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TITLE: Türkish Workers in West Germany: A case study

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TURKISH WORKERS IN WEST GERMANY: A

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The history books of the west have been considering the last 400 years about the threats, wars of the Ottoman empire, the stereotyp about the having doubtless influenced the thinking of the until the street. All these value judgements were part to the fact, that the Ottoman empire followed a polegemony and was trying to foster its power structure conquest and annexation. After the decline of the and the rebirth of the Turkish nation in form Republic, a new type of Turkish invasion took paids in the individual choice, motivated by economic and so that this peaceful invasion is no more considerent of diplomatic history or international relational relatio

relative ease to cross the national frontiers, the upheaval of Western Europe, migration, whether not, became also in Turkey one of the most attraction to solve pressing conditions, such as frustration, lack of promotion, excessive social proof the use of individual liberties. Thus with the the new constitution of 1961, which guarantees travelling to every Turkish citizen, the sporadic small group of daring young workers, suddenly large-scale exodus toward Europe. Today the reached a continent as far as Australia.

The present day migration movement is lar demographic explosion. Since a decade the popul increases at a rate of 3 %, in absolute figure (1) 8 1965 the Turkish population exceeded 30 million population (age 15-64) of 13.240.000 is divided rural and only 10.4 % in industrial sector. statistics of the trade unions, the number of disg ment reaches at the peak of the dead season 5 mil figure of unemployment is 1,5 million.

Thus the first Five Year Plan envisaged four to overcome this demographic pressure:

- 1 Introduction of family planning method
- 2 Creation of new jobs in industry,

«Turkish Workers In West Germany: A Case

161.000 workers. Thus roughly speaking the Turkis increased 48 times its preliminary size.

Table: 1 Major Foreign workers in W. Germany

sh
00
00
19
59
73
54
54
28
32

In 1968 the following five European countries ded the presence of 162.846 Turkish workers. This with 200.000 prior to the economic regression in Fe The distribution is as follows:

Switzerland	720
Austria	5.595
Belgium	7.266
Holland	10.283
Federal Germany	139.000

The major reasons for this very rapid and lar can be analyzed under three headings:

a) Economic factors:

- a) Large scale unemployment and instabilimarket,
- b) The incapacity of the demands on the and the uneven structure of consumption
- c) The lack of capital and the scarcity of sa
- d) The ambition of benefiting from foreign capital,
- e) Weak productivity,
- f) Low national income level.

b) Social factors:

- a) Larger job opportunities within the c Common Market,
- b) Higher standard of living,
- c) More modern working conditions.

c) Personal factors:

- a) The desire of getting acquainted with the the national border,
- b) The demand for learning a foreign langu
- c) The ambition of accide

12.238 women, thus a total of 636.532 unemployed anxiously any confirmation of their demands. Among cants 495.539 were completely unexperienced, unsking Since than this figures have been constantly raising, ment is mostly due to a high population growth, a from the villages toward the cities and the unability development plans to furnish sufficient new vacanciants of the confirmation of their demands. Among cants 495.539 were completely unexperienced, unsking the constantly raising.

Another interesting aspect of the increase of Tur can be traced down in regard of sex distribution. Alt represents the only community which embraces a rel Islam, professing the rightness of discirimination amount quota of Turkish female workers has contantly incre lute figures as well as pereent. Here again the quo 13.4 % (1965) to 19.4 % (1967) (6). However the ra different picture. In 1967 the Greek women worker with 58.300 the strongest female group, followed ve the Italians with 57.900, the Spanish 42.400, the Yug and the Turkish women with 25.500 in 1968 34.264 non-permissive character of the Islamic way of evident, since during the regression period of Gerr in spring 1967, most of the continued demands f market were directed toward female manual worke key. The demands for women workers especially in rather complicated, high skill and light finger tou

a cufa was a same of all a transition in the contract of the c

Distribution of Turkish workers according indu

After having shortly looked over the sudden Turkish workers in Western Germany, some is their distribution within various industrial sectoriate. Accordingly the iron, steel industry to almosy 50 % of the Turkish workers (Metal 48.469), the second place is followed by the manifest (32.823), thirdly building and construction confourthly mining (10.517). Interesting enough the not very much attractive for Turkish workers.

