

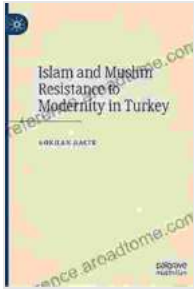
# Islam and Muslim Resistance to Modernity in Turkey: Unraveling the Complexities of a Nation in Transformation



Turkey, a country straddling the crossroads of East and West, has long been a site of cultural and religious convergence. With a predominantly Muslim population, the country has grappled with the challenges of modernity and its impact on traditional Islamic values. In the book "Islam and Muslim Resistance to Modernity in Turkey," renowned scholar Dr. Aslıhan Gürbüzer delves into the complexities of this struggle, providing a comprehensive analysis of the historical and contemporary dynamics shaping Turkey's religious and political landscape.

**Islam and Muslim Resistance to Modernity in Turkey**

by Gokhan Bacik



★★★★★ 5 out of 5  
Language : English  
File size : 778 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 298 pages



## Historical Foundations of Resistance

- **Ottoman Era:** The Ottoman Empire, which ruled Turkey for centuries, maintained a delicate balance between Islamic law and secular governance. However, towards the end of the Ottoman era, the empire faced increasing pressure from Western powers, leading to a sense of vulnerability and a desire to protect Islamic traditions.
- **Tanzimat Reforms:** In the 19th century, the Ottoman Empire embarked on a series of reforms known as the Tanzimat, aimed at modernizing the country. These reforms, while well-intentioned, were perceived by some as a threat to Islamic values, fostering a sense of resistance among conservative Muslims.

## Kemalist Secularism and Its Impact



Kemalist secularism had a profound impact on Turkey's religious landscape.

With the establishment of the Turkish Republic in 1923 under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the country embarked on a radical secularization project. Atatürk's reforms aimed to create a modern, Western-oriented nation, and included measures such as the separation of religion and state, the abolition of the caliphate, and the of a secular education system.

Initially met with resistance, Kemalist secularism gradually became the dominant ideology in Turkey. However, it also created a sense of alienation among some Muslims, who felt that their religious identity was under threat.

## Contemporary Manifestations of Resistance

- **Political Islam:** In recent decades, there has been a resurgence of political Islam in Turkey. Islamic parties such as the Justice and Development Party (AKP) have gained political power and have sought to incorporate Islamic values into the country's governance.
- **Hijab Controversy:** The issue of women wearing the hijab, or Islamic headscarf, has been a contentious issue in Turkey. While some see it as a symbol of religious freedom, others view it as a challenge to secularism.
- **Religious Education:** The Turkish government has been criticized for its efforts to control religious education, with critics arguing that it is stifling the teaching of moderate Islam.

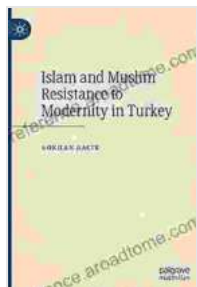
## Challenges and Prospects

The resistance to modernity in Turkey continues to shape the country's social and political landscape. While there is a growing desire among some segments of society to embrace a more conservative Islamic identity, there is also a strong commitment to secularism and the principles of the republic.

The challenge facing Turkey is to find a way to reconcile these opposing forces and forge a path forward that respects both the nation's Islamic heritage and its modern aspirations.

"Islam and Muslim Resistance to Modernity in Turkey" is a timely and thought-provoking book that sheds light on one of the most complex and fascinating chapters in Turkish history. Dr. Aslıhan Gürbüzler's thorough

research and nuanced analysis provide invaluable insights into the historical, social, and political factors that have shaped Turkey's religious landscape and continue to inform its present and future.

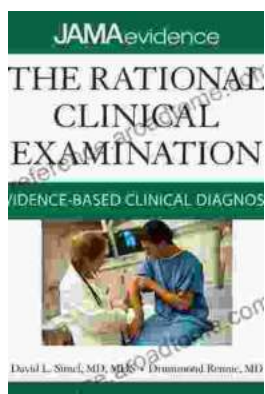


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