

Eurasian Journal
of Humanities and
Social Sciences



Turkey as an intermediary in ensuring stable peace in the world

**Yarmukhamedova Irodakhon
Nosir kizi**

Uzbek State World Languages University,
Department of Social Sciences
Independent researcher

ABSTRACT

Peacebuilding is a process that deals with physical and institutional instability, responds to people's insecurity, poverty and social justice, combats nationalism or sectarianism, solves economic stagnation and environmental problems, and strengthens infrastructures and communities. This can include hard (military) power and soft power (through persuasion and communication). Due to the changes in the international system, the field for new powers has emerged, which in turn has created a fertile ground for instability, regional conflicts and competition. In this context, emerging powers such as Russia, China, Turkey or the rich Gulf states have become active in increasing instability in the region. They have also become more active as peacebuilders, testing and advocating visions of peacebuilding based on principles, methodologies, and outcomes that differ markedly from those associated with liberal peace.

Keywords:

Turkey, NATO, UN, Security Council, Ukraine, Russia.

Turkey's foreign policy is based on the protection of its national interests at the international level and contributes to the establishment of prosperity and stability in the world in order to create suitable conditions for peace and development in the region and beyond. Security and stability are the two main factors driving Turkey's foreign policy strategy. After the First World War and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the harmonization of Western institutions became especially important to preserve the security and stability that had been lost during the previous years. Active foreign policy requires the use of strong diplomatic methods to eliminate existing threats in the world. In this regard, Turkey has a deep-rooted tradition of diplomacy and is distinguished by several factors such as its geographical location, rich history, strong political institutions, strong human resources and vibrant economy.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the republic, had a significant impact on the

foreign policy of Turkey. From this point of view, the direction of the foreign policy proposed by Atatürk, the goal set by his motto "Peace in the country, peace in the world" and the strict policy he carried out on this path, are probably considered one of the most important factors that allowed the Turkish state to reach its current state. This goal, which was succinctly expressed by the words of Atatürk: "Peace in the country, peace in the world", remains the main direction of the state's foreign policy even today. In accordance with this goal, efforts were made to create an environment of regional and international security and stability that would allow Turkey to realize its great potential in all fields. In addition, friendly relations were strengthened with the countries that follow the principles based on modern values in order to make the Republic of Turkey a secular, democratic and socially legal state. The implementation of this did not become a pledge of past problems, as the interests of Turkey

demanding, the hand of friendship and cooperation was extended to all countries. The clearest example of this rule was Turkey's desire to avoid confrontation in relations with Western countries that fought for independence in the recent past, and to use the opportunities provided by the peace period. In addition, the young Republic of Turkey's focus on maintaining peace, stemming from years of war, was reflected in all spheres of foreign policy, seeking to resolve all issues through diplomacy and negotiations. Establishing a fair and stable political, economic and social system beneficial to all parties through political dialogue, economic cooperation and cultural cooperation in the world and, first of all, in the region is the main direction of their efforts in foreign policy.

Over the past decade, Turkey has emerged as a cultural and important actor not only in the region but globally as a result of its development and participation in peacebuilding. Turkish leaders have emphasized the need for mediation diplomacy in peacebuilding, whether it is peacekeeping or peacebuilding activities, any conflict management strategy should be closely related. Determining mediation and dialogue as important tools of preventive diplomacy, it was mentioned that "peace mediation and relief efforts are the most cost-effective and effective way to prevent and resolve conflicts." With this understanding, Turkey has actively worked towards resolving many conflicts in recent years. These include efforts to achieve internal reconciliation in Iraq, Lebanon, and Kyrgyzstan; two separate trilateral cooperation processes initiated with the participation of Serbia and Croatia to achieve sustainable peace and stability in Bosnia-Herzegovina; "Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process" initiative aimed at developing the tripartite cooperation mechanism and regional ownership with Afghanistan and Pakistan, which play an important role in ensuring peace and security in Afghanistan; Seeking a peaceful solution to Iran's nuclear program through dialogue; The steps taken to support the peace process in the Southern Philippines and to facilitate dialogue between Ukraine and the Russian Federation are proof of

