

Security policy in Turkey and the migration problem in Europe

dr. Adrienn Prieger

Abstract: In this document I attempt to look into the security policy in Turkey and how migration is impacting Turkey and Europe as well. Cultivating international relationships is essential these days that is why I find it useful to get acquainted with the cultures of distant countries. Presently, Turkey has a difficult political situation. The security has become a key policy issue. Security policy problems are extremely timely in these days in the whole Europe. Migrants situation is a key question in the world now, and it is determines the legal, political, and military systems as well. As far as the migrant's problems are concerned, it is growing a huge factor in every people life. Migrant crisis has been triggered by the Syrian civil war which has been going on for nearly five years. The war has not only led to death of many innocent people but also caused displacement of huge number of people. More than 4 million people have been forced to flee the war torn country and have sought asylum in Turkey and recently in EU.

Keywords: Turkey, regionalism, migration, Kurdish question, Syria

Author: dr. Adrienn Prieger, PhD student at University of Miskolc. Contact: +36704287222; dr.prieger.adrienn@gmail.com

Introduction

As part of this document I attempt to look into the security policy in Turkey and how migration is impacting Turkey and Europe as well. As part of this paper I attempt to look into the various challenges the country is facing, furthermore I will also mention about the accession possibilities to join to the EU.

The reason why I have chosen this topic is that I have been interested in the future of the European Union, the main aims of the future including the connection possibilities for Turkey. Many people do not take interest in this issue in Europe because they feel this culture is very different. However presently we need to care about this situation which may determine the future of the world.

Cultivating international relationships is essential these days – this is another reason why I find it useful to get acquainted with the cultures of distant countries. Presently, Turkey has a difficult political situation. The security has become a key policy issue.

In this September I had a great chance to travel to Istanbul and go to The Journalists and Writers Foundation and Zaman as well, and I have heard many interesting information about Turkey, and these experiences inspired me to research more about this topic. I have been to Istanbul and I could see people on the street, between many children, and to see so closely also made me decide to research more about it. First of all everybody feel sorry and empathy, but it is also important to try to look into the situation which is near to us, and examine political, economic and legal prospects.

Security policy problems are extremely timely in these days in the whole Europe. Migration situation is a key question in the world now, and it is determines the legal, political, and military systems as well. As far as the migrants' problems are concerned, it is growing a huge factor in every people life.

The most difficult part of this situation that Europe does not have any stable policy such a situation like this.

Security is of critical importance and encompasses protection of people, territorial integrity and identity of the nation which includes culture, tradition, beliefs among others. In this global world, one cannot limit to domestic security but needs to work towards safeguarding the larger community and finding solutions to various problems the world might face.

The solutions may vary from promoting development, safeguarding rights of the people, disarmament of states. Then there are traditional threats like terrorism, mass movement of people due to armed conflicts and the modern threats like cyber wars. In order to confront these issues, there is a need of greater co-operation and dialogue. Some of the issues cannot be handled by military or policies but require combination of social, economic and political policies.

Turkey blessed with its geographical location and long ties with regional nations has the capacity and even demonstrated its ability to play the role of security player in Europe, Balkans and the Middle East and beyond.

Turkey's foreign policy respects sovereignty and territorial integrity and focuses on developing relationships and resolving conflicts through peaceful means. Some of the examples of Turkish contribution to regional peace can be looked back in time when Turkey helped initiate the establishment of the Balkan Entente of 1934 with Greece, Romania and Yugoslavia, as well as the Sadabad Pact of 1937 with Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. (Turkey's Perspectives, n.d.)

With membership of UN, NATO and EU institutions, country continues to work in developing relations and co-operations. It is also a negotiating country with EU for full membership.

Turkey is facing critical challenges at the moment be it internal or external. The challenges vary from conflicts with Kurds, Syrian civil war in its neighbourhood, migrant crisis, strained relations with neighbours like Armenia among others.

Turkey and the EU

Presently, Turkey has a strong military system. It could be a great advantage for the European Union if they were allowed to join.

Turkey is a founding member of the United Nations (1945) (UN.org, n.d.), a member of NATO (1952), the Council of Europe (1949), the OECD (1960) and the OSCE (1973) and was an associate member of the Western European Union (1992).

