Mapping the Members of the Great National Assembly

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Abstract

Politics which can be defined as a process of decision making applying to other members of a group is affected by different ingredients. It can be political culture of a country or it can be the backgrounds of decision makers. In our study this ingredient is the pattern between the backgrounds of decisionmakers and the decisions that they make. Therefore taking the first legislature year as our subject matter, we try to find a correlation between the mentioned variables. As to accomplish this goal, using the method ''prosopography'', we try to examine the background information of members of the Great National Assembly between the years from 1920 to 1923. In this research, following question is to be answered; '' Is there an impact of the backgrounds of decision-makers on the decisions they take?''

Keywords: Background Information, Prosopography, Great National Assembly, Common Patterns, Decision-making

1   Introduction

In this research, the question of whether there is an impact of the backgrounds of decision-makers on the decisions they take is to be examined. For this purpose, we analyze the archives of the Great National Assembly to access the background information of the members of the assembly who served from 1920 to 1923. This analysis consists of three phases: ''data collection, data compilation, and data analysis. ''

In the literature, as Erik Jan Zürcher suggests in his study ''The Young Turks; Children of the Borderlands '', a pattern is to be presumed between these two variables, which is referred to as ''Formative Experience''. To spot the presumed pattern, we try to look over the details of these backgrounds of the members using the method called prosopography. Before getting into the details of the research, the method of prosopography should be clarified. Prosopography can be briefly defined as the collective investigation, esp. in ancient history, of the careers of people involved in the same enterprise or affiliated by kinship.''   In our study, prosopographical research is used to identify the common elements of their educational information or their professions and these characteristics collected from the biographical data are classified with respect to their contextual and statistical relevance. And the final purpose is to test whether these common elements mean something for the pattern that we seek to conclude. To see the data more accurate and to classify it easier, we used excel. After classifying the data into columns such as ''Name, surname, title, place of birth, highest education received and many others'', we divided these different columns for each participant. To conclude more accurately, we visualized these databases using Google Fusion and Excell. Upon finalizing the first two stages of data collection and the data compilation, for the final stage of the analysis, we look over the literature and seek to build a hypothesis. In this very last stage, we have found out some negative and positive results. Apart from these results, we have also encountered situations in which the interpretation of these databases amazed us.

Firstly some of the research has indeed proved that there is a correlation between the backgrounds of the parliament and their power of representation. Yet some parts have not come out as the way they were expected. For instance members of the parliament who are connected to the CUP are more effective in the Great National Assembly. This statement is far more different from what we expected. Still this research needs a further investigation as some points would be clearer with further research.

2   General Information about the Columns

As mentioned above, to examine the data in detail, each participant try to focus on different characteristics of the biographies of the members of the Great National Assembly. These characteristics of the biographies are divided into different sections and each section which may embody an importance for our research is analyzed by the person whom it was given to. These can be listed as '' Highest education received, language, day of serving, number of term, titles, place of birth, medals, CUP membership, location of representation, age, membership of ADR, legislative years in which deputies served. ''

2.1   Medals, CUP Membership – Ara Ege ALTINMAN

Project that we worked on for 7 weeks aim to calculate connection between background of the member of the parliament and how that background effects the politics of the parliament.So with the help of archieve of National Assembly we made a chart of 443 parliament members and their background   information   that   we   find   usefull.Such   as birthplace,education,profession,age,wars that they fought anything that might be effect a members political ideology.For the first phase of our project we divided these background information and we prepared a chart.Only difficulty that we had was some of the members had zero information on archives.Some due to their absence and following resign from the parliament.Then after the first phase we had the general information with general criteria.Second phase we started to divide these criteria in their own.Such as for profession and educational background.An example for profession is did he served in state,agricultural or private businessmen.

All sort of criteria's some difficulties that we had during this phase was some professions was hard to distinguish due to they become antique.Some of those professions are not exist today

or if they,it was not the same as it today.That was the only difficulty that i had during the second phase distinguishing criteria's in criteria.We did that because the data we had from the first phase was primitive so we needed to divide those especially for the following phases during the project and also for future works.

