

THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF ISLAM  
THREE



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## THREE

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CAMILO ALVAREZ DE MORALES

## Boran, Behice

**Behice Sadık Boran** (1 May 1910–10 October 1987), a Turkish sociologist and politician, was a prominent leader of Türkiye İşçi Partisi (TİP, the Workers' Party of Turkey). She was born in Bursa (Turkey), to a wealthy commercial family of Tatar origin, which had emigrated from Kazan, in Tsarist Russia. After her family moved to Istanbul, she was first enrolled in a French school, but later transferred to the American College for Girls (Amerikan Kız Koleji, in Arnavutköy). From her childhood on, the Turkish War of Independence had a profound impact on her political orientation, especially as a result of the events she personally witnessed during the period Istanbul was occupied by the British forces.

Boran began her higher education in 1931, at Istanbul University, in the department of philosophy. After receiving a scholarship from the University of Michigan, she continued her studies in the United States (beginning in September 1934), in the field of sociology. She first became acquainted with Marxism at the university, and, in December 1938, she submitted her PhD dissertation, *A study of occupational mobility. An analysis of age distributions of occupational groupings in the United States, 1910–1930*.

Boran returned to Turkey in March 1939 and received an appointment as

an associate professor in the department of sociology at Ankara University in the same year. In 1942, she joined Türkiye Komünist Partisi (TKP, the Communist Party of Turkey), which was then a clandestine organization. She also helped found the political journals *Yurt ve Dünya* (“Homeland and the World”) and *Adımlar* (“Steps”). In 1948, she was expelled from Ankara University because of her political views.

Boran later founded the Türk Barışseverler Cemiyeti (Organization for the Advocacy of Peace, 14 July 1950), and she became its first president. When the organization protested Prime Minister Adnan Menderes’s dispatch of Turkish troops to Korea, she was arrested (July 1950), sentenced to a prison term of one year and three months, and stripped of her academic title of associate professor. After serving her sentence, she was released on 1 July 1953, but re-arrested shortly thereafter (September 1953) in connection with the TKP case which had started as a comprehensive police operation against the leaders and members of the Party in 1951. She was later acquitted and declared not guilty by the court due to lack of evidence.

Boran regarded the military intervention of 27 May 1960 as a favourable development, which brought about social and political freedom, and towards the end of 1962, she joined Türkiye İşçi Partisi (TİP), the leader of which was Mehmet Ali Aybar (d. 1995). The party was split into two camps, one of which espoused a socialist revolution, while the other advocated a national democratic revolution; Boran supported the former. In the parliamentary elections of 1965, she was elected deputy from Urfa.

Though both Boran and Aybar opposed the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia,

they were not in agreement about what type of socialism they envisioned for Turkey. While Boran was closer to a Soviet type of socialism, Aybar, especially after the invasion, favoured “a socialism peculiar to Turkey”, “a genial socialism”. In October 1970, Boran was elected leader of TİP and became the first woman to head a political party in Turkey. In the period following the military coup of 12 March 1970 communism was very heavily penalized and Marxist ideology and organizations were considered illegal. Under these conditions, TİP, founded as a legal political party within the boundaries of the Turkish Penal Code, was declared illegal and was closed down. Behice Boran was arrested (26 May) and sentenced to fifteen years imprisonment on the charge of “causing TİP to diverge from legal grounds and act on Marxist-Leninist principles”. However, she was released in 1974 under the general amnesty granted by the new government. TİP was re-established on 1 May 1975, and Boran again became leader. During the controversy between the Communist Party in China and the Soviet Union, TİP remained closely tied to the Soviets, but conducted its activities independent of the USSR.

Boran was briefly put under house arrest after the coup of 12 September 1980. She subsequently left Turkey to seek political asylum in Belgium, and her Turkish citizenship was revoked on 5 June 1981. Although TİP was declared illegal, it continued to operate secretly. In 1987, it merged with the TKP, to form a single organization, Türkiye Birleşik Komünist Partisi (TBKP, the United Communist Party of Turkey). Boran died in Brussels (Belgium) three days after the new party was announced publicly. Following the demise of the Soviet Union, the TBKP withered away.

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MEHMET PERİNÇEK

### Brethren of Purity (Ikhwān al-Şafāʿ)

The **Brethren of Purity** and the **Friends of Loyalty (Ikhwān al-Şafāʿ wa-Khullān al-Wafāʿ)** is the name used by the authors of a large and influential encyclopedic work of mediaeval Islam in order to disguise their identity. The work is traditionally referred to in literature as the “Epistles of the Brethren of Purity” (*Rasāʾil Ikhwān al-Şafāʿ*) because it presents itself as a collection of about fifty treatises written in the form of epistles and addressed to a fictive “brother.” In addition to this collection, there are a “Comprehensive epistle” (*Risālat al-jāmiʿa*) and a “Most comprehensive epistle” (*Risālat jāmiʿat al-jāmiʿa*), both of which also circulated under the name of the *Ikhwān al-Şafāʿ* and whose exact relation to the corpus itself is unclear. The contents and structure of the corpus, its sources, its aims, and the place it occupies in the history of Islamic thought will be dealt with below, after consideration of the vexing issues of date, authorship, and doctrinal affiliation, which are closely related to one another and to which significant modern scholarship has been devoted.