On 31 July 1959, Turkey made its first application to join the newly-established organisation. The Ankara Agreement signed on 12 September 1963 started relation between Turkey and the EU. The aim of the Ankara Agreement, (Turkey-EU Relations, n.d.) as stated in Article 2, was to promote the continuous and balanced strengthening of trade and economic relations between the parties. After that with the Customs Union decision, Turkey-EU relations entered a totally new dimension as it was one of the most important steps for Turkey's EU integration objective.

Having completed the Customs Union, membership became one of the priority issues about Turkey. In 1989 the European Union refused the full membership objective, partly because Turkey had trouble fulfilling the Copenhagen political criteria. (Archick and Morelli, 2014)

The Helsinki European Council Summit held on 10-11 December 1999 was a breakthrough in Turkey-EU relations, because the EU already accepted Turkey as an official candidate of the European Union on equal terms to the others.

Unfortunately the EU highlighted many contra reasons of the connection, like human rights problems, immigration problems and also the Kurdish problem in Turkey.

This paper has attempted to provide an outline of the state of Turkey's EU accession process. The negotiations between Turkey and the EU have slowed down recently and this current impasse has both the EU and Turkey to blame.

Turkey's geographical position and historical connections to the Balkans, the Black Sea, Russia, Central Asia and also the army of Turkey is a great possibility for the EU and should be taken advantage of. (Akbar, 2012)

The dispute over human rights is not a new one. Turkey has been monitored under the lens due to its historical past and recent crackdown on opposition parties, press and the judicial system. EU has locked the concerned chapters which form critical part of the 35 chapters which a country must fulfil for the membership. Although there are issues in the process, we must look at the bigger picture, the economic future for EU and Turkey and the other alternatives.

Turkey has now various options. It is already involved in other gas pipeline projects i.e. Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP). And with the Russian pipeline, Turkey has opportunity to be key player in the energy sector. (Natural Gas Europe, 2014)

At the same time, this raises an important question: would be independent give Turkey more economic control and growth potential? Or should Turkey consider joining hands with the Eurasian Economic Union?

As the EU's parliament dominance over its member countries policy making increases, Turkey might want to wait and see how the EU member states behave. Greece is teetering on the edge of financial crisis, while British current Prime Minister David Cameron has pledged

in his election campaign that if re-elected, the UK would hold a referendum over the EU membership. These are concerning issues for Turkey's bid.

But at the same time Turkey can gain from the membership as EU is Turkey's number one import and export partner. Turkey's businessmen would get an opportunity to expand in the various member states and Turkey's prominent logistics sector could reach greater heights.

Despite the various potential economic gains, Turkey is a tricky country to combine with. Turkey's enormous size and the population base compared to other European countries would give Turkey good number of seats in the European Parliament and this could easily dent the influence of other nations in making laws or policies. Turkey is a growing economy but at the same time it has a lot of inequality. EU policies are focused on free movement of people. The weaker communities migrating to other western nations could be detrimental to other nations' interests. It could also revitalise the demands by various nations for a need of country-wise migration policy, thereby compromising the free movement principle.

EU mentions many problems in connection with the accession of Turkey, first of all the human rights are routinely abused. Dozens of journalists languish in jail. Amnesty International's annual report is filled with accounts of torture, free speech violations, and denial of minority rights, unfair trials, and failure to protect women. Europe would import the intractable Kurdish issue.

Turkey at present

Turkey presently is facing tough economic situation with slowing economy, rising inflation, (Kayaoglu, 2015) decline in exports and customer confidence, plummeting currency and increase in violence. (Hürriyet Daily News, 2015) The economy is facing pressure from both internal and external factors. The factors vary from Syrian war and refugees' crisis to Chinese economic slowdown and devaluation of its currency Yuan to country's own political uncertainty, which was triggered due to the collapse of two-year long truce with the Kurdistan Workers' Party or PKK this July. (Peker, 2015)

The end of truce has led to increase in internal tensions with attacks in few Turkish cities. Tourism has taken a toll and tourists from Britain and Russia have declined by nearly 30%. (Turan, n.d.)

Turkey's currency lira continues to decline and record new lows against the US dollar. In one year, the currency had declined from nearly 0.4400 US dollar per lira to 0.33 US dollar per lira. (Lira to Dollars Today, n.d.) Decline in currency can boost exports of some countries but with war in Syria, exports have declined instead. There was loss of exports worth \$6b billion between 2011 and 2014.

