

National Identity and Solidarity Among Turkic Nations: A Comparative Sociological Study

Marat Esemuratovich Berdimuratov

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Sociology, Lecturer, Department of Humanities, Karakalpakstan Institute of Agriculture and Agrotechnology

Abstract

This article explores the intricate dynamics of national identity and solidarity among Turkic nations through a comparative sociological study, focusing on Turkey and Kyrgyzstan as pivotal case studies. The literature highlights the historical, ideological, and sociopolitical factors shaping national identity and their implications for fostering solidarity. Walker (2003) delves into Turkey's identity crisis, emphasizing the polarization between Kemalism and Islamism and advocating for a pluralistic framework to reconcile these divides. Taitelieva (2015) examines the complexities of post-Soviet nation-building in Kyrgyzstan, underscoring the challenges posed by ethnic diversity and the importance of shared values for national unity. Çinar and Taş (2017) explore the role of storytelling in the politics of Turkish nationhood, revealing how competing historical narratives shape collective memory. Vucetic (2018) offers a theoretical framework linking national identity with foreign policy, emphasizing that affirming shared identities fosters trust and collaboration. Yiğit (2022) highlights how perceptions of neighboring nations influence Turkish pre-service social studies teachers' understanding of identity, demonstrating the relational nature of identity formation. Keskintürk and Kuyucu (2024) critique the duality in Turkish nationalism, advocating for micro-level analyses of individual motivations. Together, these studies provide a comprehensive understanding of the dynamic interplay of historical narratives, ideological divides, and individual perceptions in shaping national identity and solidarity among Turkic nations. The findings emphasize the importance of inclusive narratives and shared values to enhance cooperation and unity in this diverse region.

Keywords: Turkic nations, national identity, solidarity, ideological divides, sociopolitical dynamics

Introduction

The exploration of national identity and solidarity among Turkic nations necessitates a nuanced understanding of the historical, cultural, and ideological complexities that shape these identities. The literature on this topic reveals a rich tapestry of perspectives, particularly through the

examination of Turkey and Kyrgyzstan, which serve as pivotal case studies in the broader context of Turkic nationalism.

(Walker, 2003) provides an insightful analysis of Turkey's identity crisis, rooted in its unique geographical and cultural characteristics. He posits that since the establishment of the Turkish Republic in 1923, Turkey has grappled with ideological divides, particularly between Kemalism and Islamism. This ideological polarization complicates Turkey's national identity and reflects a broader civilizational dilemma, as it seeks to reconcile its Islamic heritage with aspirations for a secular, Westernized state. (Walker, 2003)'s critique of Huntington's civilizational framework highlights the oversimplification of Turkey's diverse perspectives, suggesting that a pluralistic approach may offer a pathway to resolving its identity crisis.

In a similar vein, (Taitelieva, 2015) addresses the challenges of nation-building in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan, where traditional ethnic identities pose obstacles to the formation of a cohesive national identity. She argues that the integration of diverse ethnic groups requires a shared set of values and principles, emphasizing the role of nationalism in shaping citizens' perceptions of identity. (Taitelieva, 2015)'s work underscores the tension between ethnic and national identities, revealing how these constructs influence societal dynamics and national unity in a multiethnic state.

Moving forward, (A. & H., 2017) delve into the narratives surrounding Turkish nationhood, particularly through the lens of the Ulusalçılık movement. They contend that the reimagining of Turkey's founding moment—from the Kemalist Republic to the War of Independence—reflects a broader struggle over national identity. Their analysis reveals how storytelling plays a crucial role in the politics of nationhood, shaping the collective memory and identity of the Turkish people amidst competing historical narratives.

(Vucetic, 2018)'s studies offer a theoretical exploration of the interplay between national identity and foreign policy. He posits that affirming national identities can foster trust between nations, suggesting that identity not only influences domestic perceptions but also shapes international relations. This framework provides a valuable lens through which to examine how Turkic nations perceive one another and navigate their relationships based on shared or divergent identities.

(Özlem Yiğit, 2022) further contributes to this discourse by examining how Turkish pre-service social studies teachers perceive their national identity in relation to neighboring countries. By analyzing the influence of stereotypes and the concept of otherness, (Özlem Yiğit, 2022) highlights the complexity of national identity formation, suggesting that perceptions of neighboring nations play a significant role in defining one's own national identity.

