



**ISTANBUL  
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CONFERENCE**

# **TURKEY - GULF DEFENCE AND SECURITY FORUM 2018**

**Future of the Security in the Gulf**



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STRATEGIC STUDIES CENTER

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**TURKEY - GULF DEFENCE AND SECURITY FORUM 2018**  
**“Future of the Security in the Gulf”**

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When having looked at the basic trends, the global competition has been developing over “micro-nationalism”, “integration” and “unpredictability” in the new economy age based on the “knowledge and knowledge-based products” following the “earth and machine”; and the challenges determining the new nature of life and state are being formed as basic references as “source and sharing crisis”, unsustainability of the “production-consumption-development” formula, “elimination of middle class” with Chinese leverage, “energy, water and food insecurity”, going to the ‘4<sup>th</sup> Dimension’ in every field of life, “elimination of human source in labor”, “transforming to soft power from hard power” based on the changing nature of state and expectation management.

Within all of these basic parameters; the transformations in technology tends to change human life and nature entirely by developing, based on artificial intelligence, virtual/refined reality and mobility. It is obvious that “Industry 4.0” and “Society 5.0” concepts are important titles in terms of managing the transformation of the world.

Another factor is the turbulence that China created by getting effective in the world stage with each passing day. The New Silk Road project “Belt and Road” has been shaping as the global integration project involving 64 countries both from sea and land, and changing the distribution of the financial pie permanently.

Along with all of these developments, “Ecosystem of Security” changes with its law. After now on, Security - Democracy dilemma will be witnessed much more. Because the survival of democracy is very difficult in countries where the middle class melts and security axis slides on a sophisticated level. The question “Will security bring us authoritarian regimes?” should be discussed more. It also should be seen that authoritarian regimes or chaos lie as two alternatives in the countries which lack middle class. How to make the division of labor in terms of regional and global security and how to share the cost are in line for to be issues of the coming period. The development of new security alliances can be analyzed from the risks and initiatives of various countries, especially Turkey.

The content of the concepts “property” and “power” has been changing historically. The future of the EU within the syndrome of “failure in success” will be determined by the results of polarization which is revived in the West after Brexit and similar to pre-World War II. New weapons declaration of Russia, one of the new global power candidates, and gold guaranteed yuan and oil trading of China have been a milestone for the security ecosystem and reserve money, by the way, the meaning of Brexit on its effect on the balances has been a little further behind.

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For the last three hundred years of long political history and international relations have allowed us to see no political, administrative, economic structure that positions the people at the center ; No institutional strategy that is not tied to "**legitimate law**" and "**justice**" ultimately taught in an extremely tragic way that no assembly brings "**peace**", "**stability**" and therefore "**prosperity**". In relation to the world peace meaning, Both at the individual and social level, the most basic precondition is the "**sense of safety**". No human being, family and society can survive a decent life as "**respected human**" with the sense of security. Psychosocial, socioeconomic and sociopolitical sense of security based on a conceptual and factual basis; Is the most assurance of all individual, social and even international diplomatic, economic and logistical relations.

There is an inverse proportional and paradoxical relationship between the clear sense of security that may exist between people and societies, which is expressed with the word "trust" on the contemporary, and which is precisely just a mutual trust, and a "**security search**", a more technical and logistic conceptualization. "**Respect**" is the key concept of the sustainability of trust-based "**dependency**" relations, which is based on the same conscientious objection to security sentiment. Because, as in the case of individual relations, respect for the identities of the parties in social and inter-communal relations has a constructive and restorative quality as a means of public diplomacy and political communication if a moral principle is required

