

Sudan, two countries which likewise became objects of British imperial policy. The author follows the emancipation movement of the Egyptian society and explains the mutual relations of the so-called "the triangle of forces" which was formed by the British, the Egyptian King and the Wafd. He notices the rise of the first radical Islamic movement, the Muslim Brotherhood and its place in the Egyptian society. During the Second World War Egypt was an important centre for the British war effort and the war years became for the overwhelming majority of Egyptians a period of immense suffering. The development in the Sudan which was in the nineteenth century a part of Egypt and since 1899 an Anglo-Egyptian Condominium, was marked with ousting of the Egyptians from the country and transformation of the Sudan in a directly managed British colony.

In the eighth chapter the author gives an analysis of the Arabs' efforts to unite. During the Second World War the British government understood that there are strong tendencies to establish some form of Arab unity, so it supported the idea of creating a regional organization which would unite all the independent Arab states. The result of Arab endeavours and British content was the establishment of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 22 March 1945.

The very deep and close knowledge of the subject is a result of many years of study, research and personal experience of the author during his long periods of stay in the Middle East through research programmes and in the highest diplomatic position. As well as being a master of detail, the author is also able to change focus on key periods and key events. It is important to appreciate the precise and very reliable scientific transcription of Arab proper names. Considering the great number of personalities listed in the monograph, it would be beneficial to attach an index. In his work the author uses a wide heuristic base: the list of used sources and literature points to an extraordinary understanding of all issues related to the subject and both for the scholars and students would be a reliable guide for further study. The Sorby's monograph under review is an excellent historical work surpassing the standard level of works treating the same subject. It will undoubtedly find its place in the wider scientific research of the Near Eastern history in the twentieth century.

*Eduard Gombár*

WANNER, Jan: *Krvavý zrod moderného Turecka. Ankara medzi Londýnem a Moskvou.* (The Bloody Birth of Modern Turkey. Ankara between London and Moscow). Prague, Libri Publishing House 2009, 291 pp. ISBN 978-80-7277-387-9.

This ambitious book by the renowned Czech historian and an authority in the modern history of the Middle East, Professor Jan Wanner, describes the historical events during the last stage of the Ottoman Empire until the emergence of a new Turkey. In six chapters the author examines how the political development of Turkish society and institutions is seen from the international diplomatic perspective. These chapters are entitled: 1. Warfare in a Vicious Circle; 2. Problems How to End the War; 3. Old and New Diplomacy; 4. The Acid Test; 5. The Victory; and 6. The Settlement.

It is necessary to point to the fact, that the people interested in beginnings of the

republican Turkey are mostly confronted with a great deal of books that are reducing the complex historical process to a more or less true autobiography of the first President Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. This founder of the modern Turkish statehood is mostly described as an extraordinary even genial personality, who persuaded a homogenous people to fight against foreign intruders and this struggle was supported at the most by Soviet policy. A more realistic view on this period was hindered by the official Turkish propaganda putting the Atatürk's personality in a place which excluded any critical analysis. On the other hand the Soviet diplomacy periodically referred to the former traditional collaboration that in reality was not perfect. No word was mentioned that Turkey was only a part of a great power game for the destiny of the region between London and Moscow.

After many British, Russian and French archival documents had been declassified and made accessible in the last decade of the twentieth century, the former conceptions nourished for decades, became unbearable. The Turkish liberation struggle was not restricted only to the war with Greek intruders in west Anatolia, it was also a local civil war, a part of international diplomacy and a struggle for the Eastern and Southern frontiers of Europe – the struggle over frontiers having always been settled by the force of arms. The author in his book is not trying to outline a picture of struggle between the “righteous” and the “usurpers” but a picture of a struggle for enforcing different antagonistic interests often unrealistically formulated and inconsistently forwarded which usually resulted in solutions similarly questionable and instable like in previous centuries.

