

PERCEPTIONS OF SECONDARY LEVEL STUDENTS ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) AND THE UN PERMANENT MEMBER STATES

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Abstract: The purpose of this study is to determine perceptions of secondary level students concerning the United Nations (UN) and the UN permanent member states (the US, Russia, China, England and France). The semi-structured interview form that is prepared for this purpose is conducted with 204 12th grade students in 10 secondary schools fit for purpose. Qualitative method is adopted in order to realize the aims. Application results are evaluated in computer environment and a descriptive analysis is made. As to the analysis results, 22,2% of the students that expressed an opinion on the UN perceive the UN as an institution operating in line with its primary objectives and 31,3% define it as an unnecessary, quasi-institution. It is observed that the sample has put emphasis on the US's power, Russia's natural riches, China's population, England's imperialism and France's cities. After being interpreted, the determined findings are brought to a conclusion and suggestions are made.

Key words: United Nations (UN), The UN permanent members, Instruction of countries' geography.

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations and the UN permanent member countries (the US, Russia, China, England, France) are among the references that secondary level students often come across in geography textbooks. As a matter of fact, they study the following conceptions in their textbooks: the UN in Geography 12 textbook (Gültepe etc, 2008: 178); the US in Geography 9, 11, 12 textbooks (Oruç etc, 2009: 184) (Gültepe etc, 2009: 41, 51, 59, 149, 158, 162, 197, 219, 235) (Gültepe etc, 2008: 5, 11, 94, 149, 178, 179, 205); Russia in Geography 11, 12 textbooks (Gültepe etc, 2009: 64, 149, 219, 228) (Gültepe etc, 2008: 94, 163, 165, 178, 183); China in Geography 11, 12 textbooks (Gültepe etc, 2009: 34, 59, 70, 140, 149, 199, 204, 210) (Gültepe etc, 2008: 6-8, 27, 41, 49, 50, 94, 149, 170-174, 178, 195); England in Geography 11 textbook (Gültepe etc, 2009: 45, 59, 175-178, 235); and France in Geography 11, 12 textbooks (Gültepe etc, 2009: 35, 45, 59, 219, 227) (Gültepe etc, 2008: 10, 94, 182, 198-199).

The United Nations was founded on 24 October 1945. The US president Roosevelt, England's prime minister Churchill and Soviet Russia's prime minister Stalin laid the foundations (Özey, 2010:372), (Akengin, 2010:169). Its purpose is to maintain international peace and security (Article 1/1), to develop friendly relations among nations based on peoples' equality (Article 1/2), to help nations work together to solve international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems (Article 1/3), to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations to achieve these goals (Article 1/4). Its headquarters is in the US's New York City. It is directed by this

headquarters. The number of the member countries is 192. Switzerland hasn't joined the UN in order to keep its neutrality (Özey, 2010: 374). The Security Council, one of the organs of the UN consists of fifteen member countries. 5 of these members are permanent whereas 10 are non-permanent. Each member of the General Assembly shall have one vote (Article 18/1). Although the UN bestows equal rights to vote and be represented to all the member states, five permanent charter members (the US, Russia, China, England and France) have the veto right. If one of these permanent member countries objects to a decision, this decision cannot be performed (Akengin and Demircioğlu, 2006: 252) (Gültepe etc, 2008: 178). The other ten non-permanent countries are elected for a two-years period. The geographical balance is taken as a basis in elections. Being one of the charter members, Turkey was elected as a non-permanent member for a two-years period in the year 2009.

The income of the organization consists of the dues paid by the member states. The contribution rate of the member countries is proportional to their ability to pay. For example, 22% of the budget of the year 2005 was met by the US, 19.47% by Japan, 8.66% by Germany, 6.13% by England, 6.03% by France, 4.89% by Italy, 2.81% by Canada, 2.52% by Spain, 2.05% by China and 1.88% by Mexico (UNIC- United Nations Information Centers)

The studies of the organization are conducted and published in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, and Arabic (Article 111).

The UN and the UN permanent member states are among the conceptions that the secondary level students study in textbooks and come across in their everyday lives. The fact that there are not much study about the perception of these conceptions is one of the reasons that necessitates this research.

The purpose of this study is to determine perceptions of secondary level students concerning the UN and the permanent member states and to compare the reasons and results of this situation. A semi-structured interview form is prepared for this purpose and answers to the following questions are sought.

1. Do the secondary level students perceive the UN as an organization operating in line with its primary objectives?
2. Do the secondary level students regard the UN as an effective and necessary organization in maintaining world peace?
3. Do the secondary level students think that the UN is controlled by certain member states?
4. Do the secondary level students think that the member states are active in the UN?
5. Are the secondary level students of the opinion that the UN helps needy countries?
6. Do the secondary level students think that the permanent member states are qualified to act in line with the requirements in the world?
7. Do the secondary level students appreciate or criticize the permanent members of the UN? Why?
8. On which conceptions do the views of the secondary level students about the UN permanent member states focus?
9. Do the secondary level students receive Turkey's membership of the UN favorably? Why?
10. Which permanent member state of the UN is most mentioned by the secondary level students with respect to its relationship with Turkey? Why?

METHOD

Model

This study adopts qualitative method to obtain in-depth data (Yıldırım and Şimşek, 2005; Balcı, 2004; Karasar, 2003; Kuş, 2003). The reason why this model is preferred is that it provides opportunity to obtain more elaborate data from the secondary level students about the UN and the permanent member states.

Participants

The participants of the study consist of 204 12th grade students studying in 10 secondary schools in İstanbul (Beşiktaş Anatolian, Mustafa Saffet Anatolian, Hacı Sabancı Anatolian, Çağrı Bey Anatolian, Hüseyin Avni Sözen Anatolian, Çağaloğlu Anatolian, Hayrullah Keleşoğlu Anatolian, Kadıköy Anatolian, Ataşehir and Çapa Anatolian High Schools) in spring term of the 2008-2009 academic year (Table 1).

Table1: Sample distribution according to the schools
(frequency: f and its percentage:%)

	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Beşiktaş Anatolian High School</i>	21	10.3
<i>Mustafa Saffet Anatolian High School</i>	20	9.8
<i>Hacı Sabancı Anatolian High School</i>	19	9.3
<i>Çağrı Bey Anatolian High School</i>	22	10.8
<i>Hüseyin Avni Sözen Anatolian High School</i>	21	10.3
<i>Çağaloğlu Anatolian High School</i>	20	9.8
<i>Hayrullah Keleşoğlu Anatolian High School</i>	22	10.8
<i>Kadıköy Anatolian High School</i>	19	9.3
<i>Ataşehir High School</i>	19	9.3
<i>Çapa Anatolian High School</i>	21	10.3
Total	204	100

Data accumulation and its analysis

A semi-structured interview form is used in this study in order to gather data. Expert opinion is received about its preparation and application.

In the study, the sample is asked to specify his/her gender and geography grade and answer 6 open-ended questions titled United Nations (UN), the US, Russia, China, England, France.

The UN and the permanent member states are among the notions that the secondary level sample students come across in everyday life as well as in geography lessons.

The information the sample wrote concerning these notions that they had learned in their lessons and come across in everyday life is put down in the relevant tables much the same. Their statements are not altered. Although the repetitions are avoided as far as possible, they are reflected much the same on the the frequency lists in the tables.

The semi-structured interview form had been conducted approximately two weeks before the schools were closed. The results of the application are evaluated in computer environment and a descriptive analysis is made.

FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATION

62,3% of the secondary level 12th grade sample students, 204 people in total that have participated in our study are males whereas 37,7% are females. Geography grade-point average of 80,4% of these students is above 70.

The number of views that the sample expressed about the United Nations (UN) is less than the number of views about the UN permanent member states. While 99 views in total in 10 different categories are expressed on the UN concept, 2128 views in total in 189 different categories are expressed on the permanent member states of the UN. 451 views in 41 different categories concerning Russia, 412 views in 33 different categories concerning China, 459 views in 38 different categories concerning England, 418 views in 41 different categories concerning France were written (Table 2).

