist Russia's occupation and systematical assimilation policies, and the struggle and resistance of the Turkmens since the 19th century. The book also concentrates on the education and irreligion policies towards the Turkmens in the 20th century.

Among the articles that study the history of the Turkmens, Yetişgin's article [2002] draws attention to the process of the Tsarist Russian invasion of Turkmen lands and the Turkmen resistance including Göktepe battles.

Furthermore, Rahmanov and Kanlıdere's article [2016] analyzes the articles of the *Bolshevik* journal between the years of 1925–1929, and its impacts on the formation of Soviet Turkmenistan. The journal deals with the questions such as fight against tribalism, emancipation of Turkmen women, promotion of literacy, cultural revolution, language and alphabet reform, etc. Although the journal was the organ of the communist party, some of the journal authors defended Turkmen interests, and consequently, a great part of the editorial staff was executed in the repression years of 1937–1938. This article sheds light on the mentioned period and the problems of Turkmen history.

Many theses also deal with the questions of Turkmen history. Ahmet Dinç's PhD thesis [2004] is about the socio-economic history of Turkmenistan at the end of the 19th and the 20th centuries.

Rahmanov's master's thesis [2015] conducts research on the *Bolshevik* journal and the social life of the early years of Soviet Turkmenistan. Gutliyev, in his PhD thesis [2017], researched Turkmens' basmacı (basmaji/basmachi) movement, that is, the resistance movement against the Russian rule in Central Asia, and the role of Cüneyt Han (Junaid Khan) in this struggle. Besides, Nazarova in her master's thesis [2017] studies the history of the Turkmenistan Soviet Socialist Republic between the years of 1924 and 1953. A number of works are published on the history of Turkmenistan in Turkey.

4. STUDIES ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

A three-volume work, named *Eurasia Trilogy*, edited by Mustafa Aydın, makes a point to the past and current problems in international relations. The first book [Aydın 2005], called *Central Asia in Global Politics*, draws attention to such problems as drug problem in Central Asia, environmental issues, mass disarmament conditions, search for identity, religion in the region and nationalism issues, etc. The second book [Aydın 2007], named *Turkey's Eurasia Adventure 1989–2006*, draws attention to a new period after the disintegration of the USSR, which brought about a new era full of great hopes and quest for desire to gain a strategic advantage in this new condition. This volume underlines some current issues such as the Great Game's transformation into "great chessboard" in Eurasia, and Turkey's condition as it was trapped between the possibilities and expectations, and its role in this chessboard with its hopes and disappointments. This edited book assesses Turkish foreign policy from the 1990s, bilateral relations, and internal dynamics. The last volume of trilogy is devoted to changes and transformation processes in Caucasia.

A chapter by Karasar [2011] on Turkey's policies towards Central Asia as of 2010, published in the almanac on Turkey's foreign policy, focuses on multiple and bilateral relations. This work analyzes the achievements and failures in the relations between Turkey and Central Asian republics, and proposes a roadmap for future years.

An article by Konuralp Ercilasun [2012] deals with the economic and demographic elements of a union in Central Asia, like a model of the European Union (EU). The author states that there is a need for a regional union including all five Central Asian republics, by analyzing the historical past, the economic and demographic structures, as well as the factor of the neighbors.

The Changing Perspectives of Central Asia in the 21st Century, a very new book edited by Murat Yorulmaz and Serdar Yılmaz [2020], deals with the contemporary situation of minority issues, nation-state building process, energy, security, water, boundary, regional integration, and foreign policies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan. It also examines the relations of Central Asian republics with Russia, China, America, the EU, and Turkey. The book states that geopolitical realities, regional dynamics, and the perception of security in the region have changed. Indeed, the book also focuses on such topics as the environmental degradation, cyber insecurity, and social unrest triggered by sovereign debt traps.

4.1. Works on the International Relations and Political Science Regarding Kazakhstan

A great number of books, articles, and graduate theses have been prepared regarding the international relations and political science of Kazakhstan. Following books draw attention in this sphere.

A book edited by Efegil and Akçalı [2003] study the issues of Islam, nationalism, identity, and ethnicity in Central Asia. The efforts started by Ilminski to create an artificial language, the role and meaning of Islam in the periods of Tsarist and Bolshevik Russia and in the post-independence period, the efforts of Central Asian leaders to create nation-states based on the dominant ethnic structure, and the effects of the policies on the stability of the region and the state are elaborated and discussed in this book.

