

Summary

Türkiye and India have emerged from the shadows of the global stage in the 20th century to the spotlight of the 21st. They are assuming more active and dynamic roles through an assertive demand for a more equitable world order that ends the politics of hegemony, and encourages innovative geopolitical partnerships which share the task of maintaining strategic stability and increasing prosperity at national, regional and global levels.

Democracies like India and Türkiye are showing the way by leveraging public diplomacy to foster citizen participation, combat misinformation, and build mutually beneficial trust. These efforts ensure informed engagement in foreign policy matters.

Both nations were shaped by the disruptions of colonialism, with imposed borders intended to create enduring instability. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's leadership preserved Türkiye's territorial integrity by reversing a Greek invasion supported by western imperialism, but India could not avert partition at the end of her freedom struggle, which left contested spaces and strategic gaps with neighbors. History underscores the long-term impact of colonial interventions. Türkiye's resilience under Atatürk serves as a model for maintaining sovereignty in the face of external pressures, while India's rising national confidence and economic resurrection has become a template for nations seeking economic growth without loss of economic sovereignty.

India and Türkiye are key players in a multi-polar world. Their geographical and cultural strengths enable them to address global challenges while safeguarding regional stability. Both nations prioritize self-defense and regional stability; both reject aggression as a means to an end. The Indian Navy's activities in the Red Sea and Türkiye's presence in Central Asia highlight their proactive approaches to international security.

Alliances like BRICS, The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) challenge traditional, dominance-based structures more reminiscent of the 20th Cold War than 21st century values. These groupings emphasize equality, mutual respect, and shared responsibility. Türkiye and India are both active in fostering regional and global partnerships. Türkiye's historical ties to Central Asia and India's Indo-Pacific outreach enhance their influence in shaping the new world order.

Power vacuums in regions like Central Asia and the Gulf must be addressed through strategic partnerships. Both nations aim to prevent disruptive interference by asserting their presence and leadership. Collaboration in trade, education, and infrastructure development offers tangible benefits. Cultural exchanges further enhance mutual understanding and long-term cooperation.

A focus on immediate mutual benefits, such as energy security, climate change, and technological innovation will bring relevant rewards. Establishing joint initiatives can strengthen bilateral ties. Collaboration on stabilizing volatile regions through shared historical and cultural ties is an immediate imperative. We also need to develop frameworks to address humanitarian challenges and promote economic growth, and build enduring partnerships based on shared values and respect for sovereignty. This approach will ensure adaptability to future geopolitical shifts even as it gives their people a better and more secure existence.

India and Türkiye in the Quest of a New World Order.

Mobasher Jawed AKBAR - *The former Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India*

In many ways, both India and Türkiye were kept on the sidelines during the 20th century. Both nations will not allow this to become the narrative of the 21st century.

The first lesson of public diplomacy communication is that what is said is often less significant than what is heard. A healthy dialogue is built on active listening, fostering mutual understanding. The language we use is equally critical. For example, terms like "Middle East" reflect colonial legacies, raising questions such as: Middle for whom? East of what? These terms, imposed by imperial powers, constrain our understanding of geopolitics. Without challenging and reframing such language, a true comprehension of global dynamics remains elusive.

Syria's current prominence on the global agenda underscores the importance of historical awareness. To understand Syria, one must delve into its pre-colonial and pre-mandate past. What did Damascus mean to the region before the French mandate? Concepts like Şam (Damascus) have varied meanings across different cultures and powers. This divergence in perception highlights the role of neo-imperialism in shaping and often distorting narratives.

Türkiye's role in maintaining stability during Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's era was vital. The region's economic significance made it inherently volatile. Similarly, India's struggle with the consequences of partition following independence prevented it from achieving territorial continuity, leaving it surrounded by potential flashpoints. Without partition, India might have bordered Afghanistan and Iran, making it an active partner in the solution of one of the most intractable problems facing the world at this moment.

One critical historical lesson is that war is contagious. Today, India's navy is on active duty in regions like the Red Sea, underscoring its focus on preventing threats, and patrols across the Indo-Pacific widening its strategic perimeter. However, nations must answer their own security challenges while fostering shared stability through partnerships. This approach underscores the geopolitical importance of both India and Türkiye, as they safeguard their regions and maintain sovereignty. Nations must find their own answers to their specific problems.

