

SUSRAN ERKAN EROĞLU
ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1522-9652>
esusranerkan@gmail.com

Eroğlu, S.E. (2019). Secure Europe & Turkey: Secure World. *Intercultural Communication*, ISSN 2451-0998, vol. 1(6)2019, pp. 279–288. DOI: 10.13166/inco/105535

Alcide De Gasperi University of Euroregional Economy
Poland, Józefów

Secure Europe & Turkey: Secure World

ABSTRACT

Security and secure society are important concepts in today's world. These two concepts are crucial in daily life of individual to feel secure and to focus on every day events, such as job, education, life styles, survival etc. In this context, security and secure society are in process in daily routines for individuals for a macro environment. In this article this process will be examined in the framework of European Union, Turkey's membership process and the projections of world's security in general.

Purpose. In this article it will be tried to elaborate the concept of security in general for world and in specific for Europe and Turkey.

Methods. The work uses a method of critical analysis of scientific sources and the results of practical experience, structural and functional analysis, systematization, and generalization.

Conclusion. Addressing the EU's relations with key countries in Middle-East and the south Caucasus and Turkey will provide sound insights into the major problems facing by this region as well as into the key advances and remaining challenges in the political, economic social and geostrategic relationships between the EU and Turkey. This will allow for identifying significant policy implications for the EU's approach to each of the countries individually and to the region overall.

Keywords: Security, Secure Society, European Union, Turkey's Membership to the EU.

Introduction

Secure society is important environment where individuals maintain a happy and prosperous life. The importance of security for societies brings the concept in terms of the terminology of international relations. The perspective of international relations on security has changed depending on the different meanings in the historical process, and the bipolar structure of the Cold War period, as in all other issues, has led to the approach of security within the framework of block policies (Kurt, 2015). In addition, the main threats to the security of societies are thought to stem mainly from the prosperity of human life. For this reason, security at the time of the national security window is viewed. In terms of objective meaning, security points to the existence of threats to acquired values; In a subjective sense, security refers to the lack of fear that these values will be attacked (more: Chodak, 2015).

The concept of security is not just about the individual. Starting from the individual, it is possible to talk about the security of the society, the state and even the states on the world scale. For this reason, the concept of security also tends to expand with new dimensions. Today, different security types such as psychological, social, political, legal, economic security and public security can be mentioned.

When looking at the history of the World, it is seen that there is a major changing between the 20th and 21st Centuries, which affects entire World. By this wind of changing, so-called globalization, this age becomes a period in which national cultures, economies and borders are blurred, political polarizations are disappeared, liberal tendencies get stronger, technology is developed incomprehensibly and the route of social life is mainly determined by global processes. In relation to this change, the effort of setting up regional integration is still alive. If its historical process is considered, the integration of European Union (EU), which gains a new dimension today, cannot be evaluated as one of the regional integration process in a globalized World because –when compared to the other integration processes- EU becomes an original historical project, which is based on economy and targeted political goals. Moreover, this integration creates its own law and rules independent from international law and it sets up separate judicial, legislative and executive organs that have

priority on the national judicial, legislative, and executive organs and laws of member countries (Kiljunen, 2004). Consequently, the Union is gained a constitutional background.

The above-mentioned development for security led to the need for a new theoretical framework for the analysis of the concept of security. This new theoretical framework should address that it considers different actors in the society in addition to the state and incorporates threats from the political, social, economic and environmental sectors in the analysis framework (Kurt, 2015). In this article it will be tried to elaborate the concept of security in general for world and in specific for Europe and Turkey.

What is Security?

Security can be considered as the protection of freedom from threats and the ability of states and societies to protect their independent identity and functional integrity against the forces of change they see as enemies. The lowest level of security is survival (more about the concept of basic needs of a human in: Sitek, M., 2016). However, at a reasonable level, there are important concerns about asset conditions (Buzan, 1991). In this context, it is tried to be defined by referring to the basic notions such as security, protection from dangers, feeling secure and being out of doubt. However, starting from the 20th century, the understanding of security has begun to change and witness the rise of social and political security that is evaluated globally (Roman, 2015). Historically, the successful development of social security has also supported the success of political security globally.

Globalization is an important process to emphasize the new understanding of security. With the global world, the consciousness of civilization that people have been fighting for centuries has gained a great speed. Non-governmental organizations on a global scale create huge changes. We can call this phenomenon, which are a heterogeneous structure in terms of individuality, in which the general issues are handled and in terms of individuality. These phenomena, which are different from the past understanding of security in terms of method, content and participation, are already a candidate to replace the powerful powers of the past with the help of civil society organizations

(Eroğlu, Florek, 2018). The new understanding of security in terms of globalization, which includes all the blessings of science and technology, spread the consciousness of civil culture rapidly and gradually stand out in the new world order.

