



Mapping Kurdistan

Since the early twentieth century, Kurds have challenged the borders and national identities of the states they inhabit. Nowhere is this more evident than in their promotion of the ‘Map of Greater Kurdistan’, an ideal of a unified Kurdish homeland in an ethnically and geographically complex region. This powerful image is embedded in the consciousness of the Kurdish people, both within the region and, perhaps even more strongly, in the diaspora.

Addressing the lack of rigorous research and analysis of Kurdish politics from an international perspective, Zeynep N. Kaya focuses on self-determination, territorial identity and international norms to suggest how these imaginations of homelands have been socially, politically and historically constructed (much like the state territories the Kurds inhabit), as opposed to their perception of being natural, perennial or intrinsic. Adopting a non-political approach to notions of nationhood and territoriality, *Mapping Kurdistan* is a systematic examination of the international processes that have enabled a wide range of actors to imagine and create the cartographic image of greater Kurdistan that is in use today.

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Mapping Kurdistan

Territory, Self-Determination and
Nationalism

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To Elif

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Note on Text

Transliteration was a challenging task for this book because it covered a long historical period (from mid-nineteenth century to present), a large geography and a wide range of different transliterations of Kurdish words in multiple languages – Kurdish, Persian, Arabic, Turkish and Ottoman Turkish. This book is meant for both specialists and general readers; therefore, I adopted a basic transliteration method. I have preserved Ottoman Turkish, Arabic, Kurdish and Persian terms where possible for words commonly used in English as well as for place names, personal names, treaties, historical textbooks, names of associations, rebellions and movements. I have not used diacritics. I have followed the transliteration guidelines of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. My choice of transliteration is not intended to impose identity or nationality on the individuals, names and locations.

Abbreviations

| | |
|--------|---|
| AKP | Justice and Development Party (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi) |
| BCE | Before Common Era |
| CUP | Committee for Unity and Progress (İttihat ve Terakki Cemiyeti) |
| DFNS | Democratic Federation of Northern Syria |
| ECHR | European Court of Human Rights |
| HDP | Peoples' Democratic Party (Halkların Demokratik Partisi) |
| HEP | People's Labour Party (Halkın Emek Partisi) |
| HPG | People's Defence Forces (Hêzên Parastina Gel) |
| IR | International Relations |
| ISIS | Islamic State of Iraq and Syria |
| KCK | Association of Communities in Kurdistan (Koma Civakên Kurdistan) |
| KDP | Kurdistan Democratic Party |
| KDPS | Kurdistan Democratic Party of Syria |
| KDPT | Kurdistan Democratic Party of Turkey |
| KHRP | Kurdish Human Rights Project |
| KJ | Kurdistan Resurrection Organisation (Komalay Jiyanaway Kurd) |
| KNCL | Kurdistan National Congress |
| KNK | Kurdistan National Congress (Kongra Netewiya Kurdistan) |
| KRG | Kurdistan Regional Government |
| KRI | Kurdistan Region of Iraq |
| KSSP | Kurdish Society for Solidarity and Progress (Kürt Teavün ve Terakki Cemiyeti) |
| LGBTQI | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex |
| MPs | Members of Parliament |
| PDKI | Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (Partiya Dêmuokratî Kurdistanî Iran) |
| PKK | Kurdistan Workers' Party (Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan) |

List of Abbreviations

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| PUK | Patriotic Union of Kurdistan |
| PYD | Democratic Union Party (Partiya Yekîtiya Demokrat) |
| SAK | Society for the Advancement of the Kurds (Kürt Teali Cemiyeti) |
| SDF | Syrian Democratic Forces |
| SFR | Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia |
| TİP | Turkey Labour Party (Türkiye İşçi Partisi) |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| YPG | People's Protection Units (Yekîneyên Parastina Gel) |
| YPJ | Women's Defence Units (Yekîneyên Parastina Jin) |