Anglo-Turkish Society / Royal Anthropological Institute lecture, 28 March 2022, 6.00 pm

Speaker: Dr Peter Andrews

Venue: Royal Anthropological Institute, 50 Fitzroy St, Fitzrovia, London W1T 5BT

Title: 'The Engendering of *Ethnic Groups in the Republic of Turkey*, maps and book'

In 1987 The Tübingen Atlas of the Middle East (TAVO) published a map of the distribution of ethnic groups in Turkey by Peter Alford Andrews. This was followed in 1989 by a handbook which provided the documentation on which the map had been based, and in 1999 by a supplementary volume. These remain the single most reliable source of information on the subject.

The compilation of this information, which had not previously been attempted on that scale, presented particular problems. First among these was the lack of official recognition for any ethnic minorities other than the Greek Christians, Armenians, and Jews. Even the figures for those speaking mother-tongues other than Turkish had been absent from the published census after 1965. Turkish anthropologists had, by a tacit understanding, refrained from fostering university studies on tribes or villages of ethnically non-Turkish groups since about 1970. The information gathered by the Government for the Village Inventory in the 1960s had, with the exception of Bingöl, remained unpublished. Compared with the intensive anthropological activity in Iran and Afghanistan, remarkably little work had been allowed or carried out since the threshold date of 1950.

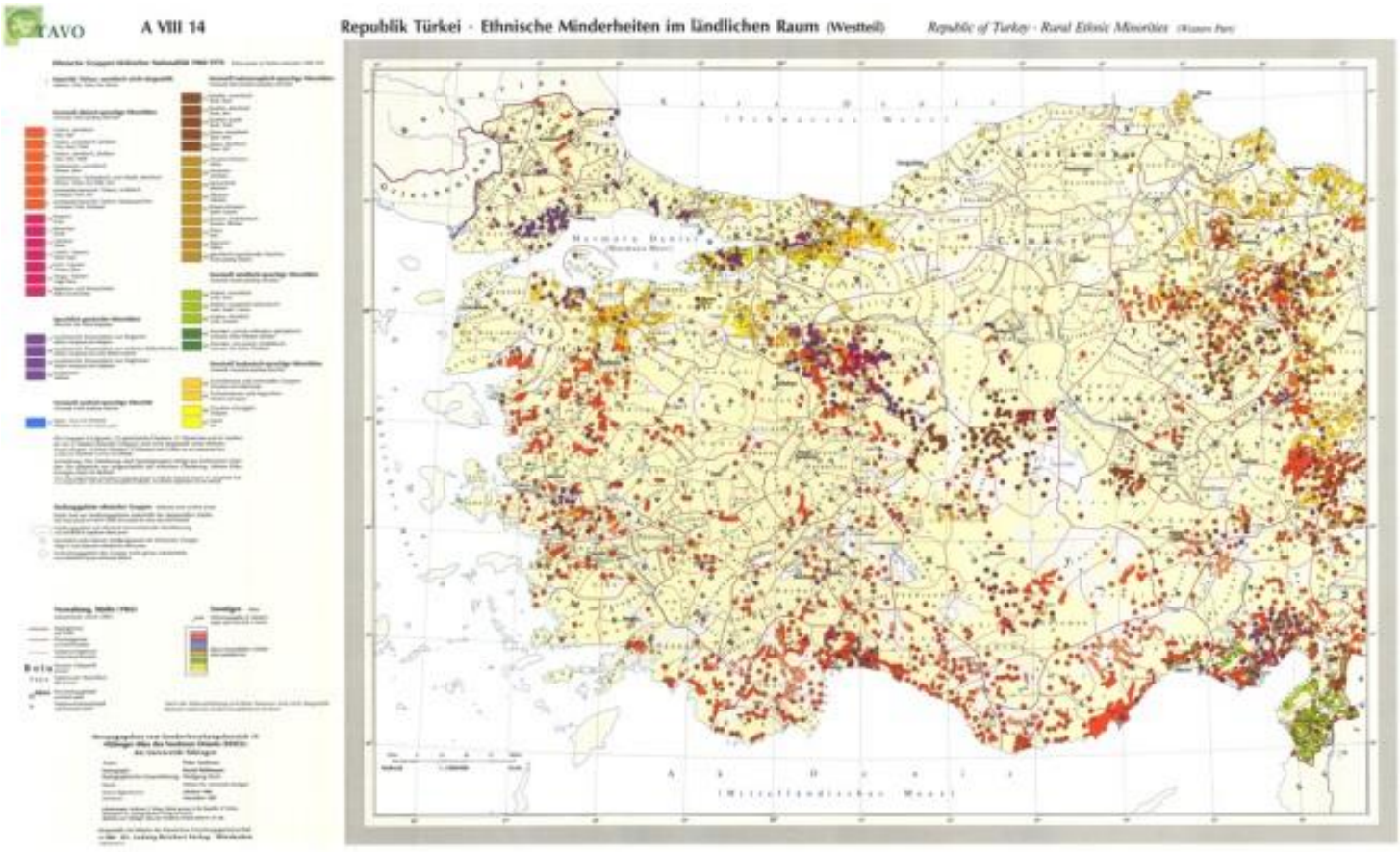
Very diverse sources had, therefore, to be consulted to obtain the necessary information, and these were presented comprehensively for the first time, including a transcription of the Village Inventory. As a result 47 ethnic groups were identified and located. The data were presented in a synoptical catalogue entry for each group, corresponding lists of the known locations of each group with their geographical coordinates, a series of surveys for specific groups, and a series of essays by fourteen authors on particular aspects of ethnicity in Turkey.