Finally, (Kesintürk & Kuyucu, 2024) address the historical emergence of nationalist ideologies in Turkey, emphasizing the constructed nature of national identities. They argue that state institutions play a pivotal role in shaping these identities, often leading to contradictions and conflicts. Their work underscores the importance of deconstructing national narratives to reveal the inconsistencies inherent in the construction of Turkish nationalism, suggesting that a more comprehensive understanding of these dynamics is essential for grasping the broader implications of national identity among Turkic nations.

Together, these articles provide a rich foundation for understanding the multifaceted nature of national identity and solidarity among Turkic nations, revealing the historical legacies, ideological divides, and sociopolitical challenges that continue to shape their trajectories.

2. Literature review

Joshua Walker's article, "Leading a 'torn country': Turkey's ideological and civilized divide" (Walker, 2003) provides a comprehensive examination of the identity crisis that has characterized Turkish political life since the establishment of the Republic in 1923. The central theme revolves around the ideological polarization within Turkey, which stems from its unique geographical and cultural characteristics. Walker's exploration of this divide is particularly significant in understanding how national identity and solidarity manifest among Turkic nations, particularly in the context of Turkey's historical and contemporary challenges.

Walker begins by tracing the roots of Turkey's identity crisis back to the Ottoman Empire and its religious heritage, highlighting the complex interplay between Islamism and Kemalism as dominant ideological forces. This historical perspective is crucial in appreciating how these ideologies have shaped modern Turkish identity and the political landscape. The author's analysis of these ideologies reveals not only the internal conflicts but also the broader implications for national identity among Turkic nations, which may share similar historical and cultural narratives.

The article critically engages with Samuel Huntington's theoretical framework regarding civilizations, suggesting that it inadequately captures the diversity of Turkish perspectives. Walker argues that Turkey's predominantly Muslim population coexists within a secular state, a dynamic that complicates simplistic categorizations of identity. He posits that the emergence of a westernized elite and a traditional Muslim populace, alongside the rise of Islamist political movements, has led to a multifaceted identity crisis that transcends mere political reform (Walker, 2003). This nuanced understanding of identity is vital for scholars examining solidarity among Turkic nations, as it underscores the importance of recognizing internal diversity and the potential for pluralism.

Furthermore, Walker's call for a new Turkish civilization founded on pluralism offers a compelling solution to the challenges faced by Turkey in reconciling its secular and religious factions. This proposition is particularly relevant for Turkic nations grappling with similar ideological divides, as it suggests that fostering an inclusive national identity can lead to greater solidarity among diverse groups. The examination of how secularists and Islamists might coexist within a functional political structure is a significant contribution to the discourse on national identity, providing insights that extend beyond Turkey to the broader context of Turkic solidarity.

Eliza Taitelieva's article, "Kyrgyzstan: The Challenge of Post-Soviet Multiethnic Nation Building" (Taitelieva, 2015) provides a comprehensive examination of the complexities surrounding national identity in Kyrgyzstan, particularly in the context of its multiethnic society. The article posits that traditional ethnic identities significantly influence the formation of a cohesive national identity, raising critical questions about the interplay between these identities in a post-Soviet landscape.

Taitelieva identifies ethnic identity as a key independent variable that complicates the integration of diverse ethnic groups within Kyrgyzstan's national framework. The author argues that the historical distrust between different ethnic groups, particularly between Kyrgyz and Uzbeks, poses a formidable challenge to fostering a unified national identity (Taitelieva, 2015). This tension is further exacerbated by the state's attempts to promote a multi-ethnic identity while simultaneously navigating the narratives of nationalism that prioritize the titular ethnic group.

The article effectively illustrates how national identity in Kyrgyzstan is contingent upon the perceived citizenship and the collective values shared among its citizens. Taitelieva emphasizes the necessity of a common language, a shared belief in common ancestry, and a cohesive belief system

to cultivate a sense of ethnic identity that can lead to national unity. This perspective aligns with Brubaker's concept of "nationalizing states," where the state's identity is shaped by the dominant ethnic group's language and culture, often at the expense of minority groups (Taitelieva, 2015).

Taitelieva's analysis of nationalism as a driving force in shaping societal perceptions of threat is particularly insightful. The author argues that nationalism not only provides a framework for understanding Kyrgyzstan's socio-political failures but also influences the electorate's agenda, which can lead to political mobilization based on ethnic lines. This dynamic raises important questions about the sustainability of a civic identity in a nation characterized by ethnic divisions.

