

Turkish Jews and Turkification in the Single Party Years (1923-1945).

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Abstract

My talk will focus on the first 22 years of the Turkish Republic when the founding fathers of the wanted to establish a nation state where all citizens, regardless of their religion and ethnicity, will be equal citizens of the young Republic. It will analyze why this dream did not realize, the constraints it put on the Turkish Jewish community and the reactions of the community's leadership.

Bio

Rifat Bali is an independent scholar. He is a graduate of the École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE) of Paris and an associate member of the Alberto-Benveniste Centre for Sephardic Studies and the Sociocultural History of the Jews (École Pratique des Hautes Études / CNRS / Université Paris/Sorbonne). He is the winner of the Alberto Benveniste Research Award (Paris) for 2009 for his publications on Turkish Jewry and of the Yunus Nadi (İstanbul) 2005 and 2008 awards for research in social sciences with two of his books. His list of publications can be accessed here: www.rifatbali.com

In his professional life he is the managing director of Libra Kitap in Istanbul, Turkey. Libra Kitap is an academic press specialized in Turkish and Ottoman studies and a service house supplying libraries and scholars abroad with their publication needs of monographs and journals in the field of Ottoman and Turkish studies.