

ABSTRACT
THE CIRCASSIAN GROUPS AND ETHNIC IDENTITY IN THREE IMMIGRANT
TERRITORY OF AYDIN

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The phenomenon of migration that continue throughout the human history, appears to be one of the most important factors of social change and cultural interaction. Anatolia has become a migration-receiving country from many countries since the Ottoman Empire. With the Caucasian exile in 1864, the Circassians who forced to migrate to the Ottoman Empire from the Caucasus are today still an important part of the ethnic diversity in Turkey. Circassians who immigrate to Turkey at various intervals since the 1800s are defined as "aliens as if Turkish " in many sources. Circassians who fought with Turks in the liberation struggle from the Ottoman period until the republic period and their support to the Anatolia took place in historical sources. Today, the search for identity of "ethnic groups" has become one of the most discussed topics on the agenda of societal and political platforms. In such a case, the issue of how Circassian create to a form of identification has been a important topic. As a result of field work, it can be said that Circassians defined themselves by using the statement of "I'm Circassian" in the territory they live with other etnihc groups. Circassians, despite their cultural and linguistic differences, don't have any difficulty in the integration of the Turkish community. Living together for many years and having a sharing history with Turks are the major reasons why Circassians recognized the territory they took refuge as their homeland.

KEYWORDS: Migration, Identity, Ethnic Identity, Culture, Circassians.