

## **BULGARİSTAN'DAN TÜRKİYE'YE SON TÜRK GÖÇÜNÜN (1989) SOSYO-EKONOMİK ETKİLERİ**

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### **ÖZET**

Bulgaristan'dan Türkiye'ye olan göçlerin tarihi yaklaşık yüzyıl öncesine dayanmaktadır. Bu araştırmada; 1989 yılında Bulgaristan'dan Türkiye'ye göç eden Türklerin demografik özellikleri, yerleşim bölgeleri, Bulgaristan'dan göç etme nedenleri incelenmiştir. Ayrıca göçün Türkiye'ye ekonomik etkileri ortaya konulmaya çalışılmıştır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** 1989 göçü, Bulgaristan'dan gelen göçmenler, göçmenlerin nüfus yapısı, göçün ekonomik etkileri.

## **THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC OUTCOMES OF THE LAST TURKISH MIGRATION (1989) FROM BULGARIA TO TURKEY**

### **ABSTRACT**

The background of the migrations from Bulgaria to Turkey dates back to approximately 100 years ago. This paper examines the demographical quality of the immigrants from Bulgaria, their residential status, their causes of the migration to Turkey and finally the economic effect of the migration on Turkey.

**Key Words:** Migration of 1989, immigrants from Bulgaria, population structure of immigrants, economic outcomes of migration

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### Introduction

Bulgaria was established in the Tuna district of the Ottoman Empire in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Immediately preceding the foundation of Bulgaria, in 1876, approximately 70% of the fertile arable land belonged to the Turks and almost half of the population was composed of Turks and Muslims. At this period, 1,613,000 Bulgars and 1,801,000 Turks comprised a total population of 3,414,000.<sup>1</sup> Pan-Slavist Russian rulers were disturbed by the fact that more than half of the population was composed of Turks as this was a hindrance before the ideal of the Slavic-Orthodox Bulgaria.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, they used the 1877-1878 Ottoman-Russian War as a means to cleanse the Balkans of Turks.

The 1880 Law of Recruitment of Muslims and 1882 Law of Land Tax are among the reasons that led to the migration of the Turks of the region. It was forbidden by law for the migrating Turks to take away the money gained from the sale of their lands and goods.<sup>3</sup> These were the reasons that caused the first migration of the Turks from what is now Bulgaria. The first sizeable migration from Bulgaria to Turkey took place following the rout of 1877-1878 Ottoman-Russian war.<sup>4</sup> When the war broke out, Christian Bulgars and Russian soldiers used methods of intimidation, such as torture, mass murders, pillaging and rape, against Turks and forced them to migrate to Turkey, which resulted in 279,397 Bulgarian Turks migrating to Turkey between 1878 and 1892 (Table 3). Therefore, while earlier comprising half of the population in Bulgaria, Turks became a minority.<sup>5</sup>

From the day it became independent; Bulgaria made promises to respect the rights and liberties of the Turkish minority and signed a number of treaties to this end. There are almost a dozen of treaties that guarantee the minority rights of Turks in Bulgaria. These are the Treaty of Berlin (1878), İstanbul Protocol and Agreement (1909), Turkey-Bulgaria Peace Treaty (1913), The Convention on the Muftis (1913), Treaty of Neuilly (1919), Turkey-Bulgaria Non-Aggression

<sup>1</sup> Şimşir, Bilal N. 1985. Türk Basınında Bulgaristan Türkleri: Zorla Ad Değiştirme Sorunu, Başbakanlık Basın-Yayın ve Enformasyon Genel Müdürlüğü, Ankara.

<sup>2</sup> Turan, Ömer, 2005. Bulgaristan'dan Türk Göçleri. Balkan Türkoloji Araştırmaları Merkezi BAL-TAM Türklük Bilgisi Dergisi, 2(3):104-123.

<sup>3</sup> Turan, Ömer, 2005., a.g.e., s.110.

<sup>4</sup> Şimşir, Bilal N. 1985, a.g.e., s.87.

<sup>5</sup> Toğrol, Beğlan 1989. 112 Yıllık Göç (1878 - 1989) 1989 yazındaki Üç Aylık Göçün Tarihi Perspektif İçinde Psikolojik İncelemesi, Boğaziçi Üniversitesi Matbaası, İstanbul.

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Treaty (1925), Turkey-Bulgaria Convention of Establishment (1925), Bulgarian Peace Treaty (1947), Documents on Human Rights (1945-1973), Turkey-Bulgaria Migration Agreement (1968) and various other European Agreements on Human Rights.<sup>6</sup> Nevertheless, Bulgarian authorities continuously violated the terms of these agreements and treaties. The forced migration of the Turks in Bulgaria soon became the standard state-policy of the all Bulgarian governments regardless of their ideological and political inclinations.<sup>7</sup>

Established in Bulgaria in 1944 following the intervention of the Red Army, the Communist regime followed a well-planned policy so as to efface the deep-rooted national and religious values of Turks and included the Turkish schools within the state educational system in the 1947-1948 academic year and hence prohibited religious education. In the 1959-1960 academic year, Turkish schools were united with Bulgarian schools and thus have been closed and direct education in Turkish is also prohibited. Following this, religious practices were also banned, mosques were closed and even praying during religious holidays was prohibited. Wearing Turkish clothes was prohibited, Turkish village names, and more importantly, names of persons were changed and speaking in Turkish in official quarters was prohibited.<sup>8</sup> There are numerous examples of mosques being destroyed in this period when all religious activities were banned. All these anti-Islamic practices were carried out primarily due to the fact that Islam was considered to be the most prominent danger before the social integration of the Turks in Bulgaria.<sup>9</sup>

Between 1972-1974, the Pomaks were Bulgarianized by force and names of the individuals were changed. Later in 1984-1985, this time Turks were subjected to the policy of forced name changing. Turkish place names, names of mothers, fathers and even grandparents were changed.<sup>10</sup> Some of those who refuse to obey these policies were killed and some were sent to concentration camps and

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<sup>6</sup> Bilal N. Şimşir, 2003. Berlin Kongresinden 125 Yıl Geçti Bulgaristan'daki Türk Azınlığı. *Balkanlarda Türk Kültürü*, (48):6-11.

<sup>7</sup> Hakov, Cengiz, 2002. *Bulgaristan Türklerinin Göçmenlik Serüveni*. *Türkler, Yeni Türkiye yayınları* (Editörler:Hasan Celal Güzel, Kemal Çiçek, Salim Koca), Ankara

<sup>8</sup> Cebeci, Ahmet, 1970. *Bulgaristan'da Son Gelişmeler ve Türklere Karşı Uygulanan Politika*. *Türk Kültürü*, (89):342-345.

<sup>9</sup> Eminov, A. 2003. *Bulgaristan'daki Türkler*. *Balkanlarda Türk Kültürü Dergisi*, (47):13-15.

<sup>10</sup> Şimşir, Bilal N. 1990a. *The Turkish Minority in Bulgaria:History and Culture, The Turks of Bulgaria:The History, Culture and Political Fate of a Minority* (Edited by Kemal Karpat) The Isis Pres, İstanbul.