After these 2 phase we had patterns that can be observed by patterns i mean data that we can generalise.Such as average age that is 40 but the mean was 38 age of Mustafa Kemal and the other significant members they are also known as the founding father of modern Turkey.Those people who are 38 and 40 are class mates from military schools so these people are sharing a background a ideology.Ideology like solving difficulties with militaristic methods or policy's. Also those schools that these members went to were more western and modern compare to others people o went there visions were much more wider compare to others.This was another reason why we distinguish 443 member with their educational background.Because some went to these westernised institutes some went to more traditional schools some even did not graduated any.Another generalisation that we made from the chart was compare background information with day of serving for the parliament.An example that can be made for compare and contrast was medals with day of serving.But there was many diffrent medals these members had.So we also divided these medals there was one very unique medal that a minority of members had and their day of serving was significantly longer then others.A medal called Red-Green liberation medal.Red indicates extraordinary success and serving in War of Liberation.Green represents success in parliament so that medal is an hybrid medal that indicates extraordinary serving during the creation of Republic of Turkey.Another generalisation that can be made with the light of these information is memebers who owned that medal can be distinguish from others.We compared 2 criteria and we have a conclusion.Fun part is if we compare this conclusion with another we have a wider result.When conclusion of 2 criteria compared with birth place of Red-Green liberation medal owners we can see people who owned this medal borned outside of borders of modern Turkey today.Another one is these peoples birthplace are heavily on western part of the empire.This can be mean allienation to east part of the empire and this allienation linked to policy of the first parliament.Such as parliaments policys on east specailly mojority of Kurd population lives.Conclusion can be made members who owned Red-Green libeartion medal served longer compared to others this can be mean their calls are more determinative then others and their allieantion to east has a correlation to Kurdih rebellions. Another generalisation that can be made is about how being a Committe Of Union And Progress member effects day of serving in National Assembly.In our data from the archives only 32 members are former Committe Of Union And Progress member.However from the data s not the archives of National Assembly we find that there re 62 more members were former CUP member.But they did not declared that they are and members who declared served less then who did not declared.So generalisation that can be made is being a former CUP member might be seen as unpleased background by the public.
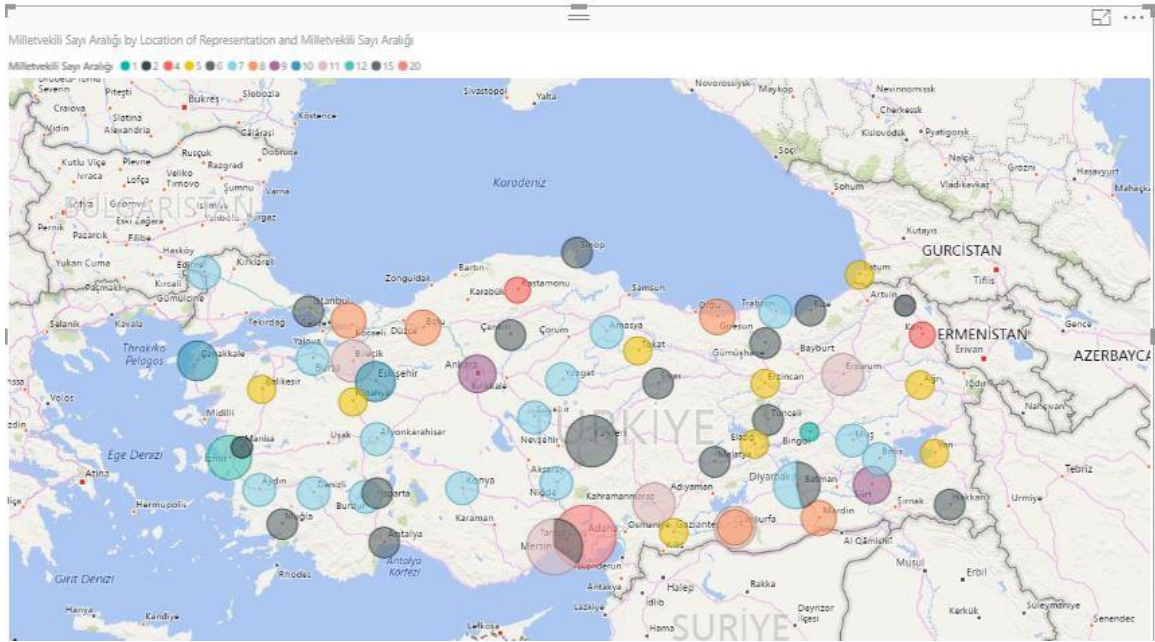
2.2   Location of Representation – Bilgehan ÖZTÜRK

