

CHANGING TURKEY: FROM WEST TOWARDS EAST

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Abstract

The paper analyses the recent and current changes in Turkey at political, economic, social, diplomatic level. The democratic government of the AKP (Justice and Development Party) is ruling the third time by having a majority of the votes. AKP, because of its Islamist roots and more familiarity and support in conservative and Islamist class, known as a covert Islamic and conservative party. The current growing authoritarianism in the policies and actions of AKP; the AKP opposition to the Hizmet Movement (also known as Gülen Movement) – with which it had cordial relations until very recent on many political and social issues; Turkey's growing energy demands, expanding economic linkages, changing patterns in relations with the regional and global countries and institutions, are some prominent factors that actually depict a new form and picture of Turkey. The aim of this paper is to discuss the reasons and facts of political, economic, social and diplomatic change in Turkey as well as the country's policies in various fronts. By keeping in mind the changing factors, the transformation in Turkey and the impacts of this change is being analyzed at regional and global level. The change is analyzed by taking into account the perspectives of increasing globalization, interdependence and interconnectivity. Methodology used in the paper is descriptive-analytical, as to describe the events and then analyze them with arguments. It is concluded in the paper that Turkey being an important strategic location that connecting Europe to the Middle East and with other regions is important for studying as a corridor that now due to domestic, regional and global influences keep on changing. This bears more significance now as Turkey is striving and perusing the policies of her own interests that propel a substantial transformation defining her shift from secularism towards Islamism and conservatism.

Keywords: Changing Turkey, Growing Authoritarianism, Changing Political, Economic, Social and Diplomatic Policies