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some others were imprisoned.<sup>11</sup> Despite all these coercive practices, Turkish people formed a number of associations and continued to struggle against these assimilative and genocidal policies. Among the Turkish community who are fighting for their freedom and rights, almost 2500 were brutally killed, thousands were imprisoned and still more thousands were sent to various forced labor camps, the most notable of which being the Belene Camp.<sup>12</sup>

The Rights and Liberties Movement (MRF) was established in 1985 with the objective of defending the rights of Turks in Bulgaria and has acted both in Bulgaria and international platforms for an unarmed defense of the rights and liberties of Turks.<sup>13</sup> This organization is presently carrying out its political activities under the name of the Rights and Liberties Party and representing the Turks living in Bulgaria in the parliament with 24 members.

The Bulgarian state, which has managed since 1878 to keep the ratio of the Turkish population under a certain limit through a policy of sending them to Turkey, has the lowest birthrate among other socialist states in the region and starting from the early 1980s, applied a policy of forced Bulgarianization instead of forced migrations. There is a very important thesis concerning, According to a very important thesis on this Bulgarianization of Turks, this practice was indeed applied by the Soviet Union, which tried to use Bulgaria as a pilot project for the assimilation of Turks. If they had been successful, the same methods would have been applied in the Republics of the Soviet Union as well.<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, this practice put Bulgaria in a very difficult position in the international arena and it also failed to receive the expected support of the Soviet Union.

The reasons behind this genocide against Turks is very obvious: Stating that Bulgarian population was seriously in decline and the last Bulgar would die in 124 years, the authorities of the Bulgarian Communist Party started apply policies of intimidation and

<sup>11</sup> Cebeci, A, 1989. Bulgaristan'dan Gelen Soydaşlarımız Uyum Sıkıntısı Çekmektedirler. Türk Yurdu Dergisi,9,28,49-52.

<sup>12</sup> Eminov, A, 1990. There are No Turks in Bulgaria:Rewriting History by Administrative Fiat. The Turks of Bulgaria:The History, Culture and Political Fate of a Minority.(Edited by Kemal Karpat) The Isis Pres, İstanbul.

<sup>13</sup> Tatarlı, İ. 2002. Bulgaristan'daki Türk Varlığı, Uludağ Üniversitesi Balkanlardaki Türk Kültürünün Dünü-Bugünü-Yarını Uluslararası Sempozyumu 26-28 Ekim 2001, Bursa., Eminov, A. 1999. The Turks in Bulgaria:Post-1989 Developments. Journal of Nationalities Papers, 27 (1):31-55., Ağanoğlu, H. Y. 2001 Osmanlı'dan Cumhuriyet'e Balkanlar'ın Makûs Talihi: Göç, Kum Saati yayınları, İstanbul.

<sup>14</sup> Lüttem, Ö. E., 2000. Türk-Bulgar İlişkileri 1983-1989 Cilt:I, Avrasya Stratejik Araştırmalar Merkezi yayınları, Ankara.

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oppression so as to reduce the number of Muslims and Turks.<sup>15</sup> The reason for this was the fact that the Bulgarian population was getting old and decreasing every year whereas Turkish population was increasing at an annual rate of 25‰ (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Birth Rates of the Bulgar, Turkish and Gypsy Populations in Bulgaria (‰)

| Years | Bulgar | Turkish | Gypsy |
|-------|--------|---------|-------|
| 1956  | 8.4    | 25.2    | 25.8  |
| 1965  | 5.5    | 21.7    | 14.3  |
| 1974  | 6.5    | 17.7    | 13.0  |

Source: A. Eminov (1997):93.

As a matter of fact, the annual birthrate of Bulgaria became 3.6‰ in 1981, 2.8‰ in 1981 and 2.4‰ in 1984.<sup>16</sup> These figures show the birthrate of all ethnic groups in Bulgaria combined. On the other hand, in Lovech, Mihailovgrad and Vidin, where the Bulgarian population was dominant, the population was decreasing, while in Blagoevrad, Smolyan and Kardzhali, where Turkish population was dominant, the population was rapidly increasing (Table 2).

**Table 2:** Birth Rate on Some Bulgarian Cities (‰)

| Years | Lovech | Mihailovgrad | Vidin | Blagoevrad | Smolyan | Kardzhali |
|-------|--------|--------------|-------|------------|---------|-----------|
| 1979  | -2.8   | -1.6         | -4.8  | +9.6       | +9.9    | +17.9     |
| 1981  | -3.3   | -3.3         | -6.3  | +9.3       | +7.8    | +15.9     |
| 1984  | -4.6   | -4.9         | -7.2  | +8.3       | +7.7    | +14.0     |

Source: H. Poulton (1991):122.

Fearing that population of the Turkish community would surpass that of Bulgar community towards the end of 2000s, the Communist Party authorities initiated a comprehensive campaign of Bulgarianization in 1984.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Cebeci, A., 1989., a.g.e., s.50.

<sup>16</sup> Poulton, H., 1991. *The Balkans, Minorities and States in Conflict*, Minority Rights Publications, London.

<sup>17</sup> Turan, Ömer, 2005., a.g.e., s.109.

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**Table 3: Migrations from Bulgaria to Turkey**

| Years     | Number of Emigrants |
|-----------|---------------------|
| 1878-1892 | 279,397             |
| 1893-1902 | 70,603              |
| 1912-1920 | 413,922             |
| 1921-1922 | 21,172              |
| 1923-1939 | 198,688             |
| 1940-1949 | 21,353              |
| 1950-1951 | 154,393             |
| 1952-1968 | 24                  |
| 1969-1978 | 113,393             |
| 1979-1988 | 20                  |
| 1989      | 313,894             |
| 1990-1997 | 209,500             |
| Total     | 1,796,359           |

Source: B. Şimşir (1985):51-55, D. Vasileva (1992):346., J. McCarthy (1999):175-177.

According to the secret archives of the Bulgarian Communist Party, it was planned that the population of Turks in Bulgaria was to be decreased by 10-15% in every 10 to 15 years through policies of forced migrations and assimilation.<sup>18</sup> While the birthrate of the Turkish community was increasing in Bulgaria, the birthrate of the Bulgar population was in decline. This was the primary factor why Bulgarian authorities forced the ethnic Turks to migrate to Turkey. It was feared that a steadily increasing Turkish population would change the ethnic composition of Bulgaria.<sup>19</sup>

In June 1985, with the protest meetings and demonstrations organized by Turkish associations in Deliorman and Rodops regions of Bulgaria, resistance against Todor Jivkov policies increased. Nevertheless, at the end of May 1989, when Turkey opened its border gates, allowing 313,894 Turks to come to the country in a relatively very short period of time, the resistance ceased and the policies of Todor Jivkov became successful in one sense.

<sup>18</sup> Eminov, A., 1997. Turkish and other Muslim Minorities in Bulgaria, Hurst&Company, London.

<sup>19</sup> Tsoneva, D., 2005. The Puzzle of the Bulgarian-Turkish Interethnic Cooperation in Post-Communist Bulgaria. By Submitted to Central European University Nationalism Studies Program In partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Masters of Arts, Budapest.

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The background of the migrations from Bulgaria to Turkey dates back to approximately 100 years ago. Within this process-between 1878 and 1997- a total of 1,796,359 people migrated from Bulgaria to Turkey (Table 3).

