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Strategic Forum 292 Supporting Democracy in Erdogan's Turkey: The Role of Think Tanks by Richard H.M. Outzen and Ryan Schwing



Fifteen years into the era of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, U.S. influence on his inner circle and support base, the new gen-

eration of Turkish strategic thinkers, and the Turkish public at large has diminished rather than improved. U.S. interests would be better served by avoiding confrontation and maintaining close militaryto-military cooperation while also pressing for democratization in a patient, low-profile manner. The emerging Turkish think tank sector offers opportunities for doing just that. The sector has grown dramatically over the past 20 years and offers a window for better understanding the revolution in Turkish strategic thinking that now perplexes many American observers. Engaging Turkey's think tanks would support democratization.



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