It was hoped that the material would provide a basis for a wide variety of future work in which the identification of local cultures would be important.

Peter Andrews explains the genesis of the project, how it unfolded over more than twenty years, the methodology that came to be used, and the reactions that the publications received.

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Western portion of the ethnic map – larger view:



After completing his Ph.D. thesis at SOAS in 1980, Peter Andrews was invited by the late Professor Ulla Johansen, Director of the Institut für Völkerkunde at the University of Cologne, to join a team working on ethnic maps of the Middle East. This was part of the work undertaken by the University of Tübingen in a comprehensive set of maps of the Middle East (TAVO), sponsored by the German Research Society (DFG) as a Special Research Area (Sfb. 19): it was ultimately to reach some 600 maps, including even palaeontology and the distribution of scorpions in Anatolia, compiled by specialists in many universities. Seven ethnic maps were compiled at Cologne. Andrews persuaded Frau Johansen to allow him to map Turkey. She doubted whether this would be possible, and the difficulties emerged swiftly. There were no comparable maps to use as models, except for two small-scale Soviet ones (1957 and 1964). The Turkish Government had even restricted the availability of large-scale land maps. Besides the suppression of information allowing the identification of ethnic groups from 1970, a strong current of migration from rural areas to the cities and beyond to Western Europe was disturbing traditional patterns of settlement. It was therefore decided to map the ethnic distribution between 1960 and 1970. General definitions of ethnicity had already been formulated for the team.

No funds were provided for fieldwork, and it would have been unrealistic to attempt it at the time. Ulla Johansen, one of the first to carry out fieldwork in Turkey in the 1950s, was able to provide Andrews with a number of contacts to specialists working on particular ethnic groups or regions. One of the most important for the project was Professor Liesa Nestmann, who in the early 1960s had been able to copy the *Village Inventory* for Eastern Anatolia, compiled in Ankara between 1960 and 1968, before it was suppressed. Andrews was also given access to local studies made earlier in the faculties at Ankara and Istanbul. Besides using published material, he received an important contribution from Rüdiger Benninghaus, who appeared with data he had already gathered himself, partly in Turkey, and partly amongst the Turkish community in Germany. He was taken on as an assistant, paid by the DFG, throughout the project.

Much of this material was at the level of individual villages. Fortunately an extensive atlas, the *Yeni Türkiye Atlası*, had been published in 1977, with coordinates. He was able to obtain copies of this, the relevant Censuses, and *Köylerimiz* (1982) with its key to old and village names. By 1986 enough progress had been made to submit a map in two halves, for eastern and western Turkey, and it was published in 1987. The project was reviewed at intervals on behalf of the DFG, and defended before a committee of academics, among whom it was fortunate in winning the support of the late Professors W.-D. Hütteroth and E.Wirth. Knowing how much information had been gathered, they approved the publication of a handbook to the map (Beiheft B 60), which appeared in 1989 with 663 pages.

In 1999 Andrews was approached by the publisher to suggest a new edition. He pointed out that a great deal of new material had been published in the past decade as controls were relaxed, and proposed that a second volume be compiled. Again with the assistance of Benninghaus, he assembled a volume of 322 pages (B 60.2) which was published in 2002, with the first volume unchanged. The great difference of the new material was that, for the first time, extensive listings of settlements had been made by the ethnea themselves. Andrews was, as before, able to include studies by a range of academics who were generous enough to contribute to the book.

He has also published *Nomad Tent types in the Middle East*, 2 vols. Wiesbaden '97 (TAVO B 74/I/1-2); *Felt Tents and Pavilions: the Nomadic Tradition and its Interaction with Princely Tentage*, 2 vols., London 1999 (Kölner Ethnologische Mitteilungen, Sonderband), funded by the Getty Grant Program; 3 ethnological maps incl. *Gulf States: Migrant Workers from Abroad*, for TAVO; further, (with Mügül Andrews) *Türkmen Needlework*, London 1976 (Central Asian Research Centre); (with S. Azadi) *Mafrash, Woven Transport Packs as an Art Form among the Shahsevan and other nomads of Persia*, Berlin and Munich, 1985; (with K. Jettmar and a contribution by G. Buddruss) *Sazin, a Fortified Village in Indus-Kohistan*, (Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften, Antiquities of Northern Pakistan, Reports & Studies, vol. 4), Mainz 2000; (with drawings by Mügül Andrews, *Tentage at the Calico Museum and its Patterns*, Ahmedabad 2015. He has published besides more than 60 academic articles, most recently in *Peacock in the Desert*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston 2018, and made seven museum collections including *The Turcoman of Iran*, 1971-2, for which he wrote the catalogue. He continues writing on tents in India, Central Asia and the Middle East. At Christmas the Royal Asiatic Society awarded him and his wife Mügül the Sir Richard Burton Memorial Medal for their work on tents.

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