In this context in a world of globalization where international relations are getting more and more complicated and nations are becoming more and more dependent on one another, it is a very significant political must for Turkey be on the EU's agenda and involve in it on grounds that the country should prevent decisions made against itself and secure her interests.

The authority to call a development a security problem is a privilege given to the state and its elites. Those who hold power always try to use the securitization instrument to gain control over a subject. So when a subject is declared by the elites it becomes a security problem (Weaver, 1995, p. 47). On the other hand, policies tend to serve both sides as supporting the common interests that could be summed up in three titles:

- 1) Spreading freedom and democracy by means of political division, which considers common values and interests.
- 2) Providing a serious economic integration and raising the level of welfare of member states by means of economic reforms.
- 3) Raising stability and security in neighbouring countries by means of some strategies such as development, environmental policies, disarmament, struggle with terrorism, etc., which are supposed to be maintained parallel to European Security Strategy.

As a result security is the provision and protection of social order. In this respect, it can be said that people have a life free from all kinds of danger, they can live without fear, the social order works in a way that people are constantly working in line with their needs, and everyone feels safe and it is considered as a concept which is related to the concept of threat.

In addition to this conceptual approach, it is seen that security is considered as a concept closely related to the concept of threat. As a matter of fact, security and threat are considered as two concepts that are complementary and opposite to each other; besides they influence each mutually and continuously. On the

other hand, it is possible that situations that are not real or that are unlikely will be considered as a threat. Perhaps the measures taken by perceiving the threat as a threat that will never happen, can sometimes be wasted efforts. Despite there is an inseparable and contradictory relationship between security and threat concepts; security criteria are taken because of potential threats; these security criteria lead to the emergence of different threats and new and higher security criteria. Meanwhile, the concept of security refers to the situation of omitting the possibility of threat, this definition means that distrust is seen as a threat (Buzan, Hansen, 2009). According to this description security is cause for protection of social order. In this frame, it can be said that people have a life free from all kinds of danger, the threat, on the other hand, is based on real facts and events, and on the other hand, perceptions and predictions.

Whether a threat is a real danger occurs when it occurs they can live without fear, the social order works in a way that people are constantly working in line with their needs, and everyone feels safe and it is considered as a concept which is related to the concept of threat. However, in order to be able to mention the security phenomenon; one or more internal or external threats, or such perceptions and predictions (Wolfers, 1962). At this point, it is possible to define security in an objective and subjective sense by considering the concept of threat.

European Union & Turkey

When looking at the history of the World, it is seen that there is a major changing between the 20th and 21st Centuries, which affects entire World. By this wind of changing, so-called globalization, this age becomes a period in which national cultures, economies and borders are blurred, political polarizations are disappeared, liberal tendencies get stronger, technology is developed incomprehensibly, and the route of social life is mainly determined by global processes. In relation to this change, the effort of setting up regional integration is still alive. If its historical process is considered, the integration of European Union (EU), which gains a new dimension today, cannot be evaluated as one of the regional integration process in a globalized World because –when compared to the other integration processes- EU becomes an original historical project, which is based on economy and targeted political goals. Moreover,

this integration creates its own law and rules independent from international law and it sets up separate judicial, legislative and executive organs that have priority on the national judicial, legislative, and executive organs and laws of member countries (Kiljunen, 2004). Consequently, the Union is gained a constitutional background.

In 1999, Turkey gained the status of candidate state and started the negotiations in 2005. Now, because of the suspending of the eight articles by European Council and the veto of some member countries, negotiation process has been progressing slowly for a long time. On the other hand, political changes occurred both in Turkey and EU produce new problem areas to be solved. One of them is the enlargement of EU in 2004, which receives ten countries (Northern Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Slovenia). After this enlargement, the borders of Europe have changed, and this prompted EU to search for a new policy that secures EU and help EU to create positive relationship with its neighbouring countries. In this context, in March 2003, European Commission prepared a document named *Wider Europe — Neighbourhood: A New Framework for Relations with our Eastern and Southern Neighbours (Communication..., 2003)*. By this report, it was aimed at constructing *Wider Europe Mission Power*. In May 12, 2004; *European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) (Communication..., 2004)* -as the basic document for the current policy- has been released. After the fifth enlargement process, the target of ENP is to have deeper relationships with its neighbour and to remove the borders that separate the continent of Europe. Thus, it is easily observed that the neighbourhood policy is based on strengthening the ties with neighbours rather than a new enlargement process. On the other hand, policies tend to serve both sides as supporting the common interests. By considering this target, some of the projects that consider the unique structure of the members have been implemented by shedding light on the necessities of the same countries. These common interests about neighbourhood policy could be summed up in three titles:

- Spreading freedom and democracy by means political division, which considers common values and interests.
- Providing a serious economic integration and raising the level of welfare of member states by means of economic reforms.

