

From the Desk of the Editor

This Winter 2008/9 Issue of Turkish Policy Quarterly (TPQ) arrives in your hands on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In summer of 2004, we were honored to include the perspective of NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer in TPQ during the organization's annual summit – which was held in Istanbul that year.

On this important anniversary, we are again honored to include a piece by the Secretary General exploring the organizations' search for a consensus about its future. At the same time, Turkey is seeking a more active role in resolving many of the strategic challenges and opportunities within its wider neighborhood. How these two trajectories intertwine is the central topic of Turkish Policy this quarter.

In anticipation of United States President Barack Obama's visit to Turkey in early April 2009, the future of U.S.-Turkish relations is front and center for these Alliance partners. William Park takes up this topic, flagging some of the dilemmas Turkey is likely to face and some of the expectations the U.S. is likely to have from Turkey. Park also outlines how various Middle Eastern issues which may factor into U.S.-Turkish relations. Park also touches upon another issue likely to impact bilateral relations as soon as April 2009: the prospect of a congressional resolution recognizing the events of 1915 in the Ottoman Turkey as genocide of Armenians.

Daniel Freifeld explores another important area of collaboration between Turkey and the U.S: energy. In his piece, Freifeld argues that the Nabucco gas pipeline will offer benefits to Turkey, the West and the other Caspian energy producers. Freifeld takes a stance against, however, Turkish authorities' expressed desires to purchase gas at their border for less than other Nabucco consortium members, store it and –when profitable– re-export it at a higher price.

At TPQ we believe that given the domestic and regional challenges Turkey currently faces, the emphasis of U.S. President Obama's team on supporting Turkey's European Union vocation is a wise choice. Their perceived prioritization of this issue bodes well precisely because Turkey's added value in its neighborhood is rooted in its Europeanization, and domestically the continuation of the reform process is the best guarantee for her stability and progress.

A key pending issue standing in the way of Turkey's EU ambitions, is the resolution of the Cyprus deadlock. Gül İnanç and Niyazi Kızılyürek give us an overview of schoolbook reform in Cyprus and the implications this has for the national

identity of future generations, as well the political will this transformation mirrors. Özgül Erdemli Mutlu and Piotr Zalewski highlight Prime Minister Erdoğan's outburst at the World Economic Forum in Davos during a discussion of the Gaza war. Erdemli Mutlu argues that Prime Minister Erdoğan's actions have led Turkey to abdicate its position as credible facilitator between Israel and Palestine. Though expressing that it did not "befit a statesman", Piotr Zalewski explains that Erdoğan "struck gold" in terms of Turkish and Arab support by walking out on the panel debate with President Shimon Peres. Zalewski argues that in general, Ankara's foreign policy is merely continuing to adapt to post-Cold War geopolitics, the evolution of Turkish democracy, and to EU and U.S. policies in the region. However, he also comments on the "irony" of the AKP's hosting of the Sudanese Vice President in Ankara less than a week after Erdoğan accused Israeli President Peres of "knowing very well how to kill people" and echoes the recent questioning in the West of Turkey's ties with President Omar Hassan al-Bashir of Sudan.

Burak Erdenir analyzes the feasibility of a bi-national Israeli-Palestinian state, one of the options that has been on the table for decades, and argues that the Arab-Israeli conflict would not end with a bi-national solution and that two separate independent states are inevitable.

Marietje Schaake analyzes Turkey's political track record in her article about upward mobility in politics in Europe and the U.S. highlighting its deficiencies as well as achievements. Evren Tok, offering an Anatolian perspective argues that the Turkish business community has economic reason to be looking more and more towards the Middle East and Africa, and points out the political implications of this structural reality.

Lastly, we provide an overview of recent events and reports within the region in Richard Giragosian's ongoing contribution to TPQ's Academia section.

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We would like to encourage you to visit our remodeled website, www.turkishpolicy.com and as always we look forward to your feedback,

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