Serdar Yılmaz's book [2016] deals with Kazakhstan's policy towards Turkey. In this study, the author states that the factors determining Kazakhstan's policy towards Turkey are not the common language, ancestry, or common religious and historical understanding as it is supposed, but internal structural factors such as the effects of leaders, NGOs, interest groups, bureaucratic institutions, and political parties, as well as the nature of the regime, public opinion, and media are more effective.

Serdar Yılmaz's another book [2019] focuses on Kazakhstan's first leader as well as the country's geopolitical and geo-economic conditions, natural resources, micro-nationalism, integration, water problems, and advantages it has. This book touches Kazakhstan's foreign policy as well as the cultural and educational relations with Turkey, and emphasizes Nazarbayev's role in these policies.

Çelik's book [2017] focuses on identity questions, based on the concepts of "balance of power" and an "alliance" with the constructivist (social constructionist) approach. This book examines Kazakh identity, its determining factor in the formation of the great "Central Asian" identity, and differences with the other countries at the same time. This work also elaborates Central Asian geopolitics, and emphasizes Kazakhstan's role in shaping alliances at regional and global levels.

Furthermore, many articles study the questions of the international relations and political science of Kazakhstan. Oğan [2001–2002] examines Russia-Kazakhstan relations and underlines the factor of demography. Kuşçu has an analytical article [2013] on the politics and international relations regarding Kazakhstan.

Moreover, quite many theses study the issues of the international relations and political science regarding Kazakhstan. Among PhD theses,

some are remarkable. Kahveci wrote her PhD thesis [2007] on the political economy of oil in Kazakhstan. Ongarova, in her thesis [2015], studied the role of Caspian energy resources in Kazakhstan's foreign policy. Somuncuoğlu, in her thesis [2009], focused on the democracy promotion policy of the USA with the case study of Kazakhstan. Düğen [2019] researched Kazakhstan's identity-building policy and its socio-cultural and security dimensions. Ametbek, in his PhD thesis [2015], studied Turkey's role and place in Kazakhstan's Eurasian identity.

Moreover, a great number of master's theses deal with the political science and international relations regarding Kazakhstan. Kurazkhojaeva's thesis [2008] deals with the national security issues of Kazakhstan, and Gurbandurdyeva's thesis [2016] emphasizes the role of Kazakhstan in ensuring security in Central Asia. Ismakhanbetova [2013] studies nuclear disarmament issues in Central Asia and particularly the case of Kazakhstan. Bekmurzayeva [2012] researches "Nurlu Kosh" policy of Kazakhstan, which deals with the repatriation problems of the Kazakhs that were born abroad and their resettlement back in Kazakhstan, and also the policy's impacts on the Kazakh nationalism. Lakhayeva [2012] studies the foreign policy and security dimensions of Russia-Kazakhstan relations after 1990. Moreover, Taldybayeva, in her master's thesis [2012], studies bilateral cooperation between Kazakhstan and Turkey, and its impacts on the integration processes within the Turkic world. A master's thesis by İnaç [2019] draws attention to the danger of fundamentalism and its impacts on the country's policies in post-independence period Kazakhstan.

Only selected works can be mentioned in this article. There are many works; especially there is a great number of theses dealing with this sphere.

4.2. Works on the International Relations and Political Science Regarding Kyrgyzstan

Books, articles, and a great number of graduate theses have been published on the international relations and political science of Kyrgyzstan. Among the books in this field, following ones can be mentioned. Sağlam's book [2017] deals with Kyrgyz ethnic identity and nation-state structure. Besides, Russian publicist Verkhoturov's book [2018] *Atambayev's Shadow over Kyrgyzstan* was translated into Turkish by Hüseyin Genceli.

Concerning articles in this sphere, Akçalı, who has many analytical works on Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia, evaluates the transition to parliamentary system in Kyrgyzstan in her article [Akçalı 2012]. An article by Düğen [2012a] concentrates on the Manas airbase struggle of the USA and Russia in Kyrgyzstan.

The international relations and political science regarding Kyrgyzstan have become a topic for many dissertations, and in majority, it has been studied by Kyrgyz graduate students. Following PhD theses attract interest; for instance, Myrzabaev [2009] studies religion and state relations in Kyrgyzstan, and Narkeeva [2011] conducts research on the activities and social results of Islamic organizations in Kyrgyzstan.

