

Modern & Contemporary France

ISSN: (Print) (Online) Journal homepage: www.tandfonline.com/journals/cmcf20

Turkish–French relations: history, present and the future

edited by Aurélien Denizeau and Ozan Örmeci, Cham, Springer, 2022, 357 pp., €99.99 (hardcover), ISBN 978-3-031-07987-0

Merve Özdemirkiran-Embel

To cite this article: Merve Özdemirkiran-Embel (13 Mar 2025): Turkish–French relations: history, present and the future, Modern & Contemporary France, DOI: 10.1080/09639489.2025.2470663

To link to this article: https://doi.org/10.1080/09639489.2025.2470663

Published online: 13 Mar 2025.

Submit your article to this journal

View related articles

View Crossmark data

Full Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at
https://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?journalCode=cmcf20

Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

BOOK REVIEW

Turkish–French relations: history, present and the future, edited by Aurélien Denizeau and Ozan Örmeci, Cham, Springer, 2022, 357 pp., €99.99 (hardcover), ISBN 978-3-031-07987-0

Turkish–French Relations: History, Present and the Future, edited by Aurélien Denizeau and Ozan Örmeci, is a very comprehensive book that describes and discusses in detail many elements and aspects of Turkish–French relations, both historically and in terms of main themes and areas of cooperation and tension. The book consists of three parts: historical background (four chapters); anatomy of relations (four chapters); and key issues (six chapters). The forewords of the book are written by one of the few academics researching the history of Turkish–French relations, Haydar Çakmak, and by former Minister of Foreign Affairs Yaşar Yakış of Türkiye, head of the Turkish–French parliamentary friendship group and recipient of the Légion d'honneur in 2009.

Despite the deep-rooted history and intense diplomatic, economic, cultural and scientific relations between the two countries, there are very few academic publications on Turkish–French relations. For some reason, both sides' academics are hesitant to delve deeply, especially into the current issues of bilateral relations. The contribution of academics in France working on Turkish studies remains significant. Furthermore, despite the large number of French-speaking researchers in Türkiye, there are only a handful of academics who deal with French politics. This results in a scarcity of academic studies focusing specifically on the various issues of bilateral relations. In terms of filling this gap, the editors of the book, Aurélien Denizeau and Ozan Örmeci, should be congratulated for bringing together 16 researchers' chapters, in addition to their contributions. This book aims to provide a look at the different aspects of Franco–Turkish relations, shows their diversity and complexity, and encourages further reflection. In this respect, the editors have chosen to address a large panel of authors. Some of them are more specialised in geopolitics and international relations, while others have backgrounds as historians, sociologists or strategic analysts. This diversity allows these authors to propose various points of view with different keys of analysis. They sometimes have different or conflicting views on certain aspects of French–Turkish relations. This diversity, carefully brought together by the editors, has enabled the book to achieve its purpose. Overall, *Turkish–French Relations: History, Present, and the Future* offers paths for understanding and interpreting these relations and analysing them from different perspectives. Students, academics, public figures, diplomats, journalists and even amateurs in international relations will find this book useful.

Despite all these positive points that contribute enormously to the existing literature on Türkiye–France relations, the book also represents some weaknesses. Since the book is generally written from a geopolitical perspective, societal issues and the sociological dimensions of relations have been relatively neglected. For example, the issues of migration and diaspora which have become increasingly decisive factors in relations between the two countries are missing in the book. Similarly, the debates on themes such as Muslim worship, freedom of expression and islamophobia, which have given rise to political tension between presidents Emmanuel Macron and Recep Tayyip Erdogan, have not found sufficient space in the book. Moreover, in addition to important chapters on economic and cultural cooperation, scientific and academic

cooperation issues could also find more space in the book. These weaknesses do not affect the quality of the entire publication, but they are important aspects of bilateral relations that deserve to be analysed in depth for future research.

Merve Özdemirkiran-Embel
Marmara University, Istanbul, Türkiye
mozdemirkiran@gmail.com

© 2025 The Author(s)
https://doi.org/10.1080/09639489.2025.2470663

Check for updates