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Turkey–Poland 600 Years of Friendship
[review of the book: Turkey–Poland 600 Years of Friendship]

There are still a lot of things to be told about the history of Polish – Turkish relations. The preparations for the 600th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Poland and Turkey were the opportunity to fill blank spaces in this sphere. The book lays the ground and paves the way for further more detailed and illuminating research. The book is a compilation of articles written by scholars, politicians and other experts from Poland and Turkey.

The three editors, who are very knowledgeable in this topic, have jointly prepared a comparative analysis of Turkey and the EU. There are eight separate articles in the book. They put emphasis on the European Union and Turkey with regard to issues of the Middle East.

In the first study, the authors (Veysel Ayhan, Muhittin Ataman, and Mehmet Dalar) analysed diplomatic relations between the Ottoman Empire and the Kingdom of Poland. Having been established in 1414, they have had a six-centuries-old history. The paper also discusses the perception of Turkey and Turks by Polish people.

The second article written by Adam Szymanski, an expert in the issues concerning the enlargement of the EU and the political system and foreign policy of Turkey – with special emphasis on relations with the EU. The issue of the impact of Turkey on the European Union is not as often analysed as the problem of the Europeanization of Turkey. The author discusses how the Turkish candidacy

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may contribute to changes in the institutional framework of the EU enlargement policy.

In the next paper, Ayhan Kaya dealt with the issue of Euro–Turks. The author argues that Euro–Turks have become more engaged in constructing communities in order to protect themselves against the evils of the contemporary world. They also want to pursue an alternative form of politics for the purpose of raising their claims in public. The author points out that the essentialization of communities by migrant population is a reflection of the neo-liberal forms of government in the states receiving immigrants.

In the following article, Wojciech Forysinski analyses the fragmentation, differentiation and normative conflicts in the international law of the sea. The author discusses the impact of Republic of Turkey on the Mediterranean identity. He provides numerous examples of the differentiation and fragmentation of international law (p. 81–87).

The next paper, titled “The Identity Perception of Turkey in the EU,” was written by Muhittin Ataman, Veysel Ayhan and Mehmet Dalar. Their study was supported by the Turkish Scientific and Technical Research Council. The authors examine the situation of Turkey in the context of its potential accession to the EU and analyse whether it meets the Copenhagen criteria. The subject is presented in a very interesting and articulate way.

In her article, Justyna Misiagiewicz, PhD, dealt with the problem of energy security in the Republic of Turkey, emphasizing its interdependence with other energy market players and its involvement in transnational energy infrastructure projects. The author discusses the main issues of the energy security strategy of Turkey. Energy security is presently one of the most important spheres of Turkey’s foreign policy. Its energy strategy has three aims:

1. to ensure a diversified, reliable and cost–effective supply for domestic consumption
2. to liberalize its energy market
3. to become a more effective key transit country and energy hub between the energy–producing countries in the east, and the energy–consuming countries in the west of Turkey (p. 130).

Przemysław Osiewicz’s paper is devoted the Turkish position on the Cyprus issue after the intervention and de facto division of Cyprus. The author asks two questions of utmost importance. They are as follows: Is the Cyprus issue a matter of the Turkish national interest? Has the policy undergone any significant changes since 1974? In the article, two periods – namely 1974–2002 and the years after 2002 – compared.

In the final article, Radosław Fiedler analyses Turkish policy towards Iran. The author examines Turkish–Iranian rela-
tions in the context of Iran’s nuclear program. He focuses on the following issues: the improvement of Iranian-Turkish relations after 2002 (AKP government); pragmatism versus rift between the two states; Turkey’s role as a mediator between Iran and the West, and different attitudes towards Iran’s nuclear program (p. 171).

In general, the book is a compendium of knowledge about the relations of Turkey with the EU and the Middle East. It includes some thorough analyses of key problems in this sphere, examining them from various angles. I reckon the book will be very interesting for readers, but there is only one thing that I must criticize. I do not know why the editors titled it “Turkey–Poland: 600 Years of Friendship” if there is only one paper in this book (p. 7), which concerns the relations between Turkey and Poland.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**