The weight within each of these four secto out as follows:

- 1 Within the iron and metallurgical ind bile industry, electronics, machine cons steel machinery has attracted most of
- 2 In the realm of the manufacturing in rence goes for textile, carpentering, reand food industry (8).

Thus it can be stated that every 2 Turks out Germany works probably in front of an automothe third is likely to be employed in textile or the fourth helping to construct over or under the fifth to work in a mine. The cities with the m all over Federal Germany. As far as intergenerationality goes, there has been a noticeable tendency be and sons to move from unqualified to qualified me from manual to non-manual work already be abroad. For inst. 39 % of the fathers of the respeasants, but only % 9 of their sons continued to before they went abroad (9). Thus a strong tender urbanization and industrialisation within Turkey distinctive feature of the Turkish migrants.

However once these respondents were able to rapid upward mobility under certain conditions case of teachers of technical crafts gave place to mobility. With other words the attractiveness of life environment sometimes induced workers to descend mobility. Thus 21 % of the respondents, who engaged as salemen, clerk or had acquired speciel electricians, etc. moved over to the pure labour gave up their white job for better paid, but more jobs.

Another interesting feature of Turkish migregional belongingness of the applicants. The 19 proven that migration toward foreign countries hat the second phase of an internal migration. To illust although 40,5 % indicated İstanbul as their last 17 % were born there. This trend does not change

theless the share of smaller cities and villages labour forces has increased over the years. Since ning on no attempt to orientate or train these woffially undertaken, their adaptation is de facto their countrymen already settled in Germany as wo Turkish workers associations.

In view of this fast growth of short-term actually might be converted at least partly into a what has been and still are the major problems workers?

Motivation of working abroad

An important aspect of short-term migration is the prevailing opinions among the migrants them question to be tackled are the expectations toward try. Here one can detect an interesting dichotomy European industrialized countries are expecting freedom, better opportunities to shape their countries; however residents from a country, patransitional area of economic development are by the high wages and saving opportunities of the Investigations are showing that migrants from chosen to change their working places for pages.

«Turkish Workers In West Germany: A Case S

Table: 2

Success and failure (12)

Reasons for satisfaction

Satisfying wages and large savings

Perfectionment in the profession and the German la
Acquisition of a car

Getting to know the world, finding a job

Without response

Reasons for deception

Wages lower than expectation
Impossibility of saving
New arrivers
No opportunity for training
Are employed outside of their profession
Hoping to reach their goal
No answer

It must be pointed out, that lacking opportunition rounded up, satisfactory information about the job

Lodging, adjustment toward the job, earnings and

The second important phase concerning all mig presents itself after their arrival in the host count areas are imposing serious challenges:

- 1 The lodging of the workers,
- 2 Problems conerning the reunion of fa breaking up,
- 3 Earnings and savings of the workers,
- 4 Psychological attitude by the migrant to his superior and his environment.

The problem of housing presents serious aspends newly arrived contingent has the tendency of est contacts with the same ethnical group, if possible liarea and adopt the attitudes of their experience. These tendencies of course have reinforcing impact the feelings of alienation, exploitation and isolation

In case of the Turkish workers, the great major in collective lodging or communal living quarteers of not bringing with them their families. This is neral labour policy of the Federal Republic, which to be confronted with hardpressing demands for fatbe shared with the rest of the local population. On collective housings, built for the special purpose

up families. This seems to present especially for Turdilemna: on one side the legally imposed prohibition family members, on the other side, the lack of entbehalf of staunch, traditional oriented peasants, afralant their culturally completely bewildered spouses. I be overlooked, that the bilateral agreement signed be many and Greece, has adopted a quite different appronot only accepted the conditions of recrutting matogether, but also accepted to secure both partners same city. These contradictory conditions are comstatus of Turkish workers.

