

Sovereignty and Legitimacy of the Ottoman and Aq Qoyunlu dynasties. A Comparative Approach

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The rise and the establishment of Turkmen states in Anatolia and Central Asia from the 11th to 15th centuries created the conditions for the rivalry and/or the military conflict between these states that were trying to expand their sovereignty in an enlarged area and also to secure the obedience of their subjects. The rulers of the competing dynasties sought to invent the legitimizing methods to secure the dynasties continuity, strengthen the adherence of their subjects, and justify their claims for territorial expansion. This paper aims to explore the legitimizing methods of the Ottoman and the Aq Qoyunlu dynasties, through the examination of contemporary sources: The Kitab-i Diyarbakriyya, composed by Abu Bakr Tehrani, the most important primary source for the history of the the Aq Qoyunlu state and the historiographies of Tursun Beğ and Oruç Beğ, two prominent figures of the early Ottoman scholarly. I will examine the contemporary terms, the fabricated lineage and the exploited myths and traditions we can trace in the works of the scholars mentioned above in their attempt to legitimize the Ottoman and Aq Qoyunlu hegemony over the multi-ethnic populations in their territories.