

## Ottoman Revolutions Within the Framework of Historical Institutionalism

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**Abstract.** The aim of the thesis is to examine revolutions in Turkey in 1908–1924 within the framework of the social revolution of Theda Skocpol. We show how it is possible to apply her theory for the analysis of revolutions in the Ottoman Empire. But, on the other hand, we will argue that 1) the Ottoman revolutions were mainly caused by external political factors (in contrast to the Skocpol's understanding of revolution as that of the dynamics of interstate clashes), and that 2) immediately prior to these revolutions, the Ottoman society was at the peak of its development (according to Skocpol, the revolutionary process is launched when realisation comes that the old regime cannot undertake any adequate actions).

**Introduction.** The thesis is an attempt to verify the application of Skocpol's theory to revolutions in the Ottoman Empire. Importantly, Skocpol warns researchers that her theory must be considered with caution because it might prove impossible to generalise it to other instances of social revolutions, and therefore it might be unfeasible to construct a universal theory on the basis of the current version. Despite these possible drawbacks of the theory, Skocpol's principles have significantly influenced subsequent research on revolutions. Consequently, it is reasonable to verify the application of her principles to the case of Ottoman revolutions. Topicality of our task pertains to the importance of reconsideration of current ideology of the contemporary Turkish Republic. The current development of the new Turkish constitution suggests the break-away from the prior Kemalist period in the history of the country. That is why it is so important to evaluate it now in terms of modern political science.

**Materials and methods.** The thesis is based in the concept of historical institutionalism and deploys the comparative-historical method.

**The aim.** The aim of the respective research is to explore to what extent the historical institutionalism theory by Skocpol is applicable to the analysis of Ottoman revolutions.

**Results.** The Young Turks Revolution of 1908 and Kemal Revolution during the War for Independence in 1919–1922 were initiated by the alternative political elite that believed in its right of taking control of the country in order to “redirect it from the dead-end”. The climax of the revolution, which was attained while external wars and foreign interventions were raging, was accompanied by the replacement of the ruling regime. The outcome of such revolutionary actions became the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. However, the analysis of the given historical situation suggests that prior to the revolutions the Ottoman society was well developing. This provides certain grounds to consider the decline of the old Ottoman society from yet another perspective.

**Conclusions.** The theory of historical institutionalism is applicable to the research on the Ottoman revolutions. Our empirical materials demonstrate the need of changing the theory in various points.