

The Depiction of Africa in Turkish Geography Textbooks of Turkey During the Period of Transition from Empire to Republic

Mustafa Sagdic¹ and Fatih Aydin²

¹*Yildiz Technical University, College of Education, Department of Social Studies Education, 34210, Istanbul, Turkey*

²*Karabuk University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Geography, 78050, Karabuk, Turkey*

¹Telephone: +90 212 3834864, ¹Fax: +90 212 3834802

E-mail: ¹<msagdic@yildiz.edu.tr>, ²<fatihaydin@karabuk.edu.tr>

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ABSTRACT The aim of this study is to present Africa's perception in the establishment years of Turkish republic through geography textbooks. Geography textbooks written for secondary education institutions were examined by means of a document analysis, which is one of the techniques for qualitative research designs. *Collected data* was examined through *descriptive statistical techniques*. As a result, the findings were interpreted by considering the relevant literature, and some suggestions related with stakeholders were presented. Being acknowledged by the opinions that the perception of Africa was based on during the foundation of the Republic of Turkey will contribute to both, revising textbooks and to geography education.

INTRODUCTION

As the largest second continent in the world, and with 30 million kilometers of rich natural resources and human capacity, Africa has been since the second half of the 21st century, expected to play an active role in the international system and increase its affect on the developments in the international arena (Just MFA 2014). The increasing strategical importance of Africa has significantly increased interest in the continent. It is well known that the relationship between Turkey and Africa has a long-standing background. Infact, it is assumed that this relationship caused a delay in European colonization of Africa to the late XIX and XX centuries (Kavas 2001).

After Algeria, the Ottomans conquered Tunisia and Tripolitania in the XVI century, and they were governed initially as joint then separate provinces from Istanbul (Uzuncarsili 1982). After the French occupation of Algeria in 1830 and Tunisia in 1881 and British occupation of Egypt in 1882, Tripolitania became the only Ottoman province left in Africa prior to World War I. Tripolitania was the Ottoman Empire's main war zone in North Africa during World War I. Especially the Sennusi tribe put forward a crucial battle against the occupying powers (Unalp 2010). However, due to the Balkan Wars, on October 15th, 1912 the Ottoman Empire, with Italy, had to sign the Treaty of Ouchy and withdraw

from Tripolitania. As a result, the Ottoman Empire gave up on its last piece of land in Africa.

It is a fact that the idea of Muslim brotherhood and Caliphate that Abdulhamit II constantly emphasized resisted Western imperialism during 1877-1878 throughout the Islamic geography. For example, the Tunisians were offered intimate assistance during the Serbian and Bulgarian uprisings in the Balkans. When Russia declared war against the Ottoman Empire in 1877, Tunisians displayed great effort. It is well known that in 1877, Abdulhamit II sent a letter to the Sultan of Morocco written by him. Sultan Abdulhamit II period focused on extending the Ottoman domination throughout African inland (Hulagu 1994).

While the Ottoman Empire collaborated with Germans due its concern about maintaining its existence during World War I, Germans wanted to consider Panislamism due to their own imperial interests. Therefore, Cihad-i Ekber (Great War) was declared, uproars were raised in the provinces of Allies where Muslims lived and damages were caused in these countries. This inevitably was going to cause the Allies to increase their military force in the colonies, increase the number of battlefronts and confuse them whether to send Muslim soldiers against the Ottoman soldiers (Stoddard 2003). This declaration that Germany pinned great hope on did not satisfy the expected effect. However, it played a role in generating the idea of independence during the struggle against imperial powers (Unalp 2010).

The relationship between the republic of Turkey and Africa has long remained limited to North Africa. For long years, no active relationships were established with the countries in Southern Sahara. Yet, 48 of the 53 countries in Africa are located in the area called sub-Sahara. Relationships with northern Africa remained at a rather limited level during the Republic period. Due to English provocations, the Arabs fought against the Ottomans during World War I and because of the western-oriented policies of the republican revolution, Turkey paid attention to remaining distant from Arabs following the republican period. This negatively affected their relationships with African countries. During 1950s, when Turkey took sides with the western block against the Soviet expansionist policies, it became more and more distant from eastern countries (Alkanli 2011). Because Turkey took sides with the western block and remained indifferent to eastern and third world countries, and Africa remained among the non-aligned countries, a healthy diplomacy between Turkey and Africa became difficult to achieve. During the American embargo posed on Turkey following the 1974 Cyprus Peace Operation, Turkey experienced the disadvantages of being western-oriented from a single change in foreign policies.