these thoughts. The most important experience that Turkey has gained in these processes is that each problem has its own dynamics and conditions, and mediation efforts should be carried out taking into account these differences. However, it should not be forgotten that mediation diplomacy has certain golden rules and certain principles that must be respected, regardless of the nature of the dispute. For example, in order to be a successful mediator, actors need to master all the dynamics of the problem and show long-term commitment from the beginning, where a long-term solution may be required. Similarly, the mediation process should offer flexible but principled strategies from the outset and be able to provide a common vision to the disputing parties in addition to gaining their trust. Turkey continues its mediation activities based on these principles.

At a time when humanity is currently suffering from various problems such as ethnic or religious extremism, xenophobia, Islamophobia and other forms of exclusion, Turkey emphasizes the need to adhere to the principles of transparency, diversity, dialogue and inclusive policies in addressing these issues. It also played a leading role in promoting mutual respect and common values among different cultures and religions. Terrorist groups threaten international peace and security as a result of the rise of terrorism and extremist tendencies all over the world. Terrorism is a global scourge and a crime against humanity, which cannot be bound by any race, nationality or creed, and requires a global response and solidarity. Turkey is actively fighting against any terrorist organization and terrorism. At the same time, Turkey is the country that hosts the largest number of refugees in the world. Turkey hosts about 4 million refugees, of which an estimated 3.6 million are Syrians who have been forced to flee the destruction in their homeland and are under temporary protection. Turkey has so far spent more than 40 billion dollars to provide various services and support to Syrians. At the same time, Turkey supports the voluntary and dignified return of Syrians to Syria, and

thanks to its efforts, hundreds of thousands of Syrians have been able to return to their homes.

In the last two years, one of the most important initiatives of the Republic of Turkey in maintaining peace, it is certainly appropriate to highlight the actions aimed at peaceful settlement of the conflicts between Russia and Ukraine. As the Russia-Ukraine conflict divides the world into two camps and more countries abandon their neutral status, Ankara's role as a mediator in resolving sensitive issues related to the war is becoming more apparent. Since the beginning of the conflict, Turkey has maintained diplomatic relations with Moscow and Kiev, helping to negotiate agreements between the two countries. On March 29, 2022, after three rounds of negotiations in Belarus ended without results, Turkey presented Istanbul as a platform for negotiations between representatives of Russia and Ukraine. It was during these negotiations that the Ukrainian side first presented written proposals for compromise. In general, the results of the negotiations in Istanbul were positively assessed by the Russian negotiating team and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in response to the proposals of the Ukrainian side, Russia "took two steps towards Kiev." In particular, it reduced military activity in the directions of Kiev and Chernihiv. However, the real readiness of the Kiev regime to fulfill its obligations raises a number of questions, since the Ukrainian side planned to hold a referendum, which would have to vote on all issues of these agreements, and this, of course, could lead to a delay in the process. In addition, Turkey's positive resolution of the agreement on the export of grain from the Black Sea region in the Russia-Ukraine issue caused Turkey's reputation to increase even more. In the weeks since the conflict began, global food prices have soared and many countries were at risk of famine, as Ukraine and Russia are among the world's biggest wheat exporters. Kiev, especially since the start of the war, has had problems with the delivery of grain and food from its ports. The Black Sea Grain Initiative, signed in Istanbul on July 22, 2022, made it possible to transport Ukrainian grain to other countries through the Black Sea and Turkish