A master's thesis by Abdibaitova [2004] researches the TACIS Programme of the EU and Kyrgyzstan. Ataşer [2005] assesses civil society organizations and democratization in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan. Malashenok in her master's thesis [2006] studies the images and perception of Turkey and the Turks in Kyrgyzstan.

Works on the international relations and political science of Kyrgyzstan are numerous; nevertheless, only selected works are mentioned here due to the article's limitations.

4.3. Works on the International Relations and Political Science Regarding Uzbekistan

The international relations and political science of Uzbekistan are studied in a number of works in Turkey. Dilmaç's book [2019] examines Uzbek national identity within the framework of the historical development, and focuses on its impact on the foreign policy of Uzbekistan.

Kodaman and Birsel, in their co-authored article [2006], have researched the foreign policies of Uzbekistan. Besides, Özlem, in his article [2013], have also analyzed Uzbekistan's internal and foreign policies during Islam Karimov's presidency.

Concerning dissertations, Oh's PhD thesis [2006] evaluates Ahiska (Meskhetian) Turks and Koreans in post-Soviet Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, and analyzes their diaspora identity and culture.

As for master's theses, Birsel [2005] studies the geopolitics of Turkistan and Uzbekistan in the global power struggle between the years of 1991 and 2005. Bozbağ [2019] researches the foreign policy of Uzbekistan and the impact of global powers during Karimov's presidency. Güher [2019] conducts research on the Collective Security Treaty Organization and Uzbekistan.

Studies on Uzbekistan, especially in the sphere of international relations and political science, had been less for many years in Turkey, mainly because of limited access to sources; however, with the change of the president, many new studies have been conducted.

4.4. Works on the International Relations and Political Science Regarding Turkmenistan

Books and articles in the sphere of the international relations and political science of Turkmenistan are relatively less, compared to the other Central Asian republics. Uğur's book [2013], written in a memoir style, deals with the first years and politics of independent Turkmenistan.

Concerning articles in this area, Erol's articles are remarkable. Erol [2001] analyzes the foreign policy of the Turkmen state and its permanent neutrality status in details. Besides, Erol [2013] also deals with the "Ankara-Ashgabat Line" in the New Great Game.

In recent years, many new studies on Turkmenistan have been conducted as graduate theses. Bilgin's master's thesis [2007] concentrates on Turkmenistan's natural gas and its importance in world politics. Atayev [2012] focuses on the effects of international systems and security issues on Turkmenistan's foreign policy decision-making process. Furthermore, Azizova, in her master's thesis [2017], studies the energy geopolitics of Eurasia, by citing the case of Turkmenistan. Demirel, in her master's thesis [2019], conducts comparative research on the permanent neutrality policy of Turkmenistan and comparative analysis of Turkmenbashi's and Berdimuhamedov's times.

Although works on the international relations and political science of Turkmenistan are relatively little, new works as well as an increasing number of dissertations can be observed in recent years.

5. WORKS ON THE ECONOMICS, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, AND TOURISM OF CENTRAL ASIA

After the collapse of the USSR, new studies emerged regarding the economy—in a broader context—of independent Central Asian Turkic republics. Among the books on the field of economics, Çokgezen and Özcan's book [2008] attracts attention. The book, published by Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, focuses on the entrepreneurship opportunities, problems, and solution proposals concerning Central Asia. It emphasizes significant potential of Central Asian republics, and deals with current trade and economic relations, future expectations, investment environment, business opportunities, as well as Turkey's current legal regulations regarding this region. It also addresses entrepreneurs who want to do business in these countries.

5.1. Studies on the Economy, Business Administration, Finance, and Tourism of Kazakhstan

A book, published by the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, was prepared by Abdulvahap Kara and Okan Yeşilot [2011]. This book puts emphasis on the achievements of the brother country, Kazakhstan, in the last 20 years, and searches for next socio-political and economic steps.

A book written by Akarcalı [2016], edited by Tontuş, deals with health tourism issues in Kazakhstan. It reviews the general economic conditions, foreign trade, Turkey-Kazakhstan investor relations, and additionally health system, health expenditure indicators, and health tourism of Kazakhstan. This report also involves strategy recommendations for the health tourism between Turkey and Kazakhstan.

Regarding articles on the economy field of Kazakhstan, Bulut wrote an article [2015] on the economic relations of Turkey and Kazakhstan. Moreover, Serdar Yılmaz wrote an article [2017] on the economic and cultural relations of Kazakhstan and Turkey, where he also made use of interviews with the experts of the region in addition to written sources. Toprak [2017], in his article, studied the effects of Turkey's energy relations with Kazakhstan on Turkey's soft power impacts in the region.

