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### **On both sides of the curtain. Polish-Turkish relations in the years 1939-1960**

The beginning of Polish-Turkish relations was officially defined in 1414, when King Jogaila's envoy went to the court of the Ottoman Sultan Mehmed I. Polish historiography on Polish-Turkish (Ottoman) relations has so far published mainly works on the Polish-Ottoman wars of the 17th century and single works on later periods. In Turkish historiography, only the Polish village near Istanbul (Polonezköy) and the 18th century have received a more extensive study. All of these works, however, describe Turkish-Polish relations only piecemeal and thus do not reflect the complete picture of mutual concerns.

The project aims to expand knowledge of Polish-Turkish relations to include another crucial period, namely World War Two. This was a necessary period because, during World War Two, Turkey was "benevolently" neutral and agreed with the transport of Polish gold or the Wawel collections through its territory while hiding all aid to avoid jeopardizing its relations with the Third Reich. The Turkish government also allowed numerous Polish engineers and specialists to work during this time. But, of course, it could have done this more gratuitously; it wanted to use qualified personnel to develop and modernize the country. 1945 was chosen as the final censure, not only because of the war's end but also because, in August 1945, the Turkish government decided to recognize the Provisional Government of National Unity in Warsaw. This meant Ambassador Michał Sokolnicki and the government-in-exile in London were no longer officially recognized as state representatives.

In the research project, the author hypothesizes that although Turkey and Poland were in different spheres of influence and political situations during the period under study, mutual relations did not suffer and remained close. On the contrary, trade cooperation was growing all the time. It will be possible to see what Polish-Turkish relations were like in the 1939-1945 period by subjecting historical sources, mainly archival materials, press publications, and fiction, to critical analysis. First, the collected data will be subjected to critical analysis and interpretation. Then a selection of this data will be made and a synthesis prepared. Finally, documents stored in archives in Poland, Turkey, Great Britain, the United States, Vatican and Germany will be critically analyzed.

The author will combine historical and international relations perspectives in her analysis. She will critically analyze historical sources and compare the results with contemporary analysis and research in international relations. The interdisciplinary studies will allow to analyze the present and formulate predictions for the future, using the historical perspective.

The result of the project will be the publication of a minimum of four articles addressing the subject of Turkish-Polish relations in the period of 1939-1945, and in this way, add an essential element to the development of Polish and Turkish historiography because false information is often repeated about the Ottoman Empire's non-recognition of the partitions, or only the period of the wars in the 17th century, while at the same time failing to study the exciting and unique periods in the everyday relations. A good study of them would also allow a better understanding of their current dimensions and opportunities for development, building on their positive legacy despite historical adversities.