### 1. Historical Course of the Turkish Population in Bulgaria

A survey of the course of Turkish population in Bulgaria displays a conflicting array of statistical data. Bulgarian sources deliberately avoided giving exact figures of the Turkish population in the country. No census taken since the establishment of the communist regime quoted the Turkish population more than one million. The reason for this is that, in Bulgaria, as is the case in Bolshevik constitution in Russia, ethnic minorities with a population over one million must be granted the right to cultural autonomy. The Bulgarian government therefore kept the figures always under the level of one million.<sup>20</sup>

The Bulgarian government does not count Pomaks as Turks. Nevertheless, the Pomaks are a Turkish clan that moved to and settled in Bulgaria in the 8<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>21</sup> Similarly, the Gagauz are a Turkish community converted to Christianity and still speaking Turkish. The Bulgarian government counts the Pomaks, the Gagauz, Tatar Turks and Muslim Coptic community as parts of the Bulgarian population. Some of these ethnic Turkish communities had to change their names and started speaking Bulgarian because of the pressure applied on them during the communist regime.

The population living in Bulgaria immediately preceding the Ottoman-Russian war was 3,414,000 and of this, 1,801,000 were Turks (52.8%), 1,613,000 were Bulgars (47.2%).<sup>22</sup> Similarly, while the population of Turks living in Bulgaria was 1,279,546 in 1887, this has regressed to 1,107,644 in 1910.<sup>23</sup> 62% of 2,315,293 Turks living in the Balkans have migrated and left Balkans. Of these, 413,922 after the Balkan Wars and 398,849 in the mass population exchange

<sup>20</sup> www.rumeliturk.net/tarih/bulgaristanturkleri. Received: 27.12.2006.

<sup>21</sup> Cebeci, A . 1987. "Bulgaristan'da Türk Varlığı" Bulgaristan Türklerinin Sesi Dergisi, 1(1): 8-9.

<sup>22</sup> Şimşir, Bilal N. 1987. "Bulgaristan Türkleri ve Göç Sorunu" Bulgaristan'da Türk Varlığı Bildiriler Kitabı, (47-66) 7 Haziran 1985, Atatürk Kültür ve Tarih Yüksek Kurumu, Türk Tarih Kurumu Yayınları, Ankara.

<sup>23</sup> Turan, Ö., 1998. The Turkish Minority in Bulgaria (1878-1908), Atatürk Kültür, Dil ve Tarih Yüksek Kurumu Türk Tarih Kurumu Yayınları VII. Dizi-Sayı:165, Ankara.

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between 1921 and 1926 came to Turkey. 632,408 Turks lost their lives both during and in the aftermath of the Balkan Wars as well.<sup>24</sup>

There are two views that support the idea that the exact figures of the Turkish population were different from those given by the Bulgarian sources. The first is that Turkish birthrate figures are generally within a range of 20-25%o. The other is that, in 1885, Bulgaria annexed East Rumeli, which included the provinces Filibe and İslimye, where the majority of the population was composed of Turks.<sup>25</sup> A survey of the ratio of Turkish population living in provinces annexed by Bulgaria in 1920 gives a truer picture of the Turkish population living in the country. As can be seen in Table 4, the ratio of the Turkish population to the rest is over 90% in Kırcaali, Koşukavak, Eğridere, Mestanlı and Dövlén (Table 4).

**Table 4:** Regions of Bulgaria Where the Turkish Population Was the Majority in 1920

| Residential Area | Turkish Population (%) |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Kırcaali         | 95.7                   |
| Koşukavak        | 94.0                   |
| Eğridere         | 98.3                   |
| Mestanlı         | 98.7                   |
| Dövlén           | 92.9                   |
| Darıdere         | 35.1                   |
| Paşmaklı         | 54.1                   |
| Nevrokop         | 43.0                   |

Source: B. N. Şimşir (1990):161, R.J. Crampton (2002):72.

According to the official census taken in 1943 in Bulgaria, the population of the Turkish community was over 900,000.<sup>26</sup> The correct figure of the Turkish population in 1950 is 1,000,000. Approximately 200,000 of this population migrated to Turkey, reducing the figure to 800,000 in 1952. According to the census of 1962, those who were counted as Turks were 1,450,000. When the Pomaks and Tatars, who

<sup>24</sup> McCarthy, J.1999. Death and Exile The ethnic Cleansing of Otoman Muslims 1821-1922, The Darwin Pres, Inc. Princeton, New Jersey.

<sup>25</sup> Şimşir, B. N.1990b. The Turks of Bulgaria in İnternational Fora Documents Volume-I, Atatürk Supreme Concuil For Culture, Language, and History Publications of the Turkish Historical Society Serial VII, No.100, Ankara.

<sup>26</sup> Tanoğlu, A., 1952-1953. Bulgaristan Türklerinin Son Göç Hareketi (1950-1951)" İstanbul Üniversitesi İktisat Fakültesi Dergisi, 14(1-4):129-161.

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are Turks as well, are included in this figure, the total Turkish population becomes 1,950,000.<sup>27</sup>

In 1965, the population of Bulgaria was 8,227,867, with a Turkish population of 780,928, comprising 9.5% of the whole population. The census of 1985 gives a total population of 8,942,976, with a Turkish population of 1,250,000 and in 1989, almost 400,000 Turks were forced to migrate and the official figure was thus reduced below the limit of one million. Similarly, the population of Bulgaria has regressed to 8,487,317 in 1992 and to 7,973,671 in 2001. In all these censuses, in line with the Bulgarian government's policies, the Pomaks, the Gagauz and Tatar Turks and Muslim Coptic community were not included in the Turkish population and the Turkish population always remained under the level of one million.

A projection based on the 1946 census figure of 938,418 makes it obvious that the Turkish population living in Bulgaria should be around 3,790,000 in 1989. Nevertheless, the three separate waves of migration taking place in 1950-1951, 1968 and 1989 resulted in lower population figures. It is known that 3,300,000 identities were changed in the 1984 events of forced name-changing. As infants were not included in this figure and only the ID cards of Turks were changed, the real figure of the Turkish population is very obvious.<sup>28</sup>

In an interview published in Issue 52 (December 1990) of Tempo Magazine, as a response to an accusation of "...creating discrimination among Bulgarian citizens belonging to different racial groups and causing ethnic strife and conflict through supporting racism," Todor Jivkov said "Look, the charges put against me are conditions supported by four million Bulgars in Bulgaria." Thus, Jivkov, though inadvertently, made it obvious that the Bulgar population living in Bulgaria is four millions.<sup>29</sup>

It is safe to assume that today a population of 1,780,000 Turks is living in Bulgaria. According to rates of annual population increase projections made by us, this population would be around 3,040,000 today. Nonetheless, since 1962, a total of 1,260,000 people have migrated to Turkey; 636,831 of these were through official channels whereas 623,169 were illegally, as tourists or via third countries.

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<sup>27</sup> Cebeci, A., 1968a. Bulgaristan Türklerinin Göçü Hakkında" Türk Kültürü, 6(63):189-193., Cebeci, A. 1968b. Bulgaristan Türkleri" Türk Kültürü, 6(69):666-668.

<sup>28</sup> [www.rumeliturk.net/tarih/bulgaristanturkleri](http://www.rumeliturk.net/tarih/bulgaristanturkleri), Received: 27.12. 2006.

<sup>29</sup> Tempo Dergisi, 1990. Todor Jivkov ile Mülakat (Aralık 1990), s.52.

