

The main topics in this thesis were Turkish history, with the focus on Islamist political parties. Furthermore the Turkish migration to the Netherlands and the organizations established by Turks in the Netherlands were discussed.

I wanted to show that we can regard the Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi (AKP) as an Islamist party. The AKP, which was established in 2001, won the last elections in Turkey with nearly 35%. They have been the ruling party since 2002. Erdoğan, its prime minister, had been in jail for spreading Islamist ideas. He served as mayor in Istanbul where he had drastic ideas such as separate school busses for boys and girls and a total ban on alcohol. On several occasions later he dissociated himself from those ideas, but I was able to find many proofs and signs that this is more a strategic change than a sincere change of ideology.

I wanted to give evidence that the Turkish people in the Netherlands are badly integrated; through use of statistics this was proved. They have, compared to Dutch people, worse education and lower paid jobs. They are not socially integrated with Dutch people; they still marry very frequently within their own group. This poor integration makes the Turks more likely to be radical in professing their religion, give more importance to their language and own cultural groups as it is their only connection to society. The Turks have founded many organizations and a large part of them are religious based.

I wanted to prove that the Turkish (Islamist) political parties want to gain and keep influence over the Turkish people in the Netherlands. The government does this by means of the Diyanet, the ministry of religious affairs. The Diyanet has one big rival, the Milli Görüş. Milli Görüş is the biggest movement in the Netherlands which mixes religion and social work. As I have shown the Turkish government and Islamic political parties are meddling for example in the educational system in the Netherlands, Milli Görüş affairs and the building of mosques.

I wanted to prove that they are doing so in order to keep the Turkish community close to their mother country. The Islamists use even the Dutch Turks for their own purposes. I think it is clear that the Islamist parties in Turkey, whether the Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi (as the progressive wing) or the Saadet Partisi (as the conservative wing) are trying to influence their citizens abroad. Possible they need the money they have or the votes for the elections in Turkey. For the Turkish government it is also important to have a lobby group. I have shown that the Milli Görüş is representing the Turks; they perform as spokesmen for the Turkish community often at the national level. The most recent development is the building of an enormous Milli Görüş mosque complex in the centre of Amsterdam. This construction recently has been called off by the Dutch government out of fear of radical Turkish influence.

To conclude, I could not find direct proofs that the Milli Görüş is serving as a puppet for the Turkish Islamists. However, the direct indirect indications which I was able to find led me to believe that the spiritual and practical connection exists. The Milli Gorus in the Netherland seems to work for itself and the Muslims living there.

The Milli Görüş in the Netherlands speaks openly about integration, projects they work on with the government. On the other hand they still have ties with the more radical faction in Germany and the Islamist Parties in Turkey, who do not support integration. The Milli Görüş attracts a lot of young Turkish second of third generation. They have troubles finding their identity and hope to find some comfort in Islam. Even more than their parents' generation they trust on religion and fall back on heir roots.

I think it is well possible that the Dutch Milli Görüş starts to have an Islamic based political party. This party would be linked with other Muslims, not only the most obvious Turkish Muslims. The Milli Görüş feels attracted to Islamic ideas and has strong, well educated leaders. Because so many badly integrated Muslims live in the Netherlands the Milli Görüş has a good chance to organize itself and obtain a powerful position in the Dutch society.