

US- TURKIYE RELATIONS DURING ERADGAN ERA: IMPLICATIONS FOR MIDDLE EASTERN SECURITY

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ABSTRACT

Turkiye and America are close allies. During their long relations, both countries experienced ups and downs. Both countries depend on each other in several areas, like trade, defense, and strategic alliances. Turkiye remained a liberal country under the leadership of Mustafa Kamal. Butt, with time, the internal dynamics of politics changed, and now the present regime of Erdogan has conservative ideas. In external relations, Turkiye now supports Muslim countries and goes against the guidelines of America. For instance, both countries have different approaches to the Syrian war and the Cyprus and Ukraine issues. Simultaneously, both countries are strategically active on the NATO platform. During Erdogan's tenure, both countries tried to stabilize their relations by opting for door-channel diplomacy. There are several studies on US-Turkiye relations, but this study is about the Impact of US-Turkiye relations on the Middle Eastern region. The analysis of these questions will explore Turkiye's foreign policy towards America in the past, present, and future. A study of these results will contribute to maintain peace in the region. This study will explore Turkish foreign policy. This article will analyze how America will negotiate its interests in the area. It will also be important to see how Turkiye will maintain its relations with the West and Russia and how the regional hegemony will be retained. This study will be helpful for future US and Turkiye relations and its impact on the region

Keywords: *America Turkiye, Middle East, Alliance, Erdogan, Russia, Syrian Conflict, Cyprus issue.*

INTRODUCTION

America and Turkiye have long-term relations. Sometimes, these relations are influenced by mutual grievances.) it was blamed that Turkiyes depends on America in every matter. America influences its decisions. Turkiye opposed the American support of Kurds in Syria, and America raised its voice on human rights issues in Turkiye. Moreover, the expanding relations between Russia and Turkey are not acceptable to Turkiye. In the recent Scenario, America wanted support from Turkiye on the Ukraine issue. Turkiye's relations deteriorated during

the Erdogan era, especially in the Middle East. Turkiye has strong support for Hamas, as Erdogan has personal support for Palestine. This stance of Turkiye has taken to isolation from regional diplomacy. On the other hand, Erdogan has received support from the Arab world. Sweden was admitted to NATO with the support of Turkiye, and this gesture provided a chance for the Western world to restore their ties. This is a study of a big and small state relationship; it shows how the relatively small state and superpower work together

For sixty years, America prioritized its strategic partnership with Türkiye in the Middle East and Mediterranean region. Türkiye was an important NATO ally during the Cold War. It remained strategically functional in three regions. These regions were scattered from the Caucasus to the Persian Gulf, Middle East, and Central Asia. Türkiye wants to increase its influence in these three regions. The Strait of Bosphorus and Dardanelles connects the Mediterranean Sea and the black sea; the authority of Türkiye on this area is according to international accords. To promote prosperity and growth, America and Türkiye have collaborated in combating terrorism, stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and in the improvement of energy security (Flanagan, et al. 2020).

Erdogan became the nation's president in 2014 after resigning as prime minister. The country is still a parliamentary system, despite his expanding official and informal powers, which include his party, the AKP, continuing to hold de facto control over it and virtually continually leading the government without a coalition since 2002. As a result, since taking office, he has concentrated on making Türkiye an executive system. He requires Ataturk-like authority to accomplish his objectives (JEFFREY and cagaptay 2017) Türkiye's US relations deteriorated, especially in the Middle East and Mediterranean region. Opinion Polls in Türkiye always remain unfavorable impressions about America. This situation can damage bilateral relations as public opinion matters a lot in current Turkish Policy, Even though some mistrust marks the history of Turkey-U.S. relations. Türkiye's geostrategic importance is established. Initially Türkiye's role in Iraq was considered as destabilizing but now considered as important one in economic development, reconstruction and territorial integrity Türkiye was the first to offer troops in Afghanistan. In Libya and Syria both the countries worked together in uprising in Arab World. Türkiye has given bas for the NATO anti missile system. That is considered as important for European security. Turkish policy was altered with America. On the current situation of Israel, Ankara has different approach. American and Türkiye must deepen their consultation. This will take America and Türkiye in and advantageous place to solve the mutual problems (Albright, Steven and Stephen 2012).

