


The Background of Mentality Change in Sabri Ülgener

Nuray Karaca |  0000-0003-0215-9325 | nkaraca@atauni.edu.tr

Atatürk University, Faculty of Letters, Department of Sociology, Erzurum, Türkiye

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Abstract

Ülgener, an important thinker in the social sciences for his research on mentality in the context of past and present, is an exceptional intellectual who, as an economist, historian, and sociologist, linked these fields and brought them together in his scholarly persona. Analyzing the economic mentality, social structure, class differentiation, and social stratification of Ottoman society during its period of dissolution through an interpretive method, focusing especially on the relationships between religion and economics, and between religion and mentality, Ülgener aimed to reveal the ongoing effects of that mentality. Finding M. Weber's methodological approach and scientific framework suitable for his own work, Ülgener successfully applied this method and framework in his studies. He possessed an interdisciplinary and holistic understanding of the social sciences. Adopting the interpretive approach shaped largely by the German Social Sciences tradition and the German School of Sociology, he employed a typological approach in his studies, particularly in his analyses of mentality, under the influence of Weber. According to Ülgener, the economic development of a society is determined not only by its means of production and capital accumulation, but also by the mentality, values, and morality of the people. This mentality is shaped by factors such as society's view of work, its approach to profit, and its understanding of savings and waste. In this context, our study includes an analysis of the background of mentality change by re-examining it through certain concepts derived from the issues Ülgener addressed in his significant social analyses.

Keywords

Sabri Ülgener, Mentality, Intellectual, Morality, Modernization

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