The article "Politics of Nationhood and the Displacement of the Founding Moment: Contending Histories of the Turkish Nation" by Çinar and Taş (A. & H., 2017) provides a thorough examination of the Ulusalçılık (nationalism) movement and its impact on the conception of Turkish nationhood. The authors argue that the Ulusalçı nationalists have strategically shifted the narrative surrounding the founding moment of the Turkish nation from the Kemalist establishment of the Republic in 1923 to the earlier War of Independence between 1919 and 1922. This shift is significant as it reframes the historical context and the collective memory associated with Turkish identity.

The authors assert that nationhood is fundamentally a construct of storytelling, emphasizing that the politics of nationhood is rooted in the production and negotiation of various narratives. The Ulusalçı movement's storytelling is particularly compelling as it seeks to create a new national subject that embodies a secular, militaristically patriotic, and anti-Western ethos. This narrative is exemplified in the bestselling book "Those Crazy Turks," which has become a central text for the Ulusalçı movement, effectively serving as a cultural touchstone that reinforces their ideological stance.

A critical evaluation of this material reveals that the authors adeptly highlight the complexities of national identity formation in Turkey, particularly in the context of competing historical narratives. The focus on storytelling as a mechanism of nationhood underscores the fluidity of national identity, suggesting that it is not a static concept but rather one that is continually reshaped by political movements and historical reinterpretations. However, while the authors provide a robust analysis of the Ulusalçı movement, there may be a need for a deeper exploration of how these narratives interact with the identities of other Turkic nations and the broader implications for solidarity among these groups.

Furthermore, the article raises important questions about the role of nationalism in contemporary Turkish society, particularly in relation to its stance against Islamism and Ottomanism, as well as its opposition to perceived Western imperialism. This positioning could be further contextualized within the larger framework of Turkic identity and the potential for solidarity among Turkic nations, which might be influenced by such nationalistic narratives.

In "Identity and Foreign Policy: Around the World in Around Eighty Readings," Srdjan Vucetic (Vucetic, 2018) provides a nuanced exploration of how national identity can shape foreign policy, specifically through the lens of group-affirmation theory. The article presents a compelling argument that affirming national identities not only fosters trust between nations but also influences the political dynamics within states. This assertion is particularly relevant when considering the intersection of national identity and solidarity among Turkic nations, as the article's insights can be extrapolated to understand similar dynamics in this context.

Vucetic's theoretical framework posits that new political ideas must resonate with established identity constructs, suggesting that the historical and cultural contexts of nations play a critical role in shaping contemporary political landscapes. This is particularly salient for Turkic nations, where historical narratives and collective memory significantly influence national identity and inter-state relations. The emphasis on critical junctures in promoting new visions of political order further underscores the importance of context in identity formation and its implications for solidarity among Turkic nations.

The article also highlights the limitations faced by political elites in manipulating identity constructions once these identities are embedded in political institutions. This observation raises important questions about the agency of leaders in Turkic nations, where national identity is often a powerful tool for mobilizing support and fostering solidarity. Vucetic's analysis of the interplay between identity framing and foreign policy decisions offers a valuable lens through which to examine how leaders in Turkic nations might navigate their relationships with one another and the broader international community.

Moreover, the author's focus on the framing of identity and related problems by leaders is crucial for understanding the sociopolitical landscape of Turkic nations. The resonance of these messages with third parties can either facilitate or hinder solidarity efforts, depending on how they align with external perceptions and interests. This aspect of Vucetic's work invites further investigation into how Turkic leaders articulate national identity in the context of regional cooperation and conflict.

Table 1: Case Studies Analysis

Study	Country Focus	Key Insights	Strengths	Limitations
Walker (2003)	Turkey	Ideological divide between Kemalism and Islamism	Historical depth; critique of Huntington's framework	Lacks practical solutions for pluralism
Taitelieva (2015)	Kyrgyzstan	Ethnic diversity challenges in nation-building	Strong use of Brubaker's "nationalizing states" concept	Limited exploration of policy recommendations
Çinar & Taş (2017)	Turkey	Narrative politics in shaping Turkish nationhood	Highlights storytelling as a political tool	Minimal focus on broader Turkic solidarity

In "Identity and Foreign Policy," Srdjan Vucetic (Vucetic, 2018) presents a compelling exploration of the intersection of national identity and foreign policy analysis through the lens of societal constructivism. The article's main thrust revolves around the ambitious initiative of creating a "national identity database" that aims to encompass all modern great powers. This innovative approach seeks to recover and analyze identities by employing discourse analysis of popular texts, thereby offering a nuanced understanding of how national identities shape and are shaped by foreign policy decisions.

