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**ENERGY POLICIES OF TURKEY DURING THE ERDOGAN ERA: FACTS AND LIES**

## Turkey's Economic Bubble

by *Professor David L. Phillips*

Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke said of Slobodan Milosevic, "He tries to solve a problem by making a bigger one." Turkey's tyrant, Tayyip Erdogan, has taken a page from Milosevic's playbook. With Turkey's economy in freefall, Erdogan is trying to distract voters by provoking a violent confrontation with Greece and launching a major cross-border operation against the Kurdistan's Workers Party (PKK) in Iraqi Kurdistan.

***Turkey's faltering economy is the primary problem.***

Last year, the Turkish lira was devalued 20 percent against the dollar. Over the past ten years, the exchange rate has gone from two Turkish lira to the dollar to five lira. Inflation is sky-high. In May 2018, Turkey's inflation rate was 12.2 percent, an increase of 1.3 percent from the previous month. Turkey has a growing current account deficit and heavy corporate debt. The private sector holds foreign currency loans of \$295 billion. However, the plunging lira makes it more expensive to service debt in dollars or euros.

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**POLITURCO EMPHASIZES WORKS AND OPINIONS THAT VALUE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE TRUE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IS THE FIRMIEST PILLAR OF GOOD GOVERNMENT; THUS, WE WELCOME ANY IDEAS AND OPINIONS THAT SHARE THIS COMMITMENT.**



**PROFESSOR ZEKI SARITOPRAK**

## A THEOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF THE HADITH, “WAR IS DECEPTION”

Recently, a hadith which can be translated as: “War is deception [or strategy],” has been circulated among some political Islamist groups as a justification for lying, stealing, or not fulfilling agreements. This hadith is generally understood literally without reference to its historical use by Muslim jurists, theologians, and other scholarly personalities. Therefore the way that it is most often used today is problematic and misleading. Thus, it is necessary that this hadith should be examined and elaborated upon based on the principles of Islamic theology. [Read More...](#)

## INSTRUMENTALIZATION OF ISLAM: HAYRETTIN KARAMAN’S ROLE IN ERDOGAN’S DESPOTISM

The world no longer has just a Recep Tayyip Erdogan problem. It also has a problem with Turkey, because what the Islamofascist Erdogan regime stands for is now standing before us in the guise of Turkey. Mr. Erdogan’s despotic approach, which omits democracy, human rights, individual freedoms, the rule of law, humanitarian values, moral principles and human dignity has finally permeated Turkey with all of its institutions and norms. [Read More...](#)



**Dr. BULENT KENES**



**PROFESSOR ELVAN AKTAS**

## TURKEY AT A CROSSROADS AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME: BETWEEN OLD AND YOUNG

Many social scientists –rightfully– criticize economists for their standardized approach to social and economic problems. Gathering, quantifying and analyzing relevant data force economists to simplify many aspects of economic activities in order to compare different countries, or different regions of the World. That does not mean, however, economists are blind to the facts that make cultures, countries or regions different. Perhaps, one of the most important differentiating such factors is demographics. [Read More...](#)

## THE RISE OF ISLAMOPHOBIA AND POLITICAL ISLAM

We are witnessing the rise of the extreme right and fascistic disposition once again in the western world. Are Europe and the West which produced

Hitler and Mussolini, and spread the racial ideas throughout the world returning back to their old codes? Will the system of the western countries manage to continue, which was built among themselves based on justice, human rights, rule of law, and equality after World War II, specifically not to live through once again the war’s destruction, havoc, and the bloody events, or the turnabout is about to start? [Read More...](#)



**Dr. MAHMUT AKPINAR**



**PROF. RICHARD PENASKOVIC**

## TURKEY AT A CROSSROAD

When Erdogan came to power as Prime Minister over fifteen years ago, he had the support of Fethullah Gülen. However, by the end of his third term as Prime Minister, Mr. Erdogan broke sharply with Mr. Gülen, according to Ori Soltes in “Turkey’s Coup that Was Never a Coup,” in the special edition of The Fountain in the fall of 2017. Erdogan argued that the Hizmet or service movement inspired by Gülen attempted to be a “government within a government.” I knew this to be a false charge because I read at least six of Gülen’s book (and many more books and articles about him) that demonstrated to me that Gülen and his followers were a-political. **Read**

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## ARE THE ALEVIS AND SUNNIS EQUAL IN TURKEY?

