During early Summer 2013, mass protests broke out in Istanbul’s Taksim neighborhood in reaction to Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan’s insistence on plans to (re)construct a former Ottoman barracks (as a shopping mall), within one of the city’s only parks. As peaceful protests were met with violent police actions, they grew to unprecedented numbers, and they spread throughout the country. This talk will place the protests into a social-political context, and will address the government’s continued clampdown on dissent.

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