



WORLD TURKIC FORUM

"Future Eurasia, Turkic World and Diasporas"





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VISION DOCUMENT

6TH WORLD TURKIC FORUM (2023)

“Future Eurasia, Turkic World and Diasporas”

(2023, Istanbul)

Due to the strategic power vacuum in Central Asia, the struggle between neighboring countries such as the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China and India on the one hand, and global powers such as the US and the EU on the other, has been escalating. The recent economic, social and strategic development projects initiated by India, China and Russia have yielded results and their influence is being felt more and more in Central Asia.

Western countries in general, and the United States in particular, are taking a number of initiatives to stop this rise. For example, the sanctions imposed after the Russian invasion of Crimea have affected the part of Russian foreign trade financed by foreign investors, leaving the Russian economy in a difficult situation, albeit partially.

On the other hand, Russia has been trying to respond to such limitations with efforts to regain its influence in the Baltic states, the Balkans (Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Bulgaria, etc.) and especially in the former USSR legacy countries in Central Asia.

Western sanctions are pushing Russia towards Türkiye and the East. In the midst of increasing economic activity, Russia has taken a number of initiatives to limit and balance the West. For example, the transformation of the South Stream project into the Turkish Stream took place in such an environment. Similarly, the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), signed by Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus in May 2014, entered into force on January 1, 2015, with the accession of Armenia in October 2014 and Kyrgyzstan in December 2014. Although countries other than Russia are not very satisfied with the progress of the Union, Russia has been increasing its efforts in this direction.

Central Asian countries and Türkiye need to closely monitor global and regional developments and strengthen their cooperation in order to direct them in line with their own interests. At this point, the main thing is to observe the global and regional balances well. Türkiye, for example, is naturally affected by the influence-building activities of Russia, its largest economic partner after the EU and a global power. On the other hand, the economic and political capacity of the alliances that Russia is trying to form is not yet at a level to constitute an alternative to the West. Therefore, although it is not possible for Türkiye to remain indifferent to the new developments in Central Asia, it has to act with restraint. In the context of Central Asia, Türkiye cannot produce regional politics by ignoring powers such as the US, Russia and China.



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The level of interdependence in Turkish - Russian relations is extremely high. In fact, Türkiye's interdependence relations with Russia are not limited to Central Asia, as seen in Syria. Relations between the two countries are also affected by the course of global developments, sometimes regressing and sometimes improving.

In terms of relations with the Western world, Türkiye served as NATO's outpost during the Cold War, but despite NATO's victory, it could not avoid falling into a strategic vacuum after the Cold War. In other words, while all other NATO countries walked away with the spoils of the Cold War victory, Türkiye suffered serious losses. In order to avoid similar disappointments in the coming period, it is imperative for Türkiye to develop rational medium and long-term strategies together with other actors in Eurasia. If Türkiye fails to develop rational strategies in Eurasia, the emergence of permanent alliance relations among Asian countries such as China, Russia and Iran may make Türkiye dependent on the West once again.

On the other hand, in today's world, where alliances and parties to partnership agreements are shifting as rapidly as they did on the eve of World War I, it is possible that authoritarian Asian regimes may form political or economic alliances and push Türkiye away from Central Asia. Since such alliances could pose a real threat to Central Asia and Türkiye, a nuanced policy and balance in the East and the West must be pursued very well.

The "Belt and Road" project developed by China aims to establish a connection between the Middle East and Central Asia and China in such a way that it will not be dependent on Western-controlled routes, and to open up the region's raw material resources and markets to the use of China and other Asian countries. In the event that this route is realized and Türkiye is excluded from it, the world could be re-blocked and Türkiye would once again be left without an alternative to the West.

Of course, it is possible for Türkiye to use identity-based soft power tools towards these regions, but Türkiye's dependence on the West for hard power, which will form the skeleton of soft power, will mean that its capacity will become foreign power capacity. Therefore, Türkiye and friendly actors should not once again become the front line of such a bloc between East and West and should develop real political strategies accordingly.

