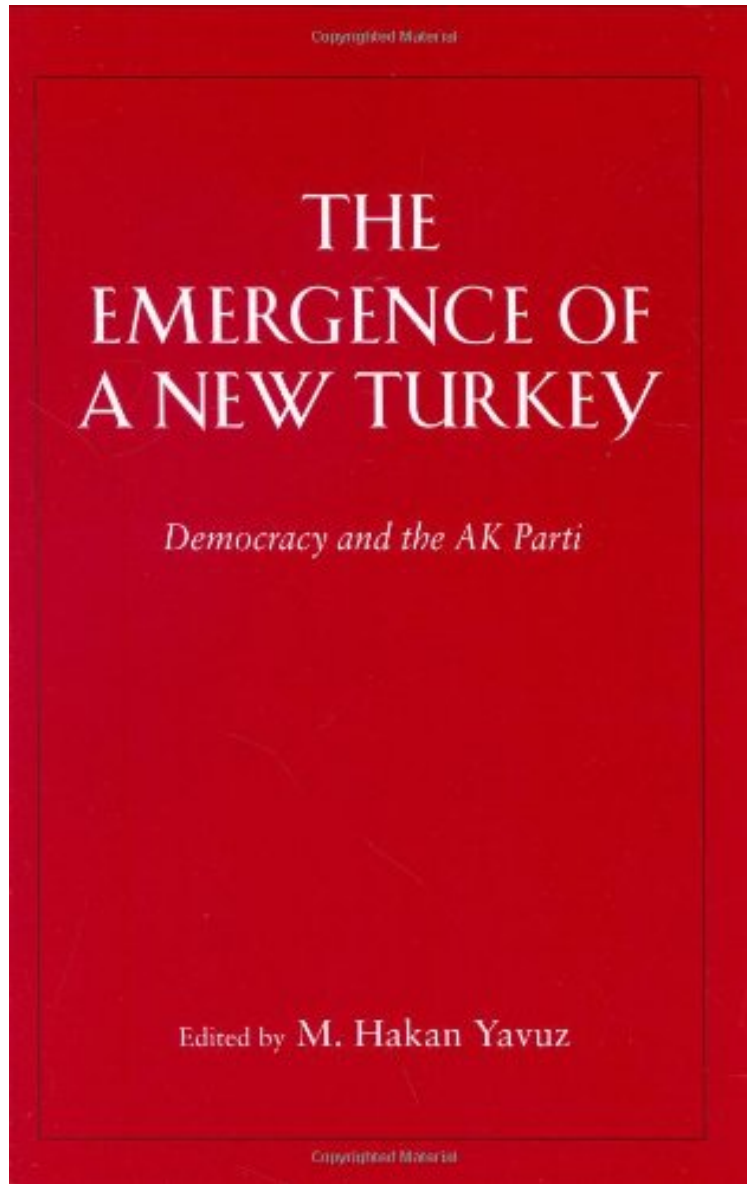


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## **The Emergence of a New Turkey: Democracy and the AK Parti (Utah Series in Turkish and Islamic Stud)**

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**From University of Utah Press : The Emergence of a New Turkey: Democracy and the AK Parti (Utah Series in Turkish and Islamic Stud)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Emergence of a New Turkey: Democracy and the AK Parti (Utah Series in Turkish and Islamic Stud):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy HugoExcellent!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. a Muslim party, but moderateBy W BoudvilleIt is now some 5 years after the book was written, and just over a week since Erdogan and his party won reelection in Turkey. The book is still quite timely in analysing the AKP and its influence on a modernising Turkey. Each of the 13 chapters is contributed by a different author; most of whom are Turkish. Many aspects of the AKP are scrutinised. Several chapters address the fears that the AKP might have radical Islamist elements who would impose a strict religious framework over Turkish society. One chapter makes a striking comparison with predominantly Christian countries, where the main Christian denomination is Catholic. The Catholic church has a hierarchy and a doctrine with which it often tries to influence elections in those nations; especially when politicians running for office are Catholic. They are typically expected to hew to Catholic doctrine. Even in the US, this might be familiar to readers. In contrast, the Muslim caliphate fell over 500 years ago. The main denominations of Islam in Turkey have no analog of the Catholic church. So a Muslim politician has more ideological space in which to maneuver. A good point that jars with the stereotypical notions in Europe and the US about Islamist radicalism. Another chapter looks at the sometimes uneasy relations between Erdogan's government and the US administration under Bush. This was awkward when the US invaded Iraq in 2003 and Turkey declined to offer some bases and other material support. Yet the chapter tries to explain that this was not due to a radical religious agenda, but instead of valid questions about the reasons for invasion. Something subsequently borne out when no weapons of mass destruction were uncovered in Iraq.

The start of accession talks between Turkey and the European Union presents an important challenge for Europe and the Muslim world. Although Turkey has often been cited as a model for the accommodation of Islam and secularism, Islam is still a profound factor in Turkish politics. This book explores the conditions under which an Islamic movement or party ceases to be Islamic. The Emergence of a New Turkey explains the social, economic, and historical origins of the ruling Justice and Development Party, which evolved from Turkey's half-century-old Islamic National Outlook movement. It focuses on the interplay between internal and external forces in the transformation of political Islam into a conservative democratic party. The book also discusses the effect of neoliberal economic policies in Turkey, offering keen insight into one of the most successful transformations of an Islamic movement in the Muslim world. In addition to satisfying Turkish studies specialists, this lucidly written book is also suited for use in courses on comparative politics, social movements, and Middle East history and politics.

"A timely and needed study of one of the most interesting and significant developments in the political history of Turkey.... This is an important study for all scholars and persons interested in Turkish politics and the evolution of democracy in Muslim countries. Highly Recommended." CHOICE