The Justice and Development Party in Turkey

Turkish politics was dramatically reshaped in the early 2000s following the decline of the Islamist National View and the electoral breakthrough of the new Justice and Development Party (JDP), headed by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Alongside its Islamist credentials, Erdoğan's JDP consistently and convincingly presented itself as the 'populist' defender of the downtrodden sectors of Turkish society. However, with Erdoğan's rise as the popularly elected president in 2014, Turkey's already fragile democratic system was pushed in a more authoritarian direction.

Shifting the focus away from structural factors, this book analyses the political appeal and organization of the JDP that granted the party such unprecedented electoral resilience. With critical but accessible theoretical discussions, Toygar Sinan Baykan locates the JDP within the wider literature of populism, Islamist party politics, party organizations and authoritarianism. More than fifty in-depth interviews also help to relate the intimate story of Turkey's socio-cultural divides and the JDP's intra-party organizational dynamics, thereby offering a fresh account of Turkish politics.

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The Justice and Development Party in Turkey

*Populism, Personalism, Organization*

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