A key to understanding the accusations of Turkish nationalism lies in the Near Eastern events following World War I. The Great Powers forcibly dismantled the empire. Britain and France divided the Arab provinces between them, setting up “mandatory regimes” under their own supervision within the League of Nations framework and ruling these regions in various guises until the 1950s. They had intended to hand over a large chunk of Anatolia to their protégés in Athens and to leave a rump Ottoman state. Instead, Turkish resistance forces gathered and, unable to restore the empire, settled on founding a smaller state in its Anatolian fragment, one that later became the Turkish nation state. In both the Arab and the Anatolian areas, nationalist movements after the Ottoman demise worked to create nations in the states that had emerged from the imperial debris: notably Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Transjordan and the special case of Palestine. Leaders respectively were working to create and propagate Turkish and Arab nationalist identities.

One major factor in the Anatolian settlement was the role of Greece. At the Paris Peace Conference the Greek claims were presented by the Prime Minister Venizelos. The Greek claims produced a mixed reaction and considerable opposition within many delegations. While they were still being considered, however, it was decided, in May 1919 to send Greek troops to Izmir, nominally to preserve order but actually to administer a rebuff to Italy. The Greek landing at Izmir provided a strong support for the Greek claim to part of Asia Minor. However, the Greek intervention was the decisive event in launching the Turkish armed struggle against the Allied attempt to impose a settlement on the Near East. There were reports of Greek atrocities against Muslim civilians and these Greek actions fuelled an already strong detestation of the

Greeks in Anatolia and Thrace.

In eastern Asia Minor Mustafa Kemal assumed leadership of what became known as the "Nationalist Movement". In 1919 this movement was weak and divided. In their plans for an Ottoman peace treaty Allied leaders took little account of the emergence of a Nationalist movement. After the withdrawal of the USA, and the desire of other powers to restrict Italy led to a decision that there should be no mandates in Anatolia but only spheres of influence. Greece was given extensive territories including the whole Thrace and Izmir. The occupation of Istanbul on 16 March 1920 was a crucial event in the post-war history of the Near East because it ended the possibility that some compromise might have been found between the different political forces in Turkey. Because in the spring of 1920 the Nationalists were in a critical position, they had appealed to Soviet Russia for assistance.

By the end of that year Mustafa Kemal won the civil war and in March 1921 an Alliance between Soviet Russia and the Nationalists was concluded. This Alliance caused much concern in Britain, where it was seen as an alliance of Bolshevism and Panislamism which could menace British interests throughout the East. The Indian government and the War Office favoured an attempt to win over the Nationalists and create in Islam a solid barrier to Bolshevism in the East. However, winning over the Nationalists required the abandonment of the Treaty of Sèvres. On the other hand, an Anglo-Russian agreement, it was thought, would leave the Nationalists isolated and make possible their defeat and the confirmation of the Sèvres settlement. France and Italy were also seeking a political solution to their difficulties. They had disliked the Greeks and had been willing to make an agreement with the Nationalists. The Greek collapse in the summer of 1922 changed the whole situation.

The author has mobilized his deep knowledge of both Western and Eastern diplomatic sources to assess the significance of the Atatürk revolution and provide an essential background for the formation of judgments about contemporary Turkey's problems and prospects. The book is very clear and very useful because it helps to get away from the stereotypes and to find reality. It is supported by a thorough glossary and a big number of maps and photographs. Professor Jan Wanner tackles the often difficult issues in this period head on and with refreshing honesty. He has a neat way of gently undermining settled issues that makes it a very good text with which to work. The book will appeal to anyone interested in the history of the Middle East and will undoubtedly be of help to students and to non-specialists alike.

*Karol Sorby*

BERTONCINI ZÚBKOVÁ, Elena – GROMOV, Mikhail D. – KHAMIS, Said A.M. – WAMITILA, Kyallo Wadi: *Outline of Swahili Literature. Prose Fiction and Drama*. Second Edition, Extensively Revised and Enlarged. Leiden–Boston, Brill 2009. 500 pp. ISBN 978-90-04- 16818-3.

The book under review *Outline of Swahili Literature. Prose Fiction and Drama* is an extensively revised and enlarged edition of the study written by Elena Bertoncini Zúbková, Professor of Swahili Language and Literature at the University of Naples