



## Book Review

Political Studies Review

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**The Making of Neoliberal Turkey** by **Cenk Ozbay, Maral Erol, Aysecan Terzioglu, Z Umut Turem (eds)**. London: Ashgate, 2016. 244pp., £74.10 (h/b), ISBN 9781472473851

*The Making of Neoliberal Turkey* focuses on the various aspects of neoliberalisation in Turkey since the 1980s. The volume provides an empirically rich source of material for students and readers of Turkish politics and also it offers an alternative reading of the state–society relations with its unique neoliberal governmentalisation approach.

The editors of the volume highlight that, as coined by the French philosopher Michel Foucault, governmentalisation is defined as the process in which the traditional axes of politics are sidelined while new spaces and sites for both governance and resistance emerge (p. 6). They argue that the mainstream and traditional frameworks of power and protest in Turkey fail to understand and explain the social dynamics in that country (p. 2). However, the concept of governmentality is a useful departure point for an analysis that provides a healthier understanding of the role and capacities of the state in Turkish society (p. 3) because while power in neoliberal Turkey has been multiplied and decentralised through the capillaries of everyday life, simultaneously it has been unified under various state apparatuses and local governments (p. 7).

The volume consists of 12 intertwined empirical chapters. The themes and the cases of the chapters cover a variety of concepts from the construction of competitive subjectivities to

migration, from masculinity to health care, and from tobacco markets to biotechnology. The concept of neoliberal governmentality is the connecting point of the chapters. The specificity of the chapters suggests that the book aims to reach mainly academic readers.

It is fair to mention that the book is well edited, well written and empirically satisfying. Both the editors and the contributors succeed in their goal to review the neoliberal transformation of Turkey from the Foucauldian perspective. The volume signifies an important contribution to the literature of both Turkish politics and Foucauldian studies. The arguments that are developed in the book and in its chapters are plausible and convincing.

One minor criticism which could be made is about the book's theoretical background. Although the concept of governmentality provides a useful tool to overview the power relations that are decentralised through everyday life and unified under the state, the book does not satisfyingly cover the peculiar transition from hegemonic to authoritarian neoliberalism under the AKP government in Turkey.

Despite this minor quibble, all in all, *The Making of Neoliberal Turkey* is noteworthy in the application of the Foucauldian concept of governmentality to Turkish politics and it provides empirically rich research for its readers.

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