**The political economy of regional powers: The case of Turkey**

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**Abstract**

This paper focuses on the political economy of Turkey’s quest for regional powerhood. It offers an eclectic account that links trading state debates with the Turkish state’s capacity to manage regional affairs. The AKP government in Turkey adopted an ambitious economy-driven regional integration agenda in the post-2002 period. Turkey’s integration policies, however, plunged into stalemate in the decade followed. The regional security dynamics have dramatically changed in the post-Arab-upheavals era, and that this means there are imminent impediments to utilize economy as a problem-solving mechanism in Turkish foreign policy. My premise is that an in-depth study of the Turkish case enables researchers to determine the scope conditions that shape the limits of trading state policies within under-institutionalized and competitive regional orders. Drawing from the Turkish case, the paper concludes that domestic economic structures and regional security environment jointly determine the success and failure of the regional integration strategies of the emerging powers.

**Short bio**

Dr Mustafa Kutlayis lecturer at the Department of International Politics at City University of London. Dr Kutlay works on comparative politics, political economy, emerging powers, and Southern Europe. His articles appeared in *Government and Opposition*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, *New Perspectives on Turkey,* inter alia. His most recent book is *The Political Economies of Turkey and Greece: Crisis and Change* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019).