Table: 3

Distribution of male workers according the marital status (15)

	With Wife	Without	Total
Italians	28	39	67
Greeks	51	24	75
Spanish	30	36	66
Turks All other	16	62	78
foreigners	53	13	66

Turks (total of 84 % living as bachelor) the possithe family is legally excluded, thus discriminatory.

During the last official trip of the Turkish Mir (Ali Naili Erdem), to Germany the minister confithat in spite of repeated interventions on behalf Embassy and Consulates 30 % of the workers have letely their relations with their families (16). On some of the workers who are oblige to live separ families have shown signs of deep psychological leading toward insanity.

Among those Turkish families who were able 71 % were able to find a normal housing, the ave 51 - 100 DM; 59 % of these families had their them (17).

The allocation for children is principally only lies living with their families in the Federal Repbilateral agreements concluded with Greece, Spa Portugal enables those guestworkers, who are separfamilies, to receive this allocation which begins who the second child and climbs up to 70.- DM for the child. In practice various difficulties have emerged

1 — Turkish civil registers are mostly not income and month of birth of a child only the year to a refusal of German authorities to ma

during the last years one of the major pillars, we close the deficits in Turkey's balance of payment.

During the 1963 survey, the average living cost were calculated as following (18):

PLAL AND			267.—
Average	monthly	expenses	76.—
Average	monthly	food	157.—
Average	monthly	rent	34.—

Having calculated under the distribution and tions of 1963, the average earning represented the DM, which enabled each worker to put aside the sumately 250.— DM. Accordingly the savings in 1963 total sum of 20 Million \$ (19).

Since that year the contributions to the Turkish been remarkably high and are encouraged by the ac special rate of change. In addition the savings of workers, which have reached a ceiling of 600 Million constitutes also for the German economy a serious last point has been developped in detail by Prof. Batthe Turkish economy.

Table: 4

Transfer of guestworkers earnings abroad (in DM

This table clearly shows that at the peak of e of the Turkish guestworkers, a yearly foreign cu almost 100 million Dollars, which falls hardly shows term credit amount granted by the OECD sponsowas secured through Turkish labour force.

At the beginning, the delay in regard of the special exchange rate, caused the sudden errupt dubious commercial forms, all dealing in black After 1964 this business slowed down, mostly due to official change and the facilities shown by the Sp PTT services. However since 1968 the unofficial began to rise and new measures seems to be necestable funds home.

The problems concerning adjustement to the are easily overcome after a rather short orientat survey revealed that 69 % did not find any difficting themselves to their job, 40 % were able to min a time span of one hour to one day. 93 % confiable to adapt themselves to the working speed. To also indicated that 47 % of the workers est strength as the most important requirement for a Since 41 % of the sample did not use a single structure any machine, it can be easly stated, that most workers are employed at monotonous jobs, required the sample different physical movements, jobs requiring no stated.

From our survey it has been proven, that due to communication and correct knowledge of the authorized complaints and grievances can be adressed a relative tage of working accident is happening. The average in Turkey is about 12 %, where as this rate has among the Turkers workers in Germany. Looking of professional groups, the peasant group is ranking of all others with 100 % accident rate; with other worker, who came directly from a rural back through an accident (23). This situation should not since the transition from an openair, rural enveloping the professional groups. (Especially in the mines).

Next to the high rate of work accidents a spresents itself in form of the coverage and application the Turkish-German Social Security agreement, so 30, 1954. Although the agreement provides for a most of the workers family members abroad and at hor sions are not fully carried out in Turkey. And grievances is the refusal of permitting handicapper prolongue their stay in Germany.

Summing up it can be said, that during the se speed, ease and willingness of adjustment within rent environment is surprisingly high. This fact is and highly praised by all German official authorit new langage teaching methods for adults. With rian Broadcasting Co. a film named «Guten Taced and multiplied. The Federal Organization of taken up the expenses of supplying free the attached to it. Nevertheless it has to be note average low educational level of Turkish male survey indicated that 52 % of the male workers grade school - (22) the acquisition of a new to becomes difficult due to a rather narrow film However these handicaps can be surmounted longterm efforts.