Vucetic's work is particularly significant in the context of Turkic nations, as it underscores the importance of identity in influencing international relations and solidarity among nations. By utilizing

societal constructivism, the article highlights how shared historical narratives, cultural ties, and collective memories contribute to the formation of national identities. This theoretical framework is essential for understanding the dynamics among Turkic nations, as it allows for an analysis of how these identities can foster solidarity or, conversely, lead to divisions.

The proposed "national identity database" serves as a pivotal tool for researchers aiming to map the intricate relationships between identity and foreign policy. Vucetic's methodology, which focuses on discourse analysis, is particularly valuable for examining the narratives that underpin national identities. This approach not only enriches the understanding of individual nation-states but also facilitates comparative studies among Turkic nations, offering insights into how their identities influence their foreign policy orientations.

However, while Vucetic's initiative is ambitious, it raises questions regarding the feasibility and scope of such a database. The challenge of encompassing the diverse and often conflicting identities within great powers could complicate the analysis, particularly in regions with complex historical contexts like those of Turkic nations. Furthermore, the reliance on popular texts for discourse analysis may present limitations, as these texts often reflect dominant narratives while marginalizing alternative voices.

Table 2: Theoretical Frameworks and Broader Implications

Study	Theoretical Framework	Broader Implications	Relevance to Turkic Solidarity
Vucetic (2018)	Group-affirmation theory	National identity influences foreign policy and trust	Shared identity can foster inter-nation cooperation
Yiğit (2022)	Self-categorization theory	Identity shaped through perceptions of others	Relational identity can both unite and divide
Keskintürk & Kuyucu (2024)	Constructivist nationalism	Contradictions in civic and ethnic nationalism	Micro-level analysis reveals personal dynamics

The article "NATIONAL IDENTITY AND NEIGHBOUR COUNTRY PERCEPTIONS OF PRE-SERVICE SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS – THE TURKISH CASE" by E. Özlem Yiğit offers a thought-provoking and in-depth exploration of the intricate complexities surrounding national identity and the multifaceted perceptions of neighboring nations among Turkish pre-service social studies teachers. Through an extensive analysis, the main thesis posits that national identities are not monolithic, but rather constructed through dynamic and multifarious relational dynamics. These dynamics include the pervasive use of stereotypes, the concept of otherness, and the interplay between self-perception and the perceptions of others. The self-categorization theory, which serves as a foundational framework, asserts that identities are not solely shaped by intrinsic characteristics, but also heavily influenced by the nuanced and intricate perceptions of individuals from within the same nation as well as neighboring countries. By situating national identity within the framework of relational dynamics and the construction of Otherness, the study delves into the comprehensive tapestry that shapes national consciousness. Drawing on an array of interdisciplinary perspectives and employing a rigorous research methodology, the author sheds light on the multifaceted nature of national identity and how it manifests in the perceptions held by pre-service social studies teachers in

Turkey. Through survey data, interviews, and qualitative analysis, the article offers a nuanced understanding of the factors that contribute to the formation of national identity within the educational context. The findings of this research are not only of great significance to the field of social studies education but also provide valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and researchers interested in fostering intercultural understanding and promoting harmonious relations between nations. By exploring the intricate interplay between national identity, stereotypes, and perceptions of neighboring countries, this study contributes to the broader dialogue around global citizenship and the construction of inclusive and empathetic communities. In conclusion, "NATIONAL IDENTITY AND NEIGHBOUR COUNTRY PERCEPTIONS OF PRE-SERVICE SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS – THE TURKISH CASE" by E. Özlem Yiğit offers a comprehensive and thought-provoking examination of national identity construction and its relationship with the perceptions held by Turkish pre-service social studies teachers regarding neighboring nations. Through a nuanced exploration of relational dynamics, stereotypes, and the concept of otherness, this study holds immense value for academics, practitioners, and policymakers alike, contributing to the advancement of educational and societal endeavors aimed at fostering mutual respect, intercultural understanding, and inclusive national identities. (Özlem Yiğit, 2022)(Özlem Yiğit, 2022)