Before the election in Turkey, the Zaman newspaper made an interview with Soli Özel, one of the prestigious Turkish scholars about Turkey's policies both domestic and foreign and the role country is playing in its zone of interest and influence.

He talks about the current political situation and appreciates AKP's efforts in integrating the peripheral actors into the system but at the same time stresses that more needs to be done i.e. the concerns of the modern population (38 to 40 % of the population) need to be met and not simply ignored.

He raises concerns that people need to speak up and use any opportunity which comes to them. Not being able to express properly could take them to crisis. Among other concerns, Özel mentioned about the government crackdown on legal social protests. He acknowledges that AKP party did move from collective leadership to a personal one and had the political actors stuck to their role in facilitating rule of law, functioning of democracy instead of using government positions to grab more power the situation could be different.

In addition to political situation, he discusses the vision and policies of the AKP party. The party claims its ideology to establish order more in lines with Islamic principles but at the same time has not made efforts to resolve the issues of corruption. Population has not accepted the governance or its policies but simply learned to live with them.

In addition to the domestic policies, Özel looks into the foreign policies of the AKP and mentions that zone of interests should not have turned into zones of influence. He shares examples where AKP talks about Ottoman westernisation as mistake and wishes for resurgence of the Islamic civilisation while missing that the views are not in sync with the one held by Arabs. (Today's Zaman, 2015)

Syrian civil war

We all can see how relevant nowadays if we keep a close watch on the events in Syria. These events exhibit many problems in connection with the fulfilment of human rights.

Syria's history has been often called unique and it has something to do with its location. Since its establishment, Syria always had a mediator role between East and West. In order to make it possible for us to investigate properly the problems in connection with the human rights in Syria, we need to advert briefly to the Islamic law, as the faith in the Islamic law is very important in connection with how Syria conceives of human rights.

The aim of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is to create universal rules for the nations of the world. This is a huge challenge due to the multifariousness of the world.

In the debates they often query the universality of these laws, stating that these are only the products of the western culture, so – they say – it is not adaptable all over the world. (Hassan, n.d.)

Nowadays people around the world follow with attention the events in Syria, the relevancy of the subject is unquestionable. Syria is in a social and economic crisis and these problems turned into internationally significant. In the last two and half years one and half million house has been ruined whole or in part due to the bombardment and the state of war.

On 26 February 2012, Syria put a new draft constitution made by an ad hoc committee to referendum. The amendment of the constitution was one of the main demands of the opposition in the time of the uprising, but since then the extortion of the leave of the president al-Assad became the goal of the opposition. (Constitution, 2012)

According to the statement of the President of Syria, Bashar al-Assad the new constitution opens ways to a multi-party system. The most obvious change happened in the eighth article of constitution. The old version stated that the leader of the state and the society is the governing Ba'ath Party, but the new version states there is a plurality system.

In connection with Syria, it is important to mention the international organisations of the Arab world, of which Syria is a member. After the independence, there were attempts to build external relationships with allied Arab states namely Egypt and Libya. However, these trials have been ephemeral. One of the most important organisations is the Arab league, which was created for an international Arab organisation partly for political purposes but also to reach

other important objectives such as cooperation, promoting education, protecting human rights and managing international conflicts in the Arab world.

When economic relations are intensified, maintaining and building political relations as well as adjusting legal systems become increasingly important.

Though, Turkey and the US are in sync that Syria's Bashar al-Assad must go however, they differ to great extent in their vision of the future head of state. While, US look forward to a secular liberal democracy, Turkey prefers Muslim fundamentalist opposition to gain control. (Almond, 2015)

The two nations, members of the NATO have been taking conflicting stands in their role to resolve Syrian crisis. While US have sought help of Syria's Kurds in fight against the Islamic State of Iraq, Turkey is not happy with the Kurdish presence in the region and has made attempts to restrict their territorial expansion.

