

Erik-Jan Zürcher was awarded his MA in Middle East studies at Leiden University in 1977 and his Ph.D. at Leiden University in 1984. From 1977 to 1997 Zürcher worked in the University of Nijmegen, first as a lecturer of Turkish, later as a senior lecturer in History of the Middle East. From 1989 to 1999 he headed the Turkish department of the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam. From 1993 to 1997 he held a private chair of Turkish History in the University of Amsterdam. Since 1997 he has held the chair of Turkish Studies in the University of Leiden. In 2008-2012 he was general director of the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam. Since 2012 he has also been affiliate professor at Stockholm University.

His main research interest is the political and social history of the late Ottoman Empire and the early Turkish Republic. He made his mark with two studies on political contestation in the early republic, *The Unionist Factor* (Leiden: Brill, 1984) and *Political Opposition in the Early Turkish Republic* (Leiden: Brill, 1991). His *Turkey. A modern history* (first published in 1993 but substantially revised in 2004) is widely used as textbook in universities in the U.S.A., the U.K., the Netherlands and Turkey. It has also been translated into eight languages. Zürcher has written or edited twelve books on the social and political history of the late Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey. Another research interest is the comparative history of military recruitment and employment, on which he has recently (2013) published a 685 p. volume called *Fighting for a Living*.

Zürcher has been an invited guest lecturer or visiting professor at SUNY Binghamton, Louisville KY, OSU Columbus, Minneapolis, Oxford (St. Anthony's), London (SOAS and LSE), Durham, Manchester, Bamberg, Munich, Bochum, Naples, Paris (EHESS), Basle, Berne, Zürich, Louvain, Ghent, Istanbul (Koç, Bilgi, Bosphorus)) and Ankara (Bilkent). In 2008 he gave the Hamilton Gibb memorial lecture at Harvard University.

In 2003-4 Zürcher was actively involved in consultations on Turkey's accession to the European Union, among other things by writing the expert opinion on the question whether Islam would be an impediment to Turkish accession for the Dutch EU presidency. In June 2005 he was awarded the Medal of High Distinction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey. In 2006 – 2007 he was involved in the founding of a Dutch Institute of Higher education in Ankara (NIHA) and a Turkey Institute in The Hague. For the last fifteen years he has commented regularly on current affairs in Turkey to Dutch and international media and been involved in briefings for the Dutch government and business world.

In 2008 he was elected a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW).

Zürcher has so far been principal advisor for nineteen successfully defended Ph.D. theses and is currently advising on eight more.