The project examined whether there is a correlation between the places represented by parliament members and their backgrounds. In addition, the power of representation of the provinces throughout the country was analyzed, considering the number of members of parliament. Locations with different names during the First Legislative Period caused problems during visualization. For this reason, the current correspondences were found and written on the Grand National Assembly of Turkey album.
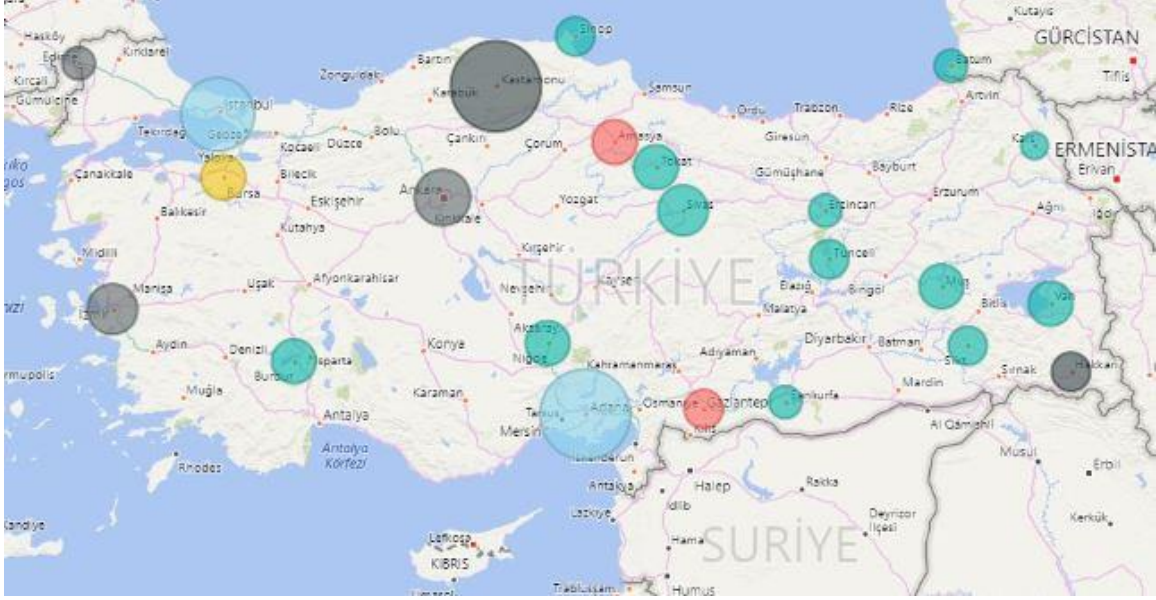
Because the data created problems in the mapping process, smaller locations than the ones were classified according to the facts they are related to today. For example, as in Kozan, today's positions linked to Adana are added to the number of members of parliament in Adana as we cannot

show the data of Kozan's data on the map. In addition, in the Excel 's Location of Representation column, there were also problems to create a table because the places represented by members of parliament after the first legislative period were also written. These problems were solved by narrowing the main column to include only the first legislative period.

The following visuals, created using Power Bi, show how many members of parliament are represented in the locality where the color and size of the points are located.

Although there is no injustice in general spread, it can be observed that there are more members of parliament in coastal and western parts. Also, in the following visualization there is visualization about the duration of resumption of duties in the next legislative periods of nationals' representatives, that is, the number of repeated duties. In this view, it can be observed that the number of repetitive tasks of members of parliament in the eastern part is very low when compared to the coastal sections.

