

SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis is an analysis of Turkish think tank USAK, its structure, orientation of its studies, ways of dissemination of results of their studies, and, besides, we have tried to estimate its influence on policy-making process in Turkey.

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Relevance of the research issue: We live in times where the only constant is change, where the line between domestic and international politics is increasingly blurred. Globalization has transformed how we view international relations and opened the policy-making process to a new set of actors, agendas, and outcomes. International relations was once the exclusive domain of diplomats, bureaucrats, and states, but today's policy-makers must consider a diverse set of international actors when formulating foreign policy. While non-governmental actors were not born of globalization, they have been empowered by it. Consider the simple fact that in 1950 there were only 50 nation states and a limited number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations operating in the world and one begins to understand the complexity and unique challenge policy-makers face when trying to fashion an effective foreign policy.

In this increasingly complex, interdependent, and information-rich world, governments and individual policy-makers face the common problem of bringing expert knowledge to bear in governmental decision-making. Policy-makers need basic information about the world and the societies they govern, how current policies are working, possible alternatives, and their likely costs and consequences.

In politics, information no longer translates into power unless it is in the right form at the right time. Governments and policy-makers are often moved to seize the moment because the right social and political forces are in alignment or because a crisis compels them to take action. In either case, they often move quickly and make decisions based on available information, which does not always lead to the most informed policy. In short, policy-makers and others interested in the policy-making process require information that is timely, understandable, reliable, accessible, and useful.

Thereby, research of conception of think tanks, defining their influence on a policy-making process is a relevance of the research issue.

The purpose of the work is to shape an idea on a modern phenomenon known as a think tank, and, besides, to analyse their activity and to evaluate their influence on a decision making process of domestic and foreign-policy.

Research objectives:

- to analyse a general approaches to defining a concept of a think tanks;
- to define a specific character of meaning of think tank;
- to analyse a history of making process of foreign think tanks;
- to reveal a trends of modern think tanks functioning;
- to evaluate Turkish think tank's USAK activity and to define an extent of its influence on decision-making process.

Scientific novelty of this research is that here we have tried to define a specific characters of a modern think tanks, particularly Turkish ones, and, besides, we have tried to reveal an extent of influence that International Organization of Strategic Researches (USAK) has on foreign-policy making process in Turkey.

Structure: the two chapters, containing four paragraphs, the conclusion and a 60-reference bibliography. The total volume is 84 pages.

Summary: For policy-makers in many countries it is often not the lack of information that is the problem but the avalanche of information. Indeed, policy-makers are frequently besieged by more information than they can possibly use:

complaints from constituents, reports from international agencies or civil society organizations, advice from bureaucrats, position papers from lobbyists and interest groups, and exposes of the problems of current government programs in the popular or elite media. The problem is that this information can be unsystematic, unreliable, or tainted by the interests of those who are disseminating it. Some information may be so technical that generalist policy-makers cannot use it or even understand it. Some information may be politically, financially, or administratively impractical, or contrary to the interests of the policy-makers who must make decisions based on information that they often feel is less than adequate. Other information may not be useful because it differs too radically from the worldview or ideology of those receiving it. In developing and transitional countries, the basic data needed to make informed decisions often does not exist and must be collected and analyzed and put into a form that is usable by parliamentarians and bureaucrats.

As a result, in policy-making process, politics nowadays tend to turn themselves to think tanks. Think tanks are independent, noninterest-based, nonprofit organizations that produce and principally rely on expertise and ideas to obtain support and to influence the policymaking process. The principal task of think tanks is to generate policy relevant knowledge and provide information for political and business elites as well as the public at large.

Think tanks can be best understood by examining their affiliation, organizational structure and culture, and political and philosophical orientation. The strategy and structure of a think tank often influences the type of policy output it produces and what stage in policy process it chooses to focus its activities. Think tanks tend to be one of five types: academic (general purpose and specialized), contract research, advocacy and policy enterprise or a hybrid of the first three.

Think tanks employ a wide range of methods to accomplish the vital goal of effectively propagating information, including seminars, conferences and briefings, publications, relations with government agencies. Think tanks often employ professionals with experience in marketing and public relations.

Established in 2004, the International Strategic Research Organisation (USAK) has gained wide recognition as Turkey's foremost source of independent and balanced information and research on a broad range of issues affecting Turkey and its region.

USAK is a non-partisan policy research organization dedicated to innovative research and analysis that promotes international security, prosperity, justice and freedom. The organization provides the forum for, and is the vehicle to stimulate the research, study, analysis and discussion of the strategic implications of major national and international security, issues, events and trends as they affect Turkey and its region.

Through publications, conferences and policy recommendations, the USAK seeks to guide regional and global leaders in government, media and business.

Focusing particularly on issues of security and cooperation, USAK is one of Turkey and the world's leading organisations for the analysis of global issues, satisfying a need in Turkey, its region and the world for a body of informed opinion on these issues.

By analyzing USAK's activity we can conclude that the International Strategic Research Organisation may have influence on policy-making process in Turkey, since a prime-minister Recep Tayip Erdogan and other members of ruling party in their activity frequently turn to USAK's studies results and advices.