

II. GULF WAR, USA, GREAT MIDDLE EAST PROJECT AND TURKEY

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Abstract

Middle East has always been the region having the first priority in the cynosure of USA because of two reasons. The first and the most important reason is petroleum. 61.9 % of petroleum reserves on the earth are located in Middle East region. Therefore, meeting the petroleum need of USA and its allies with a reasonable price and providing the constant petroleum flow from this region has been an important factor in the policy that USA developed for the region.

The global petroleum need will increase to daily 120 million barrels until 2030 from daily 75 million barrels by 1.6 % increase in each year according to the calculations carried out by economists of USA. USA shall oblige to pay US\$ 150 billion in 2029 for the petroleum that it will import. The petroleum need of China will be increased by hundred percent, EU will import 92 % of the petroleum that they consume at this date. The increase shown in the world's energy demand in this way, explains what the real purpose of USA is in its restructuring attempt towards Middle East region.

The second reason is hindering the great forces and strong states in the region having influence over this region and keeping the region under the supervision of USA.

Once, the strongest power in the region was Iran which had been also supported by USA. Afterwards Iraq had taken the place of Iran. Also Iraq has gone together with I. Gulf War. Henceforth the most important power of the region is Turkey. Because of this characteristic Turkey carries of being threat against the interests of USA in the region. Also interest perceptions Turkey and USA in the region do not overlap with each other. So Turkey is the new competitor and target from the point of view of regional interests of USA. When the developments are assessed by these points of view, the invasion of Iraq and development of new projects regarding the region by USA has given the greatest damage to Turkey.

Middle East is a geography that demonstrates importance from views of politics, economics and security for USA. If USA which has undertaken the role of being a kind of "the world's gendarme" in order to be able to guarantee its global sovereignty would be able to realize its GMEP (Great Middle East Project), it would have been established its absolute hegemony. GMEP is the other name of restructuring the region together with its geo-strategic, military, political and economic aspects.

Iraq lives indefiniteness and transition period now. The people who will determine the future of the country will be Shiites that form 60 % of the population of the country. The thing that observed from outside for now is that Shiites are definitely against the existence

of Americans in Iraq and the administration of Iraq under the rules established by themselves. Also ensuring peace environment is being postponed gradually as long as USA does not persuade Shiites. Furthermore, Arab-Islam world completely full of the feeling of hate that is reflected to outside in the form of organized terrorist actions as military resistance or anarchy against West and USA. This feeling both puts the project of USA in the region to difficulty and also it drives the region to instability.

Changed balances in the region together with II. Gulf War is explained and afterwards the assessment of GMEP that USA has implemented in the region from the point of view of Turkey will be carried out in this study.