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978-0-521-74134-7 - Secularism and State Policies toward Religion: The United States, France, and Turkey

Ahmet T. Kuru

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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 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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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.*

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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

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Glossary of Abbreviations

TURKISH ORGANIZATIONS

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

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