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As of 2006, the population of Bulgaria is 7,741,000 and an approximate 23% of this is composed of Turks. Projections for future reflect that this population is expected to be go down to 6,565,000 in 2025 and 5,075,000 in 2050.<sup>30</sup> One of the important causes behind this regression in population is the emigration of 400,000 educated and elite Bulgars to developed countries such as Western Europe, USA, Canada and Australia due to internal conflict in 1982, financial crisis and other social problems.<sup>31</sup>

## 2. The Causes behind the Migration of 1989

A survey of migrations from Bulgaria to Turkey displays that these migrations date back to more than 100 years ago. There have been three important factors behind these migrations: The first is the peculiarities of the political regimes in both countries. The second is the intense communist propaganda carried out in Bulgaria, especially considering the significant cultural differences between the Bulgar and Turkish people. The last is the practices of the communist regime in Bulgaria, which acted on an agenda of their own ethnic policies and thus supported ethnic strife and migrations to Turkey in order to alter the ethnic structure of the country.<sup>32</sup>

The forced migration of the Turks was started by the Bulgarian government in January 1989. Initially, Turks left Bulgaria individually and in small groups and arrived in Turkey via Austria and Yugoslavia. In May 1989, Turks were brought by trains in massive numbers and left on the border. This surge of migration wave took place between May 26 and August 21 of 1989 and a total of 313,894 people arrived in Turkey.<sup>33</sup> Similarly, some other groups arrived in Turkey as tourists and were later given the status of immigrants. Various studies on this phenomenon quote different numbers as the number of immigrants arriving in 1989. According to Vasileva, between May and September 10 of 1989, 369,839 Turks left Bulgaria and arrived in Turkey.<sup>34</sup> Using Turkish sources, Dimitrova states that the number of people emigrating from Bulgaria to Turkey between June 3 and August 21, 1989 is 311,862.<sup>35</sup> According to State Planning

<sup>30</sup> Population Reference Bureau, 2006. www.prb.org (Received: 28.12.2006).

<sup>31</sup> Vasileva, D., 1992. Bulgarian Turkish Emigration and Return” *International Migration Review*, 26(2):342-352.

<sup>32</sup> Vasileva, D., 1992., a.g.e., s.348.

<sup>33</sup> Devlet Planlama Teşkilatı (DPT),1990.Bulgaristan’dan Türk Göçleri, DPT Sosyal Planlama Başkanlığı Hizmete Özel Rapor, Ankara.

<sup>34</sup> Vasileva, D., 1992., a.g.e., s.351.

<sup>35</sup> Dimitrova, D., 1998. Bulgarian Turkish Immigrants of 1989 in the Republic of Turkey, *Between Adaptation and Nostalgia: The Bulgarian Turks in Turkey*, Dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Right (Ed.

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Organization (DPT) figures, 313,894 immigrants arrived in Turkey between May 26 and August 21 1989. According to unpublished statistical data of the Federation of the Balkan Immigrants, 366,625 people emigrated from Bulgaria and of these 154,937 returned to Bulgaria as of May 31 1990, making the total number of Bulgarian Turkish immigrants in Turkey 212,688.<sup>36</sup> Since no concrete statistical survey is made on the number of immigrants and the places they live in Turkey, it is not possible to quote exact figures. Therefore, in tables and graphics on demographical state of the immigrants the figure is 313,894, while table demonstrating the state of the immigrants according to the places they live in Turkey quotes the figure as 212,688.

The primary cause of this forced migration is the policy of Bulgarization applied by the Bulgarian government. In line with this policy, the number of Turks had to be reduced yearly and they had to be assimilated. Changing their names with Bulgarian ones, propagation of Christianity, closing of Turkish schools and mosques, prohibition of Turkish language, religious practices, Muslim customs and traditions and cultural activities were the first steps of this forced Bulgarianization campaign. In 1984, these practices began to be applied systematically and some of those who resist were massacred, others were sent to concentration camps or prisons. Those who reached the age of military duty and thus wanted to come to Turkey were faced with obstacles and oppression. Bulgaria violated the articles of the Addendum of Turkish-Bulgarian Non-Aggression Treaty of 1925, which guarantee the rights of the Muslim minority-the rights that were secured in 1919 Treaty of Neuilly-, Article 2 of Paris Peace Treaty of February 10, 1947 and Articles concerning the minority rights in the Final Statement of Treaty of Helsinki of 1975 and continued to practice its policy of assimilation.

In 1989, the Bulgarian government brought and abandoned more than 300,000 Turks on the Turkish border so as to force them to migrate to Turkey. Faced with this phenomenon, Turkey abandoned its usual policy of visa application and opened its doors unconditionally to the coming Turks. Bulgarians had assumed that Turkey would not open its doors unconditionally and Bulgarian Turks, now gathered at the border gates, hopelessly would go back and

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<sup>36</sup> Balkan Göçmenleri Federasyonu, 2006. Yayınlanmamış Göç İstatistikleri (27 aralık 2006).

accept their new Bulgarian identities. However, when Turkey opened its doors unconditionally, more than 300,000 Turks entered their motherland. Following this, since the migrating Turks had a very important position as qualified workers in agricultural production and industry, Bulgaria experienced a serious financial crisis.<sup>37</sup>

In a survey carried out among the immigrants in Turkey, *Mass Immigration* was given as the first cause of migration by the 50% of the participants, while *Escape from Oppression* ranked the second with the 21% of the participants.<sup>38</sup>

As for the legal status of the immigrants, with Item (b), Section 5, Article 183 of Decree Law of 1983, Turkey authorized the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Administration to handle the residence of the immigrants within the country.<sup>39</sup> According to the law, the Ministry was authorized to assist the immigrants in their various affairs, such as residence, citizenship procedures, material and financial aid, tax and customs exemptions and military duty. However, as the case of 1989 was extraordinary, a new regulation, Law No.3583 was passed on June 6, 1989. Therefore, Turkey made all necessary regulations concerning the adoption and legal affairs of the Turks forced to migrate out of Bulgaria, thus prevented any injury and initiated cooperation among institutions for the social and economic adaptation of the immigrants. Faced with such a phenomenon, Turkey solved the problems of the immigrants rapidly, a clear sign of its being a powerful state from the political and social perspective.

### 3. Demographical Quality of the Immigrants

#### 3.1. Age and Sex

According to DPT (State Planning Organization) figures, the number of immigrants coming to Turkey from Bulgaria in 1989 is 313,894. However, more detailed data is available only for 308,136 of these. Therefore, demographical analysis will be based on the latter figure.

**Table 5:** Distribution of Immigrants in Terms of Sex to Narrow Age-Groups (September 25, 1989)

<sup>37</sup> Crampton, R. J., 2002. *The Balkans Since The Second World War*, Longman, Pearson Education, London.

<sup>38</sup> Türkaslan, N., 1997. *Bursa İlinde Meskun Bulgaristan Göçmenlerinin Etno-sosyolojik İncelenmesi*, Hacettepe Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Basılmamış Doktora Tezi, Ankara.

<sup>39</sup> DPT, 1990., a.g.e., s.22-23.

