



**THE EXTENT TO WHICH AMERICA'S SUPPORT FOR KURDISH
GROUPS THAT THREATEN THE TURKISH BORDERS
AFFECTED THE U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS**

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CHAPTER SIX: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The relationship between Turkey and the U.S. has deteriorated because of the U.S.'s support for Kurdish groups which threaten Turkish borders. Turkey is in conflict with PKK, a party regarded as a terrorist organisation by the U.S., EU and Turkey. The battlefield is located in south-eastern Turkey and northern Iraq, a conflict which has been ongoing for a long period of time. The YPG, an affiliate of the PKK is opposed by Turkey and supported by the U.S..

Turkey and the United States grow because of their political and economic interdependence. The U.S. is heavily relying on Turkey to support its interests within the Middle East through the use of more military aid and economic strategy (Murinson, 2009). The U.S. dependence on Turkey can be tested based on improvements that have been made in Iran, Syria and Iraq (Kittfield, 2010; Phillips, 2008). The members of the Congress need to take certain positions with regards to issues affecting turkey. The Turkish local development, military and defence cooperation and promotion of trade should be promoted by the Congress. These three issues are critical in promoting stability on a global scale. The support offered by the U.S. has the potential of increasing the commitment of the Turkish government towards media, rule of law, minority rights and individuals.

Turkey recently purchased weapons from Russia which resulted in sanctions on Turkey. As a result of the transaction, Turkey cannot jointly co produce weapons with the U.S. and other NATO member states (Amanda, 2019). The U.S. is keen in ensuring that turkey gives up ownership of the S 400 to give room for negotiations on the removal of sanctions. However,

president Erdogan is not keen to give up the system. Instead, he would like to allow the U.S. to monitor the system which risks limiting the system's capacity.

Conclusions

Turkey and The U.S. have enjoyed a long history of good, and mutually beneficial relations that currently affected by the American's support for some of the Kurdish groups that threaten the Turkish border security. While the U.S. and Turkey have shared interests and policies, some of their opinions contradict. Turkey is currently enjoying immense growth and influence regionally and globally making it less reliant on the USA compared to a few decades ago. Turkey is self-reliant politically, economically and in terms of military prowess. Western powers, including the U.S. have high military technology, have power and prestige which have been shown to decline rapidly due to the growth of other economies such as China. The perceived decline in U.S.'s global prominence has impacted on Turkey USA relations. As such, Turkey may not be willing to disregard its needs to meet the USA's demands.

Members of the Congress need to maintain and initiate congressional inquiry to discuss the status of Turkey. The U.S. policymakers need to cultivate relationships with other middle east and NATO allies to increase cooperation with Turkey. This is because Turkey affects important interests in Washington hence the need for stability in the international relations between the two countries to facilitate long term growth for the USA.

The USA could support the accession of Turkey into the EU, which could improve the relationship between the countries on a short term basis. U.S. could consult with Turkey and other EU member states to utilize the precession funds to increase the harmonization of Turkey and EU (Parris, 2020). The harmonized policies would ensure that Turkey's policies are based on

foreign and local policies within the west which has the opportunity to protect the interests of the U.S..

Recommendations

Strategic option for the United States of America

The United States of America needs to support activities of Turkey as a means of enhancing relations. For instance, the USA could get involved in supporting the open ended accession process to ensure Turkey gets full membership to the EU. The country could initiate parallel courses of action to enhance benefits of the alliance between Turkey and the U.S. (Kittfield, 2010). Turkey plays an important role in determining outcomes of political changes that occur within the middle East in countries like Iraq and Afghanistan.

These two countries have transitioned from the U.S. military to self-rule which requires intervention from the U.S. government which can be easier if Turkey is involved in the activities. A partnership between the U.S. and Turkey could result in increased stability and political change in the middle eastern region hence turkey is an important ally (Hisarciklioglu, 2010). Therefore, the U.S. government should focus on discouraging any further deteriorating relationship between Turkey and Israel. The United States could act as a mediator between Turkey and Israel to bring about peace between these two countries. The U.S. has to be keen when implementing conditions to models of cooperation as Turkey could easily look up to other countries to meet their demands.

Toward a New United States of America- Turkish Agenda

The Turkish and U.S. governments need to maintain functional bilateral relations and share intelligence for all military operations as a means of enhancing trusts between the two players. The Turkish and U.S. governments could set up joint bases and territories to curb PKK

(Sali, 2021). The sharing of information and intelligence cooperation has the potential of interdicting illegal arms and stopping their movement to other neighbouring countries which as not keen to participate in the interdiction of illegal firearms.

Turkey is keen to advance its military equipment and participates in the upgrade of its fighter aircraft, helicopters, drone aircraft, joint strike fighter and missile defence systems. The country uses different suppliers showing its keenness to diversify its military transactions (Conference on Trade and Development, UNCTAD, 2010). The country engages in export and import exercises with china, South Korea, Pakistan and Russia, all Non NATO countries. Turkey is clearly diversifying its dependence on U.S. and increasing their diversification. The U.S. should seek to engage Turkey more as their relationship is based on joint military and security programs.

The U.S. government needs to think of ways to encourage Turkey's leadership to oppose autocracy and support democracy. Turkish political groups and individuals should be given financial support to fight against autocratic regimes (Hisarciklioglu, 2010). The support needs to be given so that the leaders and individuals can back up economic and democratic transitions which will bring about peace in the areas facing unrest.

Recommended Actions

It is important for Turkey and USA to enforce diplomatic, economic and military multilateral and international sanctions. The sanctions could reduce the behavior of actors who violate human rights (Hisarciklioglu, 2010). The sanctions could eliminate the violation of the international norms and laws. For instance, the sanctions promoted jointly by U.S. and Turkey could suppress violent protests occurring in Syria and stop the Iranian regime support for terrorist groups within the middle east.

It is important for the U.S. to determine if and how their support for Turkey's efforts will enhance and coordinate the security of the region in partnership with other regional and local allies of the U.S.. The coordination of security needs to occur in complex strategic and regional environments to reduce the risk of insecurities and promote more probable outcomes.

The U.S. and Turkey need to hold talks to put an end to the statement surrounding Turkey's acquisition of the S 400 system. The U.S. needs to refrain from holding tough decisions and standards with regards to the CAATSA sanctions. The president and Senate needs to forge a way forward for improved relations between Turkey and U.S. (Parris, 2020). A compromise is necessary as it will allow Turkey utilize its acquired technology and the USA will feel more in control of the security of the systems.

Suggestions for Further Study

Further studies need to be conducted to determine how Turkey will be closely integrated in NATO's operations despite the country purchasing Russian weaponry and platforms. The USA has imposed sanctions on Turkey for acquiring weapons from Russia (Parris, 2020). The failure of the U.S. to upgrade existing weapons for Turkey may force the country to seek alternatives for their needs, further complicating the relationship between U.S. and Turkey. It is important for policies to be put in place to guide the transactions involved in procuring firearms from non NATO members. The policies could eliminate the occurrence of tension which negatively impacts on the economic growth of member countries.

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