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Populism, Polarization and the New Authoritarianism in Turkey and Beyond

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The undemocratic developments in Turkey have raised concern in entire Europe. Beyond the surface of rising authoritarianism in Turkey is the underlying conflict between religious and secular actors. The conflict in Turkey is rather a forerunner for Arab countries as they have in common that secular elites have been the nation-state builder and religious opposition movements – so far excluded from government - aim to „come to power“. Whether these opposition movements contribute to democratization or just succeed to „conquer“ state institutions decides about the future of democracy in Turkey and beyond.



Murat Somer is Associate Professor at Koc University and has published widely in international leading journals such as *Democratization* and *Comparative Political Studies* on the ideology of Islamic movements, the Kurdish question and the process of democratization in Turkey.