Apart from the visuals there, the CUP membership, which has been proven to be important in the parliament, and the places represented by members of parliament can be compared. In this way geographical spread of the CUP is also seen here.
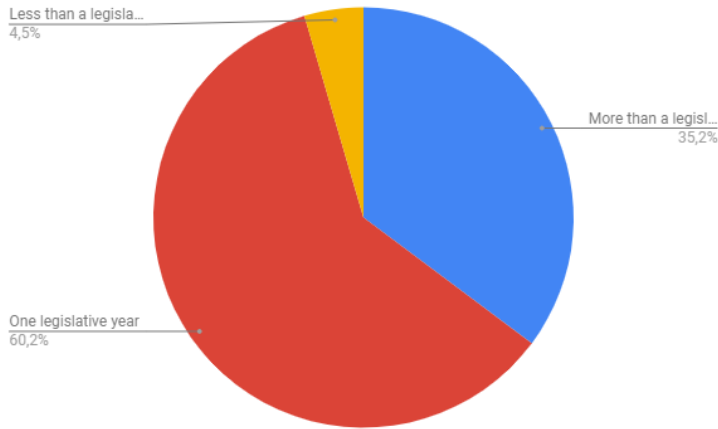
2.3   Age, ADR (Association for Defence of National Rights), Legislative Year - Hilal SERT

In the project that we have worked on 7 weeks aimed to collect data about the backgrounds of members of The Great National Assembly to find a pattern between their common past experiences and the decisions they have made when they become the decision-makers in the assembly. In the first phase of our research was data collection phase and we collected datas from the archive of The Great National Assembly. The hard thing was in the phase was to unify the data for later uses of the data. To analyze the data to find an evidence about the existent or non-existent correlation between backgrounds of the members and their decisions, we wanted to use some technological tools and we decided them at the beginning of our research. For those tools to work properly data must be unified, otherwise the tools that we would use process data wrongly. This part was problematic because the archive of the Great National Assembly is based on declaration and some of the members did not declare some information about themselves. Even about some members, we only knew their names and to not to make a mistake we had to keep records of them as well. Coding their information was a problem because we had to show that we do not know that information and it caused problems when using the tools.
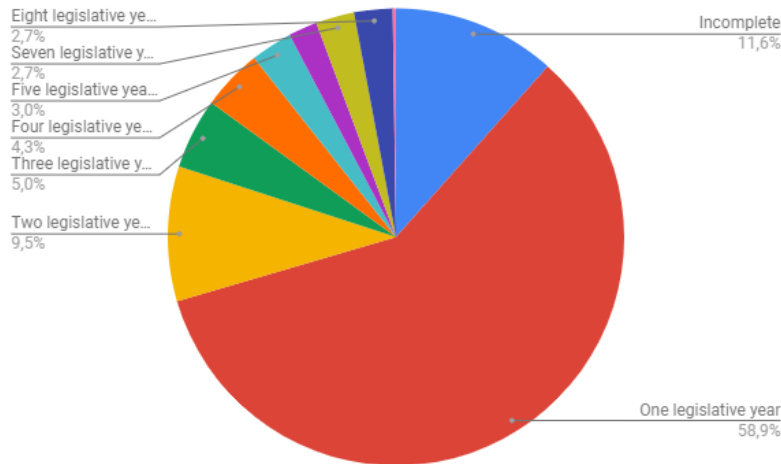
After data collection phase ended, the fields were divided among all researchers to research on them to see whether there is a pattern or not. I have worked on age, being member of ADR (Association for Defence of National Rights) and the legislative years that the members took part in The Assembly. For these categories I did not feel the need to divide the data any further as the data was already simple and clear to carry the research for the next phase.

The map that is shown above is the result of one of my analysis about ADR members. The map shows locations of representation of ADR members. It can be said that there is a lack of representation east of the Erzurum within ADR members. Reasons for this might be analyzed in the later phases of the research and the backgrounds of ADR members within The Assembly might be analyzed better for more accurate assumptions.

