



**ARI MOVEMENT'S ROUNDTABLE MEETING: "TURKEY, IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES:
POWER TRIANGLE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY?"**

14 May 2010 Friday, 10.00

İstanbul Bilgi University, Mütevelli Heyet Odası, Dolapdere Campus, Dolapdere Beyoğlu İstanbul

Dear Madam/Sir,

You are cordially invited to ARI Movement roundtable meeting hosting Mr. Stephan Kinzer as speaker and Prof. Dr. Feroz Ahmad commentator. Please find below the program and concept note of the meeting.

For participation please register your name to Mr. Bülent Kuş bulent@ari.org.tr or 0212 211 90 71

Ural Aküzüm
Chairman

Speaker: Stephen Kinzer Journalist, New York Times, Author, "*Crescent and Star: Turkey Between Two Worlds*"

Moderator: Arda Batu Board Member, ARI Movement, Lecturer, Yeditepe University

Commentator:

Prof. Dr. Feroz Ahmad Yeditepe University, Political History

Program:

10:00-10:40	Presentations
10:40-12:40	Roundtable Discussions
12:40-14:15	Lunch
14:15-16:00	Roundtable Discussions

Concept Note:

The roundtable meeting, titled "**Turkey, Iran and the United States: Power Triangle for the 21st century?**" will take place on **May 14, 2010** at Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul. The meeting highlights the need of producing contemporary policies for Turkey and the USA that will take into consideration the changing global security order and the rising challenges at the national, regional and international level and their implications in the 21st century.

Turkey has introduced a "zero problems-good neighbors" foreign policy under AKP rule that has tilted the axis of Ankara's diplomacy in the direction of bordering states, including Iran. Through this new foreign policy that reflect its historical interests in the Middle East and Islamic world, Turkey has also become a prized outlet for Iran since a tight regime of sanctions further isolated Iran from the western world. The 'West' and particularly the USA is discontent over Turkish maneuvering closer to Iran, which has undermined the international campaign to isolate the Islamic regime.

The United States, on the other hand, has dealt with the Middle East and surrounding regions for many decades in the context of the Cold War. Since the Cold War has ended however, a critical question arises as to how USA should change its approach to a region which has significantly changed. Are the two significant powers of the Middle East, Turkey and Iran, logical partners for the USA in the twenty-first century? If a stable partnership is consolidated between these three powers to form a 'new power triangle' in Kinzer's terms, how will it affect USA's relations with its traditional Middle East allies, Israel and Saudi Arabia?

We are hoping to explore these questions through the presentation of Mr. Stephan Kinzer and the valuable contribution of a select group of politicians, journalists, experts and academics whose names are provided in the attached document.



Who is Stephen Kinzer?

Stephen Kinzer is an award-winning foreign correspondent who has covered more than 50 countries on five continents. His articles and books have led the *Washington Post* to place him "among the best in popular foreign policy storytelling." Kinzer's most recent book is *A Thousand Hills: Rwanda's Rebirth and the Man Who Dreamed It*. Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa called it "a fascinating account of a near-miracle unfolding before our very eyes". In 2006 Kinzer published *Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq*. It recounts the 14 times the United States has overthrown foreign governments. He is also the author of *All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror*. It tells how the CIA overthrew Iran's nationalist government in 1953. From 1983 to 1989, Kinzer was the *Times* bureau chief in Nicaragua. In that post he covered war and upheaval in Central America. He also wrote two books about the region. One of them, co-authored with Stephen Schlesinger, is *Bitter Fruit: The Untold Story of the American Coup in Guatemala*. The other one, *Blood of Brothers: Life and War in Nicaragua*, is a social and political portrait that *The New Yorker* called "impressive for the refinement of its writing and also the breadth of its subject matter." Columbia University awarded Kinzer its Maria Moors Cabot prize for outstanding coverage of Latin America. From 1990 to 1996 Kinzer was posted in Germany. He was chief of the *New York Times* bureau in Bonn, and after German unification became chief of the Berlin bureau. From there he covered the emergence of post-Communist Europe, including wars in the former Yugoslavia. In 1996 Kinzer was named chief of the newly opened New York Times bureau in Istanbul, Turkey. He spent four years there, traveling widely in Turkey and in the new nations of Central Asia and the Caucasus. After completing this assignment, Kinzer published *Crescent and Star: Turkey Between Two Worlds*. Before joining the *New York Times*, Kinzer was a Latin America correspondent for the *Boston Globe*. He was also a newspaper columnist and a state government official in Massachusetts. Kinzer studied history at Boston University and graduated with high honors. He now teaches journalism and political science at Northwestern University, contributes articles to the *New York Review of Books* and other periodicals, and writes a world affairs column for *The Guardian*. In 2009, Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois, awarded Stephen Kinzer an honorary doctorate. The citation said that "those of us who have had the pleasure of hearing his lectures or talking to him informally will probably never see the world in the same way again."

