



TÜRKİYE IN THE GLOBAL ORDER

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As Türkiye's republic enters its second century, it looks back at one of the most remarkable sequences of constitutional and political transformation, and reconfiguration, in the history of states. When the Ottoman Empire – a dominant player in the European concert of powers over half a millennium – had begun to collapse, it was the young Mustafa Kemal who saved the Turkish state under the onslaught of the victorious imperialist forces upon the end of World War I. Through his military successes and diplomatic skills, he was able to prevent a looming occupation and partitioning of the Turkish homeland, establishing a republican state that by now, under the circumstances of the 21st century, has become a major global player.

After the traumatic transformation post-World War I, and the difficult period of World War II, the second major transformation of the Turkish polity – in the wake of the collapse of the bipolar order of the Cold War – saw the country gradually emerge as an actor of stability and peace at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. Political developments on the basis of the republic's by now well-established democratic procedures resulted in a historic reconciliation, indeed synthesis, of the country's Islamic heritage and secular modernity. Going back to the roots while opening up to the world has become the essence of the *Turkish renaissance* that has enabled the country to play a constructive role in international politics.

As major player in its own right, Türkiye has emerged as a stabilizing force in a geopolitically sensitive region, along the fault lines between the Muslim world and the West. The joint initiative of Türkiye and Spain for the United

Nations Alliance of Civilizations is testimony to this. Also, in the face of a weakened and fractured Arab world, Türkiye is one of the few countries that have the courage – and leverage – to insist on upholding the rights of the Arab people in Palestine. As one of the most influential members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the country has become an indispensable mediator not only in matters of concern to NATO (such as the war between Ukraine and Russia), but also, more generally, between the West and the emerging countries of the South. Türkiye’s role in the G20 is further evidence of its influence at the global level. As skilled and successful mediator – e.g. in the grain deal between Russia and Ukraine or the largest prisoner exchange between Russia and the United States since the Cold War – the Turkish republic has been actively, and constructively, taking part in what can be described as negotiating a new balance of power in the geopolitical minefield of the 21st century.

In the face of the threat of a return of 19th century power politics – indeed an old-world imperialism the signs of which cannot be overlooked in the blatant neglect by some of the great powers for international law – Türkiye has become a driving force in the efforts for a more just and equitable international order. In the emerging multipolar world, it has been a consistent and steadfast, indeed the most outspoken, advocate of United Nations reform on the basis of the sovereign equality of *all* nations. This particularly applies to Türkiye’s critique of the outdated privileges of the permanent members of the UN Security Council. Highlighting global imbalances as cause of tension and conflict, and addressing them with specific initiatives and a novel form of public diplomacy, Türkiye’s outreach to the world goes well beyond a traditional policy of the status quo.

Under increasingly unpredictable circumstances of regional upheavals – indeed a major realignment of the global balance of power – the republic’s foundational maxim of “Peace at home, peace in the world,” creatively and constructively applied by the leaders of today, gains new momentum – and holds new promise – in Türkiye’s second century.



**THE STATEMENT WAS MADE IN FOLLOW-UP TO HANS KÖCHLER'S
ASSESSMENTS OF TÜRKIYE'S EMERGING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL
ROLE SINCE THE END OF THE COLD WAR**

LECTURES

- o **The Evolution and Philosophical Background of Western Democracies:** International Symposium on "Islam and Democracy," Foundation for Research in Islamic Studies, Istanbul, 27 November 1998.
- o **Islam and the West – Clash or Alliance of Civilizations?** *Bilim ve Sanat* Vakfı / Foundation for Sciences and Arts, Istanbul, 14 February 2006.
- o **Coming to Terms with the Past as a Problem of Justice – Philosophical Reflections:** "From the Burden of the Past to Societal Peace and Democracy" – International Conference on "Coming to Terms with the Past," organized by Heinrich Böll Foundation (Germany) at Bilgi University, Istanbul, 24 February 2007.
- o **Global (Dis)order in a Period of Transition – Türkiye's Role in the Emerging Multipolar World:** Speech at Honorary Professorship Award Ceremony, Pamukkale University, Denizli, Türkiye, 16 October 2008.
- o **Türkiye and Europe – The Geopolitics of Regional Integration:** Second Türkiye-Europe Forum: "European Integration and Türkiye," Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies, Mardin, Türkiye, 11 December 2009.
- o **Religion, State and Society in Türkiye:** Introductory Statement at seminar organized by Center for Global Studies and Center for Civilizational Studies at the Foundation for Sciences and Arts (BISAV), Istanbul, 7 May 2011.
- o **Türkiye's Regional Role and Foreign Policy:** Moderator's Statement, Abant Platform, 28th Meeting: "Diverse Perspectives on Türkiye," Abant, Türkiye, 8 February 2013.
- o **Sovereignty and Coercion – The United Nations in the Web of Power Politics:** Introductory Remarks, Çırağan Palace, Istanbul, 12 September 2024.

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