The *African Initiative Action Plan* in 1998, declaration in 2005 as *African Year* in Turkey, summit meetings and treaties on collaboration can be regarded as a new period for relationships with Africa (Bilgesam 2011). The African initiative is an important indication of Turkey's recent multilateral foreign policy. The trade volume with African countries levelled up to USD 9 billion in 2005, USD 15.8 billion in 2009 and USD 23.4 billion in 2013 (TUIK 2014). Foreign trades with Africa are expected to be at a minimum of USD 150 billion in 2023. A leading foreign trade network with the sub-Saharan area is targeted. With this respect Turkey is putting an effort to increase the number of embassy and representative offices in sub-Saharan Africa. Turkish policy in Africa has two dimensions, first one is promoted by the official representation of the State, and the second is performed mainly by the civil sector of the Turkish society (Rudincová 2014).

In Turkey, alongside the sympathy for Africa due to anti-colonialism, there is also an Afropessimist perception, which sees Africa as an unknown, dark, and corrupted war area. This perception defines Africa as a poor, insignificant,

guilty, illiterate, underdeveloped, ill, desperate, and ridiculous area (Aydin and Sagdic 2013). A striking point of this perception is that it tends to regard the whole continent as a single, homogenous country (Aybar 2005).

Textbooks are one of the crucial elements of the past and present educational process. Despite multimedia computers, distance education programs and many other innovative technological developments, the role of textbooks has maintained its efficacy (Alves et al. 2013). In today's world where information has been generating very rapid, textbooks have gained a new role in teaching required concepts, information and skills and carrying out teaching plans. One of the primary aims of geography education is to provide insight to the reality that in the present world cycle nations are in need of each other and are obliged to collaborate. Therefore, geography textbooks tend to reflect the culture of the society they exist in (Graves and Murphy 2000).

The value of textbooks as resources for academic research has increased (Copeaux 2006; Randolph Robinson 1985). Textbooks were one of the key instruments of the revolutions to create a nation-state and the educational policy that emerged from these revolutions during the establishment years of the Republic of Turkey. Hence, these textbooks, which were prepared under the Board of Education in accordance with Atatürk's principles and reforms, are one of the main resources that reflect common dispositions of the government. The statements of modernity were recreated in these books in a simple, didactic form with the information and values framed around Turkey's nation-state understanding (Dogan 2011). In this study, which opinion structures the African perception was based on during the establishment years of the Republic of Turkey were determined through geography textbooks.

The chapter *Africa and Ocenia* from the book *Bes Kita Cografyasi* by Faik Sabri Duran prepared in 1930 for highschool year 2 term 1 and teaching school year 3 students, and the book *Buyuk Devletlerve Komsu Hukumetler* which *Behcet Gucer* and *Faik Sabri Duran* wrote together in 1933 for high school year 2 students and was published from the Government Printing Office were analyzed using the document review method and the data was evaluated according to the content analysis method.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study was based on a content analysis of the data, which was collected through the document review method. Thus, it is a qualitative design research. The document review method is used in obtaining the resources for the study goals and in determining the data (Cepni 2007). It includes an analysis of written and published documents relating to the research subject (Yildirim and Simsek 2006). With this respect, the chapter *Africa and Oceania* from the book *Bes Kita Cografyasi* by Faik Sabri Duran prepared in 1930 for highschool year 2 term 1 and teaching school year 3 students, and the book *Buyuk Devletler ve Komsu Hukumetler* which Behcet Gucer and Faik Sabri Duran wrote together in 1933 for highschool year 2 students and was published from the Government Printing Office, were analyzed. Hence, these textbooks, which were prepared under the Board of Education in accordance with Ataturk's principles and reforms, are key resources that reflect common dispositions of the government at the time. In this study, there was an intention to reflect the perception of Africa during the establishment period of the Republic of Turkey. As educational policies were the most important actor in the country, in order to determine the new state of the Republic of Turkey's political opinions on this issue, it is crucial to analyze educational policies, which are being carried out and the textbooks are one of the key instruments of these policies.

In the qualitative research model, direct observation and, under conditions where interviews are not possible, written and visual materials and instruments related to the study subject can be included in the research. The document review method is actually an inevitable data collection technique for almost all studies. Therefore, document review or document analysis can by itself be a research method. Moreover, the study subject does not allow for other qualitative research methods such as interviews or observations due to timing. Document review has some disadvantages. According to Bailey (1982) these are, possible bias, being chosen, deficiency, attainability, sample partiality, restricted verbal behavior, lack of a standard format and coding difficulty. The possible different approaches of authors in preparing textbooks during the foundation years were under the inspection of the Board of Education, and the textbooks also reflected the com-

mon ideological dispositions of the government. Textbooks were inspected especially in terms of conforming to Ataturk's principles and reforms. One of the leading names in preparing geography textbooks at that time, Faik Sabri Duran's works were examined.

The document review was conducted in five stages:

- (1) Obtaining the documents,
- (2) Examining their authenticity,
- (3) Understanding the documents,
- (4) Analyzing the data,
- (5) Using the data (Forster 1995).

