The target of this research is to study the health situation in North Kurdistan, also in the Kurdish provinces in southeast Turkey. According to my sources of information - for example, Turkish official statistics, and reports of the Turkish Medical Association, and Turkish Labour Union SES, plus various international observations - the health conditions in southeast Turkey are as bad in the African countries south of Sahara.

In North Kurdistan on a civil war has been going on, since 1984, between the Turkish army and the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). Since the early 1990s, the Turkish army has used low-intensity warfare methods (LIC). It has depopulated, by force, three thousand Kurdish villages to cut maintenance routes for the PKK guerrillas. As a result there are two to three million internally displaced people in Turkey. The health situation for these persons was found to be very bad. In particular, an increase of diseases like pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria and the deterioration of living conditions of the Kurds is one method of the LIC against them.

As it proved very difficult to find information about the health conditions of the Kurds, I have also explored, in this thesis, explanations for this lack of information. I did this based on a theory of cultural genocide, i.e. ethnocide. The purpose of ethnocide is to assimilate, by force, a minority to the majority by denying the existence of its culture, language and ethnic identity. Also included, as a purpose, was the lack of statistics and scientific information about an ethnic group. Since the break-up of the Ottoman Empire during the World War One, Turkey has tried to assimilate the Kurds as an integral part of the Turkish population.

Avainsanat-Nyckelord-Key words
ethnocide - Kurds - Turkey
health situation - Kurdistan
low-intensity warfare
cultural genocide

Muita tietoja-Övriga uppgifter-Additional information