The article delves into how Turkish individuals define themselves in contrast to their neighbors, suggesting that these definitions are context-dependent and influenced by historical and socio-political factors. Yiğit draws on the historical evolution of national identity, referencing philosophical perspectives from figures such as Hobbes, who emphasized the formal structures of authority in identity formation, and the rise of nationalist sentiments in the nineteenth century, which framed the nation as an organic entity with a unique spirit. This historical context is crucial as it underscores the shifting paradigms of national identity from a collective good to a more fragmented understanding influenced by external perceptions. When examining the intricate tapestry of Turkish identity, it becomes evident that self-identification transcends mere geographic boundaries. The multifaceted nature of Turkishness is a mosaic that interweaves intricate threads of historical, cultural, and social interactions. By exploring these various dimensions, one can fathom the intricate tapestry that defines Turkish individuals and their relation to their neighbors. To comprehend the depths of Turkish identity, one must take a voyage through the annals of history. Throughout the ages, Turkey has been a crossroads of civilizations, serving as a melting pot of diverse influences. From the Hittite Empire to the Byzantine era, and from the Ottoman Empire to the modern republic, the tapestry of Turkish identity has been shaped by a myriad of historical milestones. Delving deeper, philosophical perspectives illuminate the complex nature of identity formation. From the wisdom of Hobbes to the profound insights of other intellectual luminaries, we unearth the profound impact of formal structures of authority in molding identity. These philosophical underpinnings lay the groundwork for comprehending the intricacies of Turkish self-perception and the continuous evolution of national identity. Zooming in on the nineteenth century, we witness the rise of nationalist sentiments that reverberated across the Turkish landscape. This transformative era witnessed the framing of the nation as an organic entity, pulsating with a unique spirit. The romantic notions of unity and distinctiveness became deeply ingrained in the fabric of Turkishness, intertwining the nation's past, present, and future in a mesmerizing symphony. However, as time marched on, the paradigms of national identity underwent a profound metamorphosis. The collective good once cherished and upheld passionately

transformed into a more fragmented understanding. External perceptions exerted their influence, causing seismic shifts in the Turkish psyche. Thus, Turkish individuals have had to grapple with the ever-evolving perception of their national identity, striving to reconcile the fragmented pieces into a coherent whole. Indeed, the contextual nature of identity formation cannot be overstated. Turkish self-identification is not a static entity but a fluid, nuanced construct. It is an amalgamation of personal experiences, historical legacies, and socio-political dynamics. Within this intricate mosaic, Turkish individuals navigate the delicate balance between rootedness and adaptability, carving out their unique places within the complex web of human existence. In conclusion, exploring how Turkish individuals define themselves in relation to their neighbors unravels a captivating narrative of historical legacies, philosophical perspectives, and shifting paradigms. The context-dependent nature of identity formation sheds light on the transformative journey undertaken by Turkish individuals in their pursuit of self-understanding. As the socio-political landscape continues to evolve, so too will the tapestry of Turkish identity, forever reflecting the ebb and flow of its vibrant existence. (Özlem Yiğit, 2022)

One of the critical evaluations of Yiğit's work is its emphasis on the duality of identity perception—how Turkish individuals view themselves and how they perceive others. The findings indicate that while identities can foster a sense of solidarity, they also risk reinforcing stereotypes that delineate boundaries between groups. This duality is particularly relevant in the context of Turkic nations, where shared linguistic and cultural heritages might coexist with distinct national narratives that complicate solidarity. Considering the complex nature of identity formation, understanding the nuances of how individuals perceive themselves within a group, as well as how they perceive others, becomes paramount. By delving into the intricate web of Turkish identity, Yiğit explores the multifaceted layers that contribute to the construction and maintenance of collective selfhood. Examining the intricate interplay between language, culture, and history, he unravels the intricacies of identity formation in Turkic nations, shedding light on the tensions that arise when shared heritage collides with nationalist narratives. The research reveals that the fusion of linguistic and cultural bonds creates a common ground, a source of solidarity among individuals. However, this very interconnectedness carries the potential to reinforce stereotypes and perpetuate divisions. Yiğit's work highlights the delicate balance between celebrating diversity and avoiding the pitfalls of essentialism. In the pursuit of fostering unity and understanding, it is essential to navigate the complexities of identity perception with sensitivity and open-mindedness. Yiğit's research serves as a crucial stepping stone towards unraveling the intricate tapestry of Turkic identities, fostering a deeper comprehension of the intricate dynamics that shape individuals' self-concepts and their interactions with others. (Özlem Yiğit, 2022)

Moreover, the article highlights the implications of these perceptions for social studies education, suggesting that pre-service teachers' views on national identity could influence their pedagogical approaches and the way they educate future generations about nationalism and multiculturalism. This aspect is significant, as it underscores the role of education in shaping perceptions of identity and otherness, potentially fostering either divisive or inclusive attitudes among students.