For the first stage, geography textbooks of the period were examined and the sections related to Africa were sorted out. Answers for the following questions were sought.

- (1) With which categorical features was Africa defined in the geography textbooks of the foundation years of the Republic of Turkey?
- (2) Which basic tendencies does the African perception of the Republic of Turkey contain?

Textbook subjects in question were compared with each other and an in-depth analysis was conducted according to the basic research subjects of geography and grouped under 5 categories. Both researchers confirmed these sub-categories.

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

The five sub-categories gathered from the textbooks were: Africa as a colony, Africa with distinctive natural features, Africa who is struggling for freedom, Africa whose primary source of living is agriculture, and Africa with a distinctive social-cultural diversity.

Africa as a Colony

During the establishment of the Republic of Turkey, almost the whole Africa continent was colonized by European countries, especially France and England. The political, economical, military and social conditions of these countries directly affected Africa's direction. The book *Buyuk Devletler and Komsu Hukumetler* (1933) written by Behcet (Gucer) and Faik Sabri (Duran) contains key analyses regarding the period. For England, it is stated:

"After setting up peace, England, who gained victory from World War I, couldn't escape the

financial and social depression which expanded all around the world. This depression, which increased unemployment in the large industry, caused major unprecedented budget gaps and decreased export increase and monetary value, led to concussions throughout various places of the Empire. Just like a boat escaping a tornado, England is now striving to regain its stability. Similar with the other countries afflicted by the same catastrophe, England also requires reforms in administrative, social and financial organization and establishment. Committee members from various parts of the Empire gathered in London to find solutions and take measures. These meetings had positive and negative outcomes. If England, which is long been known for anticipating the future and taking convenient measures, succeeds in circulating this advancement and development milestone, then it will justify deserving the fame".

Similar analyses were conducted for France and emphasis was made on the distinct national characteristics brought by these countries throughout history, "*France, which gained victory from World War I and reclaimed Alsace-Lorraine, has gained a crucial position in being involved in international finance and political issues among great powers. France owes its prosperity to the hardworking, patriotic, altruist no matter what, rather prudent community, which constitutes the villagers with small properties and who have resided in the land and became local. France, which has beneficiary natural wealth and which couldn't escape the financial depression of World War I despite the efforts put forward to increase the value of France in 1927, entered a great battle against the crisis thanks to the prudent villagers, cautious and considerate merchants, enterprising artists who know how to create new and pleasant models and well-established organizations.*" Due to the global depression, countries like England and France became dependant on their colonies and sought for ways to exploit them to the utmost level.

Among the sovereign countries in Africa during the establishment of the Republic of Turkey were, Egypt, Ethiopia and the Republic of Liberia. Almost two-thirds of Africa was a colony of France and England. France's colony in Africa comprised 11 million km² and had 36 million citizens. England's colony in Africa was 10 million km² and had 50 million citizens. The relationship between France and Africa began in the

14th century when merchants from Dieppe built small trade harbors on the Guinea coasts. Norman sailors entered into relations with Senegal in the 15th century. From 1750 to 1815 France lost all its colonies, in 1783 Senegal was its only colony. From 1815 until today, Algeria, Tunisia, West Africa, Equatorial Africa, France has occupied Madagascar and Morocco, respectively. Togo and Cameroon, which were German colonies before World War I, were left to France. Other areas in Morocco apart from the Rif zone, which were under Spanish rule, are under France's rule. Cibuti, which is an important coal yard, was a colony of France. French colonies in Africa, apart from Madagascar and North Africa, were not convenient for European people. South and East Africa were British colonies. Migrations from Europe to South Africa were mostly related to the rich diamond and goldfields. The British, who participated in repressing the Mahdi uproar that took place in East Sudan during Khedive of Egypt Mehmet Ali Pasa's era, did not want to leave Sudan. East Africa was also a British colony. Zanzibar, which was East Africa's most important trading center, was also under the British rule. Besides French and British colonies, there were Italian colonies such as Tripolitania, Benghazi, Eritrea and Somalia. Congo, which was accepted as a personal possession of Belgium's King during the Berlin Conference in 1885, became the colony of Belgium in 1908.

In order to build economical bridges with their colonies, England and France concentrated on constructing railway lines. The British were trying to connect the railway line, which began at Cape and followed north, with the Cairo railway line. Cape-Cairo was one of the longest railway lines. There were also flights from Cairo to London. The French have recently completed the railway in Morocco, which continues from Casablanca to Marrakech. The railway line between Tunisia and Algeria was of great importance. Western Africa railway lines were up to 2,800 meters and they delivered posts between the main colonies. The British have constructed significant railway lines in East Sudan. Agricultural products and underground resources were mostly exploited in colonized countries. In order to enhance agricultural potentials, the French and British constructed dams and laid out large farmyards in places where the climate was convenient. From inconvenient climate zones like West

Sudan, only the products that native people grow were exploited. Harbors were constructed despite adverse natural conditions and this facilitated the transportation of these products and underground resources to Europe. Regular mail boats transported passengers between European harbors that were close to Africa. These attempts were expected to increase the amount of French and British crops.