Straits. The UN-backed agreement was originally supposed to last 120 days, was extended in November and is still in effect today. Gregory Simons, associate professor of the Institute of Russian and Eurasian Studies at Uppsala University, told TRT World TV: "2022 was a "defining moment" for Turkey, "it was able to achieve achievements that no other country could achieve." Simons added: "We can see that Turkey has assumed the role of an honest mediator in the conflict over the issue of Ukraine, which has become the prey of the geopolitical dispute between the United States and Russia. " In September 2022, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu warned that the longer the conflict continues, the harder it will be to reach a "just and mutually acceptable" solution. Cavusoglu co-chaired the 12th Ministerial meeting of the UN Mediation Friends Group within the 77th session of the UN General Assembly held in New York. In his December 2022 speech at the TRT World forum, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan drew attention to the challenges humanity has faced in recent years, including the crisis surrounding Ukraine. Erdogan noted that the coronavirus pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war have led to an increase in tensions on the world stage. In addition, today 60 percent of all crisis incidents occur in areas close to Turkey. "Turkey's diplomatic efforts in Ukraine are based on the idea that one does not win in war, but loses in peace," he said. In addition, the head of state noted that the war between the Russian Federation and Ukraine is connected with serious political, economic and humanitarian damage to the whole world. In another sign of Ankara's rebalancing, Turkey has delivered high-tech Bayraktar military drones to Ukraine to bolster Kiev's defenses and counter a Russian offensive. "Turkey strongly supports the territorial integrity of Ukraine, at the same time, we opposed the incitement of contradictions in the region through the "unreasonable policy" against the Russian Federation," the Turkish leader said. Recalling the many conversations held with the leaders of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, Erdoğan emphasized that all Ankara's efforts are aimed at achieving peace in

the Black Sea region. "Despite the suspension of the Istanbul process of dialogue between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, this platform still remains the most ideal platform for long-term peace," Erdogan said. He reminded that a large-scale exchange of prisoners was achieved between the Russian Federation and Ukraine thanks to Ankara's successful mediation efforts. Mesut Hakki Jasin, a professor of international law at Editepe University, praised the role of the Turkish president. According to the expert, Erdoğan is "the only leader who is able to negotiate with both Putin and Zelensky, who tries to bring the two sides closer." According to its neutral position, Ankara has also closed its straits to Russian and NATO warships in accordance with the Montreux Convention on the Status of Turkish Straits. Expert Jasin notes that with this step, "Turkey has prevented the spread of the war from Ukraine to areas other than Ukraine, especially to the Black Sea."

In conclusion, it should be noted that today Turkey does not have a concept document that clearly describes the definition of peacemaking. However, this can be understood through the bilateral and regional activities, norms and discussions that have emerged between the country's representatives over the past decade. Most Turkish officials discuss the term peacebuilding in the context of the development and reconstruction of a conflict-affected country. Therefore, Turkey's approach to peacebuilding can be characterized as a two-pronged process, involving both nation-building and community-based peacebuilding. Turkish officials believe that good governance, strong political institutions and the rule of law are essential to building a stable and peaceful society, reflecting a systematic approach to peacebuilding. A strong Turkey is a guarantee of stable peace and development and a driving force for all surrounding regions. In 2023, the Republic of Turkey will proudly celebrate the 100th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic. Achieving specific goals set by the presidential government will not only increase prosperity and peace within the country, but also increase Turkey's contribution to the region and beyond. Turkey pursues its proactive

and humanitarian foreign policy and continues to protect its national interests while contributing to the common goals of humanity.

References

1. "Save the World from Starvation... Turkey's Efforts to Lift the Siege on Ukrainian Grain", TRT Arabic, 1/6/2022, accessed on 10/6/2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3HaNiIT>
2. Shaban Kardaş, "The War in Ukraine and Turkey's Cautious Counter-Balancing Against Russia," The German Marshall Fund of the United States, 3/3/2022, accessed on 1/5/2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3sf7GCz>
3. Seydi, Suleyman and Steven Morewood. "Turkey, Application of the Montreux Convention in the Second World War." Middle Eastern Studies. Vol. 41, no 1.
4. Natalia Konarzewska, "Turkey, Ukraine and Russia: The Illusion of Neutrality," Turkey Analyst, 4/3/2022, accessed on 29/4/2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3MRPEXy>