Recently Russian jets involved in bombing Syrian targets had violated Turkey's airspace. Turkey and its NATO allies are concerned about the violations stemming from the Russian air and cruise missiles and NATO has assured Turkey that it is ready to send troops to the country as a deterrent and to deal with any possible escalation. (Emmott, 2015)

As a response to the tensions, NATO has increased its capacity and preparedness to deploy forces in the Turkey. Though, NATO maintains that its focus is to prevent any escalation of the Syrian conflict and instead plans to work with Russia to identify a political solution for Syrian crisis.

The key players in Syria must realise that the peace process would be beneficial to all and must work towards that instead of focusing on the vested interests. A military solution is not possible and would lead to chaos with Turkey being the worst affected. The process must be carried out peacefully preserving the Syrian state, carrying out political reforms and free elections.

Migrant crisis

In the end of October in the European Parliament was holding an interview in Brussels. Marietje Schaake, a Dutch Liberal MEP; a member of the International Trade Committee, and

a substitute member on the Human Rights Committee; Zafer Sirakaya, the chairman of the AK Party in Brussels; that is the governing party of Turkish President Erdogan, and Nikola Dimitrov, Hague Institute for Global Justice, which promotes conflict resolution, and good governance. (EuroNews, 2015) They were talking about the Syrian war and the migrants problems. According to Nikola Dimitrov, “Turkey should this most bloody and deadly attack in Turkish history to build national unity and also to restore the justice system, because as one deputy (MP) of the opposition party, of the Republican People’s Party, said, there are more political party members in jail than ISIL members.” Zafer Sirakaya said that “Well we will continue our work on this issue and I think that the long term policy should be about the refugee crisis too. We should intensify our work in Turkey in order to give better shelter to refugees, both in Europe and in Turkey as well.”

Migrant crisis has been triggered by the Syrian civil war which has been going on for nearly five years. The war has not only led to death of many innocent people but also caused displacement of huge number of people. More than 4 million people have been forced to flee the war torn country and have sought asylum in Turkey and recently in EU.

Though Turkey has welcomed more refugees than any other country i.e. 2 million compared to roughly half a million who are seeking asylum in EU’s 28 states, the country is feeling the strain. Country has spent nearly \$4- \$6 billion to provide one of the best facilities to refugees. The refugees’ population in its border towns with Syria is overwhelming where refugees exceed the local population.

Despite the humanitarian outlook, the same borders have offered a gateway for ISIS attacks inside Turkey. In July, Islamic State carried out suicide bombing in the Turkish town of Suruc killing more than 30 people. The Islamic State is again being considered responsible for the recent bombings in Ankara where 97 people were killed and 246 others were injured. (Calamur, 2015)

In response, the country was forced to join US campaign against ISIS in Syria. Turkey also opened its base to US planes and drones to facilitate the campaign.

Recently Turkey president Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressed anger at the west for improper handling of the global terrorism. He accused the nations to be materialistic and creating crisis for personal gains. He cited the war in Iraq and Libya and raised that west control 80% of the Iraq’s oil wells. In addition, he argued that Security Council requires expansion with

representation to the regional players. He condemned nations of supporting one terrorist organisation against fight against the others. This is considered to be directed towards US who are supporting Kurds in fight against ISIS. Kurds are recognised as terrorist by Turkey. (Martel, 2015)

As the ongoing migrant crisis deepens in Europe and more and more migrants rush to EU for asylum, EU desperately needs all the help it can get from Turkey to stem the flow of refugees. For this, recently Angela Merkel visited the country and offered aid package but was hesitant to offer the much sought timeline for accession to the EU. (Almond, 2015)

The Kurdish issue

EU highlighted many contra reasons of the connection, like human rights problems, immigration problems and also the Kurdish problem in Turkey. Kurds are a sizeable minority in the region including Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria and have often protested against the governments seeking for greater rights or even independence. Turkey's conflict with Kurds dates back to the creation of Republic of Turkey itself in 1923. As part of this, anyone who was not recognised as minority was expected to become part of the Turkish identity. However, Kurds had their own unique identity and their integration not in the society resulted in suppression of Kurdish culture and traditions. The resulting insurgency led to loss of 30,000 lives. (Bildt, 2015)

Despite the painful past, president Erdogan recognised the importance of resolution of Kurdish issue and initiated peace process with PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) in 2013. The process was also boosted by the country's ambition to be part of EU.