Africa with its Distinctive Natural Features

Natural environment features were discussed under these titles, border and area, shape and faults of the base, climate and botanical-animal life, rivers, lakes and coasts. In textbooks, the distinct natural features of Africa were discussed with a pragmatic approach and human life, which is shaped according to the natural environment, was emphasized.

Africa is a large and an old highland. It is the most enclaved continent. Thus, it is regarded as one of the latest and the most difficult known continents. African landforms were discussed and described according to their significant features. Its main geological and geomorphological properties were described. It is stated that the pebble stone plateau that Arabs call *hamada* and Barbary's call *tasili*, and the sand desert that Arabs call *erk* and Barbary's call *igidi*, are the Sahara's main morphological features. It is expressed that East Africa is a highland and is split into two by an East African Rift and that the eastern cavity is a piece of another 5,000 kms long cavity which stretches out to the Dead Sea. There are no other fault cavities on earth, which is this long and this explicit. It is also stated that Mount Kilimanjaro (6010 meters), the peak of Africa, is an extinct volcano and that the Kiyonga Volcano is still active. It is asserted that Madagascar separated from Africa and India, and its paleogeographical features are described. It is evident that the European geographical explorations are still continuing and there is a change in their opinions regarding the natural environment.

It is said that, "*it was once considered that the Sahara was a flat lowland. Infact it claimed that the Sahara is the dry, sandy remnant at the bottom of an old, dry sea. Travellers have spotted lowlands and hills at some points, and highlands and mountains at other places*". Rivers in Africa are discussed according to their two main features. First is their *convenience for cruising,*

and second is with respect to *irrigation of cultivated areas*. Because the transport system has not developed well enough, rivers are crucial especially in reaching out for the natural wonders in the inner parts of the continent.

It is underlined that river floods also have an important economic value. There is a focus on the agriculture that was shaped due to the floods of the Nile since ancient history.

"The Nile River overflows every year at certain times. The floods are generally advantageous. The river slowly rises and floods the surrounding land, and after some time together with the ebb, cultivation can be done easily between the fertile muds. Although the time and amount of the flood varies each year, the locals anticipate the flood coming and wait impatiently. The flood usually begins in June, increases in July and reaches maximum capacity in September. June 20 has long been accepted as the beginning of the Nile flood. Its original color blue turns to green, then red, then green again. Villagers get worried when the flood is inadequate. But when the flood is too excessive, then a disaster is inevitable. A land beside the river is used as a meadow, cropland and a lake for fishing, respectively. Of course the number of lakes are high as well. These lakes regulate the river flow. They gather the excess water during the floods. They protect the river level during the dry spell. Thus, floods come and pass with no advantages."

It is also emphasized that rivers, which flow rapidly do not have much economical value. As a matter of fact, rivers in Africa were not being used for generating electricity at that time.

"When the water level of Orange River decreases, boats cannot enter due to the river banks at the mouth of the river. It flows very rapid at flooding times. Thus, it is stated that Orange River is a river of no use."

It was expressed that people who live near the riverbank experience natural disasters from time to time,

"Rivers at the south of Tunisia can flow into seas every 8-10 years. They all end at a swamp called sepha. They form a layer of salt once they dry in summer. Travellers, who are unaware of what happens during the dry seasons, do not know that they are in a riverbed as they pass the dales. A lake can appear after a sudden downpour. But this doesn't last for long. Caravans that try to pass these temporary lake areas

called chott, sometimes come across sudden storms and downpours, which ruin them."

By constructing dams over various rivers, such as the Aswan Dam over the Nile, Africa is aiming at controlling floodings and increasing irrigation opportunities.

"Rivers of Algeria have a flowing regime. Inconvenient for cruising. The water supplies are insufficient for irrigation. Dams are able to collect the excessive water during the flowing periods."

Dry riverbeds serve as pathways throughout the desert and the caravans make use of the fountains that leak from both sides of the valley. The metaphors used for describing the direction of the rivers are appropriate in toning up the meanings. Hyperboles are included in order to gather attention. Significant comparisons were made,

"Victoria Falls on the Zambezi river are among the greatest landscapes, the Nijer river turns its back to the sea, forms a huge and unnecessary circle and falls back into the sea, the Greeks named the Nile delta as 'delta' because it looks like the letter in the alphabet. This made it popular in geography. After the Nile falls into Nuba in East Sudan it continues for 2700 km, no other river reach on the world is included in the Nile."

