

## MUNICIPALITÉS KURDES EN TURQUIE (1999-2013)

Une étude de cas de la municipalité de Sur

Serkan Yarali

The Master Thesis presented as the result of two year study by Serkan Yrali confirms a very substantial development and change in the project, which I had an opportunity to follow. As Serkan Yarali has been studying during one semester in Prague, we have discussed his approach during the seminars and workshops. The problem we have seen in the project was first the abundance of theories which were making it very difficult to arrive to the main research question, second very expanded introduction on who are the Kurds and what we should know before we approach to the topic, and last not least, the missing embedding of the Kurdish movement into the concept of nation-building (in terms of cultural/ethnic nation, not necessarily nation-state). We did not find a way to explain to Serkan that the Kurdish movement represented by activists, by Kurdish political elite, bears standard qualities of nation-building movements in their first and second stage of development, where the political emancipation was usually presented through the demands like control of municipality. We have suggested Serkan that it is worth of considering what type of collective identities are being constructed. We still have feeling that in this point we are not able to arrive to mutual understanding, although we have been using the same language during the discussion.

From this perspective I see a considerable progress in the thesis represented by a very sensible restriction to the focus on the case of the Sur municipality, which helped to present more coherent discussion of the main topic. I appreciate also the combination of the analysis of interviews with the support of official statistical data. We have always thought that most interesting and revealing in his work are the case studies, and even in this thesis it would have been more interesting, if he gave more space to the empirical study, than to his introductory parts.

From the narrative we see that the author is very much involved with the topic. The text is written with care in respect to the language and to the format of notes, bibliography, annexes. The author has mastered the tools of the academic writing.

I propose the thesis of Serkan Yarali for the successful defence, and I grade it „very good“.

Prof. Lud'a Klusáková