

Journal of
Economic and Social Thought

www.kspjournals.org

Volume 4

December 2017

Issue 4

International Congress on Afro-Eurasian Research II *

By Hikmet MENGÜASLAN †

Abstract. The second International Congress on Afro-Eurasian Research was held in Malaga, Spain between 17 and 20 April 2017. Theme of the Congress this year was "Interaction of Social, Cultural, Economic and Political Values in Afro-Eurasian Countries". As a "Social Sciences and Education Sciences" congress, the II International Congress on Afro-Eurasian Research welcomed various studies and multidisciplinary participants from several countries.

Keywords. Afro-Eurasian research, International relations, Middle East, Sectarianism, Balance of power.

JEL. A10.

Conference notes

The Second International Congress on Afro-Eurasian Research, the first of which was in Kyrgyzstan in 2016, was held in Malaga, Spain in 2017. Starting on April 17, the congress lasted for three days and ended with a closing ceremony in April 20. Organized by Dumlupınar University, International Congress on Afro-Eurasian Research is "Social Sciences and Education Sciences" congress, aiming to bring together scholars and academicians from various disciplines. This year, the theme of the congress was "Interaction of Social, Cultural, Economic and Political Values in Afro-Eurasian Countries". As multidisciplinary scholars and academicians came together and presented their works and findings related to selected topics, it was invaluable an opportunity to exchange ideas for the participants.

For those interested, the Congress provides several opportunities to publish presented works; firstly, the Congress will prepare proceedings book. In addition, selected works shall be published in Cumhuriyet International Journal of Education, International Journal of Human Sciences (for 2 paper), Dumlupınar University Journal of Social Sciences, British Journal of Educational Technology, International Journal of Economics, Administration Politics, International Journal of African-Eurasian Research. Furthermore, the "best paper" awards were given from among the full text of the papers which was sent to the Congress.

The congress started with the morning sessions on April 18. The organization was held in two halls in TRYP Hotel, Malaga. There were nearly 250 works presented in the congress. For three days, simultaneous sessions were held in two halls in Turkish, Turkish dialects, English, French, Russian and Arabic. The congress was closed with closing ceremony and the closing speech of the invited speaker Professor Carlos Flores Juberías, from Comperative Constitutional Law, University of Valencia Law School. The theme of the speech was "THE BREXIT AND BEYOND: CHALLENGES FOR THE EU IN ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY".

* 17-20 April 2017, Malaga, Spain.

† Department of International Relations, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey.

☎. +90(312)210-2016 (7095)

✉. hikmetm@metu.edu.tr

Journal of Economic and Social Thought

On the third day of the Congress, the work titled as “Sectarianism or Power Balancing: Saudi-Iran Rivalry through Bahrain Intervention” was presented by me in the morning sessions. The paper focused on understanding the motivations behind the Saudi-led intervention in Bahrain. Whether the main motivation was sectarian cleavages or just another balancing act between Saudi Arabia and Iran was argued. For this purpose, with a neoclassical realist perspective, the state-society relationship in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain was analyzed within the context of rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Along with that, derivative of neoclassical realist perspective, the relevance of resource extraction methods (state leader’s capacity to project power capabilities) to the prevalence of sectarian tensions was discussed.

With regards to conflictual developments in the Middle East, as a distinct case study the Bahrain intervention was discussed to result from the rivalrous relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Although a sectarian veil seemed to motivate the intervention as a surface cause, it was claimed that the underlying motivations were strategic and the intervention aimed to ensure the balance of power in the region. Among the participants, there were those interested in the subject and the region who asked several questions about the work and its findings, within the theoretical framework of the study, these questions were tried to be answered.



Copyrights

Copyright for this article is retained by the author(s), with first publication rights granted to the journal. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0>).