Another analyze that have been made about ADR members is shown in the pie chart above. 35,2% of the ADR members have been chosen more than one time to serve in The Assembly. It can be referred that they have a high percentage. For this reason, further research needs to be done in order to understand whether their being member of ADR affected their serving period or whether there are any other indicators to affect this.

Another analyze that have been made about legislative years. The pie chart above shows how many legislative years members have been served in The Assembly. It can be said that the ones who have higher serves have more power in The Assembly as they have represented more than others. That is why the ones who have served more than 3 legislative years (26,6% of the members) must be analyzed deeply to see whether they have any common elements in their backgrounds. The ones who have served less than a legislative year can be analyzed to see where they are coming and whom are they replacing with to see whether there is any lack of representation. Legislative year is one of the most important categories and it must be deeply analyzed in the future of the research.

I believe that membership of ADR and having an award might be analyzed together. Because as it was found out 17 out of 88 member of ADR have and award and these 17 people is the 26,23% of all the members who have an award. In other words, every 1 out of 4 members of the parliament who have a medal is also a member of ADR. Having an assumption that the ones who have medals and are members of ADR are the ones who have say in The Assembly as 76,46% of them have served more than one legislative year would not be wrong and needs further research for prove the assumption. In addition to that, in my point of view one of the most important category that we have analyzed is about legislative year. If the ones who have higher serves in The Assembly have pattern in their backgrounds, we might be able to have an assumption that their common background affected them. That is why, to understand what these ones who have higher serves in common, we should analyze categories about legislative year with others such as profession, education, birthplace, membership of ADR and CUP.

2.4   Education, Additional Languages, and Day of Serving – Koray SAÇKAN

Throughout the project, I focused on the educational backgrounds of the GNA members, additional languages they knew, and how many days they served in the Assembly. Even if each criterion had its own problems, "Education" section was the most challenging one. There were a great variety of educational institutions like *Medrese, Rüştiye* or *Harbiye* and it was very difficult to classify them according to the modern educational frameworks like High School or University. However, "Additional Languages" and "Day of Serving" were easier to collect and analyse. Calculating how many members knew which language required a good command of Microsoft Excel, and analysing the number of days these members served in the Assembly required a comprehensive examination of the other criteria to find out the common characteristics that the members who served in the Assembly for a long time had.

Among these three categories, only "education" required a detailed sub-categorization. As there was no standard classification for educational institutions at that time, it was very difficult to conduct a research focusing on the educational backgrounds without creating sub-categories. Therefore, we divided "Education" into five categories: "Medrese," "Harbiye," "Rüştiye," "Üniversite," and "Hususi." However, we could not classify all educational institutions according to these sub-categories as there were a lot of schools that do not fit into any of them. Therefore, we completely changed the sub-categorization and finalized it as "Primary, Secondary, and Higher Education." This sub-categorization also requires a comprehensive analysis of the existing literature on the educational system in the Ottoman Empire.
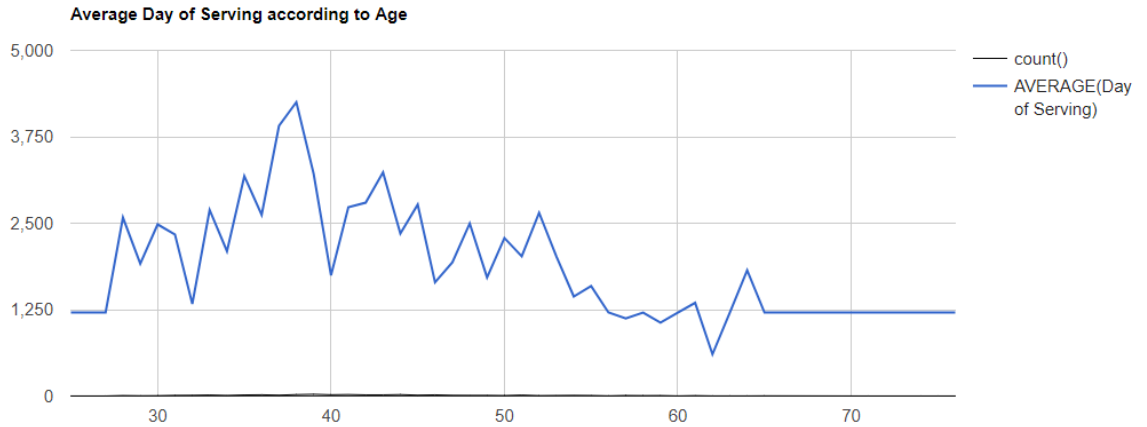
Average Day of Serving according to Age