Projects such as making maritime transportation in the Caspian more functional and building a canal linking the Caspian to the Persian Gulf have also been on the agenda more recently. In this way, it seems possible for Asian countries, which are increasingly dominating global production, to strengthen their connections with the Middle East, Russia and Eastern Europe, and to get rid of the long, congested and expensive Western-controlled Malacca and Suez transportation. Türkiye's exclusion from such projects, which are highly likely to materialize in the long term, would pose serious problems for the country's political and economic future.



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The power vacuum created by the collapse of the USSR, the fact that the new states are not strong enough to survive on their own, China's growing strength, India's growing interest in Central Asia, and Russia's attempts to regain the influence it had during the USSR and earlier periods make the region one of the breaking points of the West-East struggle.

From the perspective of the Anglo-Saxon geopolitical culture initiated by geopolitical theorists such as Mahan and Mackinder and represented today by thinkers such as Brzezinski, control of the Region is of vital importance for the US. The aim of controlling the energy trade, especially the oil trade, which is one of the most important elements of world trade in terms of US hegemony, and preventing the Eastern hemisphere from falling under the control of a hegemon other than the US, causes the US to be more preoccupied with the Region.

Efforts to revive the historic Silk Road, control of energy resources and transmission lines in the region are important in terms of containing Russia, China and even India. In order to reduce Chinese and Russian influence in Central Asia, the United States did not stop with the invasion of Afghanistan and signed the C5+1 cooperation agreement with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. In this environment, the survival of military bases in Central Asia and the continuation of US control in Afghanistan are becoming increasingly important for the West.

Organization of Turkish States and Beyond

Türkiye's effectiveness in Asian projects and thus in global politics depends on establishing a healthy and lasting basis for its relations with friendly and related communities and states in Asia. For this, relations with these communities will be possible thanks to rational and realistic policies that are egalitarian, participatory, benefiting from the unifying power of emotions, but do not allow emotionality to be abused by one or another actor. The realization of such cooperation will bring great benefits for all stakeholders. The Turkic world could even play a balancing role in easing the intensifying tensions between East and West.

The 6th World Turkic Forum is envisioned to evaluate the strategic and political developments regarding the future of the Turkic world countries and the world, and to contribute to the formation of healthy and lasting relations between the countries of the Region and the great powers related to the Region in general. The search for balance and stability is recognized as the main starting point.

The 6th World Turkic Forum, which will convene under the title of "**Future Eurasia, Turkic World and Diasporas**", aims to make a modest contribution to the creation of a unity of discourse in the Turkic world, to accelerate the production of ideas necessary for the solution of problems, to improve the image of the countries of the Turkic world and to put the Turkic accumulation at the service of all humanity.



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"Future Eurasia, Turkic World and Diasporas"

Main Theme

Future Eurasia, Turkish World and Diasporas

Sub-themes

Future Turkic World Ecosystem and Unity

- Türkiye
- Uzbekistan
- Kazakhstan
- Turkmenistan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Azerbaijan
- Cognate Communities
- Diasporas
- Future Organization of Turkic States

China, Russia and India: The Rise of Regional Powers in Eurasia

Europe, the US and Asian Powers: Global Power Struggle

New Conjuncture in Eurasia and the Turkic World

- The Turkic World in the Face of Global Political Developments: Challenges and Opportunities
- Opportunities for Political and Strategic Cooperation
- Language, Religion, History, Geography
- Economic, Cultural and Security Perspectives for the Union
- Belt and Road, Modern Silk Road Projects
- Raw Material, Production and Market Search
- Strategy and Vision for Governance and Communication
- Consultation and Decision Making Processes
- Academic Activities
- Business World
- Think Tanks



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World Turkic Forum; has been projected by TASAM to gather Turks living all across the world, representatives of the Turkic world and Turkic social movements and civil initiatives operating in various countries in the frame of social, cultural and economical issues. It was institutionalized with an announced declaration after the first meeting in **Istanbul between the dates of 20-22 October, 2010** with the participation of thought and opinion leaders of Turkic Diaspora from all over the world with the official and civil delegations from independent Turkic Governments who joined to the agreement of "Turkish Speaking Countries Council Treaty".

