THE PARADOXES OF TURKISH REPUBLICANISM

Kalina Peeva

This article examines the genesis of the republican idea and the more recent practical considerations of Turkish republicanism. The article argues that in the course of the hundred-year history of the Republic of Turkey the application of the principle of republicanism, although incorporated in the country's fundamental

law as inalienable constitutional principles, remains far from the democratic norms characteristic of the Western European countries which the advocates for the Turkish Republic have been striving to emulate since its very proclamation. The reasons for these paradoxical findings are several, and the most evident among them should be the absence of a clear concept of freedom, the failure to incorporate Islam into the republican values of the modern Turkish Republic, as well as the lack of flexibility of the founding ideology of Kemalism, because of which it cannot be adapted to the challenges of the modern world.

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