Table 2: The number and proportions of the views on the United Nations (UN)

	<i>The views'</i>			
	<i>Category number</i>	<i>Category percentage (%)</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
<i>UN</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>4.4</i>
<i>The USA</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>388</i>	<i>17.4</i>
<i>Russia</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>20.5</i>	<i>451</i>	<i>20.3</i>
<i>China</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>16.5</i>	<i>412</i>	<i>18.5</i>
<i>England</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>19.0</i>	<i>459</i>	<i>20.6</i>
<i>France</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>20.5</i>	<i>418</i>	<i>18.8</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>2227</i>	<i>100.0</i>

When statements of the sample students about the UN, The US, Russia, China, England and France are analysed, it is observed that the students emphasized UN's existence, the US's power, China's population, England's imperialism and France's cities.

The United Nations (UN)

48.5% of the sample gave 99 answers in total in 11 different categories to the open-ended questions about the United Nations (UN). The rest 51.5% of the sample could not answer the question or left it blank.

When the answers are classified; the rate of those who think the UN is unnecessary, unsuccessful and good for nothing is very high. So much so that, this rate corresponds to 31.3% of the whole answers. The sample's statements concerning this are as follows: *"One of the unnecessary organizations. An unnecessary community. It is for show only. An organization that is good for nothing. So called united nations. An organization that has lost its significance. Doesn't have much function. Doesn't carry on a business properly. A different dimension of double standard. An organization that has deviated from its aim. A biased institution"*.

It is observed that the participants' views on the UN's establishment, its aim and operation constitute 22,2% of the whole views. They stated those views as follows: *"An organization that balances political relations and maintains world peace. Sort of a nations assembly. Its aim is to gather all the nations under a single roof in worldwide peace. It aims at increasing collaboration among countries. Helping nations that are in a squeeze and objecting to war are among its duties"*.

12,1% of the sample stated that the UN is under the US's control and it is the US's plaything. Those statements can be summarized as follows: *"An organization in which the US has always a say. A community under the US's control. They are responsible for world peace, but they became plaything in the hands of the US. It was established upon the US's demand. An organization that the US presides. The US is the centre of the UN. A union that was established by the US in order to control the states in the world"*.

The statements made by the students concerning the UN-Turkey relations (12,1%) indicate that they think Turkey is a member, but does not have a say. That's why there are even those who think that Turkey should cancel its membership. The sample's statements regarding this matter can be ordered as follows: *"Turkey is in the UN. We are a member of this organization. We are a so-called member, because we have never been influential although we do whatever they demand. It is one of the elements that restricts Turkey's freedom. We must definitely cancel our membership."*

The sample made such references about the UN as culture, civilization, military organization, economic union and relief organization (6.1%). Moreover, names of the UN secretary-generals are repeated at the rate of 3%. Apart from that, there are also such assertions as that the UN was established to help Christians and it is actually crusading (2%), that it defends the rights of only one member (2%), that it is a murderer (2%) and that it does not have military power (1%) (Table 3).

Table 3: Sample's views concerning the United Nations (UN)

	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>One of the unnecessary organizations. Unnecessary. An unnecessary community. Fabrication of the foreign people. Fabricated nations. Made up, nonsensical united states. It is nonfunctional. An organization that is good for nothing and a supporter of Israel and the US. So-called saviors. So-called united nations. A lie. An unnecessary organization where necktied men come and try to maintain peace. It comes to nothing. Futile. Useless. It goes for little. An organization that has lost its significance. Doesn't have much function. Cannot carry on a business properly. A different dimension of double standard. A community of no use. It has obviously been unsuccessful. An organization that was established to help people but it has deviated from its aim. A biased institution. A union taking care of interests of imperialism. Fake empire.</i>	31	31.3
<i>An organization that balances political relations and maintains world peace. Conditionally an effective, good union, power. Its aim is to gather all the nations under a single roof in worldwide peace. It aims at increasing collaboration among countries. Cooperation among nations. Helping nations that are in a squeeze and objecting to war are among its duties. A union in which international problems are negotiated. It has the mission to help nations work together in dire straits. It collaborates with UNICEF and IMF. It contributes to world peace. An organization founded for the sake of peace. It was established to maintain worldwide peace. Its aim is unity and solidarity. It was established in 1948 to bring about peace. It was established to maintain worldwide peace after the second world war. An international organization founded after the second world war to bring about peace. It solves international problems. It was established after the San Francisco Conference. Continuation of the league of nations.</i>	22	22.2
<i>An organization in which the US has always a say. A community under the US's control. Responsible for world peace but they also became plaything in the hands of the US. Its function is to gather around the US. It was established upon the US's demand. The US is the centre of the UN. An organization that the US presides. An organization that is under the influence of the US. Under the US's influence, the US does what it wants. Recently, the US is the country that is violating human rights which is a contradiction. The US is a country that carries out genocide in the place to which it brings peace. A union that was established by the US in order to control the states in the world. We have seen what happened in Iraq and Palestine. They do not even publish a notice to North Korea that is threatening the world with its chemical weapons. A union that condemns a war-criminal state 'only' after ninety days and says it has to put an end to that.</i>	19	19.2
<i>Turkey also became a member of the UN in 1952. We are a member. Turkey is a member. Turkey is in the UN. We are a member of this organization. A foundation that we are a member of. There are very few states that are not members of it. We are so-called a member, but we have never been influential although we do whatever they demand. It is one of the elements that restricts Turkey's liberty. We must definitely cancel our membership. A union of which developed states of the world are permanent members whereas we are a non-permanent member.</i>	12	12.1
<i>The most powerful civilization of the world. A powerful civilization. A civilization that has a global economy. An organization that is developed in military terms. A union that includes soldiers of states that cannot pay credits of the funds. Like a relief organization. Helps African countries. An institution established with the aim of helping.</i>	6	6.1
<i>Its secretary general is Ban Ki-moon. Kofi Annan was the former one.</i>	3	3.0
<i>A group in which the member states defend each other's rights. A group whose members try to get on with each other.</i>	2	2.0
<i>It was established with the aim of helping Christians. Crusade.</i>	2	2.0
<i>An establishment which does not have much military power and whose decisions are disregarded by Iran.</i>	1	1.0
<i>The United Nations is the official name of a bloody-minded murderer as well.</i>	1	1.0
Total	99	100

The United States of America (the USA)

388 views in total in 36 different categories concerning the USA are expressed. The sample's prominent emphasis concerning the US is that it is a developed country in terms of power, industry, technology, army and economy. 31,2% of the views the students expressed about the US are related to the preceding points. The statements they made are exactly as follows: *"The greatest and most powerful state of the world. Developed in terms of economy. The country that holds the world economy in its hands. The boss and giant of the world. The only superpower. It is ruling the world. Developed in terms of industry, technology and military power."*

The second most prominent statement the sample made (12,1%) is about the US's being imperialist, colonialist and capitalist. They expressed the following opinions about that: *"The capital of imperialism. It takes the bread out of people's mouth and feeds on cake and champagne itself. The father of exploitation and colonialism. It is known to be a colonizer. It has become a superpower by exploiting. It is exploiting powerless and defenceless countries. The center of capitalism. Supporter and spreader of capitalism."*

The third most prominent emphasis the students made is about Obama the president. These statements correspond to the 10,1% of the whole views expressed on the US. The following statements are about Obama's characteristics emphasized by the sample: *"He is the first black president of the USA, first negro president. As he is a newly president, we don't know what he will do in the future. We congratulate Obama. We love Obama the president. We hope that what he has said will not fall on deaf ears. Obama is in Turkey. Obama cannot change the USA's destructive policy either."* Only the names of the former presidents Abraham Lincoln (0,5%) and Clinton (0,3%) are written. No views on those presidents are expressed. But the following statement is made about Bush (0,3%): *"When he was the president, Bush was trying to make war."*

The fourth most prominent conception the students emphasized is war (5,7%). The following remarks are made about the USA. *"The US is infamous for its massacres and wars. It is a supporter of war. A warrior. Its policy is to wage a war with the aim of having oil reservoirs. It is the military police of the world. It has carried out an attack on Iraq. It said that it would leave Iraq and it did. But this time it is in Afghanistan."*

The rate of those who wrote that the capital of the USA is Washington corresponds to the 4,9% of the whole views. The rate of those having emphasized the concept of liberty is 4,1%. They have passed the following remarks about this: *"It has got a free environment. Highly liberal. The place I want to live in. The only country that embraces every kind of people."*

The rate of those who made the following statements about the USA is 3,6%: *"It is divided into states. It is ruled by provincial system. It has stars on its flag that represent its states."* The rate of those who underlined natural riches of the US is 3,1%. They expressed their opinions on these riches in that way: *"It has rich oil reservoirs. It is rich in underground and overground sources. It has a natural beauty."*

The rate of those who mentioned cultural characteristics of the USA is 2,8%. The prominent statements about this are as follows: *"A cultural capital. It has a cultural diversity. It does not have a single race or culture. It has a short history and has a mixture of races. The feeling of patriotism doesn't exist in this country."*

The following points concerning education are reported: *"Developed in education. It gets the most brain drain. It provides equality of opportunity in education. It is a cradle of civilization which provides high education and living standards. It contains best universities of the world."* This rate corresponds to 2,6% of the whole views.

