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AKP Rule In Turkey: Rise of Conservatives

Dr. MdMostafa Faisal

Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations,
Kirşehir Ahi Evran University, Türkiye

Abstract

Turkey, a country with a majority of Muslims, is a secular democratic state, powerful member of NATO, candidate for the European Union, and regional power in a critical and unstable zone in the Middle East, the Balkans, and the Caucasus. A novel change happened in the Turkish political landscape during the last two decades. In the 22 years of Justice and Development Party (AKP) rule, the marginalized conservative block has become the dominant force in Turkey. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the causes and effects of the changes happening in Turkish politics during this period. It focused on the changes in five key areas: state organization, media, military, economy, and politics. This also analyzed the AK Party's game-changing strategies and their outcomes in Turkish society. We collected the data from secondary sources and applied the content analysis method to understand the issues at hand. The AKP successfully influenced almost all state organizations, including the media and military. In contrast, the secular block became more vulnerable due to a leadership crisis, internal rifts, and other issues.

Keywords: Turkish politics, Democracy, AKP, political Islam, secularism, Conservatives