This study is an attempt to understand the relationship between America and Türkiye. This study tries to answer the question of whether, in spite of internal and international changes, these countries maintain their relations. It was a patron-client relationship between these countries. Türkiye tilted towards Westernization's need for aid in global and regional interests. American and Türkiye foreign policy-making determinants and internal and external factors that affect the relations will also be discussed. Turkish government experienced its first military coup in 1960. It was a leftist government. They attacked the relationship between Türkiye and America. During the Cuban missile crisis, Türkiye made a bargain to get a Jupiter missile from Russia. During the Cubing missile crisis, the American and Türkiye governments fell victim to American policy. American Türkiye was important in the Eastern Bloc. In the Arab-Israel war, Türkiye supported Arab countries. This study will analyze big and small state relations and try to show which type of state remained beneficial. It will show how a strong ally punishes a small ally when it goes against it. It will show how big powers influence the decisions of the small state. (Oslo 2003).

Literature review

This article gives us a detailed analysis of the evolution of America-Türkiye relations and also narrates the events of cooperation and tensions between these countries. Security, economic energy and foreign policy-related issues are discussed. The relations of these two countries are narrated in a historical context. The article gives us a narration of the positive and negative aspects of the relations between these two countries. American-Türkiye relations are multifaceted and are impacted for many reasons. Historically, many events, like the Cold War, affected the relationship between the two countries. The authors give answers to improve the relation between these two countries on a priority basis. This article is a valuable resource, but it lacks the current narration of current events between these countries (Makaradze and B 2018). This article narrates that Türkiye has played significant role in advancing the US interest in the world but over the few years US relations with Türkiye deteriorated and it seems that Türkiye will no longer sport US policies. not looks that Türkiye

will not Turkiye is strategy dis oriented in this report a US policy makers raised a question that either Turkiye is a reliable partner. Restaurants the strange between the relations of these two countries have impact from the domestic political transformation. After the collapse of the relationship between Washington and Ankara weekends this. This report was published in the circumstances when there was violence in a Iraq and Iran. It was considered as threat as a nuclear threat and Arab was buffeted by democratic and radical future. This instability in the neighborhood also seen as a threat for the Turkiye despite of the discord between the Washington Turkiye remains ally of the United States (Cook and Randall 2006).

The United States and Turkiye have regularly worked together to address significant foreign and defence policy concerns. This tight collaboration extends back to the Korean War when 15,000 Turkish forces fought alongside American soldiers. Washington's leadership got success in achieving Turkish membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1951. Throughout the following decades, Turkiye maintained the second most extensive military in NATO and played an essential role in Europe's security and preparing for what became known as "out-of-area" contingencies challenges to alliance interests beyond NATO's agreed-upon geographic boundaries (Flanagan, et al. 2020).

The United States assumed responsibility for Turkiye's accession to NATO following the Korean War. The US program of altering the globe started with the formation of the NATO alliance against China and Russia, the two nations that pose a danger to expansionist communism. Turkiye formally joined NATO on February 18, 1952, when the agreement was signed. As a result, Turkiye and the United States developed stronger ties and became allies (Onder 2021).

Nationalist course, the report is a comprehensive account of the US relationships with Turkiye over time. It does not support the strained relationships in recent eras and the challenges that are aligned with the US about the significance of the policies, mainly the difference over Syria and the question of the different policies of America on the issues of Turkiye-Turkish relations due to the presence of Fethullah goolen self-exiled leader in the USA who

is considered as a terrorist. The other reason is the purchase of a Russian-made missile defence system. Anti-American sentiments depend on Turkiye with time domestically after the arrival of Tayyab Erdogan. With time, polarization increased in the country, and Turkiye tried fundamental change in the government. This study can be seen domestically; Turkiye strengthened the Civil authority systematically. There was a difference in the strategy between America and Turkiye to end the civil war that was going on in Syria. The strategy, goals and mission of both countries were entirely different. America's strategic partnership with Russia remained prominent for more than six decades. This partnership emerged in the early years of the Cold War. Turkish leaders turn to the US for political, economic and military systems. Turkiye was eventually Incorporated into NATO in 1952 (Flanagan, et al. 2020)

This book narrates the US Turkiye relations; it focuses on Turkiye's foreign policy orientation. Major issues, like Russia's Turkiye relations and the acceptance of Sweden and Finland into NATO, are discussed. The issues of Cyprus and Greece are also seen critically. There is a debate on Syria and Iraq issues. Border disputes of neighbouring states are also discussed, and Turkish economic ties are also discussed. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is examined. Political and Economic engagement with Turkiye's government is also highlighted (Zanotti and Thomas 2023).

