



# THE INSTITUTE *of* TURKISH STUDIES

**“REGIME CHANGE:**

**TURKEY’S (A LA TURCA) PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM”**



Georgetown University

CCAS Boardroom, (ICC 241)

**February 15, 2017**

**2:30 pm-4:30 pm**

**a Discussion with**

**Amberin Zaman**, Al Monitor & Woodrow Wilson Center

**Henri J. Barkey**, Woodrow Wilson Center

moderated by

**Sinan Ciddi**, Institute of Turkish Studies

On January 21, Turkey’s Parliament approved a package of constitutional amendments proposed by members of the Justice and Development (AKP) and Nationalist Action (MHP) parties, which could result in Turkey transitioning from parliamentary to a presidential system; one that would lack strong checks and balances, and would be largely bereft of the principle of separation of powers. Opposition parliamentarians and many observers have criticized this systemic change as a means of formally institutionalizing a one-man regime, specifically to benefit the current president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. During the early days of April 2017, Turkish voters will go to the polls and decide on whether to accept these changes or not. What are the primary motivations for this systemic change; what will be the implications for Turkey’s democratic governance structures and institutions; and how will it impact Turkey’s relationships with its allies?



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