World Turkic Forum meetings have been actualizing in different main themes since 2010 by the participation of exclusive statesmen, politicians, bureaucrats, diplomats, scientists, experts, artists, businessmen, managers and representatives of NGOs and media from Turkic World and Turkic Diasporas. Former **World Turkic Forum** meetings were organized five times successfully by the qualified participation from approximately 60 countries under the main themes of "Turkic Council, Turkic Diaspora and Socioeconomic Cooperation", "Turkic Diaspora and Turkic World Vision 2023", "Turkic Republics; Cultural Diplomacy and Tourism | Turkic and Armenian Diasporas; Public Diplomacy: Opportunities and Risks", "Public Diplomacy, Media, Information", "Strategic Communication: Reference Values, Institutions, Persons". Represented notifications in the meetings have been publishing in English and Asian languages by collecting into books by **TASAM Publishing**. In this process, **Wise Persons Board** has held 4 meetings.

World Turkic Forum Wise Persons Board

Ambassador (R) Prof. Dr. Ali Engin OBA, Consultant of Chairman, TASAM, Turkey

Prof. Dr. Ahat ANDİCAN, Lecturer of Istanbul University, Former State Minister

Prof. Dr. Emine GÜRSOY NASKALİ, Lecturer of Marmara University

Prof. Dr. Faruk ŞEN, Chairman of TAVAK

Prof. Dr. Hakkı KESKİN, Honorary Chairman of Germany Turkish Society, Germany

Prof. Dr. İsenbike TOGAN, Boğaziçi University

Prof. Dr. Kadırali KONKOBAYEV, Manas Kyrgyz - Turkish University, Kyrgyzstan

Prof. Dr. Vamık VOLKAN, Center for the Study of Mind and Human Interaction Virginia University, USA

Dr. Veyis GÜNGÖR, Chairman Türkevi Research Centre, Netherlands

Ambassador Halil AKINCI, Advisor to Secretary General of the Organization of Turkic States

Hakkı ATUN, EMU, Former Prime Minister of the Assembly Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Anar RIZAYEV, Member of Writers Union, Azerbaijan

Olcas SÜLEYMENOV, Permanent Representative of UNESCO, Writer, Kazakhstan



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Red-Apple Awards

In the same process, in order to honor and encourage successful individuals and institutions that strengthen the socio-economic and cultural integration, vision and depth of the Turkic World, the **Turkic World Red Apple Awards** in the fields of state, diplomacy, business, science, culture, arts, technology, strategy, sports and public diplomacy have been given simultaneously with the Forum since 2014. The awards have met their owners 3 times before.

Cooperating and Supporting Institutions

Education Culture and Social Solidarity Foundation of Ahiskan Turks

Air Astana

Eurasia Turkish Foundation Federation

Ayaz Tahir Turkestan Idil Ural Foundation

Ministry of Diaspora of Azerbaijan Republic

Bagcilar Municipality

Solidarity Foundation of Eastern Turkestan

Migrants Foundation of Eastern Turkestan

Culture and Solidarity Foundation of Eastern Turkestan

Eastern Turkestan Foundation

Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey

Edirne Commodity Exchange

Edirne Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Governance of Edirne

Eskişehir 2013 Turkic World Cultural Capital Agency

Culture and Solidarity Foundation of Gagauz Turks

Strategic Studies Center of Hacettepe University

Hodja Ahmet Yesevi Foundation

Eurasia Institute of Istanbul University

Karadeniz Technical University

Kazak Turks Foundation

Friendship and Culture Foundation of Kyrgyzstan

The Governance of Mardin

Union of Marmara Municipalities

Institute of Turkic Studies of Marmara University

Eurasia Development and Research Center of Okan University

Republic of Turkey Office of the Prime Minister Directorate

General of Press and Information

Republic of Turkey Promotion Fund

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkish Republic

Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkish Republic

TEKFEN Holding

TMB Media

Trakya Birlik

TRT

Touristic Hotels & Investors Association (TUROB)

Turkish Academy

Union of Turkish World Municipalities

Human Rights Foundation of Turkic World

Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency

Organization of Turkic States

Turkish Society Head Office

Turkestan Science Circulation Society

Union of Turkish Municipalities

Association of Turkish Travel Agencies

International Transporters Foundation

Ziraat Bank