Nasuh Oslo is the writer of the book *The Turkish America Relationship between 1947-2003: The History of Distinctive Alliance* (Nova Science Publishers 2003 New York) This book analyses the main trends in the relations between Turkiye and America from 1950 to 2003. Though this looks like a historical study, it is a well-written account of the relations between both countries. The writer gave a view about patron-client relations; it tells about the small state ally with the big ally. It narrates how the big state casts its impact on the policy decisions of a country and how it caters to and fulfils a country's strategic and financial needs. If the small state tries to go against the big country, it will face consequences in the form of threats, sanctions and loose support of the big powers. This study explains the factors affecting the US Turkiye relations and the reason for the continuity of this alliance. The latest

knowledge about the relations of these countries is missing, creates a need to study this area of research (Oslo 2003).

This book covers recent Turkiye and West relations regarding alliances, particularly NATO, EU and the United States. After the Coup attempt in 2016, Turkiye's internal rhetoric was against the West. This book explains why Turkiye is going further apart from the traditional Western alliances. This book is an account of the motives and dynamics behind the sudden shift of Turkish foreign policy from the West (Ozkanca 2019).

US Turkiye partnership a new partnership independent task force report no. 69 Madeline K Albright and Stephen J Hedley, Steven A Cook this report is a narration of US Turkiye relations during Tayyib Erdgon era and Barak Obama era. According to this report, America considers Turkiye the country given priority. The President of the USA remained in touch with the Turkiye Prime Minister on the telephone, which explains the working relationship between both countries. America considers Turkiye as a close ally. Washington is trying to decrease the trust gap. (Albright, Steven and Stephen 2012).

Research Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research approach based on primary and secondary resources. It primarily focuses on the Erdogan era. Secondary data is collected from research journals and books. Primary data is collected from official documents and reports. Policy statements are also important to the study.

Moreover, the speeches and statements of the leaders are also the most important things to study. News articles and reports are also consulted, and policy briefs, reputed sources of news, and think tank reports are consulted during this study. The study identifies the nature of relations between these two countries. Economic ties, security relations, and conflict resolution are essential to study. This study comprehensively analyses US- Turkiye relations during Erdogan's era and its implications for Middle Eastern security. It will also be essential to see the factors affecting these countries' relations. It will be a comprehensive analysis of US Turkiye relations. Key factors that are influencing the relations will also be discussed. The insight into the complex US Turkiye relations will help us understand regional

security's complex dynamics. Theoretically, realism, constructivism, and neoliberalism are applied to this study. Realism deals with National interest, security issues and power dynamics, whereas constructivism focuses on norms, values and identity from Turkish and American perspectives. The impact of aid, Money, and bilateral trade can be examined under neoliberalism.

US Turkiye Relations in Historical Perspective

Studying the past problems between these two countries will help us understand the relations and can give suggestions. The relationship between Turkiye and the United States developed throughout the Cold War. For decades, their engagement was dominated by political and military concerns over Europe, particularly how to effectively respond to the Soviet strategic challenge and manage the complicated Turkiye-Greece-Cyprus triangle. More than two decades after the end of the Cold War, however, those traditional priorities are giving way to a new agenda that reflects not only changes in the international system but also Turkiye's remarkable transformation from a military-dominated society to a fledgling democracy and rising power in a larger Middle East experiencing unprecedented turmoil (Albright, Steven and Stephen 2012).

Turkey is the most significant and diversified economy. The Muslim majority population is more than 83 million, and its Geographical position near Europe and the Middle East makes it a strategically significant power. Since the Inception of Turkiye, it has relied on its military judiciary and the philosophy of Mustafa Kamal. A significant change in the Turkish Socioeconomic scenario came in 1980 when the military-guided government came into power and established an export-driven economy. Turkish leaders are interested in the independence of the West and want to decrease the inference of the West in domestic politics and increase their cooperation with Russia after the war in the Gulf region in 1991. After creating autonomy for this Kurdish region, which was comprised of Northern Iraq, Turkiye tried to control its southern borders. Turkiye has engaged in disputes with Cyprus and Greece over the Islands, and these countries also have issues with Maritime and air space boundaries. Soviet designs on the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits played a significant role in inviting American sports and

ultimately joining NATO in the early years of the Cold War.

