

Abstract

This bachelor's thesis is dedicated to the remarkable feminist of the late Ottoman period and the interwar period, Nezihe Muhittin. In particular, it focuses on her thoughts, which are contained in her key book *Türk Kadını* (Turkish Women), published in 1931. The aim of this thesis is to present Nezihe Muhittin as a representative of the "non-state" wave of feminism in Kemalist Turkey. The fact that the personality of Nezihe Muhittin was rediscovered and the concept of "state feminism" was defined in the 1980s means that this thesis will not only present the history of women's emancipation in Turkey, but it will also focus on the development of debates about the Kemalist reforms regarding women in the early Turkish Republic. The main part of this thesis analyses the feminist thoughts and ideas of Nezihe Muhittin contained in the book *Türk Kadını* regarding the future functioning of Turkish society. This thesis also contextualises the ideas of Nezihe Muhittin with the ideas of the official state feminism represented by Afet İnan, the adoptive daughter of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and a notable representative and co-author of the official state feminist discourse. The main research question of this thesis is whether and how the opinions, visions and activities of the independent representative of Turkish feminism, Nezihe Muhittin, differ from state feminism in Turkey. In order to achieve these goals, this thesis uses the historical method and methods of gender studies, especially the concept of "state feminism".

Keywords

Feminism, Turkey, Nezihe Muhittin, gender equality, women's rights, "state feminism"