

impact of public diplomacy initiatives constitutes the Achilles heel of public diplomacy studies.

Overall, Hart deserve much credit for his impressive recounting of the story on the origin of public diplomacy in U.S. foreign policy. He successfully interrogates underlying dynamics of public diplomacy and convincingly explains when and why the U.S.

government included public diplomacy efforts in its foreign policy. It is obvious that this work will remain relevant to contemporary discussions about public diplomacy for many years to come.

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## Türkiye Dış Politikası: İlkeler, Aktörler, Uygulamalar (Turkey's Foreign Policy: Principles, Actors, Practices)

*By Ali Balcı*

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The literature on Turkey's foreign policy has been growing in recent years. However, most such studies deal with recent developments and are therefore agenda-dependent studies. This is partly because of the changeable nature of Turkey's foreign policy over the last decade, with its many striking but contradictory moves, which has rendered it quite attractive to researchers. One development that has become a particularly popular discussion topic both in Turkey and abroad is Turkey's "shift of axis". Added to this, the swift spread of international relations departments in

Turkey and the increasing number of scholars studying foreign policy issues have also contributed to the skyrocketing number of academic papers dealing with Turkey's foreign policy during the first decade of the 2000s.

This growing interest in Turkey's foreign policy has created a need for brief but all-inclusive books. Existing studies dealing with Turkey's foreign policy in general, however, are either too comprehensive to read in a short time or are edited volumes with many problems of coherency. Ali Balcı's *Turkey's Foreign*

*Policy: Principles, Actors, Practices* meets this need by providing a short introduction to Turkey's foreign policy.

Balcı attempts to provide an analysis of Turkey's foreign policy from Atatürk's time to the present in his book. The volume is composed of eleven chapters all of which are divided into three sub-chapters dealing with principles, actors, and practices in specific periods in Turkey's foreign policy. Balcı differentiates each period by focusing on the main principles of the time in question. For example, while pragmatism is presented as the main character of Atatürk's period, the following chapters emphasise the active neutrality of İnönü's period, the active Americanism of Menderes' period, and the multidimensionality with a special inclination to the Western axis for the military tutelage of the 1960s respectively. Foreign policy was especially made by the leaders at these times, and they mostly followed a balance of power policy to meet Turkey's security demands.

The following chapters cover, respectively, the continuation of multi-dimensionality during the Ecevit and National Front period of the 1970s, the neoliberal tendencies in the military-dominated period of the early 1980s, neoOttomanism in the Özal period, security and secularism driven foreign

policy in the coalition government period of the 1990s, and the Europeanization at the end of the 1990s. The author deals with the foreign policy of Turkey in the Justice and Development Party period from 2002 to 2009 with a special focus on the zero-problem principle approach to neighbouring states.

The primary contention of the book is that the foreign and domestic policies cannot be separated. For the author, foreign policy is one of the main instruments shaping domestic power relations among different actors. In other words, foreign policy functions as a strategy in the hands of the ruling power bloc, silencing oppositional discourses and delimiting the boundaries of the existing hegemonic state identity. Balcı's treatment of the key actors of each period reveals that what affects the decision making process is the relation between foreign and domestic policies, which are thus dealt with together in the book.

Balcı also criticizes existing books which idealize a specific period of Turkey's foreign policy while decrying the others. The author challenges this idea and therefore he both tries to avoid depicting any one period as a "golden age" and takes a critical stance towards each period. The author has also chosen unusual wording for his title; instead of "*Turkish* foreign policy", Balcı prefers

“*Turkey’s Foreign Policy*”. The title of the book is thus a bold attempt to deviate from a nationalist narration of foreign policy in Turkey.

Rather than being a polemic, however, the book is presented as a course book for students in international politics. Accordingly, it is divided into eleven chapters applicable for an academic semester. While the author’s analysis of some events and concepts lacks detail, he also advises a list of further reading at the end of each chapter, prompting the reader to further interrogate and research the subject matter. Yet, added to this vagueness about events and concepts, the book often fails to inform the reader about whether particular issues are controversial or not. For instance, the description of the Lausanne Treaty does not mention the deep controversy about it in the scholarship in Turkey; while some academics describe it as an extraordinary success, others claim that it sought to curtail the independence of the republic and describe it as unsuccessful.

Taken as a whole, the book presents a clear outline of actors, principles,

and practices in Turkey’s foreign policy for interested students and researchers. The book has no intention of giving exhaustively detailed information about Turkey’s foreign policy: rather, it aims to create an idea in readers’ mind on which to build further reading. The broad capacities, limitations, and sources of Turkey’s regional and international power are briefly illustrated in the book without getting lost in details. This practicality of the book is also helpful to lecturers seeking to use it as a course book on Turkey’s foreign policy. Nevertheless, the book can also be criticised for putting forward some controversial arguments, especially in the subchapters on decision-making processes and principles in Turkey’s foreign policy. Overall, however the book provides a readable introduction for students who are becoming interested in Turkey’s foreign policy.

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