THE FAILURE OF POPULAR CONSTITUTION MAKING IN TURKEY

This book offers an in-depth account of the failure of popular constitution making in Turkey from 2011 to 2013. The aim to include different segments of society and political parties in constitution making makes this process an anomaly in the otherwise authoritarian history of Turkish constitutional politics. In the end, however, long-standing societal divides regarding political, cultural and religious diversity that were amplified in the negotiations led to the failure of the process. Most notably, the ruling AKP’s insistence on establishing a presidential system – supported by neither the other three political parties nor the public – destabilized the process and exacerbated distrust among the drafters. In addition, unfavorable procedures prevented consensus and allowed the AKP to hijack the process. The failure of popular constitution making in 2013 was a missed opportunity for democratization before Turkey plunged into full-fledged democratic backsliding.

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