The subsequent ideas are put forward about money and bank: *"The place where money is hidden. The fact that it is constantly minting is worth-stressing. Most of the banks in the world belong to the US. Most important finance centers are located in this country. Nevertheless, it has been highly affected by the economic crisis. It is the greatest trade center."* The rate of these ideas is 2,3%.

The sample has also ideas about such concepts as place names (2,3%), the Statue of Liberty (1,3%), Christopher Columbus (1,3%), nuclear weapon (1%), obesity (1%), American Indian (1%), gambling house (1%) and Israel (0,8%).

There are the following remarks as well: cinema (0,5%), big surface area (0,3%), basketball (0,8%), it will begin to decline (0,8%), it is an ally and enemy of Turkey (0,8%), Christianity is widespread (0,5%), it is a loathed country (0,5%), it is a terrorist state (0,5%) and it is located between two oceans (0,3%).

In addition, ideas about the following conceptions were put forward: “drugs” (0,3%), “traditional families are common” (0,3%), “most commonly used means of transport is airplane because there are too many deserts and badlands in the country” (0,3%), “they didn’t make a deal for global warming” (0,3%), “more than one local time is used” (0,3%), “the twin towers incident” (0,3%), “American football” (0,3%) (Table 4).

Table 4: The sample’s views concerning the US

	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>The greatest and most powerful state of the world. A powerful state. The world’s most wealthy state. Developed in economy. The boss and giant of the world. The only superpower. It is ruling the world. Most powerful state of the world. Not only the most powerful one among the other countries but also the most ruthless country. Egoist. Strong and strengthening. The unique superpower. A country that interferes in internal affairs of other countries and that tries to be global. The country that holds the world economy in its hands. Boss of the world. The giant of the world. A state that is ruling the world. Developed in terms of industry, technology and military power. All branches of industry is well-developed. The industry isn’t accumulated in one area. It is the center of technology, developed in tecnology, the most advanced technology is here, pioneering country in space research. Highly developed in space technology. Developed. Most developed. It has got a developed industry and economy. Developed in tourism. Powerful in army. Developed in weapon and energy. It ranks first in military and economic terms. It has the strongest military armada. Although it had less military power than Yugoslavia’s army, it became a superpower.</i>	121	31.2
<i>Imperialist. The capital of imperialism. The father of colonialism and imperialism. The world’s imperial power (Uncle Tom). The nest of imperialism. It takes the bread out of people’s mouth and feeds on cake and champagne itself. Colonizer. Colonial empire in the world. It exploits many countries. The US provides petrol via exploiting foreign countries. The USA is known to be a colonizer. It has got the most out of imperialism. Trouble maker that exploits various countries (Turkey from 1940s on). It became a superpower by exploitation. A state that seems to be trying to maintain peace. It became a superpower by exploitation in the name of bringing peace. It exploits powerless and defenceless countries. Capitalist, supporter and spreader of capitalism. The center of capitalism. The capital of capitalism. Capitalism, money and power.</i>	47	12.1
<i>Barack Hussein Obama is the first black president of the USA, first negro president, we don’t know what he will do in the future since he is a newly president. We congratulate Obama. We love Obama the president. Long live Obama. We hope that what he has said will not fall on deaf ears. Obama is in Turkey. Hello Obama! You brought peace. Obama cannot change destructive policy of the US either.</i>	39	10.1
<i>It is infamous for massacres and wars. Warrior, pioneering country in cold war etc. Its policy is to wage a war with the aim of having oil reservoir. It has fought wars with the Middle East countries. It has been the military police of the world approximately for 100 years. It tries to get rid of the antipathy it got after it waged war on Iraq by the sympathy it gained through Obama. It has carried out an attack on Iraq. It said that it would leave Iraq and it did. But this time it is in Afghanistan. It is the country that creates trouble among states. Lives of a good deal of people are ruined because of US’s interests.</i>	22	5.7
<i>Its capital city is Washington</i>	19	4.9
<i>There exists quite a liberal atmosphere. Highly liberal. So-called liberty. Focus of anger. One of the countries where people can live independently. Country of oppurtunities. People are deceived that it is a country of freedom. They say they are best to protect human rights. But I don’t think so. It is the place where I want to live. I want to live in California. Living standards are high. It has developed living standards. It has a complicated social structure. Very complicated, contains people of all the nations. The only country that embraces every kind of people.</i>	16	4.1
<i>It is divided in states. It is ruled by provincial system. A lot of provinces exist. Consisting of states. It has stars on its flag that represent those states. It is a federation that consists of 52 memberstates. There are 52 stars on its flag. Each of them represents a state.</i>	14	3.6
<i>It has rich oil reservoir. It is a very wealthy state. One of the most wealthy states. Rich in underground and overground sources. Search for market and raw material emerged after the Industrial Revolution. Wealthy people and unemployed people that migrated from the West Europe after manpower was no longer needed, established this country. A country that is fond of raw material. It has a rich natural</i>	12	3.1

<i>beauty.</i>		
<i>It is the capital of culture. It has cultural diversity. It does not have a single race or culture. It has a short history and a mixture of races. It applies cultural imperialism. It has cultural diversity as well as cultural regeneration. Morality has collapsed. The feeling of patriotism does not exist. It is trying to rule the world although it doesn't have a real history. Being a country of 200 years, it cannot compete with Turkey's long history.</i>	11	2.8
<i>Developed in education. It gets the most brain drain. It provides equality of opportunity in education. It is a cradle of civilization which provides high education and living standards. Heart of the world. But level of education goes through the floor. It contains best universities of the world. One has to pass SAT in order to enter university here.</i>	10	2.6
<i>The place where money is hidden. The fact that it is constantly minting is worth-stressing. Most of the banks in the world belong to the US. Most important finance centers are located in this country. Nevertheless, it has been highly affected by the economic crisis. Stock exchange. It is the greatest trade center.</i>	9	2.3
<i>Place names; Alaska, New York, California, Miami, Hawaii, Michigan,</i>	9	2.3
<i>The Statue of Liberty</i>	5	1.3
<i>Christopher Columbus explored. It was founded by the Europeans that migrated to the American continent, after Christopher Columbus explored it.</i>	5	1.3
<i>They manufacture nuclear weapon and bomb. They have nuclear weapons.</i>	4	1.0
<i>They are obese patients. The country in which a high level of obesity is observed. 80% are fat. They are butterballs.</i>	4	1.0
<i>First there were Indians. They slaughtered Indians. They didn't treat black citizens as human beings until 50 years ago.</i>	4	1.0
<i>Gambling house (Las Vegas, night, poker, Daniel Negreanu).</i>	4	1.0
<i>Abraham Lincoln, Clinton and Bush (Bush was trying to make war).</i>	4	1.0
<i>It is Israel's main ally. It backs Israel up. It takes helping Israel's plans as its duty and occupies Middle East at every opportunity.</i>	3	0.8
<i>One of the countries that will collapse very soon. Although it seems to be the superpower of the world for the time being, what will happen in the future is uncertain. It might begin to collapse. The world power that is thought to be indestructible but that is beginning to collapse.</i>	3	0.8
<i>It is declared to be Turkey's ally by every current government. It has always stabbed us in the back. Manipulative ally. It is even the country that has the president of the Turkish Republic elected.</i>	3	0.8
<i>Basketball (NBA, Hidayet Türkoğlu, Mehmet Okur)</i>	3	0.8
<i>Christianity is widespread. Christianity is probably the most popular religion.</i>	2	0.5
<i>I hate this country. It is a country in which there are all kinds of immorality, deception and ignominy.</i>	2	0.5
<i>The greatest terrorist state of the world.</i>	2	0.5
<i>It is a country that you have to like, if you like cinema. Hollywood.</i>	2	0.5
<i>It has a big surface area.</i>	1	0.3
<i>Geographical position: located between two oceans</i>	1	0.3
<i>Use of drugs are widespread.</i>	1	0.3

