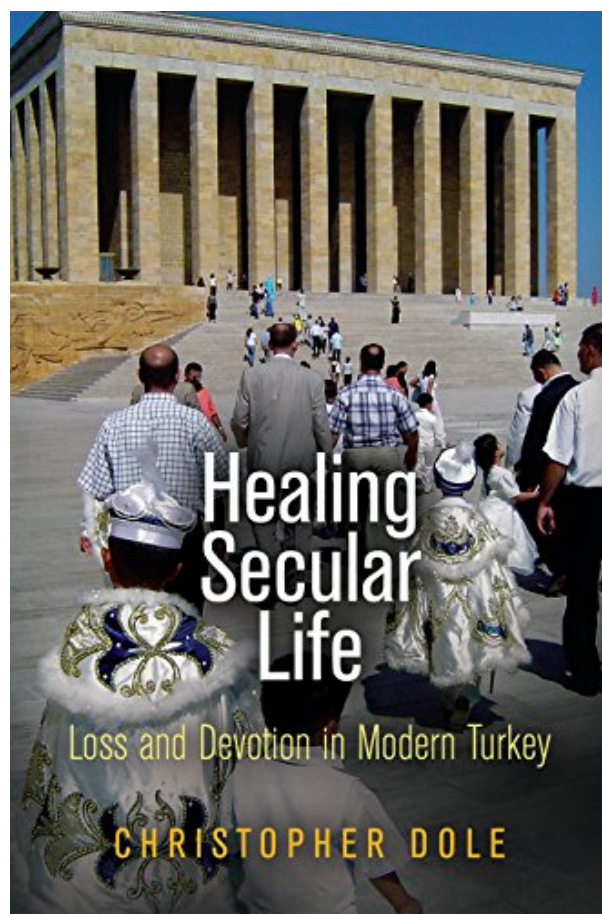
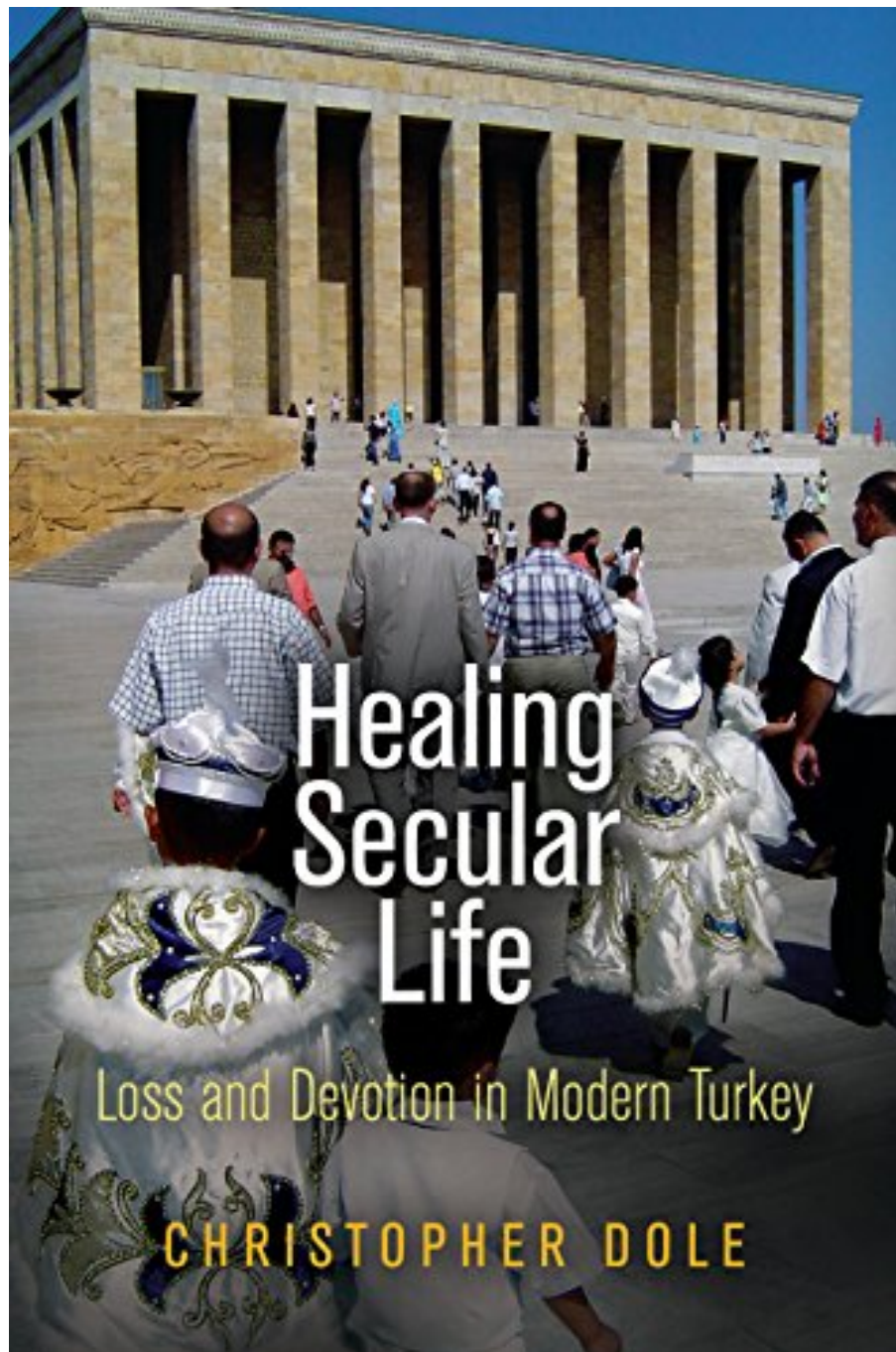