Furthermore, Kurt Gümüş and her colleagues wrote an article [2017] on the banking sector, and comparatively analyzed the relationship between financial performance and corporate governance indicators of Turkish and Kazakh banks.

In the finance sphere, Çelikkaya studied the tax system of Kazakhstan in his article [2013].

Regarding the tourism sector, Abishov and Ünlüönen [2016] studied the current situation regarding tourism and searched for future prospects in Kazakhstan. This study assesses the touristic resources of Kazakhstan, especially its south regions, and attempts to identify the pioneering aspects and important areas of application. Besides, the collective article by Gülcen, et al. [2017] studies to determine a destination image of Turkey in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and to develop suggestions to increase attractions of Turkey in this target market. The research data were collected using a questionnaire from 674 participants in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan from various occupational groups.

Quite many graduate theses study the economy, business administration, management, finance, and tourism fields related to Kazakhstan. Dukembayeva, in her PhD thesis [2011], searched for perspectives of the economics relations between Turkey and Kazakhstan and their development through energy politics. Bazarov [2013] studied Kazakhstan's post-in-

dependence petroleum policy and economic development. Yağmur's PhD thesis [2019] focuses on the natural resources and economic policies of Kazakhstan.

Furthermore, there are a great number of master's theses, and it is impossible to mention all of them. Bissaliyeva, in her master's thesis [2011], studied the growth and employment effects of foreign direct investment in Kazakhstan. Besides, Beisbekova [2011] studied Kazakhstan's economic structure and foreign trade relations with Turkey.

Many graduate theses are written on business administration, management, and marketing. Syzdykova, in her master's thesis [2014], studied the effects of the international financial movement on Kazakhstan's economy. Bekezhanova [2014] researched the impact of multi-level marketing on consumers' lifestyle, and compared the cases of Turkey and Kazakhstan. Mutluer [2019] researched the examples of Turkish construction firms in Kazakhstan market, entry strategies into the international markets, and environmental effects of marketing.

Concerning the finance studies of Kazakhstan, Ranov, in his PhD thesis [2017], made a comparative analysis of local governance structures in Kazakhstan and Turkey by viewing from a financial perspective. Akylkanova, in her master's thesis [2016], researched foreign direct investment in Kazakhstan. Kunakbayeva [2019] studied the management of oil price risks in the context of sovereign wealth funds, citing the case of Kazakhstan.

Regarding the studies on the tourism sector, Abishov, in his PhD thesis [2015], assessed touristic supply source from local organizations employees contributing to tourism in the case of South Kazakhstan. Kozhanazar, in her master's thesis [2014], studied space tourism, and conducted an analytical review of the capacity of Kazakhstan in the sphere of space tourism. Abisheva, in her master's thesis [2019], researched the effect of Turkish television series and movies on the image of the country and its impacts on the traveling trend in case of Kazakhstan.

As seen from above, many works, especially dissertations, have been conducted on the topics related to the economy, business administration, finance, and tourism of Kazakhstan.

5.2. Studies on the Economy, Business Administration, Finance, and Tourism of Kyrgyzstan

There are many studies related to the socio-economic condition of Kyrgyzstan in Turkey. Düğen's article [2012b] deals with the historical, political, and economic aspects of the relations between Turkey and Kyrgyzstan. A

collective article by Yereli, et al. [2007] focuses on the foreign direct investment in Kyrgyzstan.

An article by Yıldırım and Stamalieva [2019] studies the membership of Kyrgyzstan in the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), and discusses the effects of the EEU membership on the Kyrgyz economy.

In an article by Mazhitova and Gök [2019], the monetary transmission mechanism in Kyrgyzstan is studied, and the econometric analysis is carried out. This article focuses on the channels of monetary transmission mechanisms of the Central Bank of Kyrgyzstan. In the article, it is stated that to determine the channels, monthly data from 2000 to 2016 as well as impulse-response and variance decomposition analyses within vector autoregressive approaches are utilized.

Regarding the finance studies of Kyrgyzstan, an article by Abdiyeva, et al. [2015] researches the tax culture and its determinants in the mentioned country. In the article, the most important factors affecting the tax culture are counted as the trust in the government, quality of public services, and informal economy, based on the the case study of Kyrgyzstan.

