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Alevi Society as a Civil Movement in the Europen Public Space: The Case of Germany

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ABSTRACT

There is a 60-year record of labor migration from Turkey, which started in the early 1960s and continues in other European and Middle Eastern countries. This transition process stands before us with its current and ongoing dynamics that can reproduce themselves. Although this migration process that started in Turkey was economic, its political, social, and cultural dynamics were also affected in the following period. The most important of these dynamics, some parts of Turkey’s social structure and focus discussions are also included. Alevism or the Alevi population has also been affected by these processes and differs in the villages in this process. The consequences of this situation are embodied in the features that include a significant amount of changing and transforming effects, especially on religious and political grounds, together with the historical background. It begins with a 20-year period in which Muslim communities in Europe experienced significant impacts experienced by both the Turkish diaspora and other Muslim communities. Based on this purpose, the study was conducted with representatives from different Alevi non-governmental organizations in Germany in 2021, using the interview technique, one of the qualitative research methods. Interviews using the interview technique were conducted via phone or video connections, within the limits of the research and epidemic conditions. The interviews lasted approximately 40 minutes on average and were conducted with managers of non-governmental organizations belonging to the Alevi community. In the study, it was determined that the civil society structure created by the Alevi community in the German public sphere was more visible and prominent than other organizations of the Turkish diaspora. However, it has been observed that the demands of Alevi non-governmental organizations regarding Turkey manifest themselves through NGOs formed in the public sphere, and that they continue to live their own beliefs and rituals in Europe, especially in Germany.

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