

## **TURKEY'S DEMOCRACY: A very brief gloss**

Stravon, with regard to the elections, presidential and parliamentary, in Turkey (or Turkiye) has adopted a pragmatic, non polemical approach. In our writings we only ventured to predict social tensions and a tendency for some well-off citizens to settle abroad. Moreover, in correspondence with citizens of across the Aegean we made clear that beyond hoping for free and fair elections, we regard with equanimity the question whom we prefer to carry the day.

We know that Turkish patriotism was a motif for the slight majority of the electorate to rally around Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Our assessment is that Turkey will further bolster ties with Russia, China and Iran, while persevering to mend ties with Egypt, Israel and Syria; to a lesser extent with the US and select European countries.

Beyond stating the obvious, namely that they follow the teachings of Prof. Davutoglou, we are inclined to think that in Ankara they have to a large extent adopted the theses of the late geopolitical thinker Dimitri Kitsikis about the "intermediate zone" of the planet, with Istanbul (Constantinople) as its urban epicenter. That said, in a nutshell, no matter our own liberal precepts, we rather come in terms with an extension of President Erdogan's mandate for another 5 years. He will be readying to fight the secular/ alevi/ kurdish coalition, amidst mounting domestic - economic, ethnic, geographical, ideological - travails, while trying to extract a pause of undefined duration and scope in his excessive ambitions and unacceptable claims in the Aegean and the open Mediterranean Sea at the expense of Greece and Cyprus.

***Stravon of Amaseia,  
Athens, May 17, 2023***