

Turkish Foreign Policy under the AKP: The Rift with Washington

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In-Depth Reports

The United States has grown increasingly concerned about its relationship with Turkey under the Justice and Development Party (AKP). From rejecting expanded sanctions against Iran to downgrading bilateral ties with Israel, the AKP seems bent on radically transforming its longstanding partnership with the West on key regional issues. And since summer 2010, signs have emerged that the policy rift between Washington and Ankara may be permanent.

This Policy Note, edited by senior fellow Soner Cagaptay, offers several compelling explanations for, and responses to, the shift in Turkish foreign policy. Featuring contributions from Svante Cornell, Ian Lesser, and Omer Taspinar, the report discusses how the shift is rooted in Islamism, Gaullism, nonaligned foreign policy, and hubris. By understanding these proclivities and treating the AKP accordingly, the United States and its allies will be better equipped to navigate the complex relationship between Turkey and the West.

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