

### Circassian view of the Turkish constitutional referendum

V.V. Tsibenko

*A constitutional referendum held in Turkey on 16th April 2017 resulted in the shift from the parliamentary form of government to the presidential one. The current paper presents the analysis of the view of the referendum by the second largest non-Turkic ethnic minority in Turkey i.e. Circassians. For this purpose since January 1 till April 16 it was conducted the research of Circassian Web Resources in Internet, which enabled to examine the agitation campaign, led by the main political parties of Turkey, detect the position of Circassian organizations, and analyze the discourse of the leading Circassian ethnic Media. The study of two agitation web platforms provided an opportunity to compare information on political preferences, place of residence and professional activity of 1124 Turkish Circassians. The constitutional amendments were supported by religious Circassians, who shared the views of official authorities. That is the necessity of consolidation of Turkish society around the centralized power in the face of threat of the 'third force intervention' (USA), Islamists and terrorist attacks, the spread of sociopolitical instability in the region of the Middle East. The rest of the Circassian organizations and Media either passed over in silence or rejected to accept the constitutional amendments. In the oppositional discourse of these Circassian groups, including leftist ones, a number of Circassian national demands were voiced – acknowledgement of 'Circassian genocide', recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, governmental support of the Chechen refugees in Turkey.*

**Keywords:** Turkey, Circassians, Circassian Diaspora, Constitutional Referendum, opposition, left movement

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