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| Age Groups | Female Population | %      | Male Population | %      | Total Population | %      |
|------------|-------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| 0-5        | 12,273            | 7.84   | 12,645          | 8.36   | 24,919           | 8.09   |
| 6-10       | 15,155            | 9.66   | 15,949          | 10.54  | 31,104           | 10.09  |
| 11-15      | 14,398            | 9.18   | 14,839          | 9.81   | 29,237           | 9.49   |
| 16-20      | 12,342            | 7.87   | 9,126           | 6.03   | 21,467           | 6.97   |
| 21-25      | 13,365            | 8.52   | 10,028          | 6.63   | 23,393           | 7.59   |
| 26-30      | 15,107            | 9.63   | 15,198          | 10.04  | 30,305           | 9.83   |
| 31-35      | 15,266            | 9.73   | 15,964          | 10.55  | 31,230           | 10.14  |
| 36-40      | 12,358            | 7.88   | 13,591          | 8.98   | 25,949           | 8.42   |
| 41-45      | 7,738             | 4.93   | 8,357           | 5.52   | 16,095           | 5.22   |
| 46-50      | 7,296             | 4.65   | 6,987           | 4.62   | 14,283           | 4.64   |
| 51-55      | 6,778             | 4.32   | 6,193           | 4.09   | 12,971           | 4.21   |
| 56-60      | 7,301             | 4.66   | 6,816           | 4.51   | 14,117           | 4.58   |
| 61-65      | 5,831             | 3.72   | 5,876           | 3.88   | 11,707           | 3.80   |
| 66-70      | 4,817             | 3.07   | 4,393           | 2.91   | 9,210            | 2.99   |
| 71+        | 6,803             | 4.34   | 5,347           | 3.53   | 12,149           | 3.94   |
| Total      | 156,829           | 100.00 | 151,307         | 100.00 | 308,136          | 100.00 |

Source: DPT. (1990):26.

As for the sex of the immigrants, 50.9% were females and 49.1% were males. The 31-35 age group has the highest percentage (10.14%) among other age groups. The age group 6-10 ranks the second with 10.09%. The smallest age group is the 66-70 group with a percentage of 2.99. The age group 61-65 follows this with 3.80%. When a comparison based on sex is made in terms of age groups, it is seen that the number of males is higher in the age groups 0-5, 6-10, 11-15, 26-30, 31-35, 36-40, 41-45 and 61-65. On the other hand, the number of females is higher in the age groups 16-20, 21-25, 46-50, 51-55, 56-60, 66-70 and 71+ (Table 5). The reason why the number of males in the age groups 16-20 and 21-15 is lower is that Bulgaria did not permit the male population in this "military duty" age group to leave the country.<sup>40</sup>

When the distribution of age groups to broader age groups is analyzed, it is seen that 27.7% of the whole population is in the 0-15 age group, 65.4% is in the age group 16-65 and 6.9% is in the age group 66+ (Table 6). On the other hand, the demographical structure of Bulgaria presents a different picture; the age group 0-15 is 21.3%, the age group 16-65 is 67.4% and 66+ is 11.3%.<sup>41</sup> Thus, the age groups 16-65 and 66+ in Bulgaria are bigger while the age group 0-15 is smaller, which is a clear indicator of the fact that Turkish community have a higher birthrate.

<sup>40</sup> DPT, 1990., a.g.e., s.26.

<sup>41</sup> DPT, 1990., a.g.e., s.26.

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**Table 6:** Distribution of Immigrants In Terms of Sex to Broad Age-Groups (September 25, 1989)

| Age Groups | Female Population | %     | Male Population | %     | Total Population | %     |
|------------|-------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| 0-15       | 41,826            | 26.7  | 43,433          | 28.7  | 85,260           | 27.7  |
| 16-65      | 103,383           | 65.9  | 98,134          | 64.9  | 201,517          | 65.4  |
| 66+        | 11,620            | 7.4   | 9,739           | 6.4   | 21,359           | 6.9   |
| Total      | 156,829           | 100.0 | 151,307         | 100.0 | 308,136          | 100.0 |

Source: DPT. (1990):27.

The immigrants coming from Bulgaria in 1989 -and especially those over 40- stated that the migration phenomenon had negative effects on them in terms of their family structure, lifestyle and their conditions in Bulgaria. What's more, concerned about their future life and prevention of their family structures, some immigrants in the 20-35 age group stated that they preferred to stay in Bulgaria.<sup>42</sup>

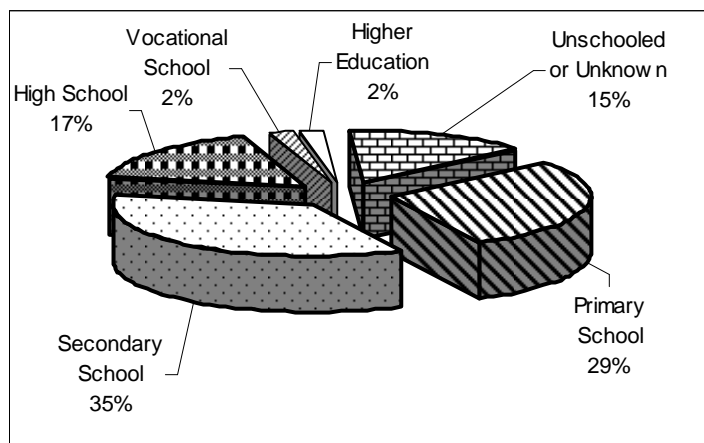
### 3.2. Educational Qualities

An analysis of the educational level of the population coming from Bulgaria reveals that the biggest groups is the secondary school graduates with a percentage of 35. Primary school graduates follow this with 29% and the high school graduates are the third with a percentage of 17. The smallest group is the vocational school and higher education graduates with 2%. 15% of the immigrants were with no degrees or unknown (Figure 1).

**Figure 1:** Educational Levels of the Turkish Population Emigrating in 1989

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<sup>42</sup> Gheorghieva, T., 1998. Motivation Of The Bulgarian Turks To Migration, Between Adaptation And Nostalgia: The Bulgarian Turks In Turkey Dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Right (Edited by Antonina ZHELYAZKOVA) International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations, Sofia.



Source: DPT. (1990):29.

### 3. 3. Occupational Distribution of Age Groups

When the Turkish immigrants coming to Turkey in 1950 and older than 15 are analyzed in terms of their occupational groups, it can be seen that 82.7% were peasants, foresters, hunters and fishers, 4.8% were artisans, miners and construction workers. 9.8% of the immigrant population was either unemployed or belonged to an unknown occupation.<sup>43</sup> On the other hand, when the immigrants of 1989 were analyzed-when the 0-15 “student” age group is excluded-, the biggest occupational group is that of the retired. Following these come agricultural workers with 10.3% and other occupational groups with 9.7%. The smallest group is the civil servants with a percentage of 3.7. The second smallest group is housewives and children with 4.6%. 15% of the immigrants coming in this period belong to unemployed or unknown group (Table 7). When occupational distribution of two separate periods is compared, it becomes evident that those arriving in 1989 display a greater variety of occupational backgrounds and are more skilled workers.

<sup>43</sup> Geray, C., 1962. Türkiye’den ve Türkiye’ye Göçler ve Göçmenlerin İskanları, Ankara Üniversitesi Siyasal Bilgiler Fakültesi Yayınları, Ankara

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**Table 7:** Distribution of the Immigrants into Occupational Groups  
(September 25, 1989)

| Occupational Group         | Number of Immigrants | %     |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Agricultural Sector Worker | 38,456               | 10.3  |
| Industrial Sector Worker   | 15,075               | 4.9   |
| Services Sector Worker     | 23,381               | 7.6   |
| Civil Servant              | 11,367               | 3.7   |
| Self-Employed              | 15,884               | 5.2   |
| Retired                    | 38,975               | 12.6  |
| Housewives and Children    | 14,053               | 4.6   |
| Student                    | 54,790               | 17.8  |
| Disabled (Not employed)    | 26,676               | 8.6   |
| Other                      | 29,960               | 9.7   |
| Unknown                    | 46,289               | 15.0  |
| Total                      | 308,136              | 100.0 |

Source: DPT. (1990):30.