<i>Traditional families are widespread.</i>	1	0.3
<i>Most commonly used means of transport is airplane because there are too many deserts and badlands in the country.</i>	1	0.3
<i>They didn't make a deal for global warming.</i>	1	0.3
<i>More than one local time is used.</i>	1	0.3
<i>The twin towers incident</i>	1	0.3
<i>American football</i>	1	0.3
Total	388	100

Russia

The sample has expressed 451 views in total in 41 different categories. Most repeated views of those are as follows: *"It has rich natural sources. It is rich in underground sources. One of the greatest natural gas producers"* (14.2%). The following statements succeed this with a rate of 13.7%: *"It has a cold climate. Glacial climate is dominant in some parts of the country (Siberia etc). A paragon of beauty covered in glaciers. Very cold."* The rate of those who put forward the following statements about its surface area is 8.2%: *"It has the largest surface area in the world. It has got a huge piece of land. The largest country."* The rate of those who referred to its developed, powerful technology and to the fact that its capital city is Moscow is quite high as well (8.2%).

The sample passed the following remarks about Turkish-Russian relations: *"It is Turkey's biggest rival in politics. It was a nuisance for Turkey because of its policy to break south into the warmer climates. It has been Turkey's enemy so many times. It has fought many wars with Turkey. It is among the countries that first recognized Turkey as a state. A great majority of the people travel to Turkey in summer to take a holiday. The country that provides more than half of Turkey's need for natural gas"* (5.8%).

The observations made concerning Russia's history are as follows: *"From principality into czarism. After the czarism collapsed, the Soviet Union was established. New countries came into existence after dissolution of the USSR. The country that is founded after dissolution of the Soviet Union. It tries to protect its reputation and regain its power"* (5.8%).

The prominent concept about the relations between Russia and The USA is rivalry (5.1%). Commonly expressed ideas are as follows: *"It is the US's rival. It is an opponent of the US. One of the rare states that the US fears. One of the most powerful states in the world after the USA."*

They made the following explanation about Russia's regime: *"It is the founder of the communist regime. Still a socialist"* (4.7%).

The sample put an emphasis on the beauty of its women (83.5%) and its famous vodka (3.5%). In addition, they suggested that *"It has adopted a policy to move south into the warmer climates"* (2.9%) and that it has a small population despite the large surface area because of severe climate conditions (2%). It is underlined that its people are *"blonde, white-skinned and cold"* (1.1%).

The rate of those who submitted that *"It is a state that has nuclear weapons and is pioneering in weapon manufacture"* is 1.1%. The sample gave information about the political leaders Lenin (1.1%), Stalin (0.7%), Putin (1.1%) and Medvedev (0.2%) as well.

The sample expressed opinions on Russian literature, art and architecture (0.9%), problems of people of different ethnical groups that live in the country (0.9%), nuclear power stations (0.9%), the Petersburg city (0.9%), sport activities (0.9%), economic activity (0.9%), economic crisis (0.7%) and its being a popular country (0.9%).

Moreover, they made explanations about mafia (0.7%), poker (0.2%), Roman Abramovich (0.2%), White Russia (0.2%), Red Square (0.2%), Red Army Choir (0.2%), Eurovision (0.2%), its language (0.4%), religion (0.2%), flag (0.2%), that Russia is active in Georgia (0.2%), that it has land in Europe and Asia (0.2%), that people in the country suffer from class division (0.2%), and that it is difficult to set up a home and have a child in Russia (0.2%) (Table 6).

Table 5: The sample's views concerning Russia

	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>It has rich natural sources. It is rich in underground sources and raw materials. Today one of the greatest natural gas producers of the world. It has coal deposits and natural gas wells.</i>	64	14.2
<i>It has a cold climate. Glacial climate is dominant in some parts of the country (Siberia etc). A paragon of beauty covered in glaciers. A country where the temperature is very low. A great part is always covered in snow. Cold. Very cold. Very very cold! Wearing coat is a must. There must be definitely antifreeze in cars.</i>	62	13.7
<i>The largest surface area of the world. It has got a huge piece of land. The largest country. A very large country. Quite a large country.</i>	37	8.2
<i>It is a developed country. Very powerful in military terms. It is the most powerful state of the world. The greatest power in the world according to me. Developed in technology. It has got a powerful technology and army. The most powerful country of Asia. It has a great military power. It has a very big army.</i>	37	8.2
<i>The capital city is Moscow.</i>	29	6.4
<i>It is our greatest rival in political area. It was a nuisance for Turkey because of its policy to move south toward the warmer climates. It has fought many wars with our country throughout history. The country that was among the allied powers and that left the Ottoman Empire in a difficult situation in the second world war. It is among the first countries that recognized Turkey as a state. The country that provided military vehicle for Turkey. It has been our enemy so many times. Seemingly an ally. I like that country. It seems to be a friend to me.</i>	26	5.8
<i>The country for which Turkey is the most favourite holiday destination. Tourists of the country flock into the Mediterranean every summer. A great majority travel to Turkey in summer to take a holiday. Every summer, a large number of its citizens travel to our country for holiday.</i>		
<i>An important trade place for Turkey. It has developed economic relations with Turkey. Turkey is dependant on its energy, since it is rich in natural gas. The country that provides more than half of Turkey's need for natural gas.</i>		
<i>It had a long way from principality to czardom, from there to communism regime. Lastly they attained republic as the right way. Formerly, it was a czardom, then it was the USSR. After the czardom collapsed, the Soviet Union was established. It is a socialist state. It supports the idea of panslavism. It founded socialist republics in the Balkans with the policy of panslavism. Countries such as Kazakhstan, Georgia and Ukraine are its colonies. Capitalist system has been adopted after dissolution of the Soviet Union. Once upon a time, it was the Soviet Union. Imperialist country in other words. The place where Russia is established after dissolution of the USSR. I hope it will create a bipolar world again, although it begin to decline after the Soviets. It has experienced an irregular political life. They have imperial dreams for 400 years. New countries emerged after dissolution of the USSR. The country that is established after the Soviet Russia dissolved in 1991. It was no longer different from the USA after the Soviets dissolved. Although it has lost power since then, it began to grow stronger. They have never been a superpower after the Soviets. It nationalized the banks that were not formerly in possession of the state. It is trying to protect its reputation and regain its former power. One of the four giants of the world.</i>	26	5.8
<i>It is in a rivalry with the USA. (Unfortunately!) the only power against the US. Anti-american. It is an opponent of the US. A country that can compete with the US. The arch rival of the US. It is the rival of</i>	23	5.1

