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15.00

Fatherland and Diaspora:

The AKP, the Turkish Diaspora and minorities from Turkey

The Justice and Development Party (*Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi*, AKP) has transformed Turkish politics since its rise to power after the 2002 general election. One of the aspects rather overlooked in the literature is the politicization of the Turkish diaspora.

In recent years, Turkish policy makers have paid greater attention to the diaspora communities. These have, in turn, come to develop a greater interest in and influence on Turkish (foreign) policy. Today, foreign votes and diasporic politics are more important than ever.

This paper analyzes the interrelationship between the Diasporic activism of minority groups and state policy through a comparative study of the rise and evolution of transnational activist networks in Western countries. Drawing on Sidney Tarrow's conceptualization of a "new transnational activism", it demonstrates that transnational spaces, created by the processes of globalization and internationalization, have been instrumental to the politicization of Turkey's minorities. As a result, it will be argued, ties between minorities in diaspora and state authorities are most likely to grow even stronger in the 21st Century.

Aryo Makko obtained his PhD in History from Stockholm University, Sweden, in 2012. His thesis entitled "Advocates of Realpolitik: Sweden, Europe, and the Helsinki Final Act" is currently under review for publication with Palgrave Macmillan. He has co-edited *The Assyrian Heritage: Threads of Continuity and Influence* (Uppsala 2013) and authored 'Arbitrator in a World of Wars: The League of Nations and The Mosul Dispute, 1924-1925' (2010). He is also a founding member of the Modern Assyrian Research Archive (MARA), which is a digitization project carried out in affiliation with the University of Cambridge.

His research interests lay mainly within the history of international relations, security policies, and minorities in and from the Middle East. His articles have been published in academic journals such as the *Scandinavian Journal of History*, *Historisk Tidskrift*, *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, and the *Journal of Cold War Studies*. He is currently a Post-Doctoral Researcher and Lecturer at the Department of History, Stockholm University. Makko also teaches at the Department of Historical Studies, University of Gothenburg and is elected Research Member of Common Room at Wolfson College, University of Oxford. He has earlier been a Visiting Research Fellow at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland.

For attendance, registration at helins@sri.org.tr is necessary



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