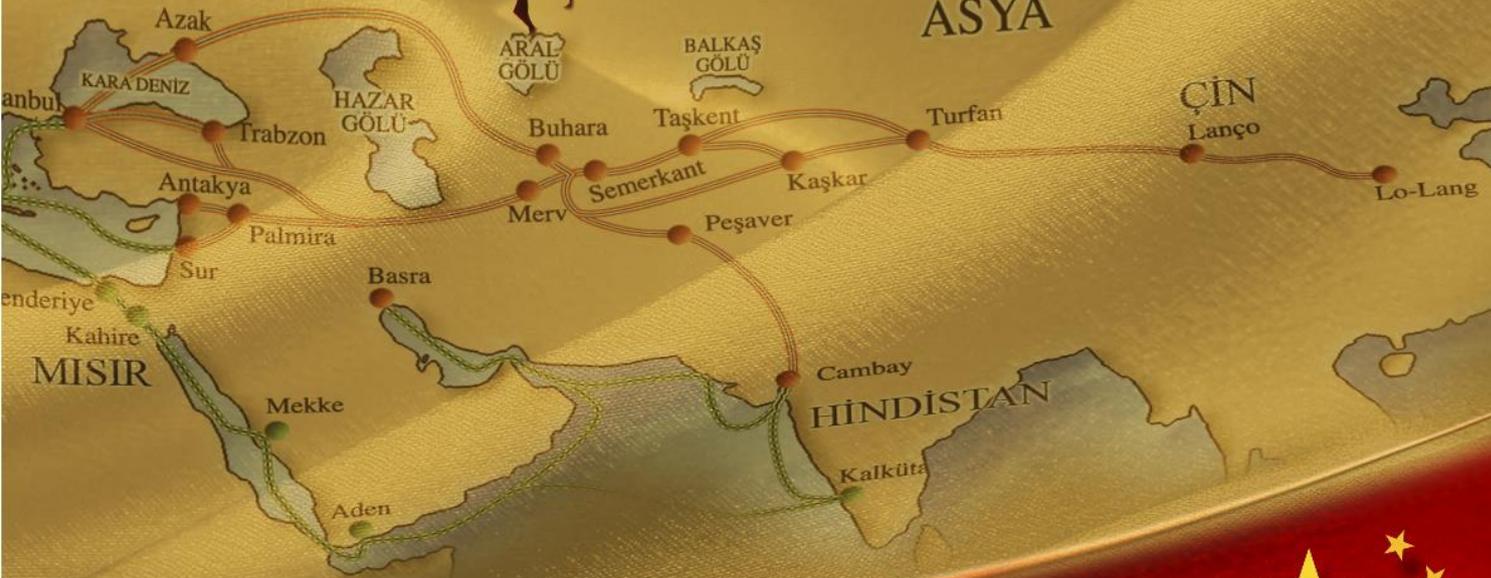




# 3<sup>RD</sup> TURKEY - CHINA FORUM

New Era in Turkish - Chinese Relations: Opportunities and Risks



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## VISION DOCUMENT (DRAFT)

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## “New Era in Turkish - Chinese Relations: Opportunities and Risks”

( 15-20 October 2018, Pekin )

Turkey has increasingly grown as an important actor with its 80 million population, developing and expanding economy, geostrategic position in the middle of Afro-Euro-Asian mainland; historical, political, cultural connections with the European, Black Sea, Caucasian, Asian, Middle Eastern and African countries, its activity in the international arena, particularly in the UN; its stand as one of the most important members of NATO, OSCE, and CICA; and its recently advanced activist foreign policy.

People’s Republic of China, on the other hand, has become apparent as an important power that grabs attention worldwide with its surface area, over 1.3 billion population, natural resources, progress in the fields of industry and technology, veto power in the UN, position in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and newly developed foreign policy strategies.

Turkish - Chinese relations has deep rooted historical background (2000 BC) through the Silk Road. Still, diplomatic relations between the two countries could not be established until 1971 because of the Cold War necessities. After China initiated international expansion program, high profile visits began between Turkey and China.

In 1979 China started open policy towards international arena; in this regards Turkey and China performed high officials’ tour. But after 1985 stable relation was interrupted. Turkey-China relation got impetus importance in politics and economics arena in 2003; and after 2009 it got the touched the maximum line. In 2010 the relation got a new phase of strategic relations by the approval of both Prime Ministers.

Turkey and China have common interests in **the geopolitical and security areas** of the Middle East and Central Asia. In view of **energy security and ever increasing terrorist activities**, meeting the requirements of peace and security in these areas is vital for the interests of both countries.

High development rates captured by Turkey and China recently urge both Turkey and China to **take each other into consideration in terms of economy**. For China, Turkey is an exit into Balkans and Europe, and an economic partner in the Middle East and Central Asia. Turkey, on the other hand, sees China as partner to strengthen mutual relations in the areas of economy and security.

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Turkey gives special importance to cooperate with China to improve its relations with Central Asian countries. In this regard, Turkey attaches great importance to SCO, search for full or observer membership opportunity and, through being a member of the organization, thinks that she can carry its relations to a better point in the areas ranging from international trade to security cooperation and that she will be able to gain membership in the international organizations such as ASEAN.

China, surpassing Japan and South Korea, has become **the biggest trade partner for Turkey** among the Asia-Pacific nations as of January-June 2003. In parallel with the trading volume, the relations between the two countries have gained speed.

The most important problem regarding Turkish-Chinese relations is **ever increasingly grooving trade deficit in favor of China**. In the long term, this can produce a set of economic and political problems regarding the sustainability of the relations. Trade deficit arises mainly from Chinese trade policies but there are reasons regarding the Turkish side as well.

Along with China's unique advantages in foreign trade, the fact that Turkish businessmen were hesitant to invest in this country also deepened the problem. However, during high-level visits during the last three years, statesmen of the China stated that Chinese companies were encouraging to invest in Turkey. In this case, it is expected to turn into an implementation step. China also started offering advantages in financing opportunities to energy and infrastructure projects in Turkey.

Cyprus issue being in the first place, Turkey has ever tried to take China's support in the international affairs. In the upcoming period, ground for cooperation may be strengthened within the scope of the organizations such as the UN, CICA, ASEAN in parallel with the growing impact of Turkey within the international platforms.

Both countries can develop an effective strategic cooperation ground regarding the sustainability of the long term interests that bear great importance for both China and Turkey. In this context, it is important to look at the events in a broader geopolitical point of view. **In order to bring the Turkish-Chinese relations to an ideal point in the world system that is increasingly gaining a multidimensional appearance, Turkish and Chinese policy makers must steer for a structure that may constitute mutual depth not only on the political and strategic grounds but in the all parameters.**

In this regard, the aim of the **Turkey-China Forum** is to reveal opportunities and complementarily relations in the Turkish-Chinese relations with a strategic point of view and to build an institutional and intellectual ground for public opinions in both Turkey and China, without neglecting the issue areas.

# 3<sup>RD</sup> TURKEY - CHINA FORUM



## Main Theme

**New Era in Turkish - Chinese Relations: Opportunities and Risks**

## Sub - Themes

**Perspectives for Industrial and Financial Deepening**

**Silk Road Integration and Turkey**

**Security and Defense Industry**

**Investment, Trade, Infrastructure and Contracting**

**Public Diplomacy; Local Authorities, Civil Society, Think Tanks and Media**

**Change of State Nature, Expectation Management and Multidimensional Security**

**ASEAN Region, Shanghai Cooperation Organization etc. and Integration in Asia**

**Energy, Water and Food Security**

**Science and Technology, Academy and Culture**

**Middle East - Africa, South and Central Asia**