"**Affiliation to the common ideals**"; transforms the intercultural dependency relationship from a preference for a tactical or conjunctural foreign policy based on a mutual interest relationship to an essential identity and strategic responsibility. Societies, especially in the context of "**mutual dependence**" or "**strategic dialogue**", and especially Muslim societies, which should primarily be based on trust-based relations among themselves, participate in international negotiations with a "**common vision**" against "**economic, political and military domination in the phenomenon of globalization**" It is obliged to establish a "**network of relations**" in accordance with the definition of dependency. Even in a process where mutual security strategies are a priority agenda item, even for "**security of relations**" because of "**confidential crisis**"; It is clear that the concept of "**security**", which consists of new definitions in society, neighborhood, health and agriculture, in many fields and sectors, has a multidimensional quality at both the subject and the actor level

"**Security Policies**" that lead to new problems rather than solutions, primarily by **US** and international **NATO, European Union & OSCE**, and regional associations; **UN**'s ineffective solutions in conflict zones(!); The tendency of international organizations such as **SCO** and **CICA** to evolve into their first examples instead of being "**alternative solutions**"; "**Hybrid wars**" that take place in the process of transforming the power balance between actors in the shadow of technological developments and the economic variables of the global system are increasing the importance of security controversies and the importance of interstate territorial supremacy and related regional sub-unions of the common ideal. There is no need for "**collective security**", which is regarded as solidarity against global security threats, which is gaining in importance due to its multidimensional and complex nature that can not be secured by a single actor at the global level, and there is no supranational mechanism linked to the common act and vision of the actor at all levels and regions. It has forced the introduction of security perspectives into the foreground. This is even more evident in the Middle East, where relations are highly fragile due to instability.



With the changing nature of hard power usage; micro-nationalisms, hybrid battles, and non-state actors that are strongly promoted are becoming a part of global security architecture. In this framework, it can be considered that states' protection and extension of their own domains, and putting forward their distinctive aspects will be provided by the high fire power they possess. Economic development projects, investment strategies and the formation of geo-economic weight centers are driving the use of hard power into the economic area. The key factor here is the increasing importance of hard power projection in the new period. The dynamics of global transformation, the increasing prevalence of energy lines and the economic corridors formed around the initiative of the "Belt and Road" link the Pacific region to the Gulf and Eastern Mediterranean in power struggles. In this context, China - US - Pacific contests increase regional and global turbulence. Despite the strong historical and cultural background, it is not possible for the strategic dialogue to develop to remain outside of this fragile axis in Turkey - the Middle East or, more narrowly, Turkey - the Gulf States.

As the first country to adopt a high level regular institutional dialogue with the ones outside the region, the **US** and the **EU** as well as **the Strategic Common Statue (2008)**, Turkey's trade relations with the countries of the region have increased steadily; The trade volume between the parties has increased exponentially in this process. These developments, which have very positive consequences for both sides, have an important role in seeking trust-based strategic dialogue as well as other factors.

EU as the first example the foreign policy priorities of the Gulf States, especially due to their internal-political preferences, relations based on trust between the countries of the region prevent the formation of a common political and military vision. Along with this, **Turkey - Gulf** relations have a high level of stability and prosperity compared to other countries such as **Syria** and **Iraq** in the region; The region and the periphery have an important responsibility in deepening the relationship between strategic dialogue and mutual trust-based dependency

In light of the last ten years of bilateral cooperation between **Turkey and the Gulf Countries**, There is a strong expectation, especially in the business world, about the relocation of a large potential relationship that has not yet been discussed in the field of economics, It is clear that the possible **Free Trade Agreement** that will meet this expectation will set a record level of trading volume between the parties. In addition, **mainly in defence and space industry, multidimensional** investment activities should be evaluated with the cooperation of **Turkey and the Gulf Countries** in the framework of the draft scheme of the "**Preferential Trade Agreement of the Islamic Countries**" and in the third countries.

The current agreements include trade, finance, transportation, energy, tourism and other sectors of the Turkish - Gulf States, Development of balanced regional / global cooperation based on the strategy of growth together in multidimensional security areas such as defence and space industry, military personnel training, joint operation force formation, "**military training**" and "**defence and space industry**", which have bilateral and multilateral potentials. The political and economic advantage of technological superiority in the defence and space industry, which is the basis of defence and security policies, which is a part of the economy and which is the field of technological knowledge production, Managerial synergy, risk sharing and strong technical expertise contribute to cost reduction and competitive advantage.

