

## **Connect Samarkand to the world: Mahmud Khoja Behbudi's journalistic endeavors in the 1910s**

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### **Abstract**

Mahmud Khoja Behbudi (1875-1919), when launching his journal *Oyna* in 1913, intended to offer his readership information ranging from politics, social issues and history to religion, the fine arts and sciences, and amazing trivia of everyday life. Driven by an ardent desire to support emancipation of his Turkestan compatriots through knowledge and education, he pieced together a "syllabus for adults" from whatever scholarly and journalistic sources he could get hold of. He regularly borrowed from Tatar, Persian, Afghan, Egyptian, and Turkish newspapers and journals, and through these media cast a sharp look into latest sociocultural and political developments worldwide - constantly in search of *ibrat*, that is, lessons for his fellow Samarkandis to learn from. In bringing the world home to Transoxiana he employed a remarkable method of pushing the limits of the sayable in an overall climate of caution and conservatism.

### **Biography**

After accomplishing a PhD in Turkology with minors in Islamic and Arabic Studies (Universität Wien), she was a lecturer of Turkish (Freiburg University), assistant in Turkology (Bamberg University) and professor of Islamic Studies at Freiburg before joining the Institute of Asian and African Studies (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin) as a professor of Central Asian Languages and Cultures, from where she retired last year. The late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries periodical press of Central Asia and the Middle East have been, along with language politics and modern Central Asian Turkic literatures, at the center of her work before she more recently turned to pre-modern literature.