<i>the US. It is trying to be a rival to the US. A country that can be a rival to the US. It is the second superpower after the USA. One of the rare countries that the US fears. It is thought to be threatening for the US. In addition, the US destroyed its energy policy by surrendering Alaska. The US's main enemy. It sent the first astronaut to the space during the cold war. Russia is one of the most powerful states after the US. A power that can stand up to the US alone.</i>		
<i>It is the founder of the communist regime. It reminds me of the communist revolution that took place in the country. One of the countries that was most affected by socialism. Still socialist. They are communists. The place of former communism. Socialism.</i>	21	4.7
<i>It has beautiful women. I am jealous of its girls since they are very beautiful. Russian girls are renowned worldwide. Taking the physical characteristics into account, there are lots of beautiful citizens in the country. People are generally defined as blonde and blue-eyed.</i>	16	3.5
<i>The country's most well-known alcoholic drink is vodka. It is famous for whiskey as well. Drinking all day long.</i>	16	3.5
<i>They have the policy to move toward the warmer climates. They are always trying to realize megali idea (moving south toward the warmer climates).</i>	13	2.9
<i>Its population is around 160 million. The severe climate conditions are influential in the low population. It has the largest surface area. Therefore population density is low. It has a Turkish population.</i>	9	2.0
<i>Blonde, white-skinned people. Everybody is blonde due to the climate i guess. People are cold as well. But still they are nice people.</i>	5	1.1
<i>It is a pioneering state in terms of weapon production. A country that has nuclear weapons. It has a powerful armament.</i>	5	1.1
<i>Lenin.</i>	5	1.1
<i>Putin.</i>	5	1.1
<i>According to me, literature's all noteworthy authors are from Russia, I am much obliged. Russian literature. A very artistic country. Its architecture is very nice.</i>	4	0.9
<i>It has problems with the various ethnical groups living in the country. The murderer of the Crimean Turks. It has assimilated Azerbaijanis and other Turkish states for many years. Turkish states became independent in 1980s.</i>	4	0.9
<i>There are a lot of nuclear power stations. They caused the Chernobyl disaster. They increased the rate of cancer in the Black Sea Region.</i>	4	0.9
<i>Petersburg.</i>	4	0.9
<i>I like Russia. One should visit. If only I could go and see it. I wish to see Moscow.</i>	4	0.9
<i>Sport (People were dazzled by the football it played in European Championship. Semi-finalist of the last European Championship. Arshavin. Fatih Tekke plays for Zenit. Figure skating.)</i>	4	0.9
<i>Agriculture has a big share in economy. Developed in the field of forestry. Forests cover 1.4% of the country.</i>	4	0.9
<i>It has been seriously affected by the economic crisis. Its economy is not good now. The country which will come to an end in the following centuries in my opinion.</i>	3	0.7
<i>Stalin.</i>	3	0.7
<i>Mafia</i>	3	0.7
<i>Its language is Russian. They speak fast.</i>	2	0.4
<i>It caused Georgia to be negatively influenced in moral and material terms.</i>	1	0.2

<i>Apart from Turkey, it is the only country that has land in Eurasia.</i>	1	0.2
<i>It has a great class division.</i>	1	0.2
<i>It is difficult to set up a home and have a child. There are laws to encourage that.</i>	1	0.2
<i>Poker</i>	1	0.2
<i>It has a very rich citizen called Roman Abramovich, he is a future world leader candidate.</i>	1	0.2
<i>White Russia</i>	1	0.2
<i>Red Square</i>	1	0.2
<i>Red Army Choir</i>	1	0.2
<i>Eurovision</i>	1	0.2
<i>Orthodox christians</i>	1	0.2
<i>The country's flag is made up of blue, red and white (with horizontal lines)</i>	1	0.2
<i>Medvedev is the president.</i>	1	0.2
Total	451	100

China

412 views in total in 33 different categories about China are expressed. The most repeated one among these views (41,7%) is about China's crowded population. The views that succeed this idea with a rate of 15,5% are about the labour superfluity, cheap and poor quality production. The following ideas are put forward regarding this issue: *"There is a great deal of manpower. A country that manufactures everything of poor quality with cheap labourer. They produce commodities of poor quality and cheap toys. They threaten human health. They manufacture broken toys and poor-quality goods."*

Another thing the sample underlined is about China's economic power (11,2%). The statements made about this point are as follows: *"Superpower of the future. Third giant of the world. It seems that it will shake the world with its industry. It has recently left its mark on the world in the fields of trade and industry. It has surrounded the world with its products."*

The views on China's regime correspond to 6,1% of the whole views expressed about China. The following remarks concerning this come to the forefront: *"A socialist country. A communist state. Dictatorship."*

The rate of the statements on its capital city (2,9%), its short and slant-eyed people (2,9%) and Great Wall of China (2,7%) is quite high.

The rate of those who made the following comparison between China and the US is 1,9%: *"It is powerful enough to overcome the US with its manpower and dollar."*

The rate of those who mentioned rice, China's one of the prime nutrients is 1,7%. The other significant characteristics that the sample laid stress on are food culture (1,7%), culture and civilization (1,5%), Beijing Olympic Games (1,5%) and its large surface area (1,2%).

The students claimed that *"China affects Turkey's economy negatively with cheap and poor-quality stuff"* (1%). The rate of those who regard Chinese as the language of the future is 1%.

The sample also passed remarks on characteristics of stockbreeding in China (0,7%), its being a Far East country (0,7%) and inadequacy of education and health facilities (0,5%).

One of the participants of our study made the following statements: *They are very hardworking and well-disciplined (0,2%). The national flag of the country is red (0,2%). The country of imitation (0,2%). I am a fan of their system (0,2%). The country that is aware of the fact that it is manipulated (0,2%). Cotton production is widespread (0,2%). Taoism (0,2%). One of the former presidents committed suicide (0,2%). Silk road (0,2%). It is quite influential in global warming (0,2%). They have such thought systems as Ctao and Funk Shui that acquired worldwide fame (0,2%). I don't like Chinese people, they all look the same (0,2%). Beijing massacre (0,2%). The mount Everest is located in this country (0,2%). Its air is polluted (0,2%)*" (Table 6).

Table 6: The sample's views concerning China

	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>It is the most crowded country in the world. The country that experience population explosion. Ant nest. It is forbidden to make more than a baby, since it has a large population. They have adopted certain policies in order to decrease the population. A family can only have one child. They are obliged to have only one child. According to an assumption, the world would be destroyed if the Chinese jumped all at once. The world's orbit would change if they all jumped simultaneously.</i>	172	41.7
<i>There is a great deal of manpower. A lot of manpower, cheap production. It manufactures everything at a zero-cost with cheap labourers. The country that can manufacture cheap products by exploitation and ecocide. It is related that labourers live on \$40 in a month. There is a cheap production in textile and toy industries. Their products are very lousy. They manufacture every stuff of poor-quality. They threaten human health. They manufacture broken toys and poor-quality goods. The country that has reduced the quality by the products it has manufactured in recent years.</i>	64	15.5
<i>Superpower of the future. Powerful country of the future. A great power with its distinct route. Third giant of the world. It is becoming a dominant country day by day. It seems that it will shake the world with its industry. The center of technology. Developed in industry. It has recently left its mark on the world in trade and industry. Developed in economy. Its products have surrounded the world. The goods it manufactures at zero-cost is a big threat to the global economy. It has an important role in the world market. It is an influential state in the world market. A developed country in terms of economy. It turned the global economy upside-down. It has a significant role in the world economy. An economically developed country. Its economy grows even in times of economic crisis. Its market is growing day by day. It has turned the market upside-down. It is a closed book.</i>	46	11.2
<i>Its regime is socialism. A communist state. Dictatorship. It made great progress through communism. The country had a culture revolution during Mao's time and destroyed most of the cultural and historical artifacts. It has a nonsensical regime called Red Republic similar to socialism. Nowadays the state is capitalist. It is pro-Russian. Doesn't like the US.</i>	25	6.1
<i>Its capital city is Beijing.</i>	12	2.9
<i>Short, slant-eyed people. Slant-eyed, small people. Small, slant-eyed Asians. They all look the same. They are all the same. Apart from Yao Ming, all its people are of one-meter high.</i>	12	2.9
<i>The country where the Great Wall of China is located. It contains such an historical construction as the Great Wall of China. The Great Wall of China constructed to be protected from the Turks is the only man-made structure visible from space.</i>	11	2.7
<i>One of the greatest rival of the US. It is able to overcome the US with its manpower and dollar if it likes. The China-Russia-Iran cooperation is emerging as an alternative power to the US. Dollar reserves of the country are much more than that of the US. It challenges the USA with its large population.</i>	8	1.9
<i>There is too much production and consumption of rice. It ranks number one in rice production.</i>	7	1.7
<i>They have an interesting food culture. I don't like eating habits of the Chinese. Horrible creatures. They eat dogs which is disgusting. They eat all kinds of insects as well. They eat sushi, a Chinese food. Rotating dining tables.</i>	7	1.7
<i>Chinese civilization is civilization of the future. It has a deep-rooted civilization. One of the most deep-rooted</i>	6	1.5