- ▶ Raising stability and security in neighbouring countries by means of some strategies such as development, environmental policies, disarmament, struggle with terrorism, etc., which are supposed to maintained parallel to European Security Strategy.

Because Turkey is in the status of candidate country to EU, this country is not subjected to the *ENP* but to the *Barcelona Process* (Union..., 2016). *ENP* continues to its development through some projections in 2007-2013 that appear as a part of *Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EUROMED)* (An official website...), which is formed by Barcelona Process (1995). Because Turkey's membership to EU will enlarge *ENP* towards new and problematic regions, this policy is important for Turkey, as well. When Turkey becomes a member, some countries and regions such as Southern Caucasians, Iraq, Iran, and Syria will be the neighbouring country to European Union. That is why; Turkey's relationships with the countries mentioned above will become crucial (Sitek, P., 2007).

Discussion and Conclusion

In a world of globalization where international relations are getting more and more complicated and nations are becoming more and more dependent on one another, it is a very significant political must for Turkey be on the EU's agenda and involve in it on grounds that the country should prevent decisions made against itself and secure her interests.

One of the most fundamental objectives of the EU's establishment and maybe the most important one is to sustain economic union. The EU is the community the actual aim of which was to accommodate the economic interests between the countries in Europe and maintain the economic union to prevent global caused by the conflicts of economic interests in Europe. This is the most forceful supranational organization on economic grounds in the world. Besides, for quite a long time, Turkey has economic and commercial ties with most of the countries in Europe making up the EU. Therefore, it is of utmost significance for Turkey to participate in such a vast and prosperous market.

All markets enabling Turkey to set up economic and commercial ties to make profits are important, yet it is the EU member states and the whole

European market itself with which Turkey can traditionally establish both consistent and permanent economic and commercial ties (Enhancement of EU-Turkey).

Besides the political criteria of Copenhagen, Turkey has both fulfilled important reforms required for the implementation of the Copenhagen economic criteria during the process Customs Union valid since 1996 and improved its commercial and economic ties with the EU countries. With the advent of the Union of Customs, Turkey issued about 50% of its foreign trade volume with the EU countries. Moreover, it is also thanks to the Union of Customs that the number of the European companies investing in Turkey has considerably increased (*Turkey's Foreign Trade 1990-2004*). Turkey's membership to the EU will grant dynamism to the European domestic market with its progressing economy together with its well-educated and dynamic population and the relative capability in the global economy will gain power. Undoubtedly, Turkey will contribute much to the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) as well.

In this respect, one of the matters to be concerned about is the fact that the efforts to make the European society aware of the potential benefits of Turkey's probable full membership to the EU. Embracement of Turkey by the European people and explaining them that the possible EU membership of the country will also benefit the union require especially advanced lobby activities just as in examples in the West itself. Thus, lobby can be defined as the execution of a well-coordinated, constant and versatile publicity intended for the improvement of the current image of Turkey in the European society as well as the strategy of manipulating and directing the decision-making processes by advocating Turkey's arguments by means of several methods and instruments in the eye of the EU.

Even though there can be expected significant political developments in certain realms in the next 10-15 years, the discussion is based upon the current policies. Though the possible transition predications and specific regulations are to be considered respectively, Turkey will at least undertake and fulfil all the EU requirements.

Considering that Turkey's full membership to EU is an important national foreign policy today, it becomes very important to know what steps Turkey

has taken, which processes has been experienced and what these mean for both sides. To know and analyse these all, some concrete researches should be immediately started and maintained. By this way, it will be possible to understand Turkey's national foreign policy in a clear way at least detecting general frame of membership process. Of course, there have been many analyses in different subjects since Turkey's official application to full membership. These have done by both Turkish and European sides throughout the long candidateship process. However, when the current literature is examined, it is seen that the membership of Turkey to EU is dealt with in one-sided perspective. This perspective, which is far from versatility, is based on the barriers in front of Turkey's full membership, possible structural (and serious) changes in EU in case of Turkey's full membership, Turkey's responsibilities during the membership process, etc.

Hence; addressing the EU's relations with key countries in Middle-East and the south Caucasus and Turkey will provide sound insights into the major problems facing this region as well as into the key advances and remaining challenges in the **political, economic social and geostrategic relationships** between the EU and TR. This will allow for identifying significant policy implications for the EU's approach to each of the countries individually and to the region overall.

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Received: 28.10.2018

Accepted: 14.01.2019