Until the Iranian Islamic Revolution of 1979, when Iran was conquered by Islamic armies and serious problems between Iran and the Western countries had emerged, the eastern and western sides of the Gulf were in an integrated region form. Since 1979, anti-sectarianism has become one of the most important security problems in the region. This controversy has been the basis of this record weapons sale actualized within region.

With Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s, the Arab-Persian opposition deepened in the region and ethnic separations were incorporated into sectarianism. The invasion of Kuwait in 1990 in order to overcome the trauma experienced by Iraq, which cannot be overthrown by Iran, caused the region to be further divided between the Arabs.

At the end of the 1990s and early 2000s, the search for rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia; Invasion of Iraq by the USA, resulted with the Shiites left alone in Country's politics and the Sunnis remained ineffective. Since then, the Sunni-Shi'i dissociation has grown deeper in the region, and the purchase of weapons has become the basic justification of conflicts and especially those of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Iran has participated in this Arms race by becoming independent of producing its own nuclear, ballistic and other weapon programs.

The armed racing, which has raised the tension in the region and transformed into a nuclear strike, has laid the groundwork for Global actors to intervene more effectively in the region. The reflection of the so-called Arab Spring in the Gulf region has made the security concerns in the region a little deeper and more complex.

In addition to all these breakdowns, the crisis that occurred between Qatar and Saudi Arabia, UAE and Egypt in 2017, a new and significant security threat was assumed by the countries of the region and has accelerated imports of weapons to the region.

The segregation and crises in the region have never been as profound, continuous and effective as ever in any period of the history. The withdrawal of the United States from the nuclear deal is the harbinger of a new crisis that will have global effects within region. In the modern period, be it religious / sectarian movements such as Sunnism / Shiism, or ethnic elements such as Turks and Arabs etc. have been fighting against the imperialism and colonialism and often struggled neck to neck. How to developing rational policies that prioritize the real interests of the Gulf States and the building of prosperity and happiness of the people in the region together with the construction of lasting peace, will determine how the Iranian issue will be tackled and governed.

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The "**strategic Interdependency and trust building**" concept that will bring strength and justice to our civilization outside of religion, language, history and geography is the basic mental threshold in front of relations between Turkey and the Gulf States. Proper management of the priorities and differences between countries in order not to transform them into regional weakness and security implications will be possible by focusing on common risks and opportunities.

With the main theme of "Future of the Security in the Gulf", the **Turkey - Gulf Defence and Security Forum** (to be compatible with the **Istanbul Security Conference**, which was institutionalized as a global brand) aims to provide academic and civil contribution in order to manage the **Strategic Interdependence and Trust Building** parameters between Turkey and the Gulf Countries with an approach that advocates defence and security in order to manage and establish consciousness of common consciousness.

## Main Theme

**Future of the Security in the Gulf**

## Sub Themes

### A

**Future of Security in the Gulf and Multidimensional Balances**

**Iran's Power Parameters and Competition Management**

**USA, EU and Relations with New Partners and Regional Strategies**

### B

**Multi-dimensional Security Cooperation: Political, Strategic and Economic Goals**

**Defence and Space Industry: Opportunities and Risks**

**New Nature of Defense and Security Technologies**

**Building of Soft Power and Expectation Management: Experiences and Achievements**

**Cooperation in Cyber-security (Cyber Army Contests)**

**Multi-dimensional and Complementary Security Cooperation**

(Environment, Terrorism, Smuggling, Security of Food, Energy and Water Supply, Population, Healthcare, Climate, Urban Planning, Technology etc.)

**Middle East, Africa, Asian Countries and Turkey - Gulf**

**Rising Powers in a Multi-polar World Adaptation to the Global Governance Structures**

## Spesific Workshops

Land

Sea

Air

Space