However, the ongoing Syrian civil war and the rise of Islamic state have escalated tensions and suspicions between the two groups. Kurds believe that the government is supporting jihadists of the Islamic state of Iraq in fight against the PKK's Syrian Kurdish organisation. The same has been echoed by various experts for example by Kerem Oktem, a professor at the Centre for Southeast European Studies at the University of Graz in Austria.

Earlier in July, a suicide attack in Suruc, a Kurdish dominated town killed 32 people. The attack was apparently ordered by the IS and focused towards the gathering of left wing activists.

The attack gave rise to violence and feeling of revenge. And PKK rebels avenged the Suruc attack by killing two Turkish policemen. Government response to this led to arrests of more than 1300 suspected supporters of PKK and IS and its aircrafts attacking the groups in Iraq and Syria respectively. Turkey also granted US the use of Incirlik base thereby speeding up attacks on the IS targets.

PKK is divided between its rebel group and their leader Abdullah Ocalan. Ocalan for long has been considered a hope for peaceful resolution between the two sides but the continuous involvement of PKK rebel group in violence and murder of police and soldiers like the one in Sirnak has been detrimental to the process. (Dombey, 2014)

Also PKK's Syrian sister organisation YPG approach towards the Assad's regime which is deeply opposed by the Turkey's government is considered as a conspiracy. YPG has made territorial gains in northern Syria and Turkey plans to restrict them. If the IS can be attacked and moved out of the region with opposition groups supported by Turkey and US occupying the region, would help facilitate a control on YPG.

Turkey must realise that if the issues with Kurds are not resolved, the country may enter into sectarian chaos like the Syrian conflict. The country would not be in position to secure its borders and would in-fact face grave threats from the likes of ISIS. While at the same time Kurds in Iraq and Syria have made strides in fight against the ISIS like in Kobani but still the PKK is regarded as a terrorist organisation.

Efforts must be made to resolve the conflict which would involve engaging not only PKK leader Ocalan but the PKK's rebel group in the peace process. Concrete actions must be made supporting Kurdish language and education. Both the parties must reach a compromise i.e. a Turkey where both Turks and Kurds can live together with mutual trust and respect and get access to full rights and free fair participation in the political system. As a response to this, PKK must give up arms and violence.

To facilitate this, Erdogan should drop the restrictions on the share of national votes required for party to enter parliament thereby giving Kurdish representation an opportunity to be part of the political system. While PKK and the Kurdish community must give up arms and be open to idea of integration with the Turks. This may require conditional amnesty to PKK. (Pope, 2014)

Turkey's role in global security

Turkey's contributions as global security player are not new. Way back in 1923–1929, Turkey promoted co-operation and worked towards regional security with Greece, Romania and Yugoslavia which later led to establishment of the Balkan Entente of 1934 and with Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan to facilitate the Sadabad Pact of 1937.

Post Second World War, Turkey chose to side with the Western bloc which later led to Turkey joining NATO. Turkey over a period of time has not only contributed in protection of block from outside threats like from Soviet Union but has also acted as a mediator between the western and eastern blocs.

Turkey continued to take initiatives in maintaining regional security and its efforts helped in reaching Baghdad Pact in 1954 with Britain, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan.

Even in Syrian crisis both NATO and Turkey are playing critical role and trying to resolve the issue. Turkey has granted US access to its base to carry out air strikes against ISIS in Syria.

In recent years, Turkey's importance as security player has been well recognised and is now treated as a crucial ally in resolving various conflicts. Earlier this year, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop recognised Turkey's contributions in Afghanistan and importance of Turkey's current role in conflicts with Islamic state of Iraq, al-Sham (ISIS) in Iraq and Syria. Using newly created MIKTA's platform, the minister highlighted that countries like Turkey have the potential to collaborate with other regional powers and raise concerns shared by wider community in the global platforms. Australia and Turkey together, plan to ensure that global powers respond to global threats like terrorism in a decisive manner. And see UN Security Council's recognition of the geopolitical realities and inclusion of the regional powers for Asia, Africa and Latin America in the council as a way to achieve the desired goal. (Unal, 2015)

Turkey is engaging with Gulf nations to increase co-operation. This co-operation has extended to security matters. Example: Qatar and Turkey entered Military co-operation agreement in March 2015. As part of the agreement, the nations would not only share intelligence with each other but it also opens door for military co-operation and deployment of forces in each other's territory.