Throughout history, various religious perceptions emerged as a result of the religion being interpreted differently because of social, political, cultural or other reasons. The religious diversity observed in various communities is derived from this differing perception, which in time became a separate belief system. No matter what it is called—a religious ideology, a cult, a sect, a culture, or a political formation—Alevism is a fact resting on the axis of different religious and political ideas. **Read More...**



**AYDOGAN VATANDAS**

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

## TURKEY’S FRIENDS AND ENEMIES: WHAT DOES PUBLIC PERCEPTION TELL US?

Polls in 2017 indicate that a gradual growth of anti-NATO sentiment and disfavor of United States get further away as Turkey Russia alignment gains momentum. It shows us the reshuffle of the Turkey’s friends and enemies list. These trends and more about Turkey’s perceptions in many issues were reflected in the opinion polls conducted by the research company İstanbul Ekonomi Araştırma (IEA), in early November 2017 and Kadir Has University in July 2017. Poll were conducted in 26 cities, with 1000 people over 18 years old were asked on several questions about Turkey and Turkish Foreign policy.

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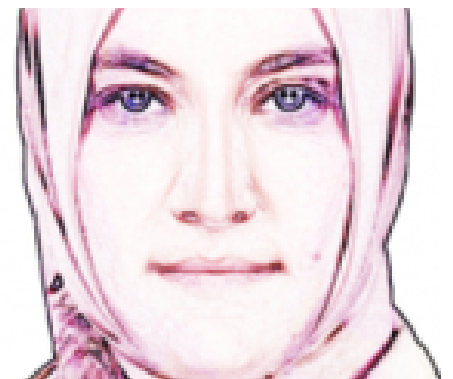


**ABDULMELİK ALKAN**

**DOCTORAL RESEARCHER**

## ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND SYRIAN REFUGEES

Millions of people take shelter in different countries through illegal immigration, running away from the conflict areas because of the war and the violation of human rights. There are 65.5 million people worldwide who were forced to leave their home. In every three seconds, one person leaves home behind just to reach safer places. Recently, the reports are trending about the people whose dead bodies wash ashore, who dream about reaching Europe with the compulsory help of the human traffickers by piling up on the ships looking like a wreck, without even reaching the shores of Europe. **Read More...**



**DENİZ ZENGİN**

**DOCTORAL RESEARCHER**



**AHMET DONMEZ**  
INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST

## THE NAMELESS VICTIMS OF AN INSANE ERA

On the one hand, we have the amnesty discussions, and on the other, we have suspicious deaths being reported on television. While discussing who to include in or exclude from the amnesty, a young and successful doctor passed away in the dark, resentfully. This doctor's name was Ibrahim Halil Yavuz, and he was imprisoned because he allegedly used the smart phone application Bylock. He was tortured to death in Silivri Prison, and they made it look like a suicide. Immediately afterwards, the Supreme Court ruled that the use of mass communication applications as such cannot on their own be accepted as evidence of criminal behavior. **Read More...**

## A POSSIBLE SCENARIO: ERDOGAN'S MACRO PLAN

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the President of Turkey, is eager to legally welcome his dictatorship with the parliamentary and presidential elections which are both going to be held on 24th June 2018. Erdogan has been planning about the preparations, which will open the doors for his dictatorship for a very long time, and he is putting them into practice now. After the uncovering of the corruptions of Erdogan and his entourage back in 17 December 2013, every single change towards the law and regulation in the parliament was done to ensure Erdogan to be the absolute power. **Read More...**



