

World Affairs Council of Central Illinois

Thursday, December 1

Turkey & the European Union

Sibel Oktay

Dinner in U of I Springfield PAC Restaurant; Program in Brookens Auditorium

Reception 5:30 p.m.; Dinner 6:15 p.m.; Program 7:30 p.m.

The program is open to the public and is free. See below for dinner costs.

MENU:

SALAD: Turkish Pickled Vegetable Salad, Red Pepper Hummus and Pitas

ENTREE: Braised 12 Spice Istanbul Chicken
Bulgar Pilaf and Moussaka

DESSERT: Baklava and Ice Cream

Beverages

Reservations are required for dinner and must be prepaid and received by November 23rd. There is no guarantee of seating beyond that date. For the *possibility* of late reservations, contact Michael Plog, 793-2509 or mbplog@comcast.net, to determine whether seating is available.

Please detach and mail

Name _____ Phone # _____

Per meal cost: ___ Members \$30 ___ Non-Members \$35

___ Number of vegetarian meals requested ___ Number of gluten-free meals requested

Total enclosed \$ _____ No. Attending _____

Please Mail this form with check payable to: WACCI, Box 2233, Springfield, IL 62705

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Turkey is much in the news. A recent military coup attempt in Turkey has led the Turks to demand that the United States extradite a Turkish cleric living here so that he can stand trial in Turkey for fomenting insurrection. Also in reaction to the coup attempt, tens of thousands of Turkish citizens have been arrested, leading to fears that Turkey's government is becoming increasingly authoritarian and ill-disposed to respect human rights, the cornerstone of Western political morality. In addition, Turkey opposes Western efforts to arm Kurds, fearing efforts by Turkish Kurds to secede from Turkey, while the West sees Kurds as effective opponents of ISIS.

At the same time, however, Turkey is a member in good standing of NATO and is also central to the fight against ISIS, as it allows the U.S. to fly missions from its territory. It helps avert further immigration crises in Europe by harboring 2.5 million refugees, mostly from Syria. So its further integration within the Western orbit remains attractive to many.

In 1963, Turkey signed an associate membership agreement with the European Union (then the *European Economic Community*) and applied for full membership in 1987. Five decades, one Cold War, and one Brexit later, Turkey is still negotiating membership while the EU is busy struggling with its own identity crisis. In this talk, UIS Political Science professor **Sibel Oktay** explains the domestic and international politics behind the protracted accession process, and lists five reasons why Turkey will never become an EU member.

Born and raised in Turkey, Dr. Oktay earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from Syracuse University in 2014. Before coming to UIS the same year, she was a visiting fellow at Northwestern University. Oktay's research interests include coalition politics and foreign policy decision-making, political leadership, EU public opinion, and Turkish politics. Her scholarly work has been published or is forthcoming in the *Journal of European Public Policy* and *European Political Science*. Her opinion pieces have appeared in outlets including *E-International Relations*, *The Conversation*, the *Huffington Post* and the *New Republic*.