The climate is described with regards to the European lifestyle and is occasionally compared with the European countries. Places convenient for European people were mentioned separately. This shows that Europe was influential in preparing geography textbooks. Africa's climate and related biogeographical features were discussed under four dimensions: the equator line, the tropics, desert areas and temperate areas. Local climate differences and microclimate areas were defined. Significant comparisons were made when climatic characteristics of countries were being discussed. For example, that the climate of Zambezi Highland is similar to Sudan's, that Kalahari is not as droughty as the Sahara, that Tunisia is more convenient for rain than Algeria, that Voynadega's climate is similar to the climate of Naples, that Cameroon is the most rainy area after the Assam area in India. Climate conditions and human life were described with convenient examples. While mentioning *Egypt's climate the wind, which blows from the desert and makes people aggressive is called Hamsin*, when mentioning about seasonal wind at the Indian Ocean,

seasonal winds play a crucial role in East Africa sea trade, are examples. The African plant species are described according to their prominent features. Flora and rain maps were evaluated by being compared with each other.

In addition, zoogeography was abundantly included in Turkish geography textbooks. The animal kingdom was described with an environmentalist understanding by using personifications. It is stated that, *African elephants are not like Asian elephants and cannot get accustomed to people, that if elephants are continued to be hunted for their teeth they will face extinction*. Possible negative outcomes that excessive hunting can cause in the continent were emphasized. For example, some Europeans come from their countries in order to hunt hippopotamus. The scared and calm giraffes that are only seen in Africa, a wild ass called zert who wander in flocks, antelopes which have various species, aurochs which have giant horns and humps and many other animals are described in detail. The tsetse fly, which is the enemy of all these animals, was referred to as well.

The expanded unfavourable geographical characteristics of African coasts are described as well:

In short, African coasts are not that welcoming. Some parts are deserts, some parts are too rainy. The strong waves at some points prevent boats from approaching the dock. The east coast is filled with coral reefs. While African coasts are rather closed to external intercourses, they also prevent locals from reaching out to the sea. That's why we come across sailor tribes only at the Zanzibar area, close to the Gulf of Guinea and the Indian Ocean. The harbors along the Mediterranean are believed to be artificial. It is stated that waves swash very dreadfully in front of the low sandbars at the coasts of the Gulf of Guinea and prevent boats from approaching the coast.

Africa which is Struggling for Freedom

Along with colonialism, Africa's struggle for freedom is also included in the textbooks. *During World War I, England cut Turkey's geographical connection with Egypt and declared it a British colony. However, due to the great uproars since 1919 up to today, England had to recognize Egypt's autonomy in 1922. Controlling the trade routes of Egypt, the issue of minority*

groups and foreigners, East Sudan issue and lack of defense against external attacks are among many issues of the country.

Other countries in North Africa are also being colonized. However, it wasn't easy for the European countries to occupy these places. Most significant struggles were seen in this area. The Sultans of Morocco put forward a great resistance against French and Spanish attacks. In Algeria, which was ruled by Ottoman Bey's, in 1827 there was a fight about a debt and the Bey of Algeria Huseyin hit the French consular with a hand fan, with this excuse, in 1830, France captured Algeria and started to invade the country. However, occupying Algeria entirely took years thanks to Emir Abdulkadir's resistance and who also struggled for the sake of his country and nation. There were significant struggles in Tunisia and Libya as well.

The Bushmen, who live in South Africa, are an active and stiff tribe who are keen on their independence. They rejected British possession and left the Cape zone to settle in the interior areas. Due to the discovery of diamond and gold fields in the area, they had to fight the British and eventually accept their sovereignty. The Republic of Libya was constituted as an American colonized community in 1822. The capital city Monrovia received its name with reference to the former American president Monroe. It is stated that white people could not be appointed to any public positions or receive Liberian citizenship.

Africa whose Primary Source of Living is Agriculture

Africa's primary source of living was agriculture and stockbreeding during the establishment years of the Republic of Turkey. Agricultural production, which is identified according to climatic conditions, gained a commercial dimension with the modern techniques that Europeans carried out. At that time, there were favourable results throughout the continent from the trial productions of products with high value. The most valuable lands had been turned into European farms due to colony policies. The locals had to leave these valuable lands when Europeans arrived in the area. Agricultural products are divergent throughout the continent due to climatic differences. Cereal products are grown mostly in North Africa. Barley, which is tolerant to drought, and

a kind of wheat that locals call *kuskus* are commonly cultivated. A kind of clover called *alfa grassis* used in papermaking is abundant, horses and camels eat their fruits. Egyptian cotton is very valuable due its length and silky touch and is Egypt's primary source of income. Egypt is leading in rice production. It exports a considerable amount of rice to Turkey. Fruits such as grape, olive, dates, orange, fig, apricot, plums, and pears are important as well. Crops gathered from early vegetation, especially in Morocco, are exported to Europe.