The 20th century was marked by transformative conflicts: World War I, World War II, and the Cold War. While the Cold War officially ended, its legacy persists, as evidenced by ongoing conflicts like the one in Ukraine. The maps drawn in the aftermath of these wars were forged in blood, and the resulting disputes continue to shape global politics.

History defies prediction. Who in 1910 could have foreseen World War I, in 1920 the Great Depression, in 1930 the rise of Hitler or World War II, in 1940 the emergence of a free India as the beginning of the end of the era of colonization, in 1950 the nuclearisation of the Cold War, or the rise of space as a new frontier in conflicts for supremacy, in 1960 the Americanization of the Vietnam War, in 1970 the emergence of Bangladesh or in 1980 the rise of the communist China? Likewise, future events remain unpredictable. However, diplomacy and strategic tools can help manage unforeseen crises effectively. Reality is always way more different than predictions and estimations. We cannot fully predict events in global affairs, but we must learn how to manage the unthinkable when it becomes reality.

India and Türkiye share more in common than is widely recognized. Both are stable democracies and face external interference aimed at undermining their stability. This reflects a

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broader global reality - one of increasing challenges to sovereignty and diplomacy. Türkiye, for instance, must balance its interests between the East and West, playing a more assertive role in Central Asia to prevent a vacuum that could invite other actors.. Meanwhile, India's approach to neighbors and partnerships is defined by pragmatism, emphasizing geopolitics and diplomacy over proximity.

Both nations reject an “eye-for-an-eye” mentality in foreign policy. Such aggressive perception of diplomacy eventually would leave a wounded world, taking lives but nothing more. Wars cannot solve problems that peace fails to address. History shows that violent empires—from the British to the Soviet Union—collapsed under the weight of non-violent resistance and uprisings. Diplomacy, not aggression, achieves lasting stability.

One of the most significant recent achievements in modern diplomacy is the peace agreement between India and China. Instead of resorting to war, the two nations opted for dialogue, leading to cooperation. This decision is evidence that peace through negotiation is more durable and stable than that imposed by conflict. India and China, as densely populated powerful countries, could have chosen to go into war again, chose confrontational mechanism but they did not follow that path, and they were right. Today the two countries have learnt to engage to mutual benefit despite the burden of unresolved issues like undemarcated borders.

India and Türkiye, despite their strong defense capabilities, prioritize self-protection over aggression, focusing on fostering regional stability. Both countries have great security capability and others are aware of this reality. Their desire to avoid conflict does not stem from being weak but by not having interest in others' territories and properties. They only aim for stability in their region.

The alliances of the 21st century are redefining geopolitical landscapes. NATO, once the dominant alliance, now faces competition from groups like BRICS, ASEAN, and the G20. Effective alliances must be built on principles of equality, mutual respect, and shared responsibility. Supremacy has no place in this new world order; instead, nations must acknowledge that others are capable of thinking and acting for themselves. Participation in these alliances reflects their commitment to fostering regional and global stability. Türkiye's historical ties to Central Asia and India's strategic outreach through the Indo-Pacific framework further enhance their positions as leaders in these initiatives.

India and Türkiye stand at the crossroads of history, navigating complex geopolitical realities while upholding

their sovereignty and regional stability. As they confront external pressures and internal challenges, their commitment to diplomacy, dialogue, and shared partnerships offers a model for a more peaceful and cooperative global future. Lastly, diplomacy can only be found in democracies. Active political participation of the citizens must be assured to have a healthy public democracy. To refrain from misconceptions, public diplomacy must ensure that citizens are fully engaged in active participation and exercising their fundamental rights.

To strengthen bilateral relations, practical steps could be addressed as follows: Initial steps must focus on trade, education, and infrastructure development as areas of immediate mutual benefit. This can be supplemented by joint initiatives to address pressing issues like energy security and climate change. For regional stability, they can collaborate on stabilizing volatile regions such as Central Asia, leveraging their historical and cultural ties to create sustainable solutions. Accordingly, it is important to develop frameworks for addressing humanitarian challenges and fostering economic growth. In the long-term vision, it is beneficial to build enduring partnerships based on shared values and mutual respect, ensuring both nations can adapt to future geopolitical shifts.