### 3. 4. Residential Status of the Immigrants

While it may be purported that the immigrants were actually coming to their motherland, in reality their adaptation to the new land and surroundings is always very problematic. While the early stages of the migration might portray a picture to the opposite, later stages show that the newcomers do not forget their backgrounds and thus have difficulty adapting to the new cultural surroundings. Similar problems were witnessed in the case of 1989 as well.

Turkey accepted quite a significant number of immigrants in a relatively short period of time. The educational and professional status of the immigrants became an influential factor in their social adaptations. Naturally, the immigrants were supported and provided with assistance by the relatives and friends already living in Turkey and this facilitated their adaptation. Furthermore, the assistance and aid provided by the Turkish state -in cooperation with international institutions-, both in immigrant camps and temporary housings, alleviated the adaptation problem of the immigrants. However, changes experienced in financial and social conditions in Bulgaria caused various cultural problems for the young immigrants.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>44</sup> Zhelyazkova, A., 1998. The Social and Cultural Adaptation of Bulgarian Immigrants in Turkey, Between Adaptation And Nostalgia: The Bulgarian Turks In Turkey Dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Right (Edited by Antonina ZHELYAZKOVA) International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations, Sofia.

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It was witnessed that despite a century-old separation, the newcomers still had behaviors and habits similar to those of their kindred in Turkey and did not lose their self-confidence in spite of all pressure inflicted upon them. This is a further sign of their being the member of a nation with a deep-rooted history and hence did not lose their sense of having such an identity.<sup>45</sup>

Our kindred, who entered the country in a relatively short span of time after the opening of the border gates, were soon located in temporary residential areas in Kırklareli, Edirne, Tekirdağ, Balıkesir, İstanbul and Bursa. Some were located in school buildings, dormitories and guesthouses of public institutions. 850 houses were built for the first group of immigrants arriving in 1989 and of these, 450 were in Kırklareli, 200 in Edirne, 100 in Tekirdağ and the remaining 100 were in Manisa. Later, in accordance with the decree of Supreme Planning Council, it was decided that 40,000 houses were to be built or bought for the immigrants. All expenses to this end were provided by the Collective Housing Fund.<sup>46</sup>

While 11,742 houses were built for the immigrants coming from Bulgaria between 1951 and 1960 and delivered to the owners.<sup>47</sup> 44,250 families coming in 1989 applied for houses. Although the Housing Development Administration of Turkey (TOKİ) planned to build 40,000 houses, only 23,495 were completed and delivered to owners.<sup>48</sup>

For both immigrant groups—the first coming in the 1950-1988 period and the second in 1989-, İstanbul ranks first as the initial residential preference for the immigrants (Table 8). Bursa, Tekirdağ and İzmir follow İstanbul as the preference of the immigrants coming since 1950. The primary reason for this is the fact that the newcomers already had families, relatives or friends in these cities, which had come in earlier periods.

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<sup>45</sup> Toğrol, B., 1989., a.g.e., s.71.

<sup>46</sup> DPT, 1990., a.g.e., s.32.

<sup>47</sup> Geray, C, 1962., a.g.e., s.63.

<sup>48</sup> Göçmen Konutları Koordinatörlüğü, 2006. Göçmen konutları Koordinatörlüğü 2006 yılı Hizmet raporu, Ankara.

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**Table 8:** The Provinces of the First Settlement by the Immigrants Coming from Bulgaria between 1950-1988 And In 1989

| Provinces  | Number of immigrants coming in 1950-1988 period | %    | Number of immigrants coming in 1989 | %       |
|------------|---|------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| İstanbul   | 46,152  | 18.0 | 84,255                              | 30.0    |
| Bursa      | 46,301  | 17.0 | 67,378                              | 24.0    |
| Tekirdağ   | 14,957  | 5.5  | 30,828                              | 11.0    |
| İzmir      | 20,262  | 7.3  | 25,489                              | 9.1     |
| Kocaeli    | 7,114   | 2.6  | 12,276                              | 4.3     |
| Eskişehir  | 14,075  | 5.1  | 9,845                               | 3.5     |
| Kırklareli | 11,266  | 4.1  | 7,045                               | 2.5     |
| Ankara     | 8,034   | 2.8  | 5,157                               | 1.8     |
| Balıkesir  | 11,883  | 4.3  | 4,852                               | 1.7     |
| Manisa     | 10,241  | 3.6  | 3,899                               | 1.4     |
| Other      | 80,633  |      | 29.7                                | 30,035  |
| Provinces  | 10.7  |      |                                     |         |
| Total      | 270,918   |      | 100.0                               | 281,059 |
|            | 100.0   |      |                                     |         |

Source: DPT. (1990):32.

While the number of immigrants coming in 1989 is given 281,059 in the table, the statistical survey made on May 31, 1990 corrected this as 212,688 and these continued to live in 41 provinces in Turkey. The map showing the provinces where the immigrants live is based on these figures.

Through the Immigrants Housing Construction Project started by the Immigrant Housing Coordination Branch of Housing Development Administration of Turkey in Kestel, Bursa in 1989, 23,495 houses were completed as of the end of 1996 and delivered to owners. The province with the most immigrant houses completed is Bursa with 7,258 houses and İstanbul follows this with 5,318 houses. Çanakkale comes the last with only 21 immigrant houses built (Table 9). To build these houses, 376.7 million USD recourse loan from European Residence Fund and 10 million USD grant from the Islamic Development Bank was obtained.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>49</sup> Göçmen Konutları Koordinatörlüğü, 2006. Göçmen konutları Koordinatörlüğü 2006 yılı Hizmet raporu, Ankara.

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**Table 9:** Distribution of Immigrant Houses to the Provinces

| Provinces  | Houses Completed |
|------------|------------------|
| Adana      | 50               |
| Ankara     | 1,566            |
| Balıkesir  | 500              |
| Bilecik    | 116              |
| Bursa      | 7,258            |
| Çanakkale  | 21               |
| Edirne     | 440              |
| Erzurum    | 40               |
| Eskişehir  | 1,344            |
| İstanbul   | 5,318            |
| İzmir      | 2,060            |
| Kırklareli | 312              |
| Kocaeli    | 1,000            |
| Kütahya    | 87               |
| Manisa     | 340              |
| Sakarya    | 1,030            |
| Tekirdağ   | 1,510            |
| Yalova     | 503              |
| Total      | 23,495           |

Source: Göçmen Konutları Koordinatörlüğü, (2006).

As of May 31, 1990, 154,937 of the immigrants had returned to Bulgaria.<sup>50</sup> According to the unpublished statistics of the Federation of Balkan Immigrants Headquarters, the remaining 212,688 were still residing in 41 provinces of Turkey as of May 31, 1990. After this date, some obviously relocated but since no statistical data were kept about these relocations, sufficient information is not available.

According to the map showing the provinces where the immigrants from Bulgaria settled, Bursa, with 52,997, is the province with the highest number of immigrants. Istanbul, with 51,061, follows Bursa (Map 1). İzmir ranks the third with 22,846 immigrants and Tekirdağ with 15,842 and Kırklareli with 13,380 follow İzmir.

