TURKEY'S MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

In the last decade of the 20th century, a rapid process of change in political, economic and social structures has been experienced throughout the world through globalisation, along with the interaction between countries and technologies. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Eastern Bloc and the bipolar system which emerged after the Second World War, military and political balances within the international system were re-determined. A pluralist participatory democracy, respect for human rights, awareness of the fact that human responsibility is a complementary factor of human rights, a liberal market economy, national and international transparency and ethics have become the basic principles of this structure that is applicable for the entire world. Within this scope, an important aspect of the globalisation process intensified especially by information technology, is the relative decrease in the nation-state impact on decision-making systems within the dynamics of time and an increase in supranational impact. Supranational impact is formed basically by international institutions, mostly transnational firms and powerful nation states.

The accurate and effective functioning of the system is the basic prerequisite for the political, economic, cultural and social structures and technological formations brought about by the globalisation process to raise the level of prosperity of mankind, to reduce and gradually remove the imbalances in the standards of living among countries, regions and individuals. Effective operation of the global system with the minimum of errors depends upon the functioning of pluralist-participatory democracy, market economy, national and international transparency and ethics interacting within a framework. Moreover, it is also dependent upon its effect on decision-making processes and governance in interaction with statistical infrastructure, information systems and information technology.

The most significant drawback that can occur as a result of a lack of accurate and effective functioning of the global system in the future is the probability that the problems created by gaps which will arise between those individuals and societies that can obtain information and those that cannot, may be more serious than created by the differences between the rich and poor, and the developed and underdeveloped countries in the past. Within this process, it is probable that individuals, institutions and societies that have no access to information shall result in the creation of rigid classes and remain out of the system. Among the basic problems of the first decades of the 21st century will be to find solutions, guide and apply measures which would reduce the negative effects of the globalisation process to a minimum and maintain its positive elements to the maximum.

In this regard, while also taking into account the globalisation process, it becomes necessary for countries to determine their strategies in a broader context. Turkey also has to solve the issue of determining medium and long-range strategies not only according to the conditions of the country but also based on the global scale.

Turks are among the nations who have played the most important role in the course of world history for millennia. In this period of transition from the 20th to the 21st century, by efficiently utilizing the country's geopolitical location, physical and social resources, human resources and cultural riches, Turkey may be able to assume her place among the societies shaping the future of the world.

Turkey's historical background and its delicate geostrategic position, with its positive and negative dimensions, require a global approach to national, regional and international developments. For a country like Turkey to ensure its optimum, it is necessary to follow a multilateral foreign policy and to approach events on a global scale.

There are two main facts determining, to a great extent, the impact of states on the global system. One of them is the "role and geostrategic..."
position of the countries within the interaction of powers. The second is "culture" which determines the attitudes of human beings and societies and reflects the experiences of past generations.

Within the existing "system of the interaction of powers", in order to enhance Turkey’s effectiveness in its own region as well as in the international arena, world developments have to be closely followed not only from an economic perspective but also cover other areas such as international relations, culture, arts, science and technology. Developments in all fields should be followed and the economic and social capital and the human resources of the country should be adopted into this process of rapid change.

Within this framework, in the process of the interaction of powers in the global system, and within the rules of a pluralist and participatory democracy and technical state under the supremacy of the law, it is obvious that it is imperative to follow a strategy that would transform the blank margins and possibilities into an added value for the country and thus attain the final aim of achieving the optimum result for Turkey.

It is possible for Turkey, among a total of 193 countries, to be placed among the 15 countries having the maximum impact on the system in the cumulative sense in less than 10 years and among the top 9 countries again in a period shorter than 20 years. The prerequisite for this is that no significant strategic errors should be made in the coming decade. This is an end result of creating a strategy, decision making and implementation strategies based on national and global awareness, building upon the basis of knowledge, humanity, technology and science, institutionalisation, quality, reliability, continuity, aims and determination. In this context, ensuring peace, economic and social welfare, providing culture and
consciousness for our people and for the rest of the world, will only be possible through ensuring knowledge, power, quality, reliability, effectiveness and continuity in all subjects in the broad sense.

It is possible for Turkey, who is in close interaction with the world, with her existing geostrategic position, natural and human resources, historical heritage and cultural riches, to enhance her regional and global influence to a great extent in the coming decade, provided a system exists within which medium and long-term objectives are defined rationally according to the optimum result for Turkey. Effective coordination is provided to the maximum extent to reach these aims, resources are distributed in a rational and balanced way, implementation of the decisions are effectively carried out and finally the projects realised are monitored where they are transferred to the end users and democratic participation is provided. In order to attain this aim, the most important requirements are to ensure transparency, a pluralist and participatory democracy, an individual and institutional ethical approach, reliability, quality, stability and continuity in interaction with science, culture, arts, economy, society and life.

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