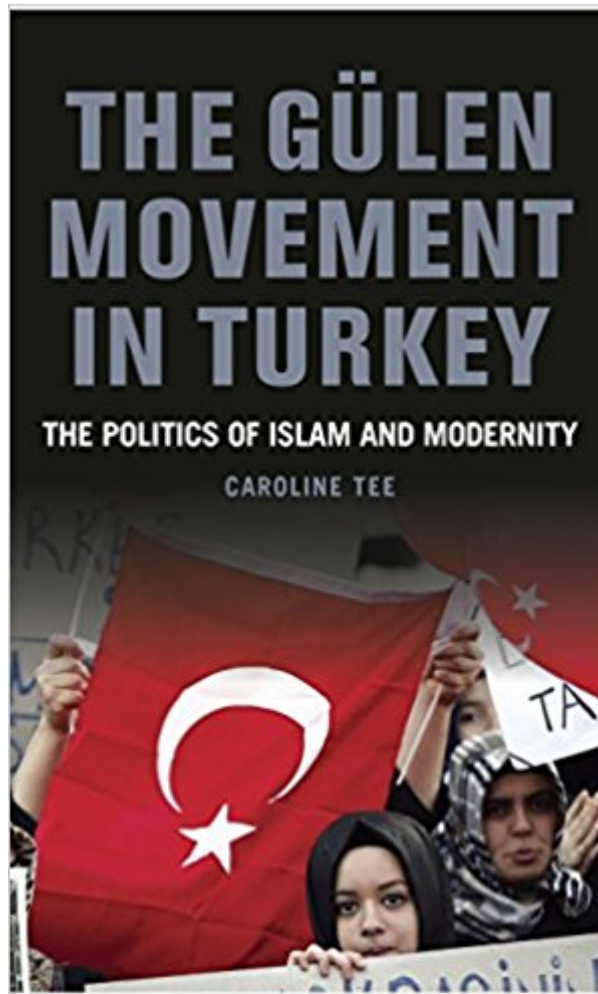




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The GÃ¼len Movement In Turkey: The Politics Of Islam, Science And Modernity



Synopsis

The Gã len, or Hizmet, movement in Turkey is the countryâ™s most powerful and affluent religious organisation. Its central tenet, advanced by its founder, the charismatic Sunni preacher Fethullah Gã len (b. 1941), is that Muslims should engage positively with modernity. A prime means of advancing this philosophy has been education: at hundreds of Gã len-run schools and universities, not only in Turkey but also worldwide, instructors aim to cultivate the next generation of Muslim bankers, biologists, software engineers and entrepreneurs. But how does the Gã len movement resolve the sometimes conflicting positions of Sunni Islam and contemporary science â “ for example, on evolutionary theory? Drawing on sustained ethnographic research conducted among Gã len communities in Turkey, Caroline Tee analyses their complex attitudes towards secular modernity. She focuses on education, science research and industry to explore how pious Muslim practitioners engage in science at high levels, arguing that the Gã len movementâ™s success in this critical area of modernity has facilitated its rise to prominence in recent decades. Considered against the backdrop of Turkish politics, and particularly the acrimonious power-struggle between the Gã len movement and its erstwhile ally, Turkeyâ™s ruling AK Party, Gã lenist engagement with modern science is revealed as a key source of its influence and success.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: I.B.Tauris (December 6, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1784535885

ISBN-13: 978-1784535889

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Caroline Tee is Research Associate at the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, St.Edmundâ™s College, University of Cambridge. She was previously a Postdoctoral Research Assistant in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Bristol, and Research

and Policy Adviser at the Centre for Turkey Studies (CEFTUS), London. She has been the recipient of a major John Templeton Foundation Grant (2013-2015) and has published numerous articles on Islam and society in modern Turkey.

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