Figure 1. Average Day of Serving according to Age

While it is too early to make generalizations on the "Education" category, "Day of Serving" provided significant patterns among the GNA members. To illustrate, the members who were born between 1881 and 1883 served in the GNA much longer than the others. In other words, the average serving time of the members whose ages were from 37 to 39 in the first legislative period (60 MP in total) was 3,788 days, which can be seen in the graphic above. This shows that the middle-aged members of the parliament in the first legislative period were more effective in the decision-making process than the other age groups. When we look at the other common patterns among these members, the graphic below shows that they were all born in the western parts of the Empire. Similarly, all the ministers in the first legislative period were born in the western parts except Fevzi Pirinççioğlu, who was born in Diyarbakır. Finally, "Additional Languages," the last category I focused on, illustrates that 31.7% (212) of the members do not know any language other than Turkish, 19.6% (131) know French, %17.7 (118) know Arabic, and %13 (87) know Persian. The rest can be seen in the second graphic below.

Figure 2. The birthplace of the members who served in the GNA for more than five times
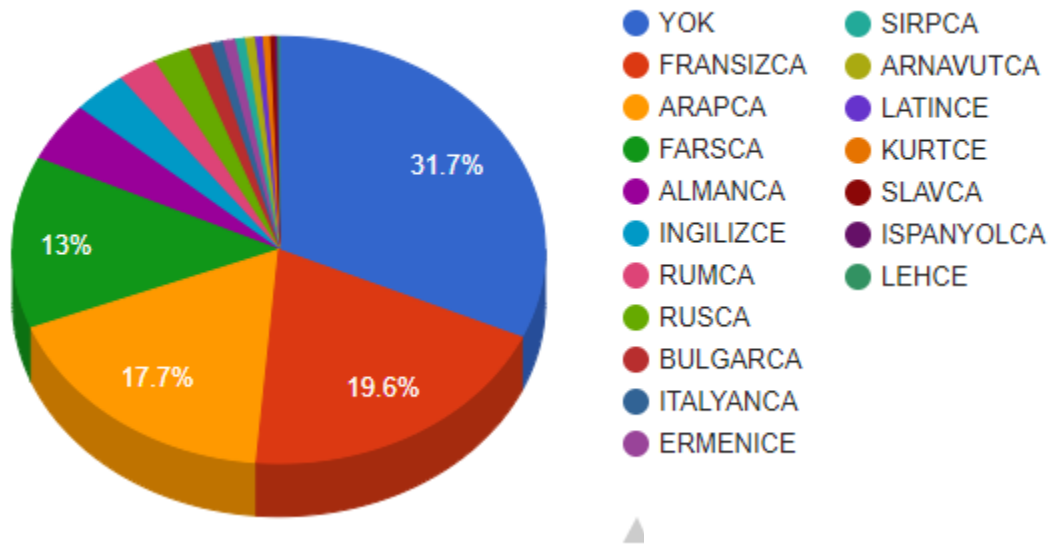
Figure 3. The percent of additional languages known by the members of GNA

