

Turkey in Turmoil: A Country's Populist Authoritarian Turn

Veranstalter German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA)

Veranstaltungsort German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA)

Termin 20.02.2019 18:00 Uhr - 20:00 Uhr

Lecture and Discussion

Turkey is a country in turmoil. Once the shining example of “Muslim democracy” in the region, the polity is now cited as a prime case of descent into populist authoritarianism. The 2018 elections not only sealed the state’s transformation into a presidential system but marked a crucial political turning point for President Tayyip Erdoğan’s project of building a “New Turkey.” For his supporters, this vision promises a prosperous country with a strong leader who could discard a century of Kemalism and restore the Turkish imperial grandiose power of former times. Opponents criticise the New Turkey, centred on Erdoğan’s persona, for being Islamist, nationalist, and authoritarian. Meanwhile, Erdoğan is realising his project in a volatile context of growing tension and polarisation within society, a looming economic crisis, as well as sudden outbursts and unexpected rapprochements in foreign affairs.

This GIGA Forum will investigate the roots and routes of Turkey’s authoritarian turn. Hakkı Taş will analyse the domestic dynamics and realignments that sustain the current political system. Roy Karadağ will discuss the European and United States responses to this New Turkey, and the meaning of the country’s authoritarian turn for its relations with the European Union. Finally, Hürcan Aslı Aksoy will address the societal implications of Erdoğan’s New Turkey project and how 16 years of Justice and Development Party rule have affected civil society – in particular, the women’s rights movements.

Speakers: Dr. Hakkı Taş (GIGA),

Dr. Hürcan Aslı Aksoy (University of Erlangen-Nürnberg),

Dr. Roy Karadağ (InIIS, University of Bremen)

Moderator: Dr. Christiane Fröhlich (GIGA)

Location: GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Neuer Jungfernstieg 21, 20354 Hamburg

Admission is free. Please register for this event:

<https://www.giga-hamburg.de/en/event/turkey-in-turmoil-a-countrys-populist-authoritarian-turn>
