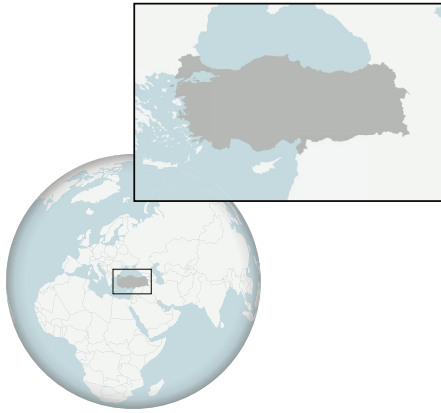


Strategic Ambiguity

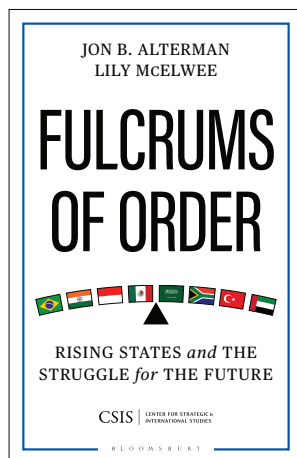
Erdoğan's Turkey in Multipolar World



DECEMBER 2025

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OVERVIEW

Turkey's foreign policy reflects a deliberate pursuit of strategic ambiguity that maximizes autonomy amid great power competition.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Atatürk's legacy created a Western-oriented but sovereignty-conscious state.
- Cold War alignment with the West provided security but limited maneuverability.
- Through 20 years of AK Party rule, Turkey has sought to enhance strategic autonomy in order to elevate its regional centrality.

ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

- Foreign policy is seen as a tool to widen economic corridors and boost energy linkages.
- Turkey seeks to be an economic hub connecting Europe and Asia.

DEFENSE INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC AUTONOMY

- Indigenous defense production has enhanced military independence and export influence.
- Expanding drone exports have increased Turkey's leverage in Africa, Eurasia, and the Balkans.
- Reduced dependence on Western systems has broadened strategic options.

GREAT POWER NAVIGATION

- Ankara balances its NATO obligations with calibrated and often agile engagement with Russia, China, and Iran.
- Cooperation with Moscow remains transactional across energy, defense, and conflict zones.

GLOBAL AMBITIONS

- Military deployments, aid, and cultural outreach expand Turkey's footprint in Europe and the Middle East, but Turkey's global ambitions are more limited.
- While Turkey is deeply engaged across NATO, EU, and Global South platforms, it has paid relatively less attention to reform of the United Nations or international financial institutions.