<i>nations. They have a developed culture.</i>		
<i>Last Olympic Games took place in this country. Beijing Olympmpics.</i>	6	1.5
<i>It has a very large surface area. A country that has a huge geographical area.</i>	5	1.2
<i>It affects Turkey's economy negatively with cheap and poor-quality stuff. They threaten our economy. They caused Turkey's economy to collapse because of cheap Chinese commodities. They turned our national economy upside-down.</i>	4	1.0
<i>Chinese is regarded to be the language of the future. It is difficult to learn because of its interesting alphabet. 11 languages are spoken in China.</i>	4	1.0
<i>Stockbreeding is developed. The country in which sheep and goat farming in on the first rank. It has agricultural economy as well.</i>	3	0.7
<i>It is a Far East country.</i>	3	0.7
<i>Its people lead a dog's life because of social, and monetary problems. Education and health facilities are insufficient.</i>	2	0.5
<i>They are very hardworking and well-disciplined.</i>	1	0.2
<i>The national flag is red.</i>	1	0.2
<i>The country of imitations.</i>	1	0.2
<i>I am a fan of their systems.</i>	1	0.2
<i>The country that is aware of the fact that it is manipulated.</i>	1	0.2
<i>Cotton production is widespread.</i>	1	0.2
<i>Taoism</i>	1	0.2
<i>The former president has recently committed suicide.</i>	1	0.2
<i>Silk road</i>	1	0.2
<i>It is quite influential in global warming.</i>	1	0.2
<i>They have such thought systems as Ctao and Funk Shui that acquired worldwide fame.</i>	1	0.2
<i>I don't like Chinese.</i>	1	0.2
<i>Beijing massacre</i>	1	0.2
<i>The Mount Everest is located in this country.</i>	1	0.2
<i>Its air is polluted</i>	1	0.2
Total	412	100

England (The United Kingdom)

The sample wrote 459 views in total in 38 different categories about England. 12,4% of those suggested that "England is an imperialist state." 11,1% of the views are about the fact that "It is one of the most powerful states of the world." There are also views related to football (10,5%) and Industrial Revolution (%8,7).

The statements made about the fact that it is an island country and London is the capital city corresponds to 74% of the statements written about England.

The rate of the views on the personal characteristics of the English is 5%. They put forward these ideas: *“Its people are successful and cold-blooded. They lead a modern life. They are fair-skinned, colored-eyed and tall.”* The rate of those who mentioned its queen is 3,9%. The rate of those who referred to its political and historical relations with the USA and Israel is 3,3%. Related to this point, the following ideas were put forward: *“The USA’s father. The power behind it. The US’s brain and commander. It works for the benefit of Israel.”* 2,8% of the sample highlight that England is actually ruling the world and it pursues a hideous policy. 2,8% put emphasis on the climate conditions and 2,4% mentioned universality of the English language.

The most important point the sample laid stress on is about its *“low population growth rate and high rate of active, elderly population”* (21,2%). 2% of the sample stated that it is one of the most influential leader country of Europe. Another 2% wrote the following statements: *“It has a high quality education. A developed country preferred for the preceding reason. The country that contains most popular universities of the world.”*

Other conceptions mentioned are as follows: inventor of the steam engine (1,5%), cradle of democracy (1,1%), value of its currency (0,7%), deficient in oil(0,7%), rich in bituminous coal deposits (0,7%), developed in industry whose foundation was laid by cotton weaving (0,7%).

0,4% put emphasis on the fact that the prime meridian passes through Greenwich, that modern methods are used in agriculture, that it has very good writers and that it is one of the countries they wish to visit.

The sample also made the following statements: *“It is not on good terms with Turkey. It has problems concerning autonomy with Scotland. A country that is idiosyncratic and that tries to conserve its culture. It is the former superpower. Any individual freedom is not respected. German has wanted to occupy it for many times but have not been able to do. It is developed in marine transportation. Fishing industry is developed thanks to ocean currents. It has so many cliffs. A wealthy country in respect of trade. It is a mountainous and rough country”* (0,2%).

There are also some concepts to which the sample referred without any explanation or comment. They are as follows: London Eye (0,9%), Tower of London (0,2%), the Clock Tower (0,4%), Big Ben (0,7%), Tony Blair (0,4%), red double-decker buses (0,4%), Oxford (0,4%), Ireland (0,2%), Scotland (0,2%), Arsenal (0,2%), Manchester (0,2%), Galya (0,2%), Elizabeth (0,2%), Gordon Brown (0,2%), John Terry (0,2%), Harrods (0,2%), Lloyd George (0,2%), Madame Tussauds (0,2%), Museum of Great Britain (0,2%), wax museum (0,2%), Westminster (0,2%) (Table 7).

Table 7: The sample’s views concerning England

	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>An imperialist state. Imperialist. Colonial empire. Colonizer. Master of imperialism. It was formerly a large colonial empire. Continuation of an empire built upon colonies. A country that exploits Muslims. It is under the protection of Canada, the USA, Australia, New Zeland and South Africa. It meets its raw material need through exploitation. The country that gets most of the raw material from abroad. It is known to be “the empire on which the sun never sets” because it is imperialist. It is called “the country on which the sun never sets.”</i>	57	12.4
<i>One of the most powerful states of the world. Its economy is quite developed. The center of economy. It is a developed country in every aspect. It has high living standards and welfare level. Per capita income is considerable.</i>	51	11.1
<i>Sports (Cradle of football. Ancestors of football. Main country of football. It is among the most successful countries in football. Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester United, Everton are among the most popular football clubs. Tuncay Şanlı plays for Middlesbrough. They possess the most watched football league of the world. Premier league. Champions league. This country is the finalist with its champion. Its hooligans)</i>	48	10.5
<i>England laid the foundations of the Industrial Revolution. It is the place where industrialization began. The first country of indutrial revolution. Industrial country. Industrial Revolution.</i>	40	8.7

<i>Its capital city is London.</i>	34	7.4
<i>It is an island country. It is not affected by problems since it is an island. The country that possesses the most beautiful island of the world. One of the most important states of Europe that is not involved in wars, because it doesn't have any land connection. A country that cannot be easily occupied, because it is an island country. It plays an important role because of its strategic position.</i>	34	7.4
<i>A country full of cold-blooded people. A country consisting of cold people. People lead modern lives there. Spectacled men. They are successful and cold. Clever and cold. People are priggish yet pretty at the same time. White-skinned, colored-eyed, tall people. They are bad people. They don't give up their traditions. They are bigots. They can do anything for their interests. The country of vain Anglo-Saxons.</i>	23	5.0
<i>The country where the queen lives. It has managed to maintain kingdom. It has a symbolic queen. Her authority is almost non-existing. It has idiosyncratic queens.</i>	18	3.9
<i>The US's father. It is the seemingly weakest link in the USA-Israel-England triangle though it is very powerful. One of the closest ally of the US. The hidden power behind the US. The US's brain and commander. The US's arm. The USA's partner in Europe. Or rather its slave. The USA's servant. It works for the benefit of Israel.</i>	15	3.3
<i>The country that is ruling the world in real sense, I think. The country that controls the world. Its conspirations have drawn my attention. It has a great role in world wars. Diplomacy. The world's most cunning politicians. They govern the world through politics. Diplomatic. Nowadays they don't reveal themselves in foreign policy. It carries out an insidious policy unlike the US.</i>	13	2.8
<i>It rains most of the year. A country in which it rains too much. A rainy country. It has always a gloomy atmosphere. There is always the possibility of raining.</i>	13	2.8
<i>Its language is English. English language. The country that is influential in the world through its language. It has spread its language and culture everywhere. English is the world language. They possess the language that people try hard to learn.</i>	11	2.4
<i>It has a low population growth rate. It has low birth rate. It has a large active and elderly population. The children population is small.</i>	10	2.2
<i>The greatest nation of Europe. Still the leader country of Europe. The first influential country in Europe. The spokesman of Europe and of interests. Sort of the capital of Europe.</i>	9	2.0
<i>It has a high quality education. A developed country preferred for this reason. It can be said that it contains most popular universities of the world.</i>	9	2.0
<i>Steam engines were first used in this country. Steam engines are invented.</i>	7	1.5
<i>One of the countries that was first democratized. They combined democracy and monarchy.</i>	5	1.1
<i>They have considerable bituminous coal deposits. They are rich in coal deposits.</i>	3	0.7
<i>A country that is not rich in oil.</i>	3	0.7
<i>The foundation of industry was laid by cotton weaving.</i>	3	0.7
<i>British pound is valuable. But euro will catch up with it in a short period of time.</i>	3	0.7
<i>The Greenwich meridian passes through this country.</i>	2	0.4
<i>One of the countries I wish to travel around.</i>	2	0.4
<i>It has very good writers.</i>	2	0.4
<i>It has modern agricultural method. Agricultural output is considerable.</i>	2	0.4
<i>One cannot say that it is on good terms with Turkey.</i>	1	0.2

