



EMAR - Emek Arařtırmaları Vakfı Easdale Foundation for Labour Research

2023 Elections in Turkey within Global Context: Right Wing Populism in the Era of Global Shift

By Bulent Gokay



These elections saw two pro-neoliberal right-wing candidates competing. Erdoğan's re-election doesn't mean that he is popular, or that his policies have popular approval. In reality, Erdoğan, who ran for president for the third time in violation of the constitution, for the first time in his career failed to win the election in the first round and won by a small margin in the runoff. This election result points more to the political bankruptcy of CHP's, and its leader Kılıçdaroğlu's, campaign and its alliance with far-right nationalist parties than to AKP's success. Kılıçdaroğlu adopted a broadly pro-Western, anti-Russian and clearly pro-NATO line, but ignored the costs of dependence on Western powers; kept mostly silent on the Kurdish question; and he appealed to fascistic forces and declared a war against refugees, the overwhelming majority of whom live in deep poverty without basic rights, because he claimed that they "encroach the rights" of Turkish citizens. The election has not resolved any of the critical issues facing the peoples of Turkey. However, the re-election of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in a run-off against Kılıçdaroğlu is a political experience of international significance for all those campaigning against the rise of right-wing populism in the 21st century world.

ALL WELCOME!

Prof Bulent Gokay joined Keele in 1996 from Wolfson College, Cambridge, where he had been a postdoctoral Research Fellow. Before Keele, Prof Gokay worked at the Birkbeck College-London, University of North London, and at the University of Cambridge, teaching the history of Soviet Union, Russian Revolution, Weimar Republic, Eastern Europe and the Balkans, Intelligence and International Politics. He is author and co-author of several books, the last of which is *Turkey in the Global Economy*

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VENUE:

Meeting Room 3,

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