Defining Self-Rule Within the New Political Geography of Kurdistan
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The regime change in Iraq, the ongoing civil war in Syria and the continued existence of IS all have changed not only the dynamics of the balance of power in the Middle East, but also the very nature of Kurdistan question and the parameters of its resolution. As the status quo in the Middle East is crumbling, Kurdistan is beginning to emerge as a new political geography – steadily more replacing a historically divided geographical entity. Kurds are, on the other hand, increasingly perceived as one of the constituent elements in creating a post-Sykes-Picot Middle East.

While Kurdistan takes on a new (geo)political importance, Kurdish political actors are challenged to make clearer choices about the forms of a Kurdish self-government. A variety of options, ranging from democratic autonomy to federalism to independence, are now under debate. This paper examines the understandings of Kurdish political actors as regards self-rule and / or self determination. The aim is to analyse the conceptual bases, the political prerequisites, and the geopolitical implications of the political projects of the leading Kurdish parties.