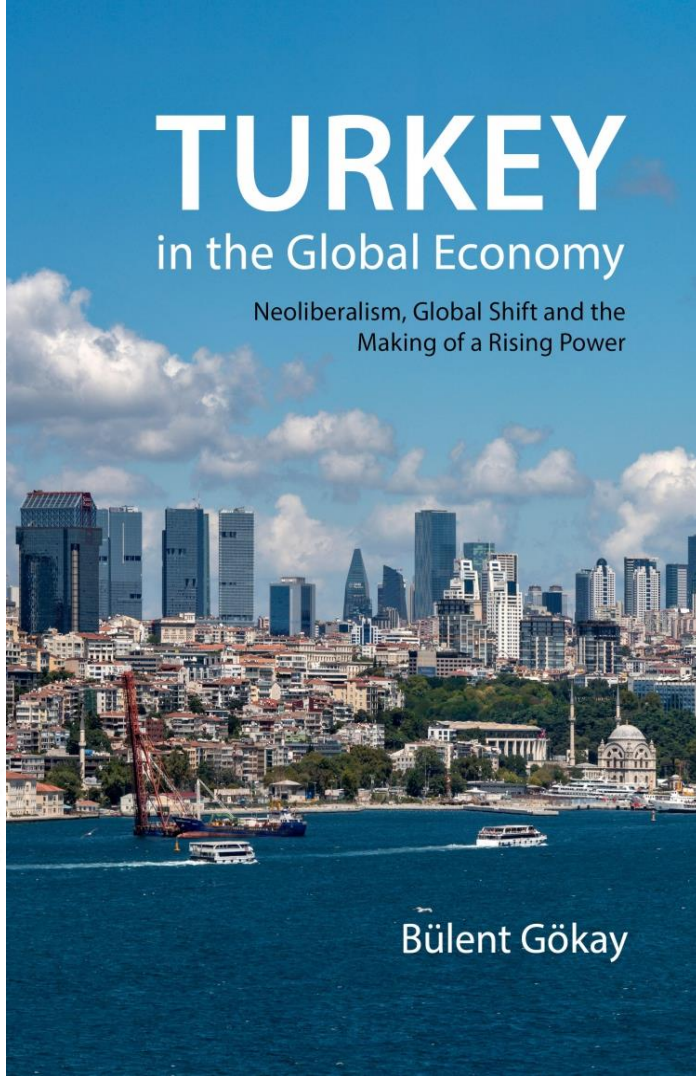




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Turkey's Strategic autonomy in the 21st century its sub-imperialism moment

By Bulent Gokay



The theory of sub-imperialism, which originated in the 1960s, has garnered increasing attention over the last two decades. Various proponents of this theory point to Turkey as a model of such a sub-imperialist power. Over the past 30 years, Turkey has evolved into a significant industrial economy, integrated into productive networks centred on the European Union. This concept shows how Turkey can be both a subject of imperialism and an agent of imperialist practices within its spheres of influence, while also challenging traditional imperialist actors. To understand Turkey's expansionist policies, it is essential to grasp its fragile position within the global capitalist system. The end of the Cold War in the early 1990s prompted major shifts in the organisation of the global economy that seriously challenged the dominance of the hegemonic power. As a result, the relative decline of the US has become more apparent. There is a noticeable decline in American hegemonic control over various regions. Russia and China are trying to establish their own spheres of influence. The reduced power of the USA at the top of the global hierarchy, its partial withdrawal from the Middle East, and the rise of alternative powers like Russia and China in a multipolar world have further increased the capacity of sub-imperialist powers to act. For example, Turkey is exploiting the US-Russia rivalry in Syria and expanding its influence in the region and beyond.

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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