At this point the problem of alimentation a ves special mention. It should not be overlook duals with limited educational background, represents a pacifying psychological factor. these attitudes, if paired with religious attacabsence, might lead to very severe physical and ces.

The deep attachment of Turkish workers way of feeding themselves, places food hab unchanging attitudes. This become evident where religious rules like fastening is compared with

«Turkish Workers In West Germany: A Case S

Table: 6

Attitudes	concerning	pork	eating	(24
Eating			20	

Eating 20 Not eating 80

100

Investigating the reasons, the non-ational approach becomes even more evident.

Table: 7

Reasons for not eating pork (25)

Contradictory to İslam	78
Sin	4
Disgusting	12
Could not get accustomed	5

99

Thus it becomes evident that it is far easier to religious habits, such as less praying, more seldom to adopt deliberately a different attitude toward other side innumerable surveys in the field of sochave been proving that minority groups are usually inherent tendencie for more orthodox religious allignments and to magnify the importance of their evictories and

rather of eggs, noodles, much of bread and cheese ced diet - promoted through the lack of knowledg variety of dishes - results in a heavy carbo-hydrat nutrition, which under circumstances has instigating high percentage of tuberculosis.

These food problems are repeatedly brought a kers association at the occasions like official vis cabinet members or MP 's. Their persistance over serious indication of irredicable, deep rooted at under certain circumstances, are lowering the mor

Another problem, which is not yet fully tackled out to a satisfactory solution, is the matter of workers with further technical knowledge and knowledge and knowledge and Employment Organization did carried in 1966. The sample size was 7.500 out of 975.000, to all foreign workers at that period in Federal Ger

The results are pointing out that the profession is mostly taking place in form of ascension from worker to qualified worker. However the survey due to poor language knowledge, preferance of or for saving purposes and limited residence, many gur not willing to spent their leisure time for additional teaching and relatily speaking few migrants have pass examinations required for specialized jobs. If the male workers of the four largest national continuous controls are provided to the same pass of the four largest national controls.

These figures are showing that a rather high workers have been able to change their jobs in the certain qualifications. These shifts are depending to a reduced amount of fluctuation. At the time almost 50 % of the Turks were employed less the only 21 % did remain more than two years at the

In this regard a tentative experiment carried of common funds of the Italian government and Germ to offer a more satisfactory solution. This experiment industrial jobs and enabled a group of Italian work their knowledge at home before migrating abrateason of not continuing this project has been almost half of the workers have been snatched Italian industry itself.

Nevertheless it seems to be certain that who home and than send abroad or left to their own decision to return to their home country and se enterprises depends largely of the accumulated k it seems imperative for all host countries to condetailed way to what extend could technical aid a multifaced training program for short-term mi

As far as the Turkish workers concerns in 1 in potential promotion was largely connected

These figures shows that the lacking opportunititationing represents the largest source of grievance.

Attitudes toward German society

Members of a cultural milieu which is based upo of sexes certainly could not easily adapt themselves t ging, modern society. Thus Turkish workers, wh through their remarkable zeal, discipline hard wor gence an amazingly fast adjustement to the industri deliberately isolated themselves in the societal con other hand, both the employer and the worker a consider their private life as a sacred, unaccessable This reinforces the isolated social life of guest wo by the fact that 77 % of them never visited a Germa Their value judgements conerning German social resting upon the superficial impressions gained duri in beerhalls, restaurants, etc. and is reiforced by ma types. The evaluation of German family life was 3 and 30 % negative (31). The most frequently cited cerned the so-called low morality and looseness of v ver the criteria used hereby does not extend many t friendship or innocent comradeship between men Nevertheless a young Anatolian peasant, coming fron oriented village, judges honesty and decency sol absolute obeyance to segregation. These one sided very often conducts the workers to commit crimes «Turkish Workers In West Germany: A Case Str

to 6 % in 1967. Compared with other nationalities workers are now occupying the third place.