Turkiye played a direct or indirect role in some regional countries and the internal armed struggles. For example, Turkiye sided with Qatar from 2017 to 2020 in Libya and Egypt. Moreover, Turkiye has also provided support for Hamas, a Palestinian Islamic movement. Hamas is considered a threat to Israel and America. In some areas, Turkiye supported Islamic blocks, such as Libya. In the issue of Armenia and Azerbaijan, Turkish leadership supported Azerbaijan on the issue of the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Azerbaijan Turkiye has solid economic ties. These countries have extended their relations in the fields of culture, linguistics and military. Historically, Turkiye has had a bad relationship with Armenia. In 2022, Turkiye and Armenia's dialogues started that offered a path for normalization, and both of these countries are opening borders for each other (Zanotti and Thomas 2023). When comprehending the recently developing power dynamics in the region, the Qatar crisis and the ensuing seismic shifts in Saudi Arabia under MBS's de facto rule are significant. Since Morsi's overthrow and ISIS's rise to power in Egypt as an operative of Israel and the US, this process has been continuing. According to this perspective, Turkiye under President Erdogan has been on the opposing side despite its institutional ties to the West, including its attempts to help NATO in Afghanistan, its membership in NATO, and its ambition for EU membership (Oktav 2019).

The trouble-free atmosphere of American-Turkish relations gradually changed after 1962. The Cuban Missile crisis between the US and USSR caused a loss of confidence again. This was taken when President Lyndon Johnson sent a letter to Turkiye to stop military intervention from suppressing. Until 1980, a number of incidents continued to shadow American relations, but both countries tried to initiate dialogue for military and economic operations. However, the major break occurred in 1975 when America imposed restrictions due to the Turkish military entering Cyprus. In 1974, the arms embargo continued for three years, and it generated hate in Turkiye against America. During the last ten years of the Cold War, military assistance from the US declined. Economic aid to Turkiye has been restored at the edge of the volatile Middle East.

Turkiye continued to maintain a strong relationship with the US. This concept was military, although Turkiye was improving its capabilities by importing arms from Israel, Russia, Germany, and China. The USA remained the leading supporter in terms of weapons. Total arms purchases from the US between 1994 to 2000 reached almost 11 billion (Erhan and Sivis 2017)

Turkiye Russia Relations

Turkiye and Russia have a long history of geopolitical conflicts and cooperation. These countries had relatively low relations from 2015 to 2016 when Turkiye downed a Russian plane near the Syrian-Turkiye border, and Russia imposed restrictions after this bitter incident. Over time, President Erdogan and the Russian President started closer ties. Putin showed support for Erdogan during the coup attempt in 2016. Turkiye Russia Corporation is seen as a threat to the Western world, and these relations with the United States could be undermined. There is a divergence of interest between Turkiye and Russia in various regions. In Syria, Libya, and the Governor, some of the steps of Turkiye frustrated Russia in 2022. Turkiye environment and Ukraine have been a prominent case for the implications for Turkiye-Russia relations. The differences between Turkiye and Russian leaders may lead to a major relationship rupture. Turkish corporations and competition with different actors depend upon the specific circumstances. It is not considered to be in alignment with the opposition. For example, after taking the delivery of the S400 surface-to-air defence system from Russia, Turkiye did not activate this system for its general use, and this opened the doors of cooperation with the United States (Zanotti and Thomas 2023)

The first was a direct outcome of Washington and Moscow's new détente phase. Turkiye was in a different place when the United States altered its military tactics and requested that its allies, including Turkiye, adopt this new paradigm. In NATO military terminology, the shift from massive reprisal to elastic reaction led to a new conception of Turkiye's role in collective defence, and it was pursuing multifaceted diplomacy for the first time since the end of World War II—however, the reduction of tensions. The bloc leaders urged Turkiye to strengthen its

connections with the USSR and other Eastern Bloc nations, at least in the technological and commercial spheres. Additionally, Ankara has begun to strengthen ties with the Muslim world, non-aligned nations, and recently independent African nations. (Erhan and Sivis 2017).

"The United States would like to resume relations with Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan," stated US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. Our oldest NATO member is Turkiye. Due to the USA's lack of involvement in the area, Turkiye was compelled to turn to Russia. We must demonstrate that America is Turkiye's sole ally, as Russia is not a long-term partner. The United States has more military-strategic access to the region than Russia. When President Trump and President R.T. Erdoğan met in the White House on May 16, 2017, the US president said: "We have always had good relations with Turkiye, and we are going to continue them in the future. (MAKARADZE 2021).

