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11.00

Rhetoric and Politics

*Myth and Rhetoric of the Turkish Model: Exploring Developmental
Alternatives*
- a new book published in 2014 (Sengupta)

The volume discusses what the Turkish Model was and why it was promoted in the Central Asian republics immediately following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. It begins with an understanding of the reality of the Model from a Turkish perspective and goes on to examine whether the Turkic world as a "cultural-civilizational alternative" makes sense from a historical as well as contemporary point of view. It concludes by looking at the re-emergence of the Model in the wake of the events in West Asia in early 2011 and examines how in the light of a search for options the Turkish Model is once again projected as viable.

Anita Sengupta is an area studies specialist and her work has been focused on the Eurasian region with Uzbekistan being her area of special interest. She has also worked extensively on Turkish politics. She was the contact person for her Institute's collaboration with the Stockholm International Program for Central Asian Studies, SIPCAS. She is a member of the editorial board of journals published by institutes in Turkey and Kazakhstan and peer reviews articles for a number of international journals.

Rhetoric and Politics in the Arab Uprisings: Egypt (Singh)

In deconstructing the revolutionary period of the first Arab awakening, in the 1950s and 1960s, one finds that freedom figured not at all in the brave new world that the nationalist generation was creating. In the many philosophical treaties, intellectual debates, and deliberations over policies, "freedom" claimed little if any space in Arab public discourse, and was not considered to be a component, let alone a vital ingredient, of the concept of revolution. A generation later, many of these revolutionary heroes and their inheritors had themselves become autocrats, leading the people to rebel a second time. This time the language of the Arab uprisings (2011) comprised "freedom," "bread," "social justice/equality" along with "dignity".

Priya Singh works on Israel in particular with an interest in the Middle East in general. Her research areas include the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Middle East peace process, Israeli society and politics, comparative ethnic relations in the region, nationalism and post nationalism and comparative politics and democracy. She is currently working on a project entitled, *Rhetoric of the Arab Spring*.