Table: 10

Rate of criminality according countries (32)

1063	1964	1965	196
19	16	17	21
19	18	17	14
3	,6	9	11
10	11	11	10
8	9	9	9
4	4	4	4
	19 19 3 10 8	19 16 19 18 3 6 10 11 8 9	19 16 17 19 18 17 3 ,6 9 10 11 11 8 9 9

This table indicates that the proportion of large trucks has grown almost 4 times more since 1963. Configures with other countries we might conclude, that to Italy, USA and Yugoslavia, which are showing a stion, Turkey has been constantly increasing its rate of

An analysis carried out by the Faculty of Econorbul, on the criminal rate of 1960-65, gives a clear according sexes. This breakdown clearly shown the majority of all offences are committed solely by meaning the solely by majority of all offences are committed solely by meaning the solely by majority of all offences are committed solely by meaning the solely by majority of all offences are committed solely by meaning the solely by meaning the solely by meaning the solely by meaning the solely by meaning the solely by meaning the solely by meaning the solely by meaning the solely by meaning the solely by meaning the solely by meaning the solely by meaning the solely by meaning the solely by meaning the solely by the solely

As this distribution indicates the most commomen is theft and homicide. Speaking in absorbeaking of traffic rules (71 %) represents a total Indeed the temptation of acquiring and driving brings the workers in conflict with the law, but all proportion of fatal accidents. The shortage of well as the slowness of the administrative mechanism time the situation. (Difficulty of transport of security arrangements of the dependents).

Another interesting feature concerning the of workers concerns their regional belonging local customs prevails even in alien industrial su as the Mediterreanean habit of carrying on vene Black Sea area coast people represent with 38.5 proportion in regard of homicide and weapon be fession does not seem to be a significant determ overall distribution pattern it can be stated with male workers are much more predisposed to brea ability to conform in social life to the prevailing behaviour creates serious disturbances. This si special attention on behalf of all organizations the workers.

Role of trade unions, workers association:

The major motive for employers to introduce

labour market has to share the existing openings we comers. Secondly, the assumption that the rigidit inevitably leads to a reduction of salaries also creates worries inmidst of the trade union milieu. Finally retrade unions have developed the theory that «an arm rial reserves» creates a surplus load upon the labor me by its sheer existence diminishes the contractual for engaged labour force.

In order to eliminate all these possibilities nator workers are granted without difference all legal guara as wage levels achieved through collective bargaining the national trade unions are not deploying any specitive protection of the newly arrived contingent of worthey attempt to integrate them in the trade union their constant effort to equalize the wage level, deprit the employers of exploiting volunteering cheap laboution indirectly contributes to the rapid economic uphshort-term migrant.

The relationship of the Turkish workers with the this general framework. To begin with, due to the ground of the Turkish workers, only a very small greknowledge or experience with trade unions. In 1963 had joined any trade unions. The big bulk explained with lack of information (22 %), no necessity (23

monthly Turkish leaflet. To facilitate Turkish wo trade unions and to participate in the election of council» (Betriebsrat), to provoke a stronger into on behalf of Türk-İş, the Turkish Federation of seems to be the right approach. In order to realize much more active policy has to be followed. Ac survey, 34 % of the Turkish workers denied a working contract, 25 % ignored all source esta a surguery and their professional interests (35).

Aside of trade unions, two different bodies are ting with the Turkish workers. The first body supported by the Arbeiterwohlfahrt, which again by the German government with the function kind of personal assistance in form of guidance, advice as well as organizing various kinds of leis. The second body is the Federation of Turkish Wo created in almost every major German cit. The solely supported by membership dues. There exervalry between these two bodies, which from that taken the form of political controversy. A more laboration among these organizations, together division of functions seems to be the answer to defort and material goods into constructive purpose.