Concerning the tourism studies on Kyrgyzstan, an article by Erdem and Bakkal [2019] measures the satisfaction levels of foreign tourists visiting Kyrgyzstan. As indicated in the article, the data were collected from 203 tourists using a questionnaire, and according to its findings, the majority of participants (80.3 %) were intended to recommend Kyrgyzstan to other people.

There are quite many graduate theses on the mentioned topic. It is observed that many master's theses on the economy field have dealt with the topics of foreign investment in Kyrgyzstan [Baialieva 2015; Akimbek uulu 2017; Sharshekov 2018] and the impact of foreign trade on the economic growth [Sakieva 2017].

Many graduate theses study topics concerning the business administration and marketing studies of Kyrgyzstan. Yuldaşev's PhD thesis [2015] focuses on the effects of technology literacy and awareness on the purchase of electronic products in the case of Kyrgyzstan. Atambekova, in her master's thesis [2019], studied the place, role, and future potential of digital money in the economics and accounting system in the world in general, and in Turkey and Kyrgyzstan in particular. Esenalieva, in her master's thesis [2019], conducted research on the relationship between corporate entrepreneurship and individual and social innovativeness, comparing Turkey and Kyrgyzstan.

In the finance field, Omarova, in her master's thesis [2008], elaborated fiscal problems of transitional economies, citing the case of Kyrgyzstan.

Moreover, in the tourism sphere Katagan Kyzy [2019] conducted re-

search on the issues of tourist product diversification and marketing in Kyrgyzstan, and Abdumamatova [2019] studied the marketing of non-integrated cultural heritage of Kyrgyzstan as a touristic product.

Quite many studies have been carried out in Turkey on the economy of Kyrgyzstan.

5.3. Studies on the Economy, Business Administration, Finance, and Tourism of Uzbekistan

A book by Somuncuoğlu [2001] attracts attention; this is an in-depth work on the economies of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, focusing on the transition and growth strategies.

Furthermore, an article by Karamatov and Sadykova [2018] elaborates the land and agriculture policy of Uzbekistan in the independence years. Agriculture and land have been always crucial for Uzbekistan. This article deals with approaches towards the usage of land for agricultural purposes, economic mechanisms of increasing the productivity of land, application of land-saving technologies, and improvement of land tax incentive mechanisms and rent payments. The article also elaborates theoretical approaches and methodological suggestions for rising the efficiency of land using and agricultural production in transition to the market economy.

As for articles on the tourism of Uzbekistan, Evcin, in his article [2018], assessed Turkey's touristic promotion and propaganda activities in Uzbekistan. Indeed, tourism promotion and propaganda activities are significant for improving, diversifying, and increasing tourism activities, to introduce Turkey's historical and natural beauties on a world-wide basis, to create a positive country image for tourists, and to increase opportunities for tourists to travel to Turkey. As indicated in this article, the tourism relationship between Turkey and Uzbekistan has experienced a rapid development, and tourism became an effective element in strengthening the historical, cultural, political, and economic ties between the two countries.

Furthermore, a great number of graduate theses are devoted to the study of the economics of Uzbekistan. Mirzayev, in his PhD thesis [2016], studied foreign direct investment policies and legal instruments, comparing Turkey and Uzbekistan. Moreover, Boz, in her master's thesis [2017], conducted a multivariate statistical analysis of the socioeconomic structure and development potential of the Republics of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. Besides, Kurt [2019] studied the effects of Uzbekistan's policies during the transition period on the macro-economic performance.

Concerning business administration, Nurmakhmatuly, in his PhD

thesis [2009], conduct a cross-cultural comparative study of the attitudes towards business ethics and individualism of managers from public and private sectors in six countries: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Turkey. Usmanova [2016] studied the differences in work ethic and personality between Soviet and independence generations in Uzbekistan during the transition period.

Many works, especially dissertations, are devoted to the study of Uzbekistan.

5.4. Studies on the Economy, Business Administration, Finance, and Tourism of Turkmenistan

The Economic Atlas of Turkmenistan, prepared by Elibüyük and Altıbayev [2002], gives a comprehensive review on the given topic.

