TURKS NOT THE ISSUE OF THE GREY WOLF

Posted on May 18, 2026 by Keghart



Category: Opinions

By Jirair Tutunjian, Toronto, 4 May 2026

While the English were rising to the status of great power in the 16th Century, they wanted to establish friendly relations with the powerful and aggressive Ottoman Empire. The English policy was motivated by positive diplomatic, political, and commercial expectations. Although the Ottomans continued to threaten Europe, the English wanted to believe their fog-bound island was safely far from Eastern Europe where Ottoman armies were on the move. The English authorities also believed an English-Ottoman friendship would make rival France nervous and improve English trade in the Eastern Mediterranean. Finally, certain English authorities expected that by portraying the shortcomings of Ottoman imperialism, they would be able to justify their imperialism light.

To improve their relations with the Ottomans, the English authorities deployed travelers, writers, merchants, explorers, and ambassadors to travel to the East and to write, with a positive spin, about England's hoped-for ally.

The English 'reporters' were Johnny-come lately to the "in praise of the Ottomans" fad. Italian poet Mario Filelfo (1426-1489) had written in his epic *Amarys* 4,000 verses dedicated to Sultan Mehmet II. In 1484 theologian Feilix Fabri had traced the roots of Turks to the Trojan King Priam's father, Laomedan.

A competing claim about the origin of the Turks said they were descended from Scythians--barbarians who lived north of Greece. Thus, Turks were as European as merry French boulevardiers.

Among the English "reporters" who explored the roots of the Turks were George Sandys, Richard Knowles, and Paul Rycourt. Their first challenge was reconciling the Ottoman Muslim religion with English Christianity. This obstacle was addressed by pointing out the admirable "unity" of the Muslim religion compared to England's mélange of Christian sects.

In an insane mental somersault, Sandys explained the Ottoman leadership's ignorance of classical literature was a huge advantage because it allowed them to focus on the "business of governance."

To burnish the Ottomans, the English scouts wrote that the Ottomans were tough, disciplined, and physically clean compared to Europeans.

Perhaps because the positive Ottoman PR had failed to make an appreciable dent in the English public's view of the Ottoman Empire (authoritarian, rampant slavery, oppression of Ottoman Christian minorities, corruption, sexual scandals at the Sublime Court), the PR contingent revived and energized the myth that Turks were descendants of the Trojans.

This is the tale they tried to sell to the English:

Turks had drawn their name from Teucer, the son of Greek Telamon and Trojan Princess Hesione.

The tangle of assertions became more complicated when one of these ink-stained wretches

claimed King Priam of Troy had a son named Teucer. After the fall of Troy, Teucer's son Franco migrated to Germany where his son became the leader of mighty tribe named Frank after his father Franco. This migration must have been a precursor to the *gasterbeiter* project of Germany.

IF YOU ARE STILL WITH ME...?

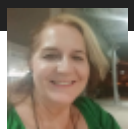
1. The other Teucer (son of Greek Telamon and Trojan King Priam) headed east to Central Asia where his descendants came to be known as Turks. The Grey Wolf origins was discredited. Perhaps they drowned the Grey Wolf in Lake Baikal. Erdogan hasn't heard the news: he still makes the wolf's head sign with his index and ring fingers.
2. Thus, when the Ottomans raided Armenia-Asia Minor and reached Constantinople, they were returning home.
3. Having descended from Trojan Franco, Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Marlene Dietrich, and band leader James Last were Trojans.
4. Germans, Turks, and Greeks are blood brothers. The first two descended from Trojans while Greek Talamon's son named the tribe Turks.

P.S. Most of the writers mentioned asserted Turks were European because they descended from Trojans. These writers must have failed their geography class in elementary school: Troy is in Asia, east of the Bosphorus.