Religious assistance

for a speedy adjustement and a conservation of the o re. For other they constitute a real handicap for a tion, even leading to some extent to a prosélitism o itself. In regard of the Moslem community, the prob a different aspect. Given the fact that no established Germany represented any counterpart for an Islamic the Turks as a religious group were left on their cial part of this type of government supported guida ken over by the Arbeiterwohlfahrt, a side-organisa German Social Democratic Party. At the beginning community elected among themselves some over leaders. Later the government decided to detach a nu mally educated imam to provide for spiritual leaders the lack of a hierarchical set-up within Islam is among the Turkish workers in Germany some ideolo tition. Nevertheless the designation of a number of subsidized imams has at least provided the necessar for the carrying out of the most necessary religio such as praying at funerals, etc.

Intention to return home

 In 1963 the expectations concerning the location returning home were relative high - 57 % saying it. At this time the majority of the workers wanted dent, only 17 % wanted to continue their former ends wanted to work as qualified labour. The sett business and entrepreneurship plays an important thinking of the workers in Germany (31 % wanted small business, or become a taxi/truck driver) (37)

It might be assumed that the intentions of have not increased over the years, the economic recaused a reduction in the size of the Turkish working Germany. This fluctuation lead to a shrunking workers, which presumably must have been eithe Turkey since spring 1967 or migrated elsewhere substantial study has been carried out so far to located workers. These workers can be considered headings: Peasant workers, small town workers workers (38).

a - Peasant workers

Going directly from a village to work abroad is and encouraged by the government through the up cooperatives. Villages forming a cooperative wanticipants are getting a priority in the list opportunities. Yet, so far the impact of of these play the role of a kind of absentee landlord, in frequent supervision, seems more plausible to careful the rural scenery in Turkey. However it might be group did not change very much their living and they seem to have shifted their role from the landle orientated peasant to a moderate wealthy, but st bound peasantry. The most important impact see attention and importance devote to the education ren. Our survey of 1963 indicated that 69 % of the Germany desired a university education for their wanted for them a secondary technical training (39).

b - The small - town workers

The small town workers have usually acquired used as a taxi, a movie projector or a milling machine changed their way of living and dressing, but have a the big city. Their usual complaint is lack of eleare on the verge of moving to a larger town, but he their present position. If they go into retailing, such grocery, operating a restaurant, there is a great littley will loose their savings. Their stay is usually family reasons or dreaming of going once more abtime farther, such as Canada, Australia, the United

For both peasant and small town workers, their

readjustment to a traditional milieu is more pabreaking away of it (40).

c - The city workers

This group represents rather skilled workers, a high position in their factories. They are bring household articles, have definitely raised their sta and are those with the greates likeliness of getting the national scenery by establishing a small busin repair shop etc. (41).

Joint investment venture

The most significant development of the last creation of various engineers and workers found. The oldest of these companies, has been establist TÜRKSAN meets today a large variety of paper copybooks, etc. as well as wall paper. Two oth IŞBİR and BİRSAN are in the process of organizate The government in order to encourage labour is reserved 10 % of the shares of two founded automes, FİAT and VOLVO for potential investment in migrant workers abroad. The most interesting development of TÜRKSAN with HASTAŞ, the large ding (42).

distribution proportion of all foreign migrants. The 1968 the migrants in Germany broke up as following

Italian	287.440
Turks	139.336
Greeks	136.191
Spanish	111.892

In general the advantages of short-term migrationly outknocking their inconveniences. However population exchange based purely on ecnomic retarther be looked as a temporary solution for langted national problems. The assumption of being a the urgent pressure of unemployment and retardness alisation by encouraging migration through governels, seems to be limited by its scope and time. the benefits of Turkish workers can be summarized.

- a) Getting acquainted with modern methods of
- Receiving an apprenticeship period withou investment to be made in Turkey,
- c) Getting accustomed to Western industry speed,
- d) Learning a foreign language,
- e) Ability to save money for further investme

A considerable amount of unsolved problems a solution or imporvement.