

Defence Industry in the Political Economy of State and Business Relations

Authors : Hatice Idil Gorgen

Abstract : Turkey has been investing in its national defence industrial base since the 1980s. State's role in defence industry showed differences in Turkey. Parallel with this, ruling group's attitude toward companies in defence sector varied. These changes in policies and behaviors of the state have occurred throughout such milestones as political and economic turmoil in domestic and international level. Hence, it is argued that state's role, relations with private companies in defense sector and its policies towards the defense industry has shown differences due to the international system, political institutions, ideas and political coalitions in Turkey since the 1980s. Therefore, in order to see changes in the role of the state in defence sector, this paper aims to indicate first, history of state's role in production and defence industry in the post-1980s era. Secondly, to comprehend the changes in the state's role in defence industry, Stephan Haggard's sources of policy change will be provided in the theoretical ground. Thirdly, state cooperated, and joint venture defence firms, state's actions toward them will be observed. The remaining part will explore the underlying reasons for the changes in the role of the state in defence industry, and it implicitly or explicitly impacts on state business relations. Major findings illustrate that targeted idea of self-sufficient or autarky Turkey to attract domestic audience and to raise the prestige through defence system; ruling elites can regard defence industry and involved business groups as a mean for their ends. State dominant value, sensitive perception which has been ever since Ottoman Empire, prioritizes business groups in defence industry compared to others and push the ruling elites to pursue hard power in defence sectors. Through the globally structural transformation in defence industry, integration of Turkey to liberal bloc deepened and widened interdependence among states. Although it is a qualitative study, it involves the numerated data and descriptive statistics. Data will be collected by searching secondary sources from the literature, examining official documents of ministry of defence, and other appropriate ministries.

Keywords : defense industry, state and business relations, public private relations, arm industry

Conference Title : ICPSPE 2018 : International Conference on Political Science and Political Economy

Conference Location : Paris, France

Conference Dates : March 15-16, 2018