The agreement carries advantages for both the nations. Qatar is concerned by growing Iranian and Chinese influence in the Middle East apart from the improving US-Iran relations. Country also lacks military power and seeks collaboration with other players like Turkey in order to strengthen its defence capacity. This would also help Qatar reduce its dependency on US and help build stronger ties with NATO through Turkey. While Turkey, gets a greater say in the Gulf. It would not only provide Turkey access to lucrative market but also strengthen its role as a global security player. Turkey sees this as a move to counter Iranian influence in the region. As part of the engagement, Turkey has already dispatched a task force which involves naval force and combat engineers. (Gurcan, 2015)

Recent elections in Turkey

The recent elections are expected to play a significant role in not only resolving regional crisis like war in Syria, migrant crisis but for Turkey's future itself. The elections have given AKP party the much desired majority. The government recently joined US campaign against IS in Syria and another campaign against PKK. United States is using the bases in Turkey to strike Islamic State in Syria while EU is trying to work with Turkey to resolve the migrant crisis.

In recent months, the country's law and order has deteriorated and tensions got escalated last month when terrorist attacks targeted pro-Kurdish rally killing nearly 130 people. There have been raids against the media hostile to the government and journalists have been jailed limiting the freedom of press. While the country has been experiencing violence, the economy has deteriorated and the currency has plummeted more than 25 percent. (Zalan, 2015) Growth is expected to be around 3 per cent this year.

Turkey economy has slowed down and both the domestic and foreign policies are threatening the economy further. Because of the migrant crisis, many tourist places, coastal places are crowded with refugees and the tourists are shying away from the places. Tourism has also been impacted by violence and recent bombings.

Exports like that of oil are impacted because of the crisis in Syria and Iraq while Russia is blocking transit trade due the conflicting positions over the Syrian crisis.

The government should use the parliamentary majority to carry out critical reforms not only to promote growth but to limit violence and work towards peace process with the Kurds. With

migrant crisis taking toll on EU, the tables have turned giving Turkey an upper-hand. Erdogan can make use of the opportunity to secure for his people visa free travel to the Schengen zone, more funds for rehabilitating the refugees and speeding up the EU membership process. Turkey must realise the importance of the crisis and work with EU and other global powers to identify a permanent solution.

At the same time critics fear that, single party rule would be make it difficult for other political players to keep a check on AKP party's authoritarian ambitions. They also fear the restrictions on freedom of speech and judiciary (Tattersall and Coskun, 2015) following the crackdown on media in recent months.

Critics are also concerned about the government response to Kurdish issue. Recently, Kurds have gained ground in the south eastern part of the country and their expansion is being seen as a concern. With increasing violence, the government plans to bring back stability and peace and crush any Kurdish resistance. Though the approach of government may bring more violence in short term. (Almond, 2015)

Conclusion

Turkey has potential and continues to show its influence in the regional conflicts. Its role as security player is well known. But the country faces challenges itself both at domestic and global front. Country must take peaceful means to resolve the issues varying form Kurdish issue, Syrian war and build relationships with its neighbours like Armenia and Cyprus for greater peace and stability in the region.

Unless the country takes these issues on priority, it may end up experiencing more violence and a sectarian war within its own boundary. It is important that the country follows a secular and liberal approach and promote freedom of media. In connection with the media freedom problems in Turkey, need to mention about the so called Hizmet Movement as well.

Gülen movement is named after Fethullah Gülen, the Turkish scholar, whose teachings has and continues to influence many. His teachings focus on working towards culture and religious tolerance, liberal democracy, education among others. And asks people not to mix religion with politics and be involved in tasks of social welfare instead of satisfying

materialistic desires. This approach is seen as a way to glorify god. He has also tried to clarify the meaning of jihad terming it as a moral and spiritual struggle.

Gülen also appreciates the value of free civil society which is not controlled by the state and suggests development of private institutions, schools as a way to achieve it. The movement continues to make contributions to society, educational institutions and charity organisations in Turkey and abroad.

Turkey offers a link between EU and the east. Also, with its deep relations and influence in the Middle East, Turkey can be of great importance to the EU. Only with Turkey, EU can become a force to reckon with in the region.

