
Editorial

Perceptions has a new editorial board and with this new issue has changed its design as part of our tireless efforts to bring high-quality analyses to our readers' attention. The new editorial board consists of prominent academics specializing in Turkish foreign policy and different fields of international relations. In our future issues, the members of the editorial board will take an active part in the restructuring of the journal by soliciting first-rate research papers, preparing special issues, and assisting in the peer-review process. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the former board members for helping put together this journal; we will certainly continue to benefit from their knowledge and experience.

The new design and board of *Perceptions* is part of the overall reorganization of the Center for Strategic Research (SAM). *Perceptions* will continue to serve as the flagship publication of the SAM, which is poised to emerge as a leading research center. The coverage of the journal will be widened to reflect the emerging regions and issues of interests to the dynamic agenda of Turkey's new foreign policy. With its proactive and multidimensional foreign policy, Turkey has been the center of attraction in academic studies as well as in policy circles. In addition, Turkey's

scholarly community and policymakers have broadened their research interests as they are now studying myriad issues in international relations, regional studies and foreign policy analysis. *Perceptions* aims to make a double-edged contribution by providing a platform for the dissemination of high-quality articles examining the diverse universe of Turkish foreign policy practices in particular, and international relations studies in general.

Perceptions has been published as a semi-annual journal in recent years. Starting from 2011, it will be published three times annually. Another novelty in *Perceptions* is the editorial introduction, which will briefly outline the contents of the current issue and inform about the themes to be dealt with in the forthcoming issues. This particular special issue, consisting of six articles, examines various cases and issues from Turkish foreign policy. The articles are updated and revised from their earlier versions published in Turkish in *SETA Foreign Policy Yearbook 2009*. We would like to thank the SETA Foundation for their permission to publish the extended versions of these articles. This issue owes much to the guest editor Şaban Kardaş and managing editor Engin Karaca, as their valuable help was crucial in putting this collection together.

In his contribution to the current issue, Fuat Keyman focuses on the challenges presented to Turkish foreign policy by the growing salience of globalization, modernity and democracy in international relations. Adopting a political economy perspective, Sadık Ünay explains how diplomacy operates in an age of economic globalization and how economic considerations have transformed Turkey's foreign policy understanding. The following articles discuss different cases from Turkish foreign policy, particularly in 2009 and afterwards. After an historical account, Ramazan Gözen carefully traces the key issues affecting Turkish-American relations in 2009. Nasuh Uslu provides a comprehensive analysis of the major developments pertaining to the Cyprus problem and their implications for Turkish foreign policy and Turkey-EU relations. Mesut Özcan offers insights on the developments in Iraqi domestic affairs and the place occupied by Iraqi-related developments in Turkish foreign policy. Sevinç Alkan Özcan traces Turkey's policy on Afghanistan since 2001, providing a good account of Turkey's international

and regional diplomacy to find a solution to the Afghan conflict.

Overall, this issue features competing perspectives on different economic and security-related factors, as well as domestic determinants, influencing Turkish foreign policy, with a good balance of regional and global issues. While some contributors identify a desire for more independent and autonomous action on the part of Turkish decision makers, other contributors underscore how Turkey continues to coordinate its policies with its traditional partners in the West. The editorial team at *Perceptions* hopes this collection of essays will make a good read for our readers, and become a key reference source for researchers on Turkish foreign policy.

Soon, we will meet you with new special issues, looking among others at Turco-Italian perspectives on regional and global issues, and security in the Middle East. Stay tuned with us.

Bülent ARAS
Editor-in Chief
