

Foreign Policy Discourse and the Construction of Turkish Identity

by

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Abstract

While much literature currently exists on the relationship between Turkish national identity construction and domestic policy, little is known about the relationship between Turkey's identity and its security policy. Working from a constructivist paradigm, this project seeks to determine whether there is a relationship between Turkey's competing secularist and Islamist constructions of national identity and its security policy. Discourse analysis is performed on 119 articles, opinion columns, and interviews published in three mainstream Turkish newspapers during the 2000-2005 EU accession negotiations and the 2002-2003 Iraq crisis. Comments are evaluated in order to determine whether, to what extent, and toward what end those opinion-makers use the language of identity in discussions of security policy. As one of the first examinations of identity and security in the Turkish case, this paper fills a gap in the literature in constructivist studies.

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