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Mobasher Jawad Akbar - *The former Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India*

In a long and distinguished career spanning media and public life, Akbar made a remarkable impact at a young age. He successfully founded Sunday, India's first nonpartisan political weekly, in 1976, and The Telegraph, India's first modern daily newspaper, in 1982. Later, in 1994, he launched the country's first international newspaper, The Asian Age, and subsequently served as the Editorial Director of India Today for about three years.

Beyond his extraordinary achievements as an editor and writer, Akbar is also a critically acclaimed and bestselling author, with a series of books on India and the global political challenges of Islamism. His notable works include India: The Siege Within - Challenges to a Nation's Unity (1984) and Nehru: The Making of India (1989), both published internationally by Penguin Books.

His other works include Kashmir: Behind the Vale, Riot After Riot, The Shade of Swords: Jihad and the Conflict Between Islam and Christianity, Blood Brothers, The Tinderbox: The Past and Future of Pakistan, A Mirror to Power: Gandhi's Hinduism, The Struggle Against Genocide in Islam, Dulhan Sahib and the Black Zamindar, and his most recent book, Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns.

In addition to his prolific writing, Akbar has had a notable career in public service. He was a member of the Lok Sabha in the short-lived parliament of 1989–1991 and later served as a member of the Rajya Sabha from 2015 to 2022. During this time, he was the Minister of State for External Affairs under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

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Throughout history, shaping the perceptions of societies has been one of the most fundamental elements of domestic and foreign policy. As the nation-state structure became widespread and nation-states emerged as the main actors in international relations, public diplomacy along with traditional diplomacy began to play a crucial role in shaping these relations.

Diplomatic relations between states are conducted by diplomats, including ambassadors and consuls. These diplomats also engage in public diplomacy, which serves a vital function in interstate relations. Public diplomacy activities have a significant impact not only on the citizens of a state but also on its leaders. Public diplomacy plays a pivotal role in shaping the relations between states alongside other diplomatic activities.

The aim of the project Public Diplomacy in Foreign Policy conducted in collaboration with Cappadocia University and Ankara Center for Crisis and Political Studies (ANKASAM) is to discuss the principles for implementing public diplomacy, identify key activities and highlight public diplomacy efforts undertaken by foreign diplomats in Türkiye. The ultimate goal is to contribute to shaping Turkish Foreign Policy and influencing decision-making processes.

For detailed information about the project;
<https://commonhorizon.kapadokya.edu.tr/> You can reach us from the address.

Prof. Dr. Şafak OĞUZ

Prof. Dr. Şafak OĞUZ became an Associate Professor in 2019 and a full Professor in 2024. He retired in 2021 after 23 years of service in the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF). During his time there, he also worked for the United Nations (UN) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). His expertise lies in Weapons of Mass Destruction, Terrorism (WMD), International Security, International Organizations and Peace and Conflict Studies. Prof. Dr. Şafak OĞUZ currently serves as the Acting Dean of the Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences at Cappadocia University. He is fluent in English and German.

Prof. Dr. Mehmet Seyfettin EROL

Prof. Dr. Mehmet Seyfettin EROL graduated from the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Boğaziçi University (BU) in 1993. After completing his Master's Degree at BU in 1995, he was accepted to the PhD program at BU in the same year. After completing his PhD at Ankara University in 2005, Prof. Erol became an Associate Professor in 2009 in the field of "International Relations" and a full Professor in 2014. His areas of expertise are "Geopolitics", "Crisis Management", "Security", "Turkish Foreign Policy" and "Central Asia".

Prof. Erol has published numerous scientific articles and books on these subjects. He is the author and editor of various journals such as Eurasia File, Black Sea Studies, Gazi Akademik Overview, Journal of Regional Studies, International Crisis and Political Studies and contributor for national radio-television programs such as TRT, A HABER, TV NET, CNN TÜRK and HABERTÜRK.

Prof. Erol, whose opinions have been published in Turkey's leading magazines and newspapers has been deemed worthy of many awards, including Writers and Artists Foundation of the Turkic World (TÜRKSAV) in 2007, "Turkish World Service Award" in 2015 and Writers' Union of Turkey (TYB) "Press-Intellectual Award".

Prof. Erol has lectured at Ufuk, Ankara and Gazi Universities. As a faculty member in the Department of Relations at the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences at Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, he served as an expert, coordinator and founder president in Türkiye's leading think tanks (ASAM, SDE, GSAM, USGAM). He has been the founding chairman of Ankara Crisis and Politics Research Center (ANKASAM) since 2016.