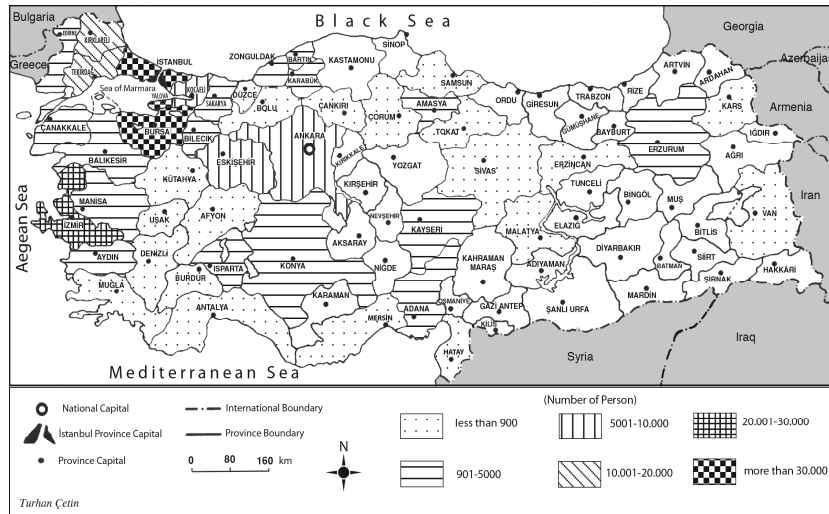
The province with the least number of immigrants is Burdur with only 66 immigrants. The city with the second least number of immigrants is Hatay with 124 immigrants (Map 1). The provinces shown with no shading on the map are those with no officially registered immigrants.

<sup>50</sup> Vasileva, D., 1992., a.g.e., s.350.

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To summarize, 49% of immigrants living in Turkey live in Istanbul and Bursa and the 74% live in the Marmara region. The most important reason for this is again the fact that families, relatives and friends arriving in earlier periods had been living in these provinces and these assisted and supported the newcomers in finding shelter and jobs and social and cultural affairs.



Map 1: Geographic Distribution of Immigrants who came from Bulgaria in 1989, by province's, 31 May 1990.

#### 4. The Economic Effect of the Migration on Turkey

The unplanned and unconditional acceptance of 313,894 immigrants in a short period of six months affected the economy of Turkey more than expected. It became extremely difficult to provide such a population with employment. Even if the immigration had been spread over years, it would still have made it very difficult for Turkey to cope with the financial burden of this phenomenon.<sup>51</sup>

As of the end of 1989, 88,960 immigrants coming from Bulgaria applied for jobs. Of these, 56,531 applied to Turkish Employment Organization and 32,429 to provincial governor's offices. Of these applicants, 15,898 were put to jobs by the Turkish Employment Organization and 17,747 by the provincial governor's offices, making a total of 33,646. Thus, 37.8% of all the applicants were employed.<sup>52</sup> Of those applying for jobs, 29,971 were female

<sup>51</sup> Lütem, Ö.E., 2000., a.g.e., s.103.

<sup>52</sup> DPT, 1990., a.g.e., s.36.

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(33.7%) and 58,989 were male (66.3%) and thus 31% of the women and 42% of the men were put to jobs. Of the employed, almost 96.5% were put to non-agricultural jobs.<sup>53</sup> The provinces in which the immigrants were employed most were İstanbul, Bursa, İzmir, Sakarya, Edirne and Tekirdağ.

Turkish Employment Organization and UNICEF organized and carried out a joint-project for women immigrants and opened traditional Turkish handicrafts courses. Among these courses, there were individual courses on ceramics and pottery, embroidery, lacework, knitting and sewing. These courses were opened firstly in Bursa, İstanbul, İzmir, Ankara, Kocaeli, Manisa, Denizli, Erzurum and Malatya and the graduates of these courses found various jobs.<sup>54</sup> Again, in order to solve the employment problem of the immigrants from Bulgaria, and offer them jobs rapidly, various other occupational courses related to fields such as tourism, textile and clothing, services, manufacturing, construction and electronics were offered within the Kindred Project, initiated through the cooperation of the UN Development Program. In this program, 25 courses in 1989, 85 courses in 1990, 345 courses in 1991, 64 courses in 1992 and 12 courses in 1993 were offered and a total of 9150 people were trained and were given certificates.<sup>55</sup>

The relations between the immigrants and the natives of the regions where they settled also had an effect on the issue of adaptation as well. It was observed that local people were influenced by the newcomers in various aspects such as the local modes of manufacturing in economic activities, use of agents of production, handicrafts, artisanship, decoration, construction and use of household utensils.<sup>56</sup>

It is possible to state that the immigrants created a heavy burden on the economy and social stability of Turkey. Nevertheless, this phenomenon has more to do with the internal dynamics of Bulgaria. Any possible economic, social and political changes to occur in Bulgaria will surely diminish the migrations. If conditions of

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<sup>53</sup> DPT, 1990., a.g.e, s.36.

<sup>54</sup> DPT, 1990., a.g.e, s.36.

<sup>55</sup> Türkiye İş Kurumu, 1993. Soydaş projesi (1989-1993), <http://www.iskur.gov.tr/>(Received: 26.12.2006).

<sup>56</sup> Doğanay, F., 1997. The Settlement of Refugees in Turkey, The State Planning Organization Available at:<http://balgoc.org.tr/gocmenyerlesim>. (Received:13 12.2006)

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life go worse, migrations could happen in the future in different shapes.

As for educational measures taken, initially 1879 students were placed in unpaid boarding schools. Additionally, 75 primary school, 100 secondary and high school and 150 university students were given grants through Social Aid and Solidarity Fund. 1,800 students were placed in universities and 2,300 teachers were employed after in-service training.<sup>57</sup>

An agreement made between Turkey and UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to aid immigrants and within this context, a 3,048,780 USD food aid—mainly composed of wheat flour, crops, beans and sugar—were distributed to immigrants.<sup>58</sup> Again, in line with the social state principles, a commission established by provincial governors repeatedly visited immigrants' houses and helped them solve their various problems such as food, firewood and coal, education and health. Thanks to its most distinctive national quality of lending a helping hand to those in need, Turkish people helped the immigrants coming from Bulgaria both financially and spiritually. Various bank accounts were opened to raise funds to this end. Turks live abroad and workers entering the country at Kapıkule border gate also made financial contributions to the immigrants. Many non-governmental organizations and public institutions, the most notable of which is the Social Aid and Solidarity Fund, gave material and spiritual aid to the immigrants.

### **5. Immigrants Returning to Bulgaria and the Causes of the Reverse Migration**

The socialist regime in Bulgaria collapsed towards the end of 1989 and a democratic regime was established. Thus, Turks regained their rights and liberties of using their own names and having education in Turkish and practicing their religion. Our kindred, who also managed to organize politically and socially, gained 24 seats in the national parliament in the elections of 1991. Despite the fact that Bulgarian Turks still have many problems ranging from economy to education, they at least have partial cultural and religious freedom. Better bilateral relations between Turkey and Bulgaria in all fields

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<sup>57</sup> DPT, 1990., a.g.e., s.36.

<sup>58</sup> DPT, 1990., a.g.e., s.37.

could facilitate the protection of the rights of the Turkish community in Bulgaria.<sup>59</sup>

Most of our kindred coming to Turkey was deported by the Bulgarian government and the rest came through illegal channels. Thus, they had to leave their savings, property and other possessions, social rights and even some of their family members behind. This phenomenon turned out to be more than initially expected and resulted in the emergence of more than 80,000 fragmented families.

