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## Reading 'Türkiye's Recent History' by İlber Ortaylı

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Ortaylı's new work, "Türkiye's Recent History," has gone through seven printings in just a short time since its publication, reaching a circulation of 45,000. Indeed, Ortaylı deserves congratulations for this achievement and for instilling in people a love of history. İlber Ortaylı is truly a renowned scholar in the field of history, whose words and writings are taken seriously and valued. These qualities alone place a greater responsibility on Ortaylı to be more meticulous in his work. However, in his latest book, Ortaylı has not fulfilled the expectations of his peers.

Ortaylı said that "this diligence in a society that accepted the 1982 Constitution with 92 percent of the votes" for the trial of September 12

When he wrote "Conference" he wrote "Van See". The correct spelling should have been "Vannsee" (a summer resort near Berlin named after Lake Vannsee - CMS) and it was spelled as we say. This was a small spelling mistake that Hodja overlooked.

Ortaylı made a fundamental mistake regarding the 1946 elections. According to Hoca in his article "1950: The Beginning of Democracy in Türkiye,"

three parties entered the Turkish Grand National Assembly in the 1946 elections: the CHP (the Democrat Party), and the Nation Party. However, three parties did participate in the 1946 elections, but the third party besides the CHP and the DP was not the Nation Party, which didn't even exist at the time, but the National Development Party, and it failed to secure a seat in parliament. No third party, other than the CHP and the DP, was able to secure a seat in parliament in the 1946 elections. The Nation Party, as Ortaylı mentioned, was founded in 1948 and secured a seat in parliament in the 1950 elections.

Our professor, who said "there was no possibility" regarding the events of September

6-7, is making a grave mistake on this matter or is underestimating the number of people injured or killed during the events. The number of injured during the events varies between 300 and 600. Sixty women were raped, and now brace yourself! According to the Turkish press, 11 people died, and according to the Helsinki Watch report, 15 people died

[source: September 6-7 Events, Dilek Çimen, Tezhi Haldar, Akdeniz

Therefore, viewing and presenting the May 27, 1960, coup solely from the perspective of a Turkey that suffered oppression neither fits into historiography nor helps understand Türkiye. While demonstrating his tolerance for the coup, for some reason, nowhere in his article does he mention the three statesmen hanged as a result of a completely unlawful trial, the president and members of parliament who served decades in prison, or the persecution inflicted upon them. Ortaylı's views, which seem to exonerate the May 27, coup, frankly surprised us.

Ortaylı states in his book that on September 12th, Damirali and Ecevit were truly hosted at "Hamza Köy," a military naval base. If being taken from their homes by armed men after a military coup and taken to a military base against their will and not allowed to leave constitutes being a guest, then the world has struggled in vain for Nelson Mandela, who was held under house arrest for over 40 years, and for a Burmese politician who was recently "hosted" in his own home.

According to Ortaylı, it is normal behavior for military regimes to take

people from their homes and host them.

Regarding the prosecution of the coup plotters, Hodja says "It is not possible to take this road seriously in a society that accepted the 1982 Constitution with 92 percent of the votes." In another place, he says, "The society that accepted the 1982 Constitution with 92 percent of the votes, it is not possible to take this road seriously."