

# WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY



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2021 is over. However, neither the pandemic nor the days spent under armament, occupations, conflict, and populist hostility are over. I think it would not be wrong to describe 2021 as a gray year when anti-migrant policies added to anti-vaccination while the elections in various countries brought a wind of hope after pessimism.

One year summary:

In the US, Joe Biden took over from Trump. Russia started 2021 with the shock of Navalny's "Putin's Palace" video and protests. Moreover, at the beginning of March, Biden's new sanctions on Russia on "Poisoning Navalny" signaled those relations would harden. The last months of 2021 witnessed siege operations with NATO, which extended from the Baltics to Greece. The East Ukraine Crisis between Russia and the West, carried over to the new year, stands as a powerful candidate among the crisis topics throughout 2022.

It is imperative that we fight hard against NATO's militarist expansionism in the years to come, as we did in the past 72 years.

While the Caucasus left behind a relatively mild year in "Caucasian conditions" with the aftershocks and developments of the previous year's Karabakh War, the border conflicts between Kyrgyzstan and

Tajikistan in Central Asia rose to the level of an inter-state war for the first time at the beginning of May, even if it lasted only a few days.

We are getting closer to the days when Central Asia and the Caucasus will be an arena of struggle between classes, not between states. Even though the struggle has many handicaps due to non-organized people, the working class and popular movement of Kazakhstan heralds these days.

US's process of withdrawing all its troops from Afghanistan within the framework of the agreement with the Taliban in mid-summer was perhaps the most talked about topic of the whole world in 2021. Afghans trying to hold on to the wings of US military cargo planes to escape the country are now in the archive pages. Despite the renewed image of the Taliban, the misogynic, and child-hating politics within was forgotten in less than a month.

We will not forgive the imperialist policies that created the Taliban, nor the Western liberalism that supposedly fought it, nor will we forget Afghan women and children.

Looking at the crucial elections that have been taken place in the world, the European elections in the early autumn followed the Iran's summer elections when the "reformist-moderate" President Hasan Rouhani



was seated by the conservative Ibrahim Raisi. The elections that took place in countries such as Germany, Czechia and Austria show that the extreme right groups that gained strength after 2015 were restrained but could not be regressed. Considering the decline of the socialist left, especially in Germany, together with the losses of the left-social democratic candidates in the UK and the US the previous year, the question of whether an alarming period begins for the left came to the fore. However, both the unexpected success of the communists in the local elections in Austria and the victory of the broad left coalition in Chile, first in the capital Santiago and then in the Presidential elections, can be interpreted as the polarization of the left-right tension in the international equation, opening the door to non-centralist alternatives.

### **Turkey: Searching for Many Friends in the Spiral of Economic Crisis**

Turkey also entered 2021 under pandemic conditions, where its lockdown was relatively behind, but it was not easy to leave Covid behind. While the fierce "Blue Homeland" naval maneuvers of the previous year gave way to the famous "exploratory talks", the tense Cairo relations, which have been close for 10 years, witnessed efforts to soften/normalize. Compared to the previous year, the statements of "less tension" with Greece and normalization with Egypt were reinforced with the declaration of the will to open a new page with the European Union from where we left off. The "friendly photo" with Biden at the G-20 summit and the "bilateral meeting that lasted longer than expected" brought up the question of whether Turkey is returning to a relationship with the West on its old course.

Considering the "warm" meeting with the United Arab Emirates at the end of November 2021, the decision to appoint a direct representative to Armenia in mid-December and the immediate steps to host the representatives of the "Alliance of the Rabbis of Islamic Countries" at the Palace, Ankara's 2022 will look like the past years. Arguably, he is longing to gain more friends than he has. However, considering that such statements were not the

first, a new framework was adopted with the concept of "Many Friend, Few Enemy" in the 20-year AKP power, as in April 2016, for example only a few months later, steps were taken in the opposite direction, it would be beneficial to approach the issue with skepticism.