**KAMIL MAMAN**

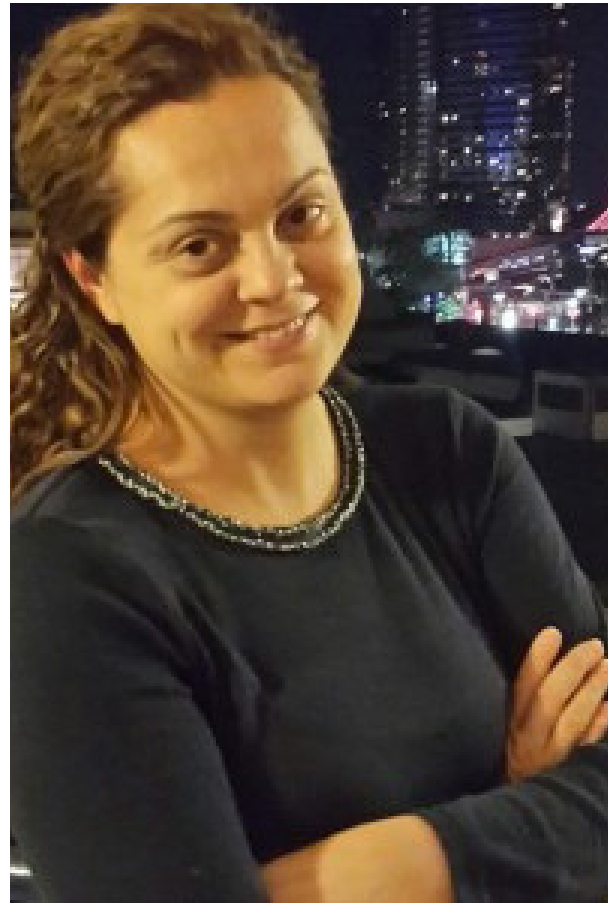
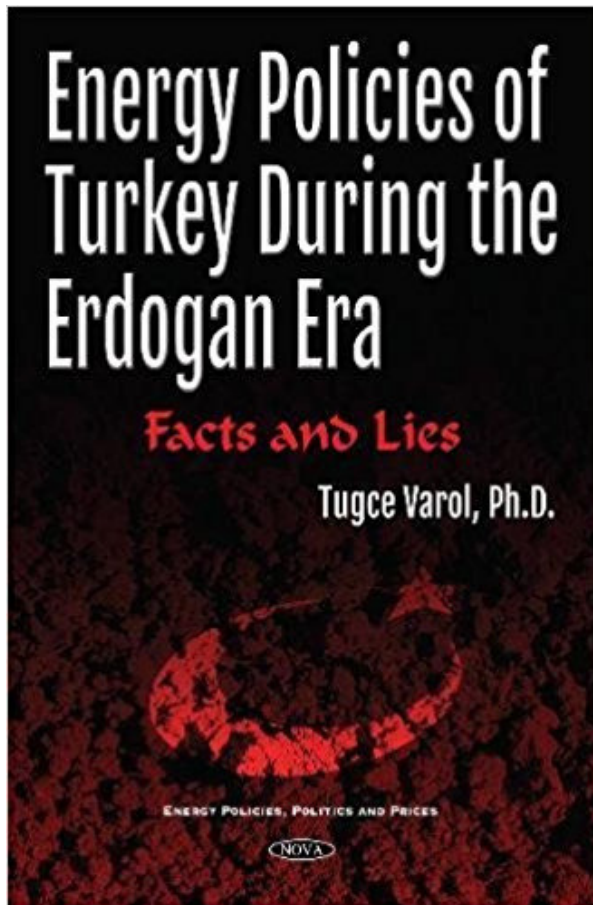


**VEYSI AYHAN**

## IS ERDOGAN MENTALLY STABLE?

The sanity is the highest blessing for mankind. Hence they say, "God takes away the sanity first, whom he wants to destroy". Do you think they have any sanity left? Turkish Medical Association had made the following statement in recent years, "We are doctors. We know about thousands of moods, and emotions of mankind. We are concerned about the emotional status of Erdogan. We are extremely concerned about it. We concern for himself, his entourage and our country. We are sharing our concern with the public".. **Read More...**

# POLITURCO'S BOOK OF THE MONTH



**'Energy Policies of Turkey During the Erdogan Era: Facts and Lies'** is the most recent book written by a prominent scholar Dr. Tugce Varol, an expert on Turkish-Russian relations as well as Turkey's energy policies. The book aims to reveal the truth behind the Erdogan energy policies for more than a decade.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his party AKP have been ruling Turkey since November 2002. Energy politics and energy business are favorite subjects of Erdogan but he is not the only player in these areas. Other family members of Erdogan are also deeply connected to these areas. As a result of Erdogan energy policies, new elite energy companies revealed in Turkey regarding importing Russian and Azerbaijan natural gas, constructing pipelines, distribution sectors, and maritime oil business. Since 2002, Erdogan transformed Turkey from an evolving democracy to a Central-Asia-style authoritarian regime as well as displaying symptoms of dictatorship. Indeed, Erdogan's adoption of a "one-man" rule has an impact on Turkey's energy security. Turkey's economy is highly dependent on importing hydrocarbon resources and needs to be complemented by consistent foreign policies. However, Erdogan and his government often developed unclear energy policies with its neighbors and some of the resulting conflicts were referred to international arbitration. **Read More...**