

An Analysis of the Ottoman Police Journals and the Representation of the Ottoman Police

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This study primarily aims at providing an analysis of the police journals and magazines published in the early decades of the twentieth century in the Ottoman Empire. In this respect, the study offers an understanding of a great amount of archival material in Ottoman language which has not been investigated before in detail.

The paper is a part of my Ph.D. research which is an arduous study based on the transcription and the analysis of the police journals, “Polis” and “Polis Mecmuası” which were published between 1911 and 1918. These two journals were published as in-house journals by the Department of Public Security (*Emniyet-i Umumiye Genel Müdürlüğü*) in order to enhance the work skills and the knowledge of the Ottoman policemen.

In addition, the journals aim at providing a certain representation of the police officials and hence try to develop an understanding of the ideal Ottoman policemen together with the ideal Ottoman citizen. In this respect, the journals can help us to analyze the discursive formation produced by and within the Ottoman police organization from 1911 onwards. Therefore we are able to inquire into the social norms and rules offered by this institution and analyze certain modes of behaviour and thus subjectivity imposed on its police officers who are at the same time regular Ottoman citizens.

All in all, the paper tries to reveal the contents of the Ottoman police journals and magazines which have been understudied by the academics studying either Ottoman history or journalism in general until this time. Moreover, it also aims at providing an analysis of the contents with respect to the representation of the modern Ottoman policemen.