All the categories I focused on have a connection with other categories that the rest of the group members analysed. Accordingly, while I was examining "Day of Serving," I looked at how it interacts with the categories like "Place of Birth," "Date of Birth," and "Age," and I tried to find out in what ways they influence each other. However, as the classification phase still continues, no one could focus on how "Education" is connected to the other categories such as "Place of Birth," "Day of Serving," or "Number of Total Duties." Therefore, "Education" and its relation with other factors are waiting to be explored.
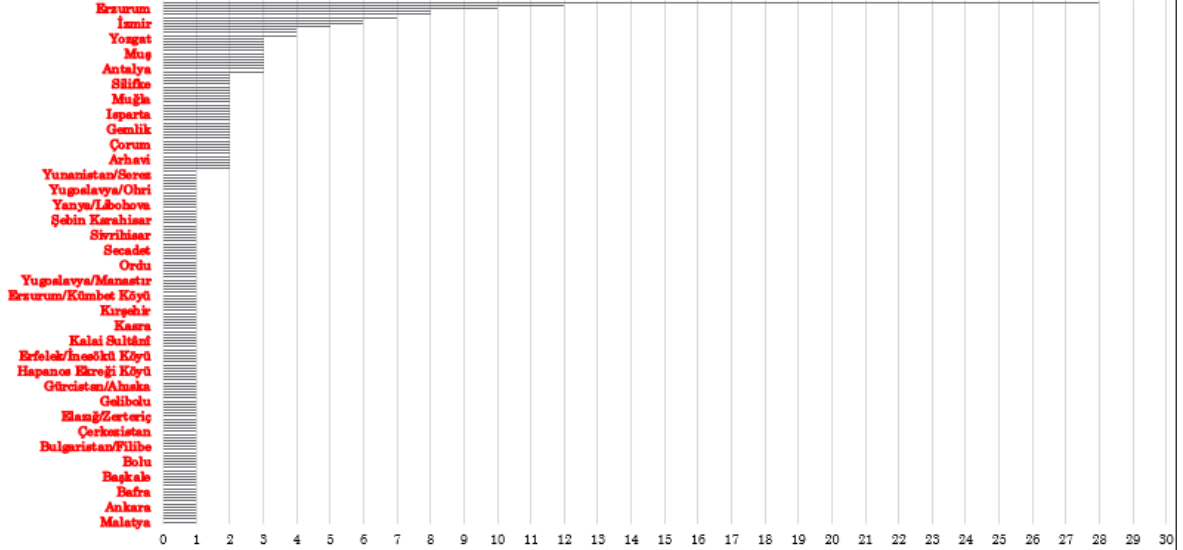
2.5   Number of Term, Place of Birth, Title – Meryem Nagehan ULUSOY

The very essence of this project is to test the correlation between the political figures and the policies that they choose to make. We try to test this hypothesis by looking and analyzing the backgrounds of the members of the parliament using the method of prosopography which can be defined as a way of collecting information and relation a certain group of people. With this method, we studied the first legislative year which lasted from 1920 to 1923. Throughout this period, many members of the parliament from different educational backgrounds, different professions served in the Great National Assembly. Our goal has been to find a correlation between this different information and the decisions that they took. As to accomplish this goal, we divided the information we attained from the archives of the Great National Assembly. Each participant tries to analyze different aspects of the members of the parliament. I try to find a correlation by looking at three headlines which are ''title, place of birth, number of term.'': To be frank from the conclusions are not as clear as I expected and the process has not been so easy, either. For starters, the fact that I do not have a grasp of each and every piece of the literature, I could not easily manage to decide what to focus on. Secondly, my lack of knowledge on excel and on google fusion also made the process harder. Yet in the end, with the help of my group mates and our supervisor, I have overcome the difficulties.

To start with I started my research by looking specifically at the relationship between the titles and the place of birth. Before mentioning the reason why I should clarify what ''the titles''

