

THE TURKISH-ISLAMIC UNION IS THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF CRIMEAN TURKS

- ❑ History shows that permanent peace can be brought to both the Middle East, the Balkans and the Caucasus under Turkish leadership, as the heir to the Ottoman legacy.
- ❑ The Turkish-Islamic Union to be established under the leadership of Turkey will mean an end to the conflicts and bring peace to the region. This union will also lead to wealthy and prosperous communities as all the countries of the region will engage in powerful economic cooperation.

Like that of the Ottomans, the Turkish-Islamic Union’s approach to the Balkans, the Caucasus and the Middle East will take the form of a structure that embraces different ethnic identities and faiths. The foundation here is the rediscovery of **Turkish-Islamic culture and our long established Civilization**. Indeed, in cultural if not political terms, Turkey still dominates the region, with many Muslims in the Balkans and the Caucasus in particular referring to themselves as Turks and Ottomans, despite their different ethnic origins.

“There is a huge Muslim population in the Balkans that regard themselves as ‘Turks,’ despite not being ethnically ‘Turkish.’ The factor that binds these ‘honorary cousins’ to us so tightly is Turkish-Islamic moral values and the Ottoman legacy. The way that protestors during demonstrations in Belgrade in 1997 held placards reading ‘We Want Turkish Administration’ and ‘Bring Back the Days of Ottoman Rule’ attracted the attention of the Western press and once again underlined the need for Turkey to play an active role in the region.” (Daily Gunduz, 12 January 1997)



The Crimean Turks who were sent to exile on May 18, 1944.

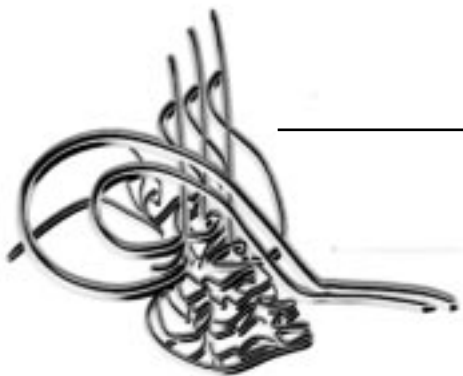
That same longing also applies to the Middle East. Many parts of the region used to belong to us. The people of the region have a great love for Turkey. Regions such as Kirkuk, where our relatives the Turkmen live, are also vitally important for us. Had international laws and the wishes of the people of the region been observed after the War of Liberation, then Mosul, Kirkuk and the surrounding area, known as Northern Iraq, would today be a part of Turkey. This is a known fact that must never be forgotten. That is why **former Turkish territories such as Kirkuk, Crimea and Bosnia have such profound ties to the Turkish nation, ones they will never renounce.**

Together with our cousins who returned to the Crimea in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, there are today some 300,000 Turks in the region. It is a known fact that **more than 500,000 Crimean Turks** were forcibly ex-patriated and unable to return to their homes from exile, mainly from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Ukraine. Existing bureaucratic obstacles to a return to Crimea and the economic weakness of the region do not allow the Crimean Turks the opportunity to return to their homes.

Turkey is the state the Crimean Turks trust most. **The Crimean Turks lived under Ottoman administration for many years and regard Turkey as a second homeland.** Crimean Turkish leader Mustafa Abdulcemil Kırımoglu says that Turkey is the natural leader of the world’s Turks:

“The Turkish republic occupies a unique place in the Turkish world. Turkey is the only Turkic state that has gained independence and has the strength to preserve it and that has its own army. National civilization is highly advanced in Turkey, and the Turkish language there is rich and self-sufficient. The Turkish economy is much more advanced than those of other Turkic countries. All these factors make Turkey the leader in the Turkic world... Turkey really can be the spiritual center that unites the whole Turkic world.” (Mustafa Abdulcemil Kırımoglu, <http://www.kirimdernegi.org.tr>)

The “Ottoman land” made up of the Balkans, the Middle East and the Caucasus, and with Turkey at their center, still have a very lively and complex structure. The gap that emerged in the wake of the Ottoman Empire has still not been filled and no climate of security has been fully established. This attracts the attention to the Muslim Turkish nation that applied the “model of co-existence” under Ottoman leadership. And this shows that this model can only be applied today and tomorrow by the Muslim Turkish nation. Indeed, many politicians, political scientists and writers and researchers have been examining this just system of administration established with great success by the Turkic states, and the Ottoman Empire in particular. History shows that permanent peace can be brought to the Middle East, the Balkans and the Caucasus under the leadership of Turkey, as the heir to the Ottoman legacy. The Turkish-Islamic Union to be established under Turkey’s leadership will put an end to the conflict and establish peace in the region and will also produce wealthy and prosperous communities as all the countries of the region engage in powerful economic cooperation.



Foundation for the Preservation of National Values