Grain that is cultivated in South Africa in the Cape zone does not meet local consumption. There is importation especially from Australia. Grapes, tobacco, tea and sugarcane are cultivated. Products vary in the tropical colony areas. Peanuts, corn, rice and cassava are cultivated in West Africa. The cotton trials in the Niger valley gave favourable results. The cola tree is of considerable value as well. It is stressed that cola strengthens muscles and the heart. Coffee, cocoa, corn, sugar cane and vanilla production are also important. In Kongo, ivory has lost its importance due to excessive hunting and rubber has lost its importance due to competition with India. Cotton, grain, vegetables, tobacco and ginger are important in East Africa. Clove, which is cultivated near Zanzibar, meets almost the whole world's dry clove need.

Stockbreeding is important too in Africa. Angora wool, which is imported from Ankara and merino wool, which is imported from Spain, is harmonized in South Africa. Wool is of great importance in exportation. Half of its wool is exported to England. Ostriches are tamed. Sheep and goats are more common in dry lands such as North Africa. Donkeys and mules are important too. Camels and cattles breed in highlands. People of the Savanna area are half bedouin. Sheep and zebus are bred here. Arabian horses are popular for their beauty and endurance. One other resource of Africa is its underground resources. Gold was first found in South Africa in 1864 and was exported in 1884. The richest vein is in Transvaal. Gold mining is quite troublesome. Diamond was first found in 1868. People who cut diamonds work for three months and are not allowed to go outside during this process. Hard coal exportation has recently increased in South Africa. Mediterranean crops are grown in Cape as well. The Cape zone lost its importance after the Suez Canal was opened. Phosphate in all Atlantic coun-

tries in North Africa and iron, zinc, lead and petroleum in Algeria are of great importance. There are rich salt, potash and manganese beds in Libya. Together with copper, gold and diamond are important in East Africa. Gold and diamond are important in Belgian Congo as well. Uranium was found in this area. It is sent to a factory near Antwerpen in Belgium. Gold, iron, copper, lead and petroleum are drilled in Madagascar.

Fishing is also an important source of income in the coastal areas of Africa. Pearl and mother-of-pearl hunting is common in East Africa. There are many tourists who come to visit Egypt and Algeria. For example, Briska, which is near the Sahara, is a city that attracts many ill people and travellers in winter. The African industry is based primarily on agricultural industry. For example, in North Africa, tanyards, flourmills and macaroni factories were constructed only in the coastal cities. Industries based on leather trade and dairy, have developed in South Africa. Morocco has protected its national arts and crafts such as woollen and silk fabrics, and thick and smooth carpets.

During this period large amounts of agricultural and animal products and quarries were sent to Europe from Africa. Of course the majority of the trade was carried out with England and France. Grain, early fruits and vegetables, wine, lead, phosphate, zinc, petroleum and iron are exported from Algeria. There are regular mail boats between the harbor and Marseille Harbor in France. The city Tanca in Morocco has been under international regime since 1923 and is an important trade center. In 1896 when the Suez Canal opened, the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea were connected. Despite the high amount of toll, the canal is intensely used in order to save money and coal. Although the cape zone lost its importance when the Suez Canal opened, Port Elizabeth and Durban harbor are still busy. Dakar in West Africa is crucial for the boats that sail from Europe to South America. Although many railway lines have been built on the coastal harbors, transportation is still run through caravans. Infact there are even caravans made of humans. Recently, the French have enhanced their trials to travel around the Sahara with rackwheel cars. With the caravans, ostrich feathers, sesame, gum, henna, ivory, rice, dates, and cotton fabrics are carried. Trading in East Africa is under the control of Hindus and Arabs and is conducted mostly between India. Turkey has a rather low trading

volume with the area. But merchandizing between Egypt and Turkey still continues at a rather high rate. Turkey exports tobacco, linen, silk, butter, cheese to Egypt and imports grain, leather and rice.

Africa with a Distinctive Social-cultural Diversity

Geography textbooks that were written during the establishment years of the Republic of Turkey were rich with regards to cultural geography. It can be said that textbooks prepared later on were deficient from this point. When textbooks are analyzed, it is stated that Africa has a population of almost 164 million people. It is emphasized that the population distribution is rather unbalanced. The Nile Valley is considerably crowded. People in Africa refuged in riversides and coasts. Large deserts, dense forests, natives being uncivilized, wars between tribes, slave hunting and the colonial policies of European countries have played a role in the low population rate of Africa.