There are various key factors behind why some of the Turkish immigrants decided to go back to Bulgaria. The most important of these are the fragmented families, property left behind and the wish to benefit from their social rights. As 13% of the immigrants coming in 1987 were retired and 9% were disabled, this was a crucial factor in their seeking their social rights.<sup>60</sup> Other groups of immigrants who decided to go back were those who had come to see their relatives after receiving their first passports, those who had adaptation problems, could not find a job or ignored by their relatives or friends. All these were the primary factors which led to 73,615 people going back to Bulgaria as of December 12, 1989.<sup>61</sup> As oppression against Turks ceased and many liberties were granted, 154,937 Turks went back to Bulgaria as of the end of 1990.<sup>62</sup>

In the course of migrations between Bulgaria and Turkey, the phenomenon of reverse immigration was experienced for the first time in the migration of 1989. This is actually a characteristic quality of the migrations. The earlier accounts of migrations were based on bilateral treaties and the immigrants came to Turkey freely and planning to settle. However, the last case of migration was not based on any treaty and therefore returns were more frequently observed compared to earlier accounts of migrations.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

In order to be able to settle and employ immigrants, it is necessary for Turkey to be prepared and ready for any potential case of forced or voluntary migrations of ethnic Turkish communities living in bordering countries. From the economic, social and political

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<sup>59</sup> Börklü, M. Y., 1999. Tarihsel Seyri İçinde Bulgaristan Türklerinin Durumu Ve Türkiye'nin Bölge Türklerine Yönelik Politikaları, (<http://www.rumeliturk.net/tarih> Received:27.12.2006)., Turan, Ö., 2005. Bulgaristan'dan Türk Göçleri" Balkan Türkoloji Araştırmaları Merkezi BAL-TAM Türklük Bilgisi Dergisi, 2(3):104-123.

<sup>60</sup> DPT, 1990., a.g.e., s.38.

<sup>61</sup> DPT, 1990., a.g.e., s.38.

<sup>62</sup> Vasileva, D., 1992., a.g.e., s.349.

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perspectives, it is especially important for the immigrants to be equally distributed to various provinces of Turkey and settled there, instead of converging around certain provinces and thus causing overcrowding and unplanned development and settlements.

The adaptation problems experienced by 313,894 Bulgarian Turks, who had to migrate to Turkey starting from June 1989, were more serious and traumatic when compared to the immigrants of the 1969-1978 period.

In our age, no single state can quickly solve the problems of such a huge number of immigrant groups. Therefore, it was natural that there were problems in the employment and settling of these people. In the early stages of the migration, thanks to perfect coordination of the Turkish government, there were no problems experienced concerning providing shelter to the immigrants. Nevertheless, after six months, almost half of the immigrants who were nurses, midwives, engineers, teachers, veterinarians and still were waiting to be employed could not be placed at relevant positions and this led to some of these immigrants to go back to Bulgaria. Some of the artisans, craftsmen and self-employed were able to find jobs and continue to work.<sup>63</sup>

Actually, there were certain positive outcomes of the 1989 migration on Turkish economy. Thanks to the migration, Turkey acquired a trained body of labor force and educated brain teams. The contribution of this educated labor force in the consecutive agricultural and industrial development of the Marmara region-but most notably of Bursa and Istanbul provinces- could not be ignored.<sup>64</sup>

The Bulgarian government changed its policy of minorities after 1990 and granted the rights and liberties of the Turkish minority. Turkish newscasts on TV became available as of October 1, 2000 and almost 40,000 students began to enjoy Turkish courses offered in schools.

The migration from Bulgaria to Turkey came to a halt in 2000s. What's more, some immigrants now living in Turkey who were not able to establish a settled life, find a regular job and are disillusioned began to go back to Bulgaria. Bulgaria's grant of rights and liberties of the minorities, passage to pluralist democracy, accession to NATO and, most importantly, its accession to the

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<sup>63</sup> Cebeci, A., 1989., a .g.e., s.52.

<sup>64</sup> Yusuf, S., 2005. Türkiye'ye Yönelik Soydaş Göçleri ve Sonuçları, Uluslar arası Göç Sempozyumu 8-11 Aralık 2005. Uluslar arası Göç Sempozyumu Bildiri Kitabı, s.112-118. Zeytinburnu Belediyesi Yayınları. İstanbul

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European Union on January 1, 2007 were influential factors in this reverse migration.<sup>65</sup>

With Bulgaria's EU accession on January 1, 2007, it is expected that, in the future, the problems encountered by the Turkish minority living in this country will disappear as life standards will get higher. With this in mind, Turkish government should advise and guide the Turkish population in Bulgaria through peaceful and well-planned methods. For their own future, it is of utmost importance for this ethnic community to continue to reside in their own lands instead of abandoning them to Bulgarians. It is necessary to adopt a policy of peaceful co-existence in Bulgaria, which has been a land of a multitude of religions, languages, cultures and civilizations. Only through this way can the tragic cases of migrations experienced since 1878 be things of the past and not repeated.

The migration of 1989 changed the demographic structure of Bulgaria to the disadvantage of Turks. The whole social structure in all regions of the Eastern Bulgaria has changed. Wheat farming, animal husbandry and tobacco production were seriously damaged. Racism and hatred towards Turks has increased especially in regions with mixed ethnic populations and various national associations established have increased ethnic and cultural strife.<sup>66</sup> Such ethnic and cultural conflicts between Bulgars and Turks should end in our age and it must be remembered that living in peace is to the benefit of both communities.

One of the major migrations of the Bulgarian Turks, the migration of 1989 might as well be a good opportunity for the development of social, economic and cultural relations between both countries. It has now become obvious that totalitarian regimes cannot flourish in Eastern Europe. Thus, without putting any restrictions on the rights and liberties of the Turkish minority, the Bulgarian state should move forward aiming at becoming an economically, politically and culturally modern state respectful of democratic principles.

Turkey has accepted Turks living in many other countries when they were faced with hardships and oppression and given them right to citizenship. This immigrant population had both economic and socio-cultural effects on the country. However, what is more important is that, when ethnic Turks living in bordering countries leave these countries, the demographic structure of the respective

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<sup>65</sup> Turan, Ö., 2005., a.g.e., s.120.

<sup>66</sup> Vasileva, D., 1992., a.g.e., s.351.

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country changes to the disadvantage of these ethnic Turks. Nevertheless, the Turkish communities living in these neighbor countries have a significant part in Turkey's forming positive cultural, political and economic relations with these countries.

For both economic and social reasons, Turkey should settle the future immigrants from neighbor countries in provinces that have been depopulated because of internal migration. Settlement of the immigrants in lands which are fertile but not cultivated will have positive outcomes on both economic and demographic structure.

As seen during the migration of 1989, there occurs a confusion of authority and financial disagreement among institutions when it comes to providing service to the immigrants. It is advisable that a body called "Administration of Migration" be established so as to prepare and execute plans and projects to deal with the issues concerning settlement, adaptation, employment, productivity and social and psychological problems of the immigrants.<sup>67</sup> This body should have a sound budget and be within the purview of the Office of the Prime Minister. In the formation of this body, it is necessary that specialists in international affairs, international law, economy, sociology, psychology, history, human geography, planning and political science take part. Additionally, educators and other experts on the phenomenon of migration should be employed within this institution. Such a body will be beneficial for Turkey in the development of policies when faced with a potential case of migration in the future and also in the coordination of internal migration and the solution of related problems.

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<sup>67</sup> Yusuf, S., 2005., a.g.e., s.116.

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