The article "Sentiments of Solidarity: Varying Conceptions of Nationhood in Turkey" by Turgut Keskindürk and Tuna Kuyucu (Keskindürk & Kuyucu, 2024) provides a nuanced exploration of the complexities surrounding Turkish nationalism, particularly in the context of the historical and sociopolitical landscape shaped by the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the ensuing ethnic tensions. The authors critically engage with the predominant macro-structural historical perspectives that have characterized much of the existing literature on Turkish nationalism, which often overlooks the individual-level motivations and sentiments that inform nationalist beliefs.

Keskindürk and Kuyucu highlight the contradictions inherent in official Turkish nationalism, which is often framed in civic terms, while simultaneously being underpinned by primordialist and ethnic practices. This duality is particularly evident in the state's treatment of minority groups, such as the Kurds, and the violent legacy of conflict that has claimed thousands of lives. The article emphasizes that while macro-level analyses have significantly contributed to our understanding of the historical origins and institutional frameworks of nationalism in Turkey, they fall short of capturing the lived experiences and personal orientations of individuals towards these nationalist ideologies.

By shedding light on the inherently constructed and malleable nature of nationalist identities, the insightful authors vehemently advocate and emphasize the pivotal importance of integrating meticulous micro-level analyses that comprehensively take into account the multifaceted factors influencing individual motivations and actions. This profound shift in scholarly focus indisputably holds paramount significance as it lays the foundation for truly unraveling and comprehending the intricate dynamics surrounding nationalist sentiments. Thus, it unveils the fact that such sentiments are not solely shaped and fashioned by state policies but are also actively negotiated, contested, and profoundly experienced by astutely observant individuals within the cohesive community fabric. Within this groundbreaking perspective, the authors wholeheartedly propose that a profoundly comprehensive and meticulous exploration of these individualistic orientations can profoundly illuminate the sheer complexities intrinsically embedded within national identity and the profound sense of solidarity unifying diverse Turkic nations. In unveiling such intricate intricacies, invaluable insights are unearthed, shedding light on the myriad ways through which individuals, who are deeply ensconced within the intricacies of the Turkic community, deftly reconcile their deeply personal beliefs with the overarching national narratives that potentially encompass their lives.

3. Conclusion

The literature on national identity and solidarity among Turkic nations presents a complex interplay of historical narratives, ideological divides, and sociopolitical dynamics that shape the identities of these nations. The case studies of Turkey and Kyrgyzstan serve as focal points, revealing the multifaceted nature of national identity construction and the challenges posed by ethnic diversity and historical context.

(Walker, 2003) discusses Turkey's identity crisis, highlighting the ideological polarization between Kemalism and Islamism, which complicates the nation's quest for a cohesive identity. His critique of Huntington's civilizational framework emphasizes the need for a pluralistic approach to understand Turkey's diverse perspectives, suggesting that this inclusivity could foster greater solidarity among Turkic nations. (Taitelieva, 2015) echoes this sentiment in her analysis of

Kyrgyzstan, where traditional ethnic identities hinder the formation of a unified national identity. She argues that a shared set of values is essential for integrating diverse ethnic groups, thus underscoring the importance of nationalism in shaping societal perceptions and unity.

The exploration of Turkish nationhood through the Ulusalcılık movement by (A. & H., 2017) further illustrates the role of narrative in shaping national identity. Their analysis reveals how the reimagining of historical events influences collective memory and identity, suggesting that storytelling is a powerful tool in the politics of nationhood. (Vucetic, 2018) expands on this by examining the relationship between national identity and foreign policy, positing that affirming national identities can enhance trust between nations and shape international relations. This theoretical framework is particularly relevant for understanding the dynamics among Turkic nations, where shared identities may facilitate cooperation.

(Özlem Yiğit, 2022) provides an insightful perspective on how perceptions of neighboring nations influence Turkish pre-service social studies teachers' understanding of their national identity. This relational view highlights the complexities of identity formation and the potential for both solidarity and division among Turkic nations. (Keskintürk & Kuyucu, 2024) further delve into the contradictions within Turkish nationalism, advocating for a micro-level analysis that considers individual motivations and experiences in shaping nationalist sentiments.

In conclusion, the literature collectively emphasizes that national identity among Turkic nations is not a static construct but a dynamic interplay of historical narratives, ideological struggles, and individual perceptions. The insights drawn from Turkey and Kyrgyzstan highlight the significance of recognizing internal diversity and the potential for fostering solidarity through shared values and inclusive narratives. As these nations navigate their complex identities, understanding the nuances of their sociopolitical landscapes will be crucial for promoting unity and cooperation among Turkic peoples.

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