Secularism and State Policies toward Religion

The United States, France, and Turkey

Why do secular states pursue different policies toward religion? This book provides a generalizable argument about the impact of ideological struggles on the public policy-making process, as well as a state-religion regimes index of 197 countries. More specifically, it analyzes why American state policies are largely tolerant of religion, whereas French and Turkish policies generally prohibit its public visibility, as seen in their bans on Muslim headscarves. In the United States, the dominant ideology is “passive secularism,” which requires the state to play a passive role by allowing the public visibility of religion. The dominant ideology in France and Turkey is “assertive secularism,” which demands that the state play an assertive role in excluding religion from the public sphere. Passive and assertive secularism became dominant in these cases through certain historical processes, particularly the presence or absence of an ancien régime based on the marriage between monarchy and hegemonic religion during state-building periods.

Ahmet T. Kuru is Assistant Professor of Political Science at San Diego State University. He is currently a Postdoctoral Research Scholar at and Assistant Director of the Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration, and Religion at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University. His dissertation, on which this book is based, received the Aaron Wildavsky Award for the best dissertation from the Religion and Politics Section of the American Political Science Association. He is the author of several articles that have appeared in journals such as World Politics, Comparative Politics, and Political Science Quarterly.
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The United States, France, and Turkey

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To

Uğur and Çiçek, who were with me at the beginning of my life,
and Zeynep, who, I hope, will be with me at the end of it.
## Contents

*List of Figures and Tables*  
page xi  

*Glossary of Abbreviations*  
xiii  

*Acknowledgments*  
 xv  

[Introduction](#)  
1  

1 Analyzing Secularism: History, Ideology, and Policy  
6  

**PART I: THE UNITED STATES**  
41  

74  

**PART II: FRANCE**  
103  

5 The War of Two Frances and the Rise of Assertive Secularism (1789–1989)  
136  

**PART III: TURKEY**  
6 Assertive Secularism and the Islamic Challenge (1997–2008)  
161  

7 Westernization and the Emergence of Assertive Secularism (1826–1997)  
202  

Conclusion  
236
Appendix A: State-Religion Regimes Index of 197 Countries 247
Appendix B: Human Development and Official Religion in 176 Countries 255
Appendix C: State-Religion Regimes in Forty-Six Muslim Countries 259
Bibliography 263
Index 307
Figures and Tables

FIGURES

1 Dependent and Independent Variables  page 14
2 Continuum of State-Religion Regimes and Secularism  31
3 Continuum of Passive and Assertive Secularism  32
4 Continuum of Ideological Groups in the United States  54

TABLES

1 Types of State-Religion Regimes  8
2 State Policies toward Religion in Schools  9
3 Human Development and Official Religion  16
4 State-Religion Regimes in Forty-Six Muslim Countries  18
5 Historical Conditions and Relations during Secular State Building  29
6 Groups in a Continuum between Passive and Assertive Secularism  34
7 The United States and France: Method of Difference  36
8 France and Turkey: Method of Similarity  36
9 Groups’ Goals and Policy Preferences in the United States  54
Figures and Tables

10 Ideology and Supreme Court Nominations since Reagan 62
11 Muslim Female Students Wearing Headscarves in 2004–2005 108
12 Major Secularization Laws in France (1881–1889) 147
13 Major Kemalist Reforms (1924–1935) 222
14 Current Levels of Religiosity in Turkish, American, and French Societies 244
15 Societal Religiosity and Secular Ideology 244
Glossary of Abbreviations

**AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS**

AA American Atheists  
ACLJ American Center for Law and Justice  
ACLU American Civil Liberties Union  
ADL Anti-Defamation League  
AJC American Jewish Congress  
AU Americans United for Separation of Church and State  
NEA National Education Association  
PFAW People for the American Way

**FRENCH ORGANIZATIONS**

CFCM French Council of the Muslim Faith  
CLR Committee on Secularism and the Republic  
FNMF National Federation of Muslims of France  
PCF French Communist Party  
PS Socialist Party  
UDF Union for French Democracy  
UMP Union for a Popular Movement  
UOIF Union of Islamic Organizations of France
# Glossary of Abbreviations

## Turkish Organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AK Party</td>
<td>Justice and Development Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANAP</td>
<td>Motherland Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>Justice Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHP</td>
<td>Republican People’s Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUP</td>
<td>Committee of Union and Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diyanet</td>
<td>Directorate of Religious Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DP</td>
<td>Democratic Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSP</td>
<td>Democratic Left Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYP</td>
<td>True Path Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP</td>
<td>Virtue Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGK</td>
<td>National Security Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHP</td>
<td>Nationalist Action Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>MNP</td>
<td>National Order Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSP</td>
<td>National Salvation Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PKK</td>
<td>Kurdistan Workers’ Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RP</td>
<td>Welfare Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP</td>
<td>Felicity Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>TESEV</td>
<td>Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>TÜSİAD</td>
<td>Association of Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YÖK</td>
<td>Council for Higher Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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