The diplomatic moves intensifying at the beginning and end of 2021 are not due to a preference to prioritize permanent and systematic diplomacy. When the deepening of the economic crisis taken into consideration the conditions in which the government lost votes slowly but regularly, and thirdly, in the conditions where many forced foreign policy steps in the recent period have hit the wall and bounced back, "winning many friends policy" is nothing more than a step of balancing the external pressure to overcome the domestic political squeeze.

2022 will be a year when the AKP government will develop election-centered foreign policies. Some of the foreign moves that have been guaranteed in this period will be shaped by the diversification of relationships that will reduce the pressure on these moves. How do we know? Not by reading intentions, of course. 20 years is a long time to analyze a line.

Turkey is fed up with Erdogan's militaristic steps in domestic and foreign politics as well as foreign policy inconsistencies. 2022 will be a critical turning point for the people to organize around the basic demands of the working class under the economic crisis conditions. The people of Turkey do not have another year to spend with the AKP Erdogan regime, which represents militarism, exploitation, discrimination, and violence.

This is exactly why we call for an immediate election. It is precisely for this reason that we propose to unite in a third alliance, in which socialists can form an active group in this election. This is exactly why we propose to form organizations and groups that will create the will of the people in the parliament, on the street, in factories, fields, schools, and everywhere else. We know that no force can defeat an organized people, neither in Turkey nor all around the world.

*Translator: Tilbe Akan*





## AKP REGIME, CRISIS AND WOMEN

Ebru Pektaş

Neoliberal political economy, elimination of every obstacle to profit maximization and the liquidation of social and welfare states materialized simultaneously with attacks on women and forfeiture of their rights. As labor processes were unregulated through flexible employment and precarious work, deunionization and widespread low-paid labor, “women’s labor” became a favorite of capitalism.

With the advent of neoliberalism, the state laid the responsibilities of childcare, nursing for the sick and the elderly and of special needs children on women. As the pandemic has revealed, it is the women who are crushed under the colossus of “the nursing crisis”.

The Palace/AKP Regime has utterly failed to integrate this worldwide tendency to its political structure. Since the 2001 crisis, women were rapidly

channelized from rural employment towards urban workforce. While it wasn’t accurately reflected on the employment rates, women were faced with further dispossession, impoverishment and proletarianization.

30 percent of women in Turkey are in business life. Social security of the unemployed women, especially their healthcare, is dependent on their fathers or husbands.

While 70 percent of women are excluded from employment, those who work are paid below minimum wage. 60 percent of the employed women are condemned to near-minimum wage.

The AKP Regime forces women towards more dispossession, impoverishment, proletarianization, precarious work and low wages, while at the same time renders their social life even more insecure and dangerous.

Women are driven towards the harshest conditions of social life and are attempted to be “disciplined” through violence and oppression in all parts of social life.

The Regime's "tools of force" are at work every day.

Policies such as the religionization of daily life to the liquidation of secularism, the intense deformation of women's civil rights, the extinguishment of life safety, the withdrawal from Istanbul Convention, the attacks on Law No.6284, alimony and civil law are the Regime's "tools of force" against women.

These are matched by polices emboldening male violence, the discourse of "sacred family" and the limitation of civil liberties.

Women are faced with a de facto ban on abortion in most hospitals in Turkey while the AKP Regime incessantly preaches about the sanctity of family, the "incompleteness" of women who aren't mothers, and the necessity to "make at least three children".

Although the Regime attempts to subdue especially the urban impoverished women through "tools of force" and "social relief policies", the crisis still deepens.

Fighting any tool of force women participate more in, and are driven more towards, social life than they were one or two decades ago. Thus, not only the cycle of violence and safety issues but also issues of liberty have become multi-layered.

Crisis keeps on revealing itself just as it did when women lit the signal fires of the Gezi resistance, just as it does when women continue to fill the streets despite prohibitions and without giving quarter to police violence.

*Translator: Devrim Umut Çelik*







## STOP SHAM FIGHT IN BOSNIA

Özgür Dirim Özkan

It has been 30 years since the beginning of the bloody war in Bosnia. Genocide, ethnic cleansing, mass killings, ethnic rape... West decided to intervene when everything was over, when the most brutal forms of war crimes were practiced for 3.5 years, when the deeds of the nationalist murderers were achieved, creating an ethnically homogeneous territories dividing Bosnia.

