

Debating Turkey's Grand Strategy

This special issue on Turkey's grand strategy is the outcome of a one-day workshop organized in Ankara on February 25, 2020 by the Center for Strategic Research (SAM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, which was attended by a group of distinguished Turkish scholars from leading international relations departments in Turkey.

The participants of the workshop discussed the various dimensions of Turkey's grand strategy in connection with the country's long-term political, economic and military objectives and presented their own proposals as to how the main pillars of such a grand strategy could be determined. Considering that grand strategy is broadly defined as "the calculated relationship of means to large ends," it is quite important to reconsider this concept in light of Turkey's own foreign policy means and ends particularly at a time when we are approaching the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic.

The authors who contributed to this issue were asked to define the main parameters of a grand strategy suited to the actual and potential core interests and threats faced by Turkey in contemporary regional and global politics. In order to stimulate the widest possible academic discussion on the subject, which has so far remained largely underexplored in the literature on Turkish foreign policy, the authors were given a great degree of flexibility and freedom while articulating their ideas.

Even though the articles of this special issue do not represent the official views of SAM or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we believe they are all valuable contributions to the academic literature on Turkey's grand strategy. We also hope they are going to stimulate further academic debate both in Turkey and abroad on this very important subject.

Finally, we would like to thank Dr. Şener Aktürk, who kindly agreed to compile this special issue, as well as the four distinguished scholars who contributed to the special issue with their remarkable and thought-provoking pieces on Turkey's grand strategy.