

## **Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect - Turkish Foreign Policy Discourse**

**THIS RESEARCH IS TO BE PUBLISHED SOON.**

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This study aims at explaining the Turkish foreign policy discourse on humanitarian interventions and responsibility to protect (R2P) especially with respect to Libya and Syria.

The main idea behind this research is the assumption that neither subjects (identities), nor ideas (norms) are fixed and stable. The discursive realm, on the contrary, is a field of contestation, competition, transformation and re-articulation. In this unstable realm subjects try to make sense of their identities, positions, objectives, interests and their relations with others. Similarly, ideas such as norms flourish and at the same time contested in the discursive terrain.

Grounded on this assumption, this research uses the discourse theory proposed by Laclau and Mouffe. It aims at explaining how discourses and subject positions (identities) are articulated with logic of equivalence or of difference. Building upon this argument, it wants to show how a discourse tries to gain a fixed meaning and thus a hegemonic position over other discourses. In this hegemonic project, discourses exclude or marginalise other meanings. In general, this research will analyse the subject's interpretation of self and other. It is believed that being a whole or complete is not a finished project but rather an endless struggle. An identity, such as 'nation' or 'state' or 'East' is never closed but it is always open and split. This is also true for the norms, values and ideas such as 'responsibility to protect' and discourses about them.

The main research question is how Turkish foreign policy discourses articulated notions of humanitarian intervention and responsibility to protect in the cases of Libya and Syria.

Main data for this research is gathered from a large data-set of statements, interviews, speeches, comments, reports, debates from newspapers, official web pages of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Turkish Parliament, some international organisations and academic journals. Priority is given to the direct statements and speeches of the President, Prime Minister, and Minister of the Foreign Affairs and their academic analyses. The position of the political opposition parties is examined very shortly only in the case of Libya (with the use of a computer program for qualitative analysis).

For all questions and queries, please contact the author in email given above.