mean. Some members of the parliament at that time had a title and some did not. These titles included; ''bey, efendi, doktor, paşa, operatör'' We also divided these titles under two headings ''honorific ones'' and ''civic titles''. The mentality behind this division is the fact that civic titles are given by an authority whereas honorific titles are given based on a conception of honour. The reason why I specifically looked at the relation between titles and the places of birth is that I tried to find a correlation between titles and where these titles come from, hoping to reach a conclusion about the modernity of these titles.
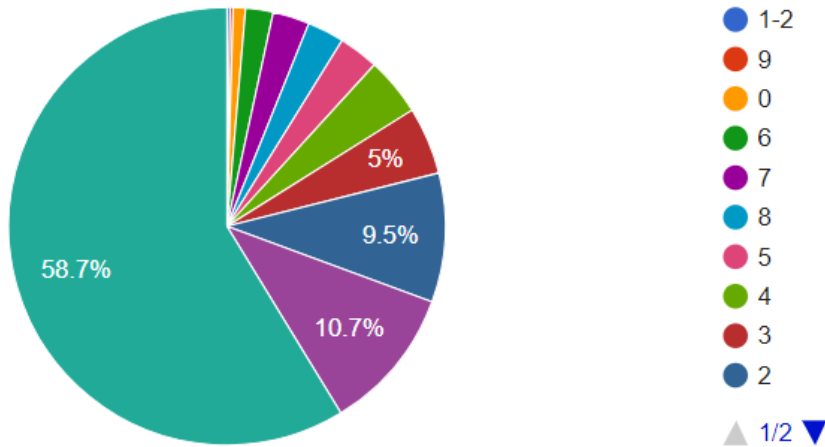
«Bey»lerin Doğum Yerlerine Göre Dağılımları

Yet unfortunately the differences between these titles, especially the difference between ''efendi / bey'' is not clear. Therefore the conclusions such as the one above do not support any argument in literature. Apart from this specific research, I also looked at the relationship between the number of terms and the CUP membership[1]. And surprisingly the results were much more different from what I had expected.

İttihatçı sayısı:	35	İttihatçı olmayan	406
İttihatçı dönem toplamı:	90	Olmayan dönem sayısı	736
İttihatçılar Ortalama Dönemi:	2,6	İttihatçı Olmayanların Ortalama Dönemi:	1,81

The deputies who were a member of CUP had served more than those who were not. But of course, we have to keep in mind that many of the deputies did not declare their relations

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[1] CUP : Committee of Union and Progress

with CUP. To see the distribution of the numbers of terms, I used a pie-chart-like the one given below.

As it can be understood from the graph, the most of the deputies served in the parliament only one year. And the surprising thing is that the most common members who served in the parliament only a year are from the east side of the country. A correlation between the places of birth and the number of term could not be reached either. From all the data I looked on, I can say that given the diversity of the members of the parliament, a generalization cannot be made easily and also it should not be made. I have only two generalizations and conclusions from the data I studied on. First of all, the representation of the east is quite weak and the deputies mostly could not serve more than a year in the east side of the country. Secondly, the cup membership was not a desirable confess to be made. Yet to get more accurate conclusions, a deeper division might be made. The number of a term can be classified as '' 1, 2, 3 etc.'' and can be studied with each term and other ingredients. Place of birth can be divided into regions and the relation between each region and other aspects such as the profession can be looked at. Because with a data and headline like the ones I had, it is more difficult to analyze, also one may miss important points while examining the whole data. Focusing on the pieces seems like a better idea to me. Besides, other aspects should be analyzed with the headlines I worked on. For instance, the relation between the number of term and profession and also the relation between the number of terms and the educational background can be studied as well so as to see whether or not only the ones who got ''western type'' of education had the majority. The relation between the number of terms and the profession may help us see what kind of profession ruled over the parliament. Were they all military background people who served more than the others? These points are also important that should not be overlooked.

To sump up, after looking at different databases which are narrowed down with different headlines, one thing can be said for certain. The deputies from the East side of the country did not get very lucky and mostly served only one year. Apart from this generalization, this research and this project developed my knowledge on the topic and developed my excel skills. More importantly, I have met wonderful people and learned many things throughout the project.

3   Conclusion and Future Work

To conclude, some of the points of the research have proved that there is indeed a correlation between backgrounds of members of parliament and their power of representation. For instance, members of parliament who are also connected to CUP are more effective in the Great National Assembly. Similarly, members of the parliament who were born in western parts of the empire have more impact on the Assembly. Some of the points of the research such as the differences between titles Bey and Efendi resulted negatively. As a difference between the two titles could not be found. Yet the research has to be continued to be more accurate on some points as education type. Since we cannot be sure how to clasify non-institutionalized educational establishments within the modern forms.

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