Fethullah Gülen does not want Turkey just to be a member of block but a country of importance in this global world.

Turkey offers its own interpretations to religion, culture and aspects of life compared to the other Islamic nations. With common interests and values, Turkey can help in accomplishment of various goals and projects.

Turkey is growing and has lot of potential. Blessed with young and dynamic population, country can reach places. It need not settle for a particular alliance. The country is tough and despite various hardships, it has come out stronger.

The country needs to grow and undergo change along with the world. This may require a review of how the country looks at things and may need the policies to be more liberal.

Gülen believes that differences should not be obstacle to integration with EU. People can agree on a common ground. The integration would facilitate knowledge and wealth sharing and it would eventually strengthen the relationship. Gülen suggests that the people need to be patient and make efforts to determine appropriate approach.

People should continue to learn and develop skills which would make country ready for any challenges. Gülen raises that west have some good things like science and the country should learn from the same.

An EU, which includes Turkey would be more efficient in tackling global political and economic issues, ranging from the threat of terrorism to illegal immigration and drug trafficking. Turkey's accession should also enhance the EU's position in regions close to its

immediate neighbourhood. Turkey's unique geo-strategic position, plus the strength of NATO's second-largest army would greatly add to European security. Finding the "truth" in this topic is very difficult and may not be possible at all.

*

References

- Akbar, Z., 2012. Central Asia: The New Great Game. *The Washington Review of Middle Eastern & Eurasian Affairs*, 31 October 2012 [online] Available at: <<http://www.thewashingtonreview.org/great-game-in-central-asia>> [Accessed on 2 November 2015]
- Almond, M., 2015. Erdogan Victory Threatens Turkish Stability. *The Telegraph*, 2 November 2015 [online] Available at: <<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/turkey/11970963/Erdogans-victory-is-a-threat-to-Turkish-stability.html>> [Accessed on 5 November 2015]
- Archick, K. and Morelli, V. L., 2014. *European Union Enlargement*. [report] Available at: <<https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RS21344.pdf>> [Accessed on 6 November 2015] Congressional Research Service.
- Bildt, C., 2015 How Turkey's New Government Can Advance Peace in the Region. *The World Post*, 16 June 2015 [online] Available at: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/carlbildt/turkey-new-government-peace-region_b_7591694.html> [Accessed on 7 November 2015]
- Calamur, K., 2015. The Refugee Crisis: The View From Turkey. *The Atlantic*, 15 October 2015 [online] Available at: <<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/10/the-refugee-crisis-the-view-from-turkey/410683>> [Accessed on 7 November 2015]
- Constitution, 2012. Constitution of the Syrian Arab Republic – 2012. *Voltaire Network*, 26 February 2012 [online] Available at: <<http://www.voltairenet.org/article173033.html>>
- Dombey, D., 2014. Ankara's talks with Abdullah Ocalan enter perilous phase. *Financial Times*, 2 November 2014 [online] Available at: <<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/a80742f0-6275-11e4-aa14-00144feabdc0.html>> [Accessed on 6 November 2015]
- Emmott, R., 2015. NATO Chief Says Prepared to Send Troops to Defend Turkey. *Reuters*, 8 October 2015 [online] Available at: <<http://www.reuters.com/article/mideast-crisis-syria-nato-idUSL8N1280W420151008>> [Accessed on 6 November 2015]
- EuroNews, 2015. Are refugees or civil rights the priority in Turkey? *EuroNews*, 29 October 2015 [online] Available at: <<http://www.euronews.com/2015/10/29/are-refugees-or-civil-rights-the-priority-in-turkey>> [Accessed on 30 October 2015]
- Gurcan, M., 2015. What are Turkish troops going to do in Qatar? *Al-Monitor*, 3 June 2015 [online] Available at: <<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/06/turkey-qatar-what-are-turkish-troops-going-to-do.htm>> [Accessed on 7 November 2015]
- Hassan, R., (n.d.) *Are human rights compatible with Islam?* [pdf] Available at: <<http://www.iemed.org/documents/novesrealitats/Strawson/a.pdf>> [Accessed on 20 October 2015] University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.
- Hürriyet Daily News, 2015. Turkey's economy ministers at odds over reform agenda, economic outlook. *Hürriyet Daily News*, 16 September 2015 [online] Available at:

