

## Turkish-Iranian Ties Flourish in New Era

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**Although the AKP's Iran policy is guided by a core ideological stance, Iran's Turkey policy is at core shaped by national interests.**

**S**ince Turkey's Islamist Justice and Development Party (AKP) formed a government in 2002, relations with Iran have undergone a dramatic transformation. It is often assumed that in this relationship, Iran acts with ideological motives, while the AKP pursues national interests in an effort to make Turkey a regional power in the Middle East. Yet, an analysis of the two countries' policies reveals that in fact the reverse is true: while the AKP's Iran policy is guided by a core ideological stance, Iran's Turkey policy is at core shaped by national interests.

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