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The Glen Movement in Turkey: The Politics of Islam, Science and Modernity

Caroline Tee

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Caroline Tee : The Glen Movement in Turkey: The Politics of Islam, Science and Modernity before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Glen Movement in Turkey: The

The Glen, or Hizmet, movement in Turkey is the countrys most powerful and affluent religious organisation. Its central tenet, advanced by its founder, the charismatic Sunni preacher Fethullah Glen (b. 1941), is that Muslims should engage positively with modernity. A prime means of advancing this philosophy has been education: at hundreds of Glen-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 Glen movement resolve the sometimes conflicting positions of Sunni Islam and contemporary science for example, on evolutionary theory? Drawing on sustained ethnographic research conducted among Glen 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 Glen movements 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 Glen movement and its erstwhile ally, Turkeys ruling AK Party, Glenist engagement with modern science is revealed as a key source of its influence and success.

About the Author Caroline Tee is Research Associate at the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, St. Edmunds 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.