Anglo-Turkish Society online lecture, 30 March 2021, 6.00 pm

Speaker: Ayla Jean Yackley

Platform: Zoom with link provided to those who register

Title: Turkey's Great Game: A conversation with journalist Ayla Jean Yackley about the pivot to hard power in Turkish foreign policy

Turkey has become a force to reckon with across its sprawling neighborhood as it flexes its military muscle to achieve foreign policy objectives. In the last year alone, the armed forces have challenged Greece, invaded Syria, upended the Libyan civil war, staged operations in Iraq and supplied Azerbaijan with firepower to retake territory lost to Armenia three decades ago.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan argues the emergence of a multipolar world compels Turkey to find new friends and face different enemies. While its interventions abroad have animated Turks, who believe that their nation's large military and historical footprint have earned it a greater say in world affairs, this increasingly unilateral approach has outraged traditional allies in the West.

The ground is now shifting. Joe Biden's election as US president heralds a recalibration in America's view of the world. Simmering tensions with Turkey, over its purchase of advanced Russian weapons systems or a state bank's trial on charges of helping Iran dodge US nuclear sanctions, will emerge as early challenges for the relationship. And Biden may condition good ties with Turkey on an improvement in its human rights as the new administration transitions from Donald Trump's hands-off realism to a values-based foreign policy.

Booking essential: https://ayla-yackley-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk

Contact: contact@angloturkishsociety.org.uk



Arrival of S-400 missile system from Russia in Turkey in 2019



Ayla Jean Yackley is a journalist who has been based in Turkey for two decades, covering politics, the economy and culture. She currently writes for the Financial Times, and her work has also appeared in The New Yorker, The Atlantic, The Economist, Foreign Affairs and other publications. Previously, she was a correspondent for Reuters and Bloomberg News, and her reporting has taken her to Iraq, Iran, Syria, Afghanistan, Russia, Germany and Cyprus.

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