There are several articles regarding the economy of Turkmenistan. Gökçe, in his article [2018], elaborated the commercial relations between the Russians and Turkmens on the Caspian Sea in the 18th–19th centuries. Besides, Kayalı, in her article [2018], studied the Turkey-Turkmenistan trade relations in the years of 1992–2014. Keskin Köylü, in her article [2018], evaluated the trade relations and financial cooperation between Turkey and Turkmenistan. Besides, Dineri and Bazarova [2015] focused on the relationship between energy consumption and economic growth in Turkmenistan's economy.

There are quite many dissertations studying the topics concerning the economy of Turkmenistan; nevertheless, at the same time, most of the graduate students are from Turkmenistan. Jumashova [2016] studied the competition power of Turkmenistan's economics by using the revealed comparative advantages method. Begenjov [2018] conducted research on the energy policy of Turkmenistan. Gylychdurdyev [2019] researched the effects of foreign direct investments on the economies of developing countries in the case of Turkmenistan.

In the business administration sector, Tagayev, in his master's thesis [2010], studied the issue of the selection of distribution channels in international marketing, citing the case of Turkish enterprises operating in Turkmenistan.

Although the books and articles are not as many as those on the other republics, perhaps due to the lack of sources, many studies have been conducted regarding the economy, business administration, finance, and tourism of Turkmenistan.

6. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In conclusion, Central Asia—as a region and the people—is one of the branches that have been attiring attention in Turkey for centuries. The Turks of Turkistan had been in the agenda of the Ottoman sultans. After the establishment of modern Turkey, Central Asia, or Turkistan, became a focus of systematic and academic studies. After the dissolution of the USSR, and with the independence of Central Asian Turkic republics, the interest in this area has risen. Special attention and interest in the mentioned region and its people have almost always been and still are very vivid and actual. For instance, the studies on the Turkic world are much greater than those on other foreign countries. Common historical, ethnic, and religious ties made the bilateral relations even stronger, but academic, socio-political, and economic motives for Central Asia have accelerated new studies. Except for the common past and roots, the stable and tolerant relations with present Central Asian countries have also a considerable impact. Central Asia's potential is also a reason for the fresh studies.

Many new studies have been conducted in Turkey on Central Asia since the new millennium. In this article, main studies on the spheres of language and literature, history and archaeology, international relations and political science, economy, business administration, finance, and tourism of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan are reviewed separately. Books, articles, and PhD and master's theses are examined and introduced in their turn.

It has come out that the works conducted in Turkey on Central Asia count as much as thousands. A bibliographic review of the whole works would compose several volumes of books. Because of the limitations of the article, selected works are mentioned.

While analyzing the works, it can be concluded that the field of language and literature is the most searched one. The most numerous and voluminous works have been published in this area. History discipline is also very popular, as a great number of books and articles prove. In the area of international relations, published books and articles may be less than in the others, relatively; nevertheless, this field has many dissertations. It can be also stated that the spheres of economy, business administration, and tourism also attract great attention; especially it can be observed in dissertations.

While analyzing the research trends of Central Asian studies in Turkey, it can be noticed that the studies have increased in the last 20 years compared to the first decade after 1991. There are several reasons for this process. Universities, with their departments and faculty members, and

academic institutions have increased notably in Turkey. In addition to academicians, graduate and doctoral students have increased every year. While academicians of Turkey could conduct their research on the Central Asian region from distance during the Soviet period, after the independence they can stay in the region and conduct field research. Young researchers grow up as experts of the region, and produce academic works.

Furthermore, as can be observed in the bibliography, many authors are from Central Asia. There are several reasons for this. A great number of students have come to Turkey for undergraduate and postgraduate studies since 1992. They get scholarships from the Turkish government. While they were students from the Central Asian region in the 1990s, they grew up as experts since the 2000s. Besides, Turkey has become a popular education destination in recent years; therefore, many students from the Turkic Republics choose Turkey and study there by paying fees. In addition, Turkey is a co-founder of Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University in Kyrgyzstan. Turkish students also choose these universities. Besides, there are governmental research supports by the Turkish government for post-doctoral studies or research projects for Central Asian university faculty members; in this way, joint studies are conducted. All these factors have significantly contributed to Central Asian studies in Turkey. Surely, there has been a constant interest in Central Asia in Turkey for decades. All these factors have brought about the intensive region studies and works.

In sum, an interest in Central Asian Turkic republics has risen in the last 20 years, and it still has great potential for future studies. In addition to the dynamism in the studies, new research trends show that there is a transition from general and informative works towards detailed, in-depth, and specific topics and country specializations, as well as a transition trend from descriptive to analytical works.

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