Who is Prof. Dr. Feroz Ahmad?

Feroz Ahmad, born in Delhi in 1938, attained his BA from Delhi University St. Stephen College on Indian History. He attended London School Oriental and African Studies and in 1966 got his Ph.d Degree after completing his thesis with Bernard Lewis, entitled 'The Committee of Union and Progress in Turkish Politics'. He lectured at Columbia University between 1966-67. He became lecturer at Massachusetts University History departmen in 1967, where he became professor in 1978. He lectured at Harvard University Middle East Research Center in 1980-81. He was also guest lecturer at Tufts University Fares school and Fletcher school. In 1997-98 he was a Fullbright lecturer at Bosphorus University. Feroz Ahmad is professor emeretus at Yeditepe University Political Science and International Relations department since 2005.

What is ARI Movement?

Founded in 1994, the ARI Movement aims to contribute to the development of participatory democracy in Turkey through encouraging volunteerism, fostering information-based policymaking, and strengthening international links. ARI's four main areas of work are youth, women, international relations and political awareness. In order to contribute to the development of future leaders, ARI holds educational seminars throughout Anatolia, coordinates exchange programs with a number of countries, engages young people in civic activities, and supports their voices to be heard in the public discourse. For more information on the ARI Movement, please visit <http://www.ari.org.tr/>



Stephen Kinzer's Book Reviews:

Reset: Iran, Turkey, and America's Future, Stephen Kinzer

What can the United States do to help realize its dream of a peaceful, democratic Middle East? Stephen Kinzer offers a surprising answer in this paradigm-shifting book. Two countries in the region, he argues, are America's logical partners in the twenty-first century: Turkey and Iran. Besides proposing this new "power triangle," Kinzer also recommends that the United States reshape relations with its two traditional Middle East allies, Israel and Saudi Arabia. This book provides a penetrating, timely critique of America's approach to the world's most volatile region, and offers a startling alternative. Kinzer is a master storyteller with an eye for grand characters and illuminating historical detail. In this book he introduces us to larger-than-life figures, like a Nebraska schoolteacher who became a martyr to democracy in Iran, a Turkish radical who transformed his country and Islam forever, and a colorful parade of princes, politicians, women of the world, spies, oppressors, liberators, and dreamers. Kinzer's provocative new view of the Middle East is the rare book that will richly entertain while moving a vital policy debate beyond the stale alternatives of the last fifty years.

Crescent and Star: Turkey Between Two Worlds, Stephen Kinzer

A truly modern Turkey governed by the rule of law would raise the Turkish people to levels of prosperity and self-confidence they have never known before. Despite the country's political and psychological underdevelopment, it has the resources to become a towering power. If it can liberate itself from its paralyzing fears and embrace true democracy, it will also serve as a magnetic example of how the ideals of liberty can triumph over enormous obstacles. By adding moral strength to its military strength, Turkey could become a dominant force in the Middle East, encouraging peace and pulling Arab countries away from the social backwardness and feudal dictatorship under which most of them now suffer. It could exert a mighty and stabilizing influence westward to the Balkans and eastward to the Caucasus and Central Asia, becoming the key power in a region that is strategically vital, overwhelmingly rich in oil and other resources, and now ruled mostly by tyrants who are dragging it toward chaos.