Middle East Technical University

Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences

Department of Political Science and Public Administration

2010-2011 Fall Term

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

**TURKISH POLITICS**

Please answer **two** of the following three questions:

1. Write an essay on the idea of "national will" held by the centre-right political parties/discourses in Turkey since the transition to multi-party regime.
2. *It was often argued that while the cleavage structure of the post-1980 Turkey has retained the conventional centre-periphery cleavege, it has become more diversified reflecting cross-cutting and sometimes overlapping lines of socio-economic conflicts.*

Discuss this assertion by taking into consideration the major axes of the social, political and economic transformations that Turkey has gone through over the past decades and the nature of the political alignments shaping the current party system.

1. Write an essay discussing the relationship between neo-liberalism and political Islam in the context of developments in Turkey over the last two decades.

**Previous Years:**

§ Do you agree with the statement that Turkish State Nationalism has its roots only in the process of ‘Nation State Building’ and not in the ideological nationalism of the 20th century? Discuss.

§ Turkey has experienced a vast migration from the rural to the urban areas in the last five decades reversing the rural-urban population ratios. What are the political impacts of such an urbanization? Analyze.

§ It is claimed that the authors of constitutions and electoral laws in Turkey have always wanted to design a two and a half party system. Whereas the election results have had a tendency to be fragmented. What are the basic reasons for this fragmentation? What are the reasons for the desire for having fewer parties?

§ Political Islam that has developed significantly after 1980 is an outcome of the failure of the Turkish Modernization and Westernization Project. Discuss.

§ “Turkish electorate is highly volatile and the party system has an inclination towards fragmentation. So two ballot, single member constituency system as proposed by some circles recently will serve the stability of politics.” Discuss.

§ The Kemalist state tradition in Turkey is the major hinderence to the development of the civil society. Discuss.

§ Please discuss and evaluate the role of the military in Turkish politics.

§ Please discuss and evaluate the Motherland Party as a neoliberal party by analyzing its role in the Structural Adjustment Program since 1980, its voter support, and the internal structure of the party.

§ There are different approaches to the role of the state and its tradition in Turkey. Please analyze and discuss them.

§ Please discuss Islam-politics relations in Turkey, with special emphasis on its impact on the consolidation of democracy in that country.

§ Please discuss military-politics relations in Turkey, with special emphasis on its impact on the consolidation of democracy in that country.

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§ The shift from single party to multi party politics in Turkey represents a transition to a democratic form of politics. Do you agree? Discuss with special

reference to the contemporary debates on democratization in Turkey.

§ 1980s represent a turning point in the Turkish republican history. Do you agree?

§ Discuss the ideological and legal grounds for the “national chief” rule in the single-party period in Turkey.

§ To what extent can the contemporary Turkish political structure be analysed in terms of the “centre/periphery conflict”? Discuss with special reference to the 12 September coup, Özalism/Motherland Party period and the “28 February Process”.

§ Discuss and evaluate the different approaches towards state and military in the current debates on democratization in Turkey.