Turkey 2024

Dear Readers,

Three Questions for Turkey's Upcoming Local Elections

We are in the midst of a complex and volatile political landscape in Turkey, characterized by post-Erdoğan scenarios and a potential shift in political power. The upcoming local elections on March 31st will be a crucial test for the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). Here are three key questions that will shape the political narrative:

1. What is at stake in Turkey's local elections?

The 2024 local elections are more than just a test of political power. They will give the electorate a chance to weigh in on the performance of the ruling AKP and its opposition. The AKP has won the national vote in the last two elections, but opposition parties have gained ground, particularly in Istanbul and Ankara. The elections will be a special test and a rematch for President Erdogan, who is eager to enact revenge after losing the important municipalities of Istanbul and Ankara.

2. How has Erdogan's power changed over the last two decades?

Erdogan's political power has faced a decline in recent years, despite his two decades in power. The AKP is experiencing a weakening internal coherency and weakening popular support. Erdogan's selection of mayoral candidates in Istanbul and Ankara, the capital's mayoral candidates in the most important Turkish cities, has President Erdogan chosen those names?

3. What is the role of opposition parties in the local elections?

The AKP seeks support from its Islamist ally, the New Welfare Party (NWP), but has hesitated in supporting Erdogan during the presidential elections. All opposition parties are strategically vulnerable. The People's Democratic Party (HDP) and the Workers' Party (PKK) are set to run a joint list in the 2024 local elections to strengthen their oppositional presence.

The upcoming local elections will be a defining moment for Turkey's political landscape. Stay tuned for more updates and analysis in the following weeks.

Best regards,

The CATS Team

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Should you have any questions or suggestions, then please e-mail us at cats@swp-berlin.org.