- <<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-economy-ministers-at-odds-over-reform-agenda-economic-outlook.aspx>> [Accessed on 7 November 2015]
- Kayaoglu, B., 2015. What's the greatest risk to Turkey's economy? *Al-Monitor* [online] Available at: <<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/08/turkey-economy-political-uncertainties-greatest-risk.html>> [Accessed on 6 November 2015]
- Lira to Dollars Today, (n.d.) Lira to Dollars Today (TRY USD) and Live Lira Dollar Exchange Rate Converter [image] Available at: <<http://www.exchangerates.org.uk/graphs/TRY-USD-365-day-exchange-rate-history-graph-medium.png>> [Accessed on 6 November 2015]
- Martel, F., 2015. Turkey's Erdogan: 'The Whole Western World' Created European Migrant Crisis. *Breitbart News Network*, 4 September 2015 [online] Available at: <<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2015/09/04/turkeys-erdogan-the-whole-western-world-created-european-migrant-crisis>> [Accessed on 7 November 2015]
- Natural Gas Europe, 2014. Options for Delivering Iranian Gas to Europe Via Turkey. *Natural Gas Europe* [online] Available at: <<http://www.naturalgaseurope.com/iranian-gas-to-europe-via-turkey>> [Accessed on 5 October 2015]
- Peker, E., 2015. Turkey's lira sinks to record low against dollar. *Market Watch*, 14 September 2015 [online] Available at: <<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/turkeys-lira-sinks-to-record-low-against-dollar-2015-09-14>> [Accessed on 6 November 2015]
- Pope, H., 2014. A precious chance to end Turkey's conflict with the Kurds. *Financial Times*, 12 November 2015 [online] Available at: <<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/bea838e4-698b-11e4-8f4f-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3qYITdFzi>> [Accessed on 7 November 2015]
- Tattersall, N. and Coskun, O., 2015. How Turkish elections can shape political landscape for a decade. *Al Arabiya English*, 1 November 2015 [online] Available at: <<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/perspective/analysis/2015/11/01/-How-Turkish-elections-can-shape-political-landscape-for-a-decade.html>> [Accessed on 6 November 2015]
- Today's Zaman, 2015. Turkey should have kept a distinction between interests and influence in the Middle East. *Today's Zaman*, 12 October 2015 [online] Available at: <http://todayszaman.com_turkey-should-have-kept-a-distinction-between-interests-and-influence-in-the-middle-east_401017.html> [Accessed on 24 October 2015]
- Turan, M. B., (n.d.) The Impact of Syria's Conflict on the Turkish Economy. *The Market Mogul* [online] Available at: <<http://themarketmogul.com/impact-syrias-conflict-turkish-economy>> [Accessed on 7 November 2015]
- Turkey-EU Relations, (n.d.) *Turkey-EU Relations* [online] Available at: <<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/relations-between-turkey-and-the-european-union.en.mfa>> [Accessed on 8 November]
- Turkey's Perspectives, (n.d.) *Turkey's Perspectives and Policies on Security Issues* [online] Available at: <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/i_-turkey_s-security-perspective_-historical-and-conceptual-background_-turkey_s-contributions.en.mfa> [Accessed on 6 November 2015]
- UN.org, (n.d.) *Founding Member States* [online] Available at: <<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/unms/founders.shtml>> [Accessed on 10 November 2015]
- Unal, A., 2015. Australia sees Turkey as an important partner in global security, Australian FM says. *Daily Sabah Diplomacy*, 28 May 2015 [online] Available at: <<http://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2015/05/28/australia-sees-turkey-as-an-important-partner-in-global-security-australian-fm-says>> [Accessed on 7 November 2015]
- Zalan, E., 2015. Erdogan's party clinches majority in Turkey. *EU Observer*, 1 November 2015 [online] Available at: <<https://euobserver.com/political/130906>> [Accessed on 6 November 2015]

* * *

© ICRP 2015

<http://culturalrelations.org>
institute@culturalrelations.org

Prieger, A., 2015. Security policy in Turkey and the migration problem in Europe. *Cultural Relations Quarterly Review*, Vol. 2. Issue 4. (Autumn 2015) pp.17–34.

For more information concerning the article and citation please contact us via email at institute@culturalrelations.org.