<i>It has problems concerning autonomy with Scotland.</i>	1	0.2
<i>Trying to preserve its culture</i>	1	0.2
<i>An idiosyncratic country.</i>	1	0.2
<i>It is a former superpower.</i>	1	0.2
<i>Any individual freedom is not respected.</i>	1	0.2
<i>German has wanted to occupy it for many times but have not been able to do.</i>	1	0.2
<i>It is developed in marine transportation.</i>	1	0.2
<i>Fishing industry is developed thanks to ocean currents.</i>	1	0.2
<i>A wealthy country in terms of trade.</i>	1	0.2
<i>It has so many cliffs and fjords.</i>	1	0.2
<i>It is a mountainous, rough country.</i>	1	0.2
<i>Concepts mentioned: (Ireland, Scotland, Arsenal, Manchester, Oxford (2), Big Ben (3), Galya, Elizabeth, Gordon Brown, Tony Blair (2), John Terry, Harrods, Lloyd George, red double-decker buses (2), Madame Tussauds, Museum of Great Britain, London eye (4), the Clock Tower (2), Tower of London, Wax Museum, Westminster</i>	30	6.5
Total	459	100

France

The secondary school student sample expressed 418 views in 41 different categories about France. The rate of those who mentioned cities of France is 15,3%. The most repeated of these views is Paris's being the capital city. The rate of those who referred to the relations between Turkey and Russia is 10,3%. The most underlined statements are as follows: *"They don't allow Turkey to join the EU. A country that doesn't like Turks much. The only country that admits it doesn't want Turkey to join the EU. The president Sarkozy is an opponent of Turkey and doesn't want us to join the European Union. The country that supports the idea of so-called Armenian Genocide."* The following kind of statements constitute 7,7% of the whole views of the sample: *"It is one of the most developed countries of Europe."* The Eiffel Tower (6,2%) is the most mentioned construction among other historical and touristic structures in the country. They referred to the following concepts as well: Arc de Triomphe (0,5%), the Louvre Museum (0,5%), the River Seine (0,5%), the Avenue des Champs-Élysées (0,5%), castle (0,2%).

5,5% of the views are about sports. The most important name that the sample highlighted is Sarkozy (5%). The following names succeeds him: Carla Bruni (1%), Napoleon (0,5%) and De Goule (0,2%).

4,8% put forward an idea about nationalism. The rate of those that made explanations about personal characteristics of the French (4,5%), its tourism (4,5%), its language (4,5%) and its fame in fashion (4,5%) is considerably high as well.

The rate of those who made the following statements is 2,9%: *"It has got colonies. It is an imperialist state. It has colonized a good many countries. It has pursued a colonial policy."* 2,6% said that the population growth rate is low and the elderly population rate is high, therefore they pursue a policy to increase population. The rate of those that wrote about its being the EU member and the center of culture and art is 2,4%.

The sample put emphasis on France's popular wine (2,2%) and perfume (1%). They also underlined that "it is the country of love" (1,4%).

1,2% referred to the Sorbonne University, its success in education and the French cuisine. Its religion (1%), its wars with England (0,7%) and its achievements in literature (0,7%) are some other points that the sample emphasized.

The statements the sample made about its geographical position, neighbours, flag and cheese types correspond to 0,5%. The following subjects are mentioned at a rate of 0,2%: principle of secularism in the constitutional law, the Dover Strait, its automotive companies, symbol of the country, its cinema, textile products, trade, rich coal deposits, underground means of transport, its involving various races, not being open to change and its being the first country with which the Ottoman Empire signed capitulations (Table 8).

Table 8: The sample's views concerning France

	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Its cities (the capital city Paris (52), Marseille (8) ve Lyon (4))</i>	64	15.3
<i>Its relations with Turkey (They don't allow Turkey to join the EU. Chief opponent of Turkey. The only country that admits it doesn't want Turkey to join the EU. It does everything in its power to prevent Turkey from joining the EU. Enemy of the Turks. They don't want us to join the EU. The president Sarkozy is an opponent Turkey and doesn't want us to join the European Union. The country that supports the idea of so-called Armenian Genocide. They approve the so-called Armenian Genocide. I don't like France because of its Armenian Genocide resolution. The French Senate passed the so-called Armenian Genocide resolution. They recognized the so-called Armenian Genocide. The country that accuses Turkey of slaughtering Armenians and slaughterer of Algerians itself. It doesn't recognize the Algerian Genocide which is a contradiction. They sold us out. It was our opponent in the first World War. We are not on good terms with them because of the support it provides for the terrorist organization. Throughout the history, it has been on our side in accordance with its interests. A large number of Turks work in this country. A country in which there are lots of Turkish workers.)</i>	43	10.3
<i>A developed country. One of the most developed country of the world. It is among the most developed countries of the world. It is developed in industry and technology.</i>	32	7.7
<i>The Eiffel Tower</i>	26	6.2
<i>Sports (Developed in football. A football country. A preferred place by those who want to improve in that area. Football is good. Its football team is quite good. It is very popular in football. Lyon has been champion for 8 years. Marseille will put an end to its sovereignty. Lyon is the only football team that became champion 7 times on end. Lyon hegemony. I like Henry and Zidane. Zidane is very famous. Domenech is the football coach of the France national team. Its most popular football players are Del Piero, Zidane, Juninho, Mamaua, Trezeguet and Tony Parker.</i>	23	5.5
<i>Sarkozy</i>	21	5.0
<i>The country where the idea of nationalism was born. The pioneering country of nationalism. The movement of nationalism was born here. The country in which the term nationalism is exaggerated. Their national feelings are quite strong. Nationalism. The country in which the French Revolution took place. The French Revolution took place in 1789. The French Revolution started here.</i>	20	4.8
<i>On the characteristics of its people (sophisticated, kind, famous for their courtesy, noble and funny. They are very romantic. They are not noble-hearted and proud. In addition, they are inglorious liars. We don't like them. They are tricksters. I don't like them. Almost all the French people I know are arrogant. A country whose people are egoistical. The narcissist society. It consists of big-headed people. They are not clean. People were dirty and wigged in the past. They invented perfume and wig since they were dirty.)</i>	19	4.5
<i>Tourism is developed. The most developed country of the world in tourism. One of the places that lots of tourists visit in a year. A country that attracts a large number tourists. It is a popular place for tourists. There are lots of places worth seeing. One of the most beautiful countries. A country that has natural and historical beauties. A place worth living in. Very historical place. The country I wish to see.</i>	19	4.5
<i>It has colonies. An imperialist state. It has colonized so many countries. It has pursued a colonial policy. They managed to colonize South Africa as well. The colonial power of the past. Nobody will forget what it has done in Algeria. The country that slaughtered Algerians. A street named "Algerian street" in Istanbul was exchanged into "French street" because Algeria was a colony of France.</i>	16	3.8

