

National Europe Centre Seminar Series

TURKEY: ITS ROLE IN THE 21ST CENTURY NEW WORLD ORDER

MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER, 5.00-6.30PM

National Europe Centre, 1 Liversidge Street, Building 67C, ANU

RSVP by Thursday 20 November 10.00am - E: europe@anu.edu.au

SPEAKER: MR DAVID BARCHARD

Chair: Dr Hossein Heirani-Moghaddam (Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies, ANU)

Abstract: At the end of the first decade of the twenty-first century, economic and social development mean that Turkey has become an economic and political force capable of playing a leading role in the life of Europe, the Middle East, and the Black Sea and Caucasus regions. Though Turkey's goal for the first eight decades after it became a Republic in 1923 was integration with Europe, the relative cold shoulder given to it by the European Union since accession negotiations opened in 2005 has disillusioned ordinary Turks and raised questions about the country's longer term orientations. However, with severe regional crises in the countries immediately around it - Iraq, Georgia and the Caucasus - as well as the 'frozen conflicts' of the Black Sea area, Turkey's policy priorities remain to contribute to the growth of international stability and the reduction of tension among its neighbours, including the Arab-Israeli dispute. Meanwhile the country also has a substantial agenda of internal economic and political tasks, ranging from constitutional reform, elimination of terrorism to expansion and consolidation of personal freedoms, financial transparency, and consumer protection, in order to consolidate fully its position as a modern industrial democracy.

Biography: David Barchard is widely regarded as one of the main British specialists on Turkey and the author of numerous books and articles on many aspects of the country from its politics and economics to culture and archaeology. He is the author of "Turkey and the West", "Turkey and the European Union", "Asil Nadir and the Rise and Fall of Polly Peck", and "Turkish Banking". In the 1980s he served as Ankara Correspondent for the Financial Times and the BBC and later was the FT's Banking Correspondent in London before going into consultancy. He currently teaches at Bilkent University in Ankara and is researching the Turkish-European relationship over the last two hundred years.

This event was jointly organized by the National Europe Centre (Research School of Humanities) and the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (Faculty of Arts) at the Australian National University, and the Embassy of Turkey, Canberra.

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