Turkey's European Future: Behind the Scenes of America's Influence on EU-Turkey Relations. Nathalie Tocci. New York and London: New York University Press, 2011. p/bk 214 pp. ISBN 978-0-8147-8409-9. Price £35.15.

Do many Europeans think about the European future of Turkey? Most probably the answer is no. If one attempts to clarify this scientifically, it is possible to claim that most Europeans have an amorphous, fragmentary, and superficial vision of a common future; therefore, it is interesting how this topical question is discussed in the book Turkey's European Future by Nathalie Tocci.

The first chapter of the book serves as the introduction. Tocci combines three dimensions of the present research in a logical way, i.e. transatlantic policy, the EU enlargement and Turkey. The author laconically analyzes the contradictory processes accompanying Turkey's attempts to join the EU, as one side "tempts the tiger to descend from the mountain" (i.e. to comply with the requirements of conditionality) carefully, while the other side (the EU) consciously postpones the membership of Turkey, as it does not see any signs of progress (18). While analyzing this issue, Tocci does not underestimate the role of the USA in trying to aid negotiations. In the second chapter she shows how America privatized Turkey in order to implement its aims of foreign policy; to provide defense against possible invasion by the Soviet Union as well as building a bridge to the East (27). Tocci admits that Turkey is the hostage of American foreign policy; the object of endless speculation from business representatives and think tanks, while being subject to criticism from Armenian Americans and Jewish lobbyists.

In the third chapter of the book, Tocci analyses the positions of the EU stakeholders towards Turkey - especially Germany and France. Some politicians within both countries believe that EU enlargement including Turkey is a major threat to European cohesion. Perhaps Turkey may be too much for the EU to handle; it does not possess the institutional, political, financial, social and cultural capacities for such expansion.

The fourth chapter of *Turkey's European Future* evaluates the impact of trans-Atlantic debate and the role of America towards Turkey's membership of the EU. It becomes clear that America is interested in

Turkey's membership and propagates it even more than the membership of the former Eastern and Central European countries. However Tocci believes that Turkey is a political rather than a geostrategic issue for the EU; unless it defines its identity in European terms, its prospects for membership are bleak to say the least. The fifth chapter of the book looks in more detail at the America-Turkey relationship, based on closeness and openness. It is based on two perspectives: dominance of America under the guise of strategic safety (to protect themselves against Iraq and Iran); and Turkey's seeking to gain advantages in its negotiations with the EU. Sometimes that relationship works to Turkey's advantage; it helped them move negotiations forward over Cyprus, Armenia and the Kurdish issue. However, it becomes clear from the text that America has had ulterior motives in wanting to deal with these issues.

Tocci's sixth chapter indicates the main advantages of Turkish foreign policy: it has been a region leader in resolving the Bosnian war conflict; and a mediator between the states of the Caspian region and the EU. In the Middle East, Turkey connects and consolidates the conflicting interests of Syria and Israel. When the USA loses its positive image, Turkey steps into the diplomatic breach. Tocci concludes that the country is a good example of a transitional society. EU officials are threatened by the possible alienation of Turkey from America in case it damages relationships between themselves and America. However the author thinks that the USA participation in the EU-Turkey relationship will become weaker in the future.

Jaroslav Dvorak
Klaipeda University, Lithuania