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## Review

"Healing Secular Life is a remarkable examination of the intersecting worlds of secularism and religion in Turkey, as seen through the experience of popular religious healing. Dole's great accomplishment is to project the aesthetic and moral sides of therapeutic remaking of people's lives and worlds as the ethnographic framing for understanding how politics and religion come together in the sensibility of ordinary people who are living through an extraordinary time. A fascinating and compelling ethnography."—Arthur Kleinman, Harvard University

"A well written and structured mature ethnographic work that investigates into the micro-politics of secularism in refreshing ways. It constitutes an important contribution to the study of neglected practices and worldviews at the margins of Turkish society, which were forced into exilic locations by secularist as well as normative Islamic discourses."—Anthropos

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#### About the Author

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In contemporary Turkey—a democratic, secular, and predominantly Muslim nation—the religious healer is a controversial figure. Attracting widespread condemnation, religious healers are derided as exploiters of the sick and vulnerable, discredited forms of Islamic and medical authority, and superstitious relics of a pre-modern era. Yet all sorts of people, and not just the desperately ill, continue to seek them out. After years of research with healers and their patients in working-class neighborhoods of urban Turkey, anthropologist Christopher Dole concludes that the religious healer should be regarded not as an exception to Turkey's secular modern development but as one of its defining figures. *Healing Secular Life* demonstrates that religious healing and secularism in fact have a set of common stakes in the ordering of lives and the remaking of worlds.

Linking the history of medical reforms and scientific literacy campaigns to contemporary efforts of Qur'anic healers to treat people afflicted by spirits and living saints through whom deceased political leaders speak, *Healing Secular Life* approaches stories of healing and being healed as settings for examining the everyday social intimacies of secular political rule. This ethnography of loss, care, and politics reveals not only that the authority of the religious healer is deeply embedded within the history of secular modern reform in Turkey but also that personal narratives of suffering and affliction are inseparable from the story of a nation seeking to recover from the violence of its own secular past.

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