
TURKEY

AT THE THRESHOLD OF THE 21ST CENTURY



GLOBAL ENCOUNTERS
AND/Vs
REGIONAL ALTERNATIVES

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CONTENTS

Preface

Welcome Addresses

Fusun Arsava

Celal Göle

John Barrett

Keynote: A General Appraisal of Current Turkish Foreign Policy
Şükrü Sina Gürel

Part I: Significance of Turkey for Global Stability

1. Current Political Agenda of the Atlantic Alliance and Turkey
John Barrett
2. A Glance at Turkish Foreign Policy Issues Within the Framework of the Situation in the World in General and the Region in Particular
Ömer Kürkçüoğlu

Discussion (Chair : Osman Olcay)

Part II: Turkish Military-Strategic Importance and Security Concerns

3. Turkey's Strategic Importance in Military Dimension: A Regional Balance Holder
Şadi Ergüvenç
4. The Black Sea Politics and Turkey
Duygu Sezer
5. Changing Security Perspective of Turkey
Hüseyin Bağcı

Discussion (Chair: Ömer Kürkçüoğlu)

Part III: Turkey; a Bridge Between Continents

6. Turkey's Relations With the Central Asian and Caucasian Republics
Halil Akıncı
 7. Turkey and the Arab World: Regional Partners or Rivals in the 21st Century
Dan Tschirgi
 8. The Balkan Connection
Ünal Çeviköz
- Discussion (Chair: Bram Triestram)**

Part IV: The European Dimension of Turkey

9. Turkey and the European Union
Atila Eralp
 10. Turkey-European Union Relations in the Framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership
Jesús Núñez Villaverde
 11. Turkey and Europe or Turkey in Europe
Dietrich Jung
- Discussion (Chair: Mustafa Aydın)**

Part V: Are There Alternatives for Turkish Endeavours?

12. Alternatives for Turkey's International Position; A Greek View
Theodoros Psalidopoulos
 13. Effects of the Globalization on Turkey
Baskın Oran
- Discussion (Chair: Ersin Onulduran)**

Part VI: Evaluation and Summary of the Conference

Bram Triestram
Osman Olcay
Füsün Arsava

Annexes:

1. Conference Program
2. List of Participants

PREFACE

This volume is the result of a conference, under the same title, organized by the International Relations Foundation in cooperation with the Faculty of Political Science of Ankara University and NATO in Ankara from 13 to 15 November 1997. The purpose of the conference as put forth in its curriculum was "to unite experts in order to analyze and come to conclusions and recommendations, which, in written form, could be a source of information for Turkish and Western institutions' decision makers". Publishing these papers and discussions then aims to shed light on Turkey and its newly emerging environment after the end of Cold War.

I have tried to include all the papers and discussions. The authors and speakers are fully responsible as individuals for the views expressed during the conference and for the formats of their papers. As many of the papers were not submitted in written form, I had to delete some parts of presentations and discussions in order to reduce the redundancy. In an attempt to present papers in a more article-like form than a speech-like form, I have also put subtitles to some of the papers whenever it was possible without interfering with the normal running of the arguments. Apart from this, only minor changes regarding infidelities in wording and style were corrected and the essential arguments left intact. These changes to the original speeches were, in any case, approved by the authors before going in to publication.

My thanks go first and foremost to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Turkey, which sponsored the Conference that gave rise to this publication. Prof. Dr. Celal Göle, dean of the Faculty of Political Science, Ankara University, kindly offered the facilities of his Faculty to our use. The efforts put forth by Emel Üresin of NATIP to secure necessary grant from NATO and her cooperation throughout could only be appreciated by my heart-felt thanks. I would also like to thank to Bram Triestram, whose suggestions and moral support from the first day of the planning of the conference, has been the driving force.

At the organizational and technical level, I have to thank to the Conference Staff who, for about six months, shared the burdens of conference organization with me, and without their much generously given help both before and during the Conference, this book could not have come into being. I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Füsün Arsava, president of the International Relations Foundation, for her unceasing support, and Prof. Dr. Ömer Kürkçüoğlu for his sound counsel and continual guidance. Then there is Ülkün Tansel, who most efficiently transcribed all the papers and discussions from the conference tapes. Mete Akkaya had a through look at the final product, thereby helping to keep the number of grammatical errors to a minimum. Erdoğan Yavuz and his colleagues at Grafiker Ltd. showed such a personal attachment and self-sacrifice at the printing phase that deserve my full gratitude. Finally, I would also like to thank the authors for rereading the proofs and in some cases for updating and completing their papers.

Despite all efforts, it is inevitable that a number of deficiencies remain for which I take full blame.

Mustafa Aydın

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