

Alien Citizens

How does international context influence state policies toward religious minorities? Using parliamentary proceedings, court decisions, newspaper archives, and interviews, this book is the first systematic study that employs international context in the study of state policies toward religion, and that compares Turkey and France with regard to religious minorities. Comparing state policies toward Christians in Turkey and toward Muslims in France, this book argues that policy change toward minorities becomes possible when strong domestic actors find a suitable international context that can help them execute their policy agendas. Turkish Islamists used the context of Turkey's bid to join the European Union to transform Turkish politics in the 2000s, initiating a reformist moment in state treatment of Christians. The far right in France utilized the rise of Islamophobia in Europe to adopt restrictive policies toward Muslims. Ramazan Kılınç argues that the presence of an international context that can favor particular groups over others shifts the domestic balance of power, and makes some policies more likely to be implemented than others.

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The State and Religious Minorities in Turkey and France

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To my parents Münevver and Hüseyin Kılınç

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Abbreviations

AKP	Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi (Justice and Development Party)
CHP	Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi (Republican People's Party)
ECHR	European Court of Human Rights
EEC	European Economic Community
EU	European Union
FN	Front National (National Front)
GDF	General Directorate of Foundations (Vakıflar Genel Müdürlüğü)
HRW	Human Rights Watch
MHP	Milliyetçi Hareket Partisi (Nationalist Action Party)
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
UN	United Nations
USCIRF	United States Commission on International Religious Freedom