Half of the African population was Caucasian and the other half was black during those periods. The caucasians consisted of Barbarys of North Africa and Arabs, immigrants of South Asia, Egyptian Fellah, Ethiopians, Nubians and Welsh people. Among the various black groups were Pygmys, Bantus, Hottentots and the Bushmen. Bushmen are regarded as the world's most primitive tribe. *Bushmen are hunter tribes. They have no laws, no leaders and no gods. They can eat tree roots, lizards, ants and whatever they find when they get hungry. They are farmers or shepherds in the savanna, fishermen in swamps and hunters around the forest. These black people do nothing else but pick fruits at places where banana trees grow. These black people who gain their living very easily are slow and lazy. They'll even eat human meat. For them to break this bad custom the only solution is to breed a domestic animal. Because the black populations of the other areas have to gather their food, they cultivate grain and work.* It is also expressed that these black people are primitive people, who only know family and village organization, live in small separate groups and therefore are attacked frequently by bedouin tribes. Accordingly, slave trade has become widespread in this area. Oases are centers for exchange. Many quarrels started in order to gain control of the wells.

The most common religion at that time in Africa was Islam. Islam expanded from the north, east and south all the way up to Congo basin. Bantus are pagan. Christianity is relatively less common in Africa. Ethiopians, Copts of Egypt and South African Boers are Christian. Jews in North Africa have a dispersed settlement.

South Africa is rapidly developing due to Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. 13.5 million people live in Egypt. *Both Corn and Mankind are crops of the Nile. The Nile has shaped humans according to her own desires, joint them to the mud she carried and created a race particular to this area with a certain lifestyle.* The majority of Egypt's population consists of the Fellahs and Copts descending from ancient Egyptians. The Fellahs are Muslim and Copts are Christian. *Fellahs lead a miserable life in simple mudbrick sheds covered with trash, they carry water and ride donkeys in the city, and they sail on the Nile.* Copts work in the industry or become civil servants. Muslims and Christian dress in a similar way. Nubians, Sudanese people, Turks, Arabs, Greeks, Armenians, Jews and many other European people live in Egypt.

6,000,000 people lived in Algeria, 5,400,000 in Morocco, 2,000,000 in Tunisia, 570,000 in Tripolitania, and 234,000 in Benghazi. This amount of population was higher in Egypt and Libya before World War I and lower in the other North African countries. Barbarys and Arabs constitute the majority of the population here. Barbarys that make up the majority of Morocco's population have settled in mountainsides and oases of the Sahara. Arabs cultivate in the lowlands and breed animals at steppes. The Moors, who are Arab and Barbary descents, and Jews are calm. Jews live in separate neighbourhoods and dress differently, and work as merchants or exchangers. Europeans, who are mostly French, live in big cities or the coastal lines.

Morocco is the religious center for Maghreb. There are always fights between tribes due to fountains, meadows, stolen herds, and a cut date tree. The tribes of Morocco did not conform to the Sultan and paid taxes only when they got defeated.

Barbarys constitute most of Algeria. The Arab population is less. However, Arabic is very common. Barbarys are the oldest community of the country. When Arabs occupied the region the

locals refuged on the mountains. There are good roads between the major cities of Algeria. Activities that are organized for cars into the middle of the deserts were much sought after. Some new neighborhoods of Algeria are large like European cities and have wide and neat streets and buildings.

The natives of South Africa are *Hottentots* and *Bushmen*. Blacks from the *Bantus*, *Boers*, British and other European people are the ones that settled in South Africa later on. The *Boers* originated from people who came from the Netherlands in 1652 and the Calvinists who were exiled from France in 1685. Twelve million people live in the colonies of West Africa. The majority of the population of the north of this area consists of Arabs and *Tuaregs*. The rest of the population comprises of black tribes. Sudan is the hometown for black people. Islam expanded throughout this region. There are almost 8 million people in the equator region. *Tuaregs*, *Tibus* and the Arabs called *Evlad-i Suleyman* have settled in this region. The southern region is a black settlement. No matter which race the desert community leads the same lifestyle. They call themselves Arab and speak Arabic. They breed cattles, sheep and goats and live in tents. Six million people live in East Sudan. The locals of this region are black people and Hamis. Madagascar has a population of 3 million people. The natives of Madagascar are grouped into two. The first group is the *Hovas* that came from Malaysia. *Hovas* were civilized tribes who settled in highlands, did farming and bred animals. The black people, who are the ancient natives of the island, live in coastal and swamp areas and lead a miserable life. Sakalavas, who live in the west, are Muslim and have mixed with Arabs.

Africa's political and economical features of the beginning of the previous century can shed light on recent issues. African countries, which are struggling with famine and poverty, are negatively affected by the new multinational incorporation management of colonialism due to the recently discovered petroleum and natural gas reserves. Regional and global powers like the USA, European Union, China, India and Russia have been developing long-term projects on Africa. However, the continued migrations to America and Europe from Africa integration and the issues related to immigrant integration have been discussed (Horst 2013; Delius 2014).