Middle Eastern Security

Obama especially criticised the foreign policy of previous administrations and, clouding the Middle Eastern policies, he was willing to reformulate this policy. China merged as a powerful regional actor, and Obama withdrew attention from the Middle Eastern region and gave more weight to the Asia Pacific region. The purpose was to align the Geographical ideas of the US with those of its allies in the Middle East. That was the reason that America developed its relationship with Turkiye to manifest itself with a change and pointed a shift from a strategic model to a partnership (Erhan and Sivis 2017) These worries are valid. Much of the animosity in the current relationship would evaporate if Washington and Turkiye could agree on a safe zone in northern Syria that would provide air power and advisory teams to the Turks and their Syrian opposition allies, restrict PYD activity in non-Kurdish areas, and deny PYD autonomy.

Despite the present truce, such a cooperative effort would also provide the US leverage against Russian and Iranian attempts to press for a complete triumph against the Syrian opposition. (JEFFREY and cagaptay 2017).

Security Cooperation

Both countries have relations in countering terrorism. They have a joint stance against Isis and the Kurdish Workers Party. Both countries conducted military exercises regularly and increased their capabilities. Us has provided Turkiye arms and provided all in the Middle Eastern region. Both countries have security challenges, and they have a joint stance in the Syrian conflict. Turkiye has played a crucial role on the NATO platform, and they have participated in many battles in various regions. Sometimes, they disagree on human rights policies and other issues. However, this dialogue remained ongoing, the partnership between these two countries.

Economic Ties

Economic thigs between America and Turkiye flourished over time. America and Turkiye are the most significant trading partners. Turkiye exports textile machinery and agricultural products to the US, and US exports to Turkiye are chemicals and machinery. Companies have made significant investments in Turkiye, especially in finance and energy. There is a significant investment in Turkiye in the US. Both countries have free trade agreements, and they are expanding their investment daily and trying to decrease the trade barriers to improve their markets. They have many bilateral agreements to increase their bilateral Investments. Sometimes, there are hurdles in economic relations when America imposes restrictions due to human rights violations.

Conflict Resolution:

Diplomatic efforts are used to decrease the tension between these two countries. On the diplomatic level,, talks continue toto mitigate disagreements and increase understanding. There are many discussions on different forums between these two countries. Regional security issues, such as conflicts in Syria and Iraq, are also discussed. Mostly, these two countries remain aligned on the issues. Economic collaboration is essential, and this is a stabilizing factor. Military cooperation and military exercises are conducted throughout the relations, which will help them decrease the security challenges. Back channel communications remained functional and decreased the misunderstanding. On the cultural and

educational level, contact with people is a strength. There are many cultural exchange programs and scholarships between these two countries.

United States and Türkiye frequently find themselves on opposing sides of several significant issues over thirty years after the end of the Cold War. The U.S.-Türkiye relationship has several structural issues. The changes in world politics would have caused tension between the two nations even if Erdogan had never taken office. Türkiye is attempting to keep bilateral ties from plummeting to a new low at a time when the United States views its transactional and restricted relationship with Türkiye as beneficial to American interests. The question is how well Washington and Ankara can develop a fresh strategy for their current tense relationship. Regretfully, the strategic alliance between the United States and Türkiye has ended. (Oktav 2019).

As Türkiye was supporting Palestine. America decided to shift its embassy. Israeli embassy, which was shifted to Jerusalem from till Aviv, contributed to and aggravated the problem, and it was also against the Turkish stance. The strategic alliance between the United States and Türkiye has ended. Erdogan has been more critical of Trump's acknowledgement of the Golan Heights as Israeli territory and of Jerusalem as Israel's capital than any other Arab leader when the Turkish president's behaviour is closely examined. (Oktav 2019). Türkiye continued to support NATO as an ally in Libya and Syria. Türkiye continued to take the side of the US in Iraq and Afghanistan. Despite that, the situation was much worse, but both countries remained alloy. Another critical point was the Arab Spring, which spread in 2010 in some areas. Türkiye supported Arab people instead of previous administrations. Türkiye has some investments in Libya, so it was against NATO's operation in Libya. The most critical issue in the Arab world was the Syrian crisis, where Türkiye supported Assad's government. When ISIS became active in Syria and Iraq, the US supported Kurdish forces. After the failed coup attempt in Türkiye in 2016, America's relations deteriorated as the mastermind, Fateh ullah Golan, was residing in America. He was considered a terrorist for Türkiye. In Türkiye, public opinion was against Fateh ullah Golan. Turkish demanded to hand over its required person, but America did not entertain this demand.

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