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# Turkey's Role as a Middle Power amid Global Turmoil

INSTITUTSKOLLOQUIUM / DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR

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Room 124, Institut für Politikwissenschaft

Or join online via Zoom:

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The term 'middle power' is employed to denote states that, while not ranking among the great powers, wield significant influence and strategic relevance. Middle powers, particularly outside of Europe, are strategically positioning themselves to navigate an evolving global order—with growing confidence and assertiveness. These states often exhibit a combination of distinctive features such as geographic centrality, demographic weight, economic performance, military capabilities, access to resources, or political charisma.

They are influential enough to be courted as partners—or feared as spoilers. What unites these actors is a foreign policy approach centered on maximizing sovereignty. They occupy potentially pivotal regional or international roles and command capabilities that set them apart from smaller states. A closer examination reveals three common characteristics: *a strong emphasis on economic development, prioritization of security and stability, and the pursuit of strategic autonomy.*

Turkey exemplifies these traits but distinguishes itself further by overtly projecting its regional power and articulating global ambitions more assertively than many of its Global South counterparts. As a middle power, Turkey could play a constructive role in shaping multilateralism to address global challenges. Yet its capacity to do so is not without limitations—both external and self-imposed.



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