<i>Its language is French. They are devoted to their language. When you are in France, they don't speak English even if they know it. They give answer in their own language to the people that ask questions in a foreign language. But they have a nice language. They protect their language. They are devoted to their language. The pronunciations in this language are very nice. Their language is awful. I don't like this language.</i>	15	3.6
<i>Certain words: (Arc De Triomphe (2), the Louvre Museum (2), Napoleon (2), the River Seine (2) the Avenue des Champs-Élysées (2), castle, De Goule, Treaty of Paris)</i>	13	3.1
<i>The center of fashion. It is famous for fashion shows. It has a great role in fashion. Significant in terms of fashion. Fashion's capital. Brands and models emerge from this country.</i>	13	3.1
<i>It pursues a policy to increase population. It has a high life expectancy. The number of children is small. The elderly population is large.</i>	11	2.6
<i>It is a member of the EU. It is one of the charter members of the EU. It has a strong political influence on the EU. One of the powerful countries of Europe. It has always had a say in global politics.</i>	10	2.4
<i>Europe's culture and art center. The center of many cultural activities. A country that is devoted to its own culture. Culture has a significant role. Civilization. It gives importance to art. They are in an advanced level in art and culture. The capital of many branches of art. They protect their culture quite well.</i>	10	2.4
<i>It is famous for wine production. Bordeaux wine is renown worldwide.</i>	9	2.2
<i>The country of lovers. The country of love. The city of love. Romantic. Romanticism</i>	6	1.4
<i>They are very successful in education. One of the countries in which I want to study. The Sorbonne University.</i>	5	1.2
<i>The French cuisine is famous. Food culture is developed. Its food is renown worldwide.</i>	5	1.2
<i>Carla Bruni</i>	4	1.0
<i>Its religion is Christianity. They are a protector of Catholicism. Christianity is widespread, but there are Muslims as well. The rate of the Muslims is 10%.</i>	4	1.0
<i>Perfume</i>	4	1.0
<i>There occurred wars between France and England. It has fought many wars with England for a long period. When England was excommunicated, it supported the pope. In addition, it fought with Germany over the Alsas-Loren coal deposits.</i>	3	0.7
<i>The country of good literature. It has made good progress in the field of literature. The place preferred by Turkish poets.</i>	3	0.7
<i>It has a coast on the Atlantic ocean. Neighbour of Spain and Belgium.</i>	2	0.5
<i>Its flag is red, white and blue (vertical lines).</i>	2	0.5
<i>It is famous for different types of cheese. You can eat a different type of cheese every day for a year.</i>	2	0.5
<i>Last year, cars were burned in the suburbs. Communists that burn their own cars.</i>	2	0.5
<i>It has the principle of secularism in its constitutional law.</i>	1	0.2
<i>The country that involves various races.</i>	1	0.2
<i>It is not a country open to change.</i>	1	0.2
<i>There is the Dover Strait between England and France.</i>	1	0.2
<i>It is the first country with which the Ottoman Empire signed capitulations.</i>	1	0.2

<i>Renault, Citroën and Peugeot are leading automotive companies.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0.2</i>
<i>The rooster is a national symbol of France, as roosters don't compromise their nobility even if they are in a pit.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0.2</i>
<i>Famous for its cinema: Truffaut, Godard.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0.2</i>
<i>They became famous for their textile products.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0.2</i>
<i>Developed in terms of trade.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0.2</i>
<i>Underground systems and means of transport are developed.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0.2</i>
<i>They have rich coal deposits.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0.2</i>
Total	418	100

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Discussion

There are sufficient information about the United Nations (UN) and the UN permanent members in the geography textbooks of the 9th, 10th and 12th grades. This information is completely unbiased. It consists of objective statements. This situation points out to the fact that all the views the sample expressed in the semi-structured interview form belong to the sample and that the sample expressed opinions with its free will.

No study has been discovered about the UN and the UN permanent members in secondary schools. This study is unique in that sense. It is expected to make a contribution to present studies.

Conclusion

The following results are obtained from the findings acquired in this study which tries to determine the perceptions of the 12th grade secondary level students about the United Nations (UN) and the UN permanent member states:

The sample expressed 2227 views in total in 200 different categories about the UN and the UN permanent member states. Only 4,4% of those views are about the UN. The number of the views expressed about the UN permanent members is approximately 22,5 times more than the views expressed about the UN. Most commented UN permanent member states are England (20,6%) and Russia (20,3%). France (18,8%), China (18,5%) and the US (17,4%) succeed them.

31,3% of the students that put forward ideas on the UN regard it as an institution that does not operate in line with its main objectives. Concerning this, they passed the following remarks: unnecessary, only for show, nonfunctional, an organization that has deviated from its aim and has lost its significance, a so-called organization that applies double standard and that does not have much function. But 22,2% define the UN as an influential, necessary organization that opposes wars and tries to establish peace. They even describe it as a council of countries that gathers all the countries under a single roof.

19,2% of the sample that expressed opinions on the UN think that the UN is under the USA's control and guidance.

12,1% of the sample's views on the UN is related to Turkey. Those views are as follows: Turkey is a member of the UN, but its membership is only for show. Therefore, it should cancel its membership.

6,1% of those that expressed views described the UN as a civilization, military organization, economic union and relief foundation. 3% defined it as an institution that defends the rights of the member states.

Student opinions focused on some concepts about the UN permanent member states. For example, more than half of the student views on China are about the concept of population. The number of this kind of concepts on which more than half of the sample focused is three for the US, six for Russia, England and France.

412 views in total in 33 different categories are expressed about China. 57,2% of those are about China's population (41,7%) and excessive manpower (15,5%).

388 views in 36 different categories are expressed about the US. 53,4% are about its president Obama (10,1%), its being powerful (31,2%) and imperialist (12,1%).

The sample expressed 451 views in 41 different categories about Russia. 56,5% are about Russia's natural sources (14,2%), climate (13,7%), development level (8,2%), surface area (8,2%), capital city (8,2%) and its relations with Turkey (5,8%).

459 views in total in 38 different categories were expressed on England. 57,5% of those views are about England's colonies (12,4%), power (11,1%), football (10,5), Industrial Revolution (8,7%), city of London (7,4%) and about its being an island country (7,4%).

418 views in total in 41 different categories are expressed on France. 50% of these views are about the cities of France (15,3%), its relations with Turkey (10,3%), its development level (7,7%), the Eiffel Tower (6,2%), its sports activities (5,5%) and Sarkozy (5%).

Most commented permanent member state due to its relations with Turkey is France. Russia succeeds it. The rate of those who made references to Turkey's relations with the US, China and England is rather low.

10,3% of those that made reference to France mentioned Turkey-France relations as well. It is emphasized that France does not want Turkey to join the EU and it is a country that supports the idea of "so-called Armenian Genocide."

5,8% of the students that expressed views on Russia talked about Turkey-Russia relations. They also made reference to the points that Turkey fought wars with Russia because of its desire to move south toward warmer climates, that its people travel to Turkey to take a holiday in summer and that it sells natural gas to Turkey.

2,3% of the views on the US are related to the relations between the US and Turkey. References made about the US are as follows: the US is declared an ally of Turkey by every current government, it is an allied nation that is motivated solely by self-interest, it has stabbed Turkey in the back and exploited it.

1% of the sample that expressed an idea concerning China put forward that Turkey's economy is affected negatively by cheap and poor-quality goods manufactured by China.

Only 0,2% of those who expressed an opinion on England put forward that Turkey is not on good terms with England.

Most mentioned leader of the UN and the UN member states is Obama. The sample referred to Obama 39 times. Sarkozy (21 times) and Mao (11 times) succeed him. The number of the sample that referred to Lenin (5 times), Putin (5 times), Stalin (3 times), Ban Ki Moon (2 times), Bush (2 times), Tony Blair (2 times), Napoleon (2 times), Kofi Annan (1 time), Abraham Lincoln (1 time), Clinton (1 time), Medvedev (1 time), Elizabeth (1 time), Gordon Brown (1 time) ve John Terry (1 time) is much less.

The sample emphasized that the US, Russia, England and France exploit other states whereas China exploits its own people.

The sample paid attention to talk about the capital cities. Most repeated city is Paris. London (34), Moscow (29),

Washington (19) and Beijing (12) succeed it.

The countries the sample found successful in education are the USA (10 people), England (9 people) and France (5 people) respectively. Whereas only two students put forward that the education system in China is not good, no explanation was made about the education system of Russia.

Sport activity is one of the most important elements to which the sample drew attention. Almost all the views related to this are about football. England (48 people) and France (23 people) take the lead in this order. The sample's interest in sport activities in the USA (4 people) and Russia (4 people) is less.

The sample regards China's population as a power. In addition to this, they put forward that China follows certain policies to decrease population. On the other hand, it is suggested that England and France follow policies to increase population due to the large elderly population.

Suggestions

Relying on the study results, it can be claimed that schools and textbooks are not sufficient in education. As a matter of fact, there is adequate information about the UN and the UN permanent members. However, it is observed that the sample put emphasis on different characteristics of the UN and the member states. This situation indicates that various extracurricular, social activities and especially communication instruments and the like are quite effective. Therefore, we should find the right way of using extracurricular elements properly and make suggestions to the executives.

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