Comments



Jirair – 2026-05-19 18:29:34
Concerned Armenia, Thank you for your interest. Considering the brevity (about 150 years) of Germany-Turkey relationship, my knowledge of the pair's relationship is likewise brief. The German-Ottoman/Turkish relations are far more recent than the one between Britain and Ottoman/Turkey. For one thing, there was no state of Germany until after mid-19th century. But once the relationship clicked, it became close. ---In the 19th century many Ottoman officers began training in German military establishments. Traditionally, both nations admired each other for their presumed military elan. ---At the Congress of Berlin (1878), Germany and Britain forced the reversal of the gains the Russians had made at the San Stefano Treaty between Russia and the Ottoman Empire. --At the end of the 19t century, Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany visited the Sultan in Constantinople and then proceeded to the Holy Land (occupied by the Ottomans) and lay the foundations of dozen German schools, hospitals, cathedral, and commercial establishments. --The Berlin-Baghdad Railway which the Germans built. ---Were allies during WWI. Both empires bit the dust at the end of the war. During the genocide of Armenians, German officers often helped the Turks. --The Nazi leadership, including Hitler, admired the assumed military acumen of the Turks. It's believed they not only approved Ottoman Turkey's genocide, they picked lessons from that atrocity. ---In 1941, while WWII was raging, Nazi Germany and Turkey signed the German Turkish Treaty of Friendship. Turkey illegally sold minerals, especially chrome, to Germany for the latter's war effort. --Post WWII: The big story is the Gastarbeiter movement which has witnessed the immigration of millions of Turks to Germany. --



Nurnisa Erismis – 2026-05-19 17:26:32

Dear Jirair, I must admit that I understood your satire more fully only on a second reading, but perhaps that is exactly why it became even more effective. At first glance, the piece seems to mock old European fantasies about the origins of the Turks. Yet its deeper target is much more serious: it shows how history, mythology, and even geography can be bent when powerful states become politically useful. For me, the sharpest point of the article is the absurdity of the "Trojan origin" narrative used to make the Ottomans appear more acceptable to European audiences. This is not merely a comic historical curiosity. It is also a revealing example of intellectual flattery. When political necessity demands it, barbarism can be dressed up as civilization, conquest can be described as a return home, and mythology can become a diplomatic instrument. Your piece also reminded me of Zülfü Livaneli's novel *On the Back of the Tiger* (Kaplanın Sırtında). In that novel, one also senses the long history of Western flattery toward Ottoman power: the courtesies, gifts, invitations, and exaggerated respect shown not only to Abdülhamid, but also more broadly to Ottoman sultans and their families. Such gestures were rarely innocent admiration. More often, they were part of a political culture in which European states praised, courted, and decorated Ottoman rulers when doing so served their own interests. Livaneli is one of Turkey's most prominent novelists, composers, and cultural figures. His novels often bring together historical memory, political atmosphere, and human psychology. In this sense, *On the Back of the Tiger* offers a useful literary echo to the pattern your satire exposes. That is why your article is not really about the true origins of Turks or Ottomans. It is about the way truth itself is manipulated in the presence of power. Your satire makes this historical absurdity visible, and it leaves the reader with an uncomfortable thought: sometimes the most serious-looking historical claims are nothing more than geopolitical convenience in disguise.



Keith Garebian – 2026-05-19 09:17:25

Loved the article, especially the coup de grace post-script!



Concerned Armenian – 2026-05-19 00:38:57

To the author: please consider a follow up article on the reasons for German admiration of the aggressive Turk. Thanks.



David Boyajian – 2026-05-18 22:55:22

Thank you for this history of past English kowtowing to Turks. Indeed, England and nearly all of Europe (plus the U.S., of course, and even Russia) are still trying to clean up the image of Turkey & Turks. The effort often goes in the other direction: Absurd admiration for Turkey and Turks. Note the recent comment by the senile geezer Tom Barrack, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey: "Turkey is not a country to be messed with." Meaning that other countries can be messed with? Even Putin got into the act: Erdogan is a "man of his word" and a "reliable partner." The kowtowing and nonsense never end.