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Enver M. Şerifgil

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Lower Cecen of the plains; this latter, the basis of the written language, is endowed with a Latin alphabet (after a fruitless attempt to transcribe Cecen into Arabic characters). For its part, Ingush was established as a written language in 1923 (based on the Lower Ingush dialect of the plains) and also transcribed into Latin characters.

In 1934, after the fusion of the two Autonomous Regions, Cecen and Ingush, the two written languages were unified into a single language—Cecen-Ingush, written from 1938 in a Cyrillic alphabet. At present, they are once more officially separated. The new Cecen-Ingush literature has developed only during the Soviet period.

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A.M. KHAN

Cepni ✓

Tribe of Turkey

The Cepni, an Oghuz tribe, hold an important place in the political and religious history of Turkey, and in the history of its occupation by the Turks. The most intimate *murids* of Haji Bektash belonged to this tribe, an important branch of which have been living in the Kirshehir region in the 13th century. In the second half of this century there was another important group of the Cepni in the Samsun region, who in 676/1277 successfully defended Samsun

against the forces of the Emperor of Trebizond, and in the 14th century played the chief part in the conquest of the Janik (Ordu-Giresun) district; the Haji Emirli principality which controlled the Ordu-Giresun region in the 14th century was probably founded by this tribe.

At the beginning of the 16th century, the region round Trabzon, especially to the west and south-west, was in their hands and was hence called *wilayet-i Cepni* after them. From the 16th century onwards they began to penetrate the region east of Trabzon too, where even in the 18th century the Cepni were waging fierce struggles with the local people. Thus the Cepni played a very important role in the conquest and turcicisation of the Samsun-Rize area.

Important groups connected with this tribe are found in other parts of Turkey too in the 15th and 16th centuries. The largest lived in the Sivas region and practised agriculture. There was another important group among the Turkmens of Aleppo, one branch of which began to settle in the 'Ayntab area in the 16th century; another, generally called the Bashim Kizdllu, migrated to western Anatolia and settled in the districts of Izmir, Aydin, Manisa and Balikesir.

There was another important branch of the Cepni in the Ak-koyunlu confederation; they were led, in the time of Uzun Hasan and his first successors, by Id-aldi Beg, and were later in the service of the Safawids. In the 16th century there were Cepni also in the Erzurum district, and some clans around Konya and Adana too.

In the 15th and 16th centuries there were many villages named, after the tribe, Cepni; in some cases the name survives to the present day. Bektashi and Qizilbash doctrines were from of old widespread among the Cepni.

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R.V. HAYNES