

KURDISH CONFLICT AND BUILDING PEACE IN TURKEY. THE LIMITS OF NEO-LIBERAL PRO-ISLAMIST POLITICS

Cuma CICEK

Abstract

The new geopolitical conditions and the regional seeking of neoliberal, pro-Islamist politics in Middle East facilitate the ending of the Kurdish conflict in Turkey and to rebuild political relation with the Iraqi Kurds. The US suggests Turkey to develop peaceful and strong political relations with the Iraqi Kurds, and to end the armed conflict and to disarm the PKK in Turkey. Beside, the new search of the neoliberal pro-Islamic politics in the Middle East, Caucasia and Balkan necessitates eliminating the long-lasting political questions including Kurdish issue; and normalize the Turkish political system in accordance with the liberal democratic polity. Turkey's energy policies in the region and the AKP efforts to become a powerful actor in the regional energy market condition the settlement of the Kurdish conflict in Turkey. Moreover, the rise of pro-Kurdish politics both within Turkey and Iraq during the last two decades has nearly closed the door on the sustainability of the traditional security policy. However, the AKP's recent democratic initiative which has started with a big hope for resolving the Kurdish issue and disarming the PKK, become a fruitless governmental attempt, even if it has not totally failed. In this paper, I argue that, AKP's Turkish nationalist ideological-political character, the lack of the deep democratic values in the political tradition of neoliberal pro-Islamic politics and its weak administrative capacity about the Kurdish issue have prevented it from going beyond the traditional national security policy to solve the Kurdish issue and to disarm the PKK.

Key words: Kurdish conflict, Kurdish Issue, Turkey, Iraq, AKP, pro-Islamic politics.