CONCLUSION

Crucial findings were gathered from this study, which aimed at questioning the perception of Africa perception during the establishment years of the Republic of Turkey with the help of textbooks. Africa was defined in the textbooks according to European references during the establishment years of the Republic of Turkey. Africa is a dominion as a whole. It is evident that Turkey has a weak relationship with the continent.

It is evident from the textbooks that Africa's surroundings have been largely discovered. The rivers were discussed with regards to their convenience for cruising and the irrigation of cultivated areas. It is underlined that river floods have an important economic value. Because African rivers were not being used for generating electricity at that time, rivers that flow rapidly had no significant economical value. It was expressed that the floods negatively affected people who lived near the rivers. By constructing dams over various rivers, it is evident that Africa aimed at controlling floods and increasing irrigation opportunities. It was stated that dry riverbeds served as pathways throughout the desert. Climatical conditions were discussed together with flora and distribution of plant species were explained thoroughly. In addition, zoo geography was abundantly included in Turkish geography textbooks. The animal kingdom was described with an environmentalist understanding by using personifications. The unfavourable geographical characteristics of African coasts were described as well.

The 1884-1885 Berlin Conference, which is accepted as the official beginning of colonialism, was a milestone of colonialism wherein European countries shared African lands and which had great, direct influences on their recent political, social and cultural conditions. Western countries separated Africa into 50 irregular (without considering geographical, social and ethnic status) countries. Because of these borders, which were drawn randomly, many small settlements were forced to fall apart and this separateness has led to continuous ethnic wars within the continent. By invading large and strategically important lands, England got hold of gold, diamond, cotton and other valuable products. The French Colonial Empire got hold of coffee, rice, gum, phosphate, manganese and iron ore.

Germany, Portuguese and Belgium got considerable amount of lands.

France and England, who reclaimed the lands of Germany after World War I, acquired almost two-thirds of the continent. The independent republics in Africa were Egypt, Ethiopia and Liberia. Due to the global depression after World War I, countries like England and France became dependent on their colonies and sought for ways to exploit their colonies to the utmost level. In order to build economical bridges with their colonies, England and France concentrated on constructing railway lines. In order to enhance agricultural potentials, the French and British constructed dams and laid out large farmyards in places where the climate was convenient. Harbors were constructed despite adverse natural conditions and this facilitated the transportation of these products and underground resources to Europe. African colonies are ruled by colonial governors that are appointed by England, France or other European countries. There is also a colonial parliament alongside the governor. The governor has the power to call on, suspend or terminate the parliament. Locals of especially North and South Africa put forward great struggles against the European invasions.

Africa's primary source of living was agriculture and stockbreeding during the establishment years of the Republic of Turkey. Agricultural production, which is identified according to climatic conditions, has gained a commercial dimension with the modern techniques that Europeans carried out. There were favourable results from the trial productions throughout the continent on products with high value. The most valuable lands have been turned into European farms due to colony policies. The locals had to leave these valuable lands when Europeans arrived in the area. Agricultural products and animals are divergent throughout the continent due to climatic differences. Underground sources, especially gold and diamond, are of great importance. African industry was based primarily on its agricultural industry. There were tanyards, flourmills and macaroni factories constructed in the coastal cities. The majority of the trade was carried out with England and France.

The cultural geography of Africa was examined carefully in the textbooks. It is stated that Africa has a population of almost 164 million people. It is observed that the population distribution is rather unbalanced. People in Africa ref-

used in riversides and coasts. Large deserts, dense forests, natives being uncivilized, wars between tribes, slave hunting and the colonial policies of European countries have played a role in the low population rate of Africa. Half of the African population was Caucasian and the other half was black during those periods. The most common religion at that time in Africa was Islam. Local beliefs are common among Bantus. Christianity is relatively less common in Africa. Jews in North Africa have a dispersed settlement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Turkey's relations with Africa remained limited to North Africa for many years. However, today a well-developed commerce network, especially sub-Saharan Africa is aimed at. Thus, the number of embassies and representation offices in Sub-Saharan Africa has been increased. The economic aid made to Africa is believed to play a role in reinforcing the relations.

The anti-colonialism movement in Turkey has led to sympathy towards Africa. The radical relationships from history also support the African initiative of today. The tendency to regard Africa as a poor, unimportant and underdeveloped continent has been a drawback for these relationships. In addition, the tendency to recognize Africa as a single, homogeneous country has limited these relationships. However, the heterogeneous nature of Africa and its many different characteristics have been researched, especially by *African Studies Centers* in the United States.

One of the primary goals of the geography course is to acknowledge nations that they are dependent on each other and that they have to collaborate. However, Africa is not included sufficiently in today's Turkey's geography textbooks. It is crucial for textbooks to be revised according to the new socio-politic and socio-economic affairs. Being acknowledged by the opinions that the perception of Africa was based on during the foundation of the Republic of Turkey can contribute to both, revising textbooks and to geography education.

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