



WORKING GROUP C
SECURITY AND CITIZENSHIP

The Politics of (In)security in a Democratizing Turkey: Lessons for a Wider Neighborhood

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This paper will look at the current legislative and institutional developments in Turkey regarding the security sector, in parallel with EU's recent 'securitizing' orientation. Since September 11, 2001, and bombings in Madrid, London and Istanbul, 'security-first' doctrines have dominated policy debates not only in the EU, but the whole world. Turkey, as a candidate country of the EU, tries to fulfil requirements of the *Acquis Communautaire* and thus attempts to institute a more democratic, transparent, and accountable state structure which is more in tune with the principle of respecting "human rights and liberties". However, the EU-wide 'security-first' orientation has significantly harmed the reformist zeal of the government in Turkey that has its own problems with an anxiously suspicious Euro-skeptics and military bureaucracy on the look-out for its own demise. In this sense this paper aims to examine how legislative and institutional developments in Turkey and EU-wide 'security-first' orientation have threatened the political and civil advances en route to the establishment of a democratized state structure in Turkey. In this paper, two cases taken in order to reflect the impacts of these legislative and institutional developments are the ratification of a new Anti-Terror Law in 2006, and amendments to Law on Police Duties and Powers in 2007. Countering security threats through enforcement of these laws and practices have had unprecedented implications for civil rights and human rights in Turkey and these institutionalized policies followed by a wide range of constraints on constitutional human rights, equality and freedom. In return, these policies have not only produced more insecurity, but also constituted key obstacles on the way to democratization. In this sense, looking at these two factors of further securitization (policies at home and EU-wide securitization), the paper will examine in what ways these security policies of the Turkish state have justified the evolution of a "security first state" and in what ways the hard security approach emphasizing national security over human security have prevented prospects for more democracy. An historical account of the longitudinal bargain between the "protective" state apparatus and the constructed "citizenry" as a concrete implementation of exchange of rights and liberties with defense and security will also be revisited. In doing so, the paper will also analyze what kind of a security - securitization discourse these policies have served for and to what extent these policies have taken into consideration the delicate balance between security and human rights. As a conclusion, this paper presents policy suggestions that are hopefully useful for a wider neighbourhood including Turkey, EU and the wider Mediterranean region.

OUTLINE

- 1- The institutional and legislative developments in Turkey – a general overview of motivations and consequences
- 2- What are the tenets, limits and incentives of EU security orientation? Why security-first approach?
- 3- Anti Terror Law and Police Law – consequences and abuses
- 4- Examples from EU –consequences and abuses
- 5- What impacts do these 2 factors (practices at home and EU-led security orientation) have on civic rights, liberties in Turkey?
- 6- In what ways these security policies of the Turkish state have justified the evolution of a “security first state”
- 7- In what ways the hard security approach emphasizing national security over human security have prevented prospects for more democracy
- 8- What kind of a security - securitization discourse these policies have served ?
- 9- To what extent these policies have/have not taken into consideration the delicate balance between security and human rights.
- 10- Policy Recommendations for a wider region (EU-Turkey-Mediterranean)