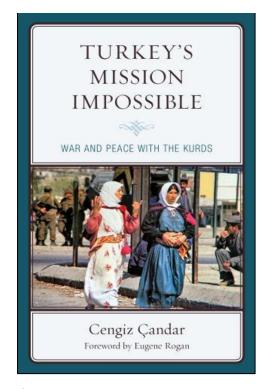
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## TURKEY'S MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: WAR AND PEACE WITH THE KURDS

## By Cengiz Çandar



"A lively history of the Kurdish struggle, written by someone who was there, privy to many of the pivotal meetings and discussions. The author knows the politicians and fighters personally and tells the hidden stories behind the newspaper headlines of the last forty years, A unique voice and an engaging read."

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"The book is a treasury of information. Cengiz Çandar has written an essential and extraordinarily evenhanded book about the ups and downs in a lifetime devoted to ending Turkey's endless war with its Kurds and solidifying democracy. Had not the title be used earlier about apartheid South Africa, Çandar might well have called his book, 'Cry, the beloved country."

—JONATHAN RANDAL, author of
After Such Knowledge, What Forgiveness – My Encounters with Kurdistan

#### ABOUT THIS BOOK

This is a work of excavation of the modern history of Turkey, with the Kurdish question at its center, unearthed and exposed in Çandar's captivating narrative. The founding of a Turkish nation-state in Asia Minor brought with it the denial of the distinct Kurdish identity in its midst, giving birth to an intractable problem that led to intermittent Kurdish revolts and culminated in the enduring insurgency of the PKK. The Kurdish question is perceived as a mortal threat for the survival of Turkey. The author weaves a fascinating account of the encounter between Turkey and the Kurds in historical perspective with special emphasis on failed peace processes. Providing a unique historical record of the authoritarian, centralist and ultra-nationalist—rather than Islamist—nature of the Turkish state rooted in the last decades of the Ottoman period and finally manifested in Erdoğan's "New Turkey," Çandar challenges stereotyped and conventional views on the Turkey of today and tomorrow. *Turkey's Mission Impossible: War and Peace with the Kurds* combines scholarly research with the memoirs of a participant observer, richly revealing the author's first-hand knowledge of developments acquired over a lifetime devoted to the resolution of perhaps the most complex problem of the Middle East.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Cengiz Çandar** is a distinguished visiting scholar at the Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies. He is a scholar and journalist, is the leading expert in Turkey on the Middle East, the main architect of the Turkish-Kurdish rapprochement as President Turgut Özal's advisor in the 1990s.

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