The so-called Dayton Peace Accord did nothing more than confirming the success of the nationalist idiotism and invented such a governance mechanism in Bosnia that is lanced as a model for the World, in similar conflicting zones. Bosnia and Herzegovina, today, is a real model for a non-functional state, keeping the nationalist sentiments alive, keeping ethnic politics the main pillar of the daily politics, condemning the Bosnian politics to be within the hands of corrupted, dishonorable, nationalist politicians.

Result is clear. Nothing went better in Bosnia since the war, for more than a quarter century. Country is with highest unemployment rate in Europe, one of the worst ones in the corruption index, having lost 800 thousand citizens who escaped from the corrupted, kleptocratic regime within the hands of nationalist politics.

Milorad Dodik, the Bosnian Serb member of Bosnian tri-partite presidency is without doubt the champion of this scene. Being aware of the fact that nobody would have an initiative to stop him and having the support of not only the neo-Bonapartist leaders such as Putin and Orban, but also the indirect support of nationalist politicians of Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats, Dodik utilizes the nationalist secessionist discourse –which is strictly prohibited by the Dayton Accord- in every occasion.

Dodik has been the leading Bosnian Serb nationalist figure in Bosnian politics. Successor of bloody Radovan Karadzic, (the founder of the Republika Srpska - Bosnian Serb Republic) Dodik was once polished as being a moderate nationalist closer to

“Western values”. By the time being, realizing the rules of the game, Dodik have professionalized in politics and became aware that he would do whatever he wants only if he will stay within the boundaries drawn by the West. Boundary is clear: Not to harm Western interests in the region.

However, recently he has surpassed this boundary in several occasions. In May 2021, Republika Srpska parliament passed laws enabling it to form its own parallel institutions and army by May. In December Dodik announced his campaign to form an exclusive army, judiciary and tax system.

Last act was the celebration of Republika Srpska Day on January 9, 2022. Celebration of Republika Srpska Day is constitutionally forbidden in Bosnia relying on the Dayton Accord. Despite that, Dodik is stubborn to celebrate it every year. This year he organized a smarter parade with the involvement of 2700 people in the parade including long barrel gunned police forces followed by police helicopters on the sky of Banja Luka, the seat of Republika Srpska.

Those acts have taken reaction from West. US Department of Treasury have announced that they

will increase the financial sanctions against Dodik, which they already put in practice in 2017. This really means nothing for Dodik, not more powerful than EU's and UN's protests.

Western media and analysts are already talking about an upcoming armed conflict in Bosnia, like they do every year. Either the journalists or analysts, or diplomats and nationalist politicians all know that there will not be war in Bosnia again. There is no need for a war. There is no more Yugoslavia, no more large amounts of ammunition which has to be exhausted. West has full political and military control of the region. There is not a single threat to Western status quo. Local elites enjoy their kleptocratic corruption states. Religious leaders enjoy their political power and financial wealth. Why to have a war?

This is simply a sham fight which is on screen every year! A sham fight to continue the system which causes millions to suffer.

This sham fight has to end. Bosnia and Balkans is not a chess field of nationalist politicians and imperialist diplomats.





## NEWS FROM THE PARTY

Chairperson Erkan Baş and TIP MPs came together with journalists in the Journalists' Day dinner. Violations of the rights of press and journalists were emphasized as our delegation evaluated current events.



For the upcoming elections, as Workers' Party of Turkey, we come together with the other revolutionary, progressive organizations including HDP for building a third wing opposition.







## NEWS FROM THE PARTY



The international e-commerce company Trendyol deemed proper to give 11 percent salary increase to its couriers by ignoring the 82 percent inflation rate in Turkey. The strike of couriers ended with a victory!

A medicine student who stayed in a dormitory managed by a religious sectarian community because of the family pressure committed suicide. The youth of Workers' Party of Turkey were on Streets all around the country to protest the darkness of political Islam defending secularism.




To organize people and call for joining our party, our PMs are touring all around the country. We will not abandon our people to the oppressive Palace Regime.




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