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## DARK TIMES: REVISITING KURDISTAN OF THE 1980s

HAMIT BOZARSLAN

EHESS IN PARIS

The 1980s seemed like the “darkest period” in Kurdish history: while the entirety of Kurdistan was affected by one form or another of war and violence, two structural dynamics of the Kurdish conflict, which had determined Kurdish history, have also been radicalized and militarized: the centrifugal one tearing apart the Kurdish space along the line of the state borders, linguistic and sectarian zones, partisan traditions and political cultures, and the centripetal one unifying it across these many borders under the idea and ideal of “Kurdishness” and by many forms of pacific or armed mobility. This tension was not an easy one to bear, but it has been managed, although at a high cost. The 1980s (and as far as Turkey concerned 1990s) have probably constituted the darkest period of the Kurdish history with a rough estimation of Kurdish victims, namely, civilians, reaching some 200,000 people. By the beginning of the 2000s, however, Kurds’ survival as a part of Iran, Turkey, Iraq, Syria and thus, in trans-frontier Kurdistan, seemed to be out of any major threat.



Prof. Hamit Bozarslan holds a PhD in history (EHESS, 1992) and in political sciences (Sciences-Po Paris, 1994) and is teaching at the EHESS in Paris. His research themes include the Kurdish issue, political and sociological history of Turkey and Middle East, the anti-democratic regimes of the 21st Century and radical right-wing revolutions of the 20th and 21st Centuries. His last books include *Le temps des monstres, monde arabe 2011-2021* (Paris, CNRS, 2022), *L'anti-démocratie au 21e siècle* (Paris, CNRS, 2022) and *Crise, Violence, dé-civilisation. Angles morts de la cité* (Paris, CNRS, 2019).

