Erdogan’s Empire: Turkey and the Politics of the Middle East

by Soner Cagaptay
Jun 10, 2019

Gradually since 2003, Turkey’s autocratic leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan has sought to make Turkey a great power — in the tradition of past Turkish leaders from the late Ottoman sultans to Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. Here the leading authority Soner Cagaptay, author of The New Sultan — the first biography of President Erdogan — provides a masterful overview of the power politics in the Middle East and Turkey’s place in it.

Erdogan has picked an unorthodox model in the context of recent Turkish history, attempting to cast his country as a stand-alone Middle Eastern power. In doing so Turkey has broken ranks with its traditional Western allies, including the United States and has embraced an imperial-style foreign policy which has aimed to restore Turkey’s Ottoman-era reach into the Arabian Middle East and the Balkans.

Today, in addition to a domestic crackdown on dissent and journalistic
freedoms, driven by Erdogan’s style of governance, Turkey faces a hostile world. Ankara has nearly no friends left in the Middle East, and it faces a threat from resurgent historic adversaries: Russia and Iran. Furthermore, Turkey cannot rely on the unconditional support of its traditional Western allies. Can Erdogan deliver Turkey back to safety? What are the risks that lie ahead for him, and his country? How can Turkey truly become a great power, fulfilling a dream shared by many Turks, the sultans, Ataturk, and Erdogan himself?

Order Erdogan’s Empire on Amazon.

Visit the author’s website, ErdoganEmpire.com.

---

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

The Golf War on the Arabian Peninsula

Dec 26, 2021

David Schenker

BRIEF ANALYSIS

The War on Jihadism: Lessons from Twenty Years of Counterterrorism

Dec 22, 2021
BRIEF ANALYSIS

IRGC Conducts “Hybrid” Military Drills as Nuclear Talks Teeter

Dec 22, 2021

Farzin Nadimi

TOPICS

Arab & Islamic Politics  Democracy & Reform

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

Turkey

STAY UP TO DATE

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS
The Washington Institute seeks to advance a balanced and realistic understanding of American interests in the Middle East and to promote the policies that secure them.

The Institute is a 501(c)3 organization; all donations are tax-deductible.