

GREAT DECISIONS

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Turkey: a partner in crisis

Acronyms and abbreviations

AKP—Justice and Development Party

CENTCOM—U.S. Central Command

EU—European Union

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EUR—The European Bureau

G-20—Group of 20

IMF—International Monetary Fund

ISIS—Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

NATO—North Atlantic Treaty Organization

NEA—Bureau for Near East Affairs

NGO—non-governmental organization

NSC—National Security Council

OECD—Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

PKK—Kurdish Workers' Party

PYD (YPG)—Democratic Union Party

Glossary

Abdullah Gül: President of Turkey (2007–14) and deputy leader of the Islamist Welfare Party until it was banned in 1998.

Abdullah Öcalan: A Kurdish nationalist leader and a founding member of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The Turkish government arrested Öcalan in 1999 and he remains imprisoned today.

Arab Spring (2010–12): A series of revolutionary protests across the Arab world, the Arab Spring began with the Tunisian Revolution and spread to Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Syria and Bahrain, among other countries. Many protests were violently suppressed by authorities or state-backed militias, and led to armed conflicts, including civil wars in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen, and a coup in Egypt.

Armenian genocide: The Ottoman Empire's systematic program that exterminated 1.5 million Armenians between approximately 1915 and 1923. Turkey has not recognized the crime as a genocide.

azan: The Muslim call to ritual prayer.

Cyprus: An island country in the Mediterranean Sea, just south of Turkey. It has been the locus of a long-standing territorial dispute with Turkey, whose unrecognized Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus claims a section of the island.

Democratic Union Party (PYD): A Kurdish nationalist group founded in Syria in 2003 and linked to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Gezi Park protests: A series of protests that occurred between May and August 2013, beginning with opposition to an urban development plan for Gezi Park in central Istanbul. After a sit-in at the park was violently repressed by the Turkish authorities, more protests and strikes billowed across Turkey against restrictions on freedom of the press, expression and assembly, as well as the government's infringement on secularism.

Gaullism: The eponymous ideology of the founding president of the Fifth French Republic, Charles de Gaulle, that promotes conservatism, nationalism and centralized government. Some experts today use Gaullism to describe political shifts in modern Turkey.

Gülen movement: Fethullah Gülen’s eponymous Islamic and social movement known for promoting interfaith dialogue, education and other social services. Once in alliance with the Justice and Development Party (AKP), the Gülen movement has since been accused of trying to stage coups against the AKP-led government which classified it as a terrorist organization in 2015.

Islamist Welfare Party: An Islamist political party that operated in Turkey from 1983 to 1998. Co-founded by Necmettin Erbakan. It was banned in 1998 for violating Turkey’s secularist policy.

Jacobinism: A term used to describe an extreme radical, particularly in the political sphere. A Jacobin was originally a member of a radical revolutionary group that promoted extremist policies during the French Revolution.

Justice and Development Party (AKP): Founded by Erdoğan 2001, a conservative political party that promotes moderate political Islam in Turkey and has controlled the Turkish government since 2002. Though its platform was at first pro-Western, as the party has tightened control, it has taken on more conservative policies and centralized leadership.

Kemalism: The ideology and policy promoted by the first post-Ottoman leader of modern-day Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, which applied sweeping reforms in the political, social, cultural and religious spheres, bringing about the creation of a democratic and secular nation, and establishing a free education system.

Kurdish-Turkish conflict: Originating in 1978, an ongoing armed conflict between Turkey and various Kurdish insurgent groups, seeking to secede from Turkey and create an independent Kurdistan, or at minimum, to establish autonomy and more political and cultural rights for Kurds who live in Turkey. The main Kurdish actor in the conflict is the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK).

Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK): Designated a terrorist group by the U.S. and Turkey, among other countries and organizations, it was founded in 1978 and

is based in Turkey and Iraq, where it has been involved in an ongoing armed conflict with Turkey. Its original driving force is to create an independent Kurdish state, or establish Kurdish autonomy in Turkey.

laicism: A political system that separates religious bodies and the government.

Machiavelli: An Italian politician of the Renaissance period, also known as “the father of political science.” Machiavelli’s 16th-century treatise *The Prince* describes a form of political rule that prioritizes self-interest over moral considerations.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk: Founder of the Republic of Turkey, who served as its president from 1923 to 1938, Atatürk led the Ottomans to victory in World War I, abolished the Ottoman Empire to create the Turkish Republic and carried out sweeping reforms that modernized and secularized the country.

Necmettin Erbakan: The former prime minister of Turkey (1996–97). Erbakan was eventually banned from politics for violating the secular underpinning of the Turkish constitution.

Neo-Ottomanism: A Turkish political ideology that advocates for returning Ottoman traditions and culture to modern Turkish life.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): Founded in 1960, an intergovernmental economic organization (and the second iteration of the earlier Organization for European Economic Cooperation, founded in 1948) whose 35 member states work to stimulate economic development, international trade, democracy and the market economy.

populism: A political movement that claims to promote the interests of the common people.

realpolitik: A political system identified by its practical (not moral or ideological) agenda.

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan: Former prime minister of Turkey (2003–14) and current president (2014–present), Erdoğan founded Turkey’s Justice and Development Party (AKP) in 2001 and has increasingly exerted an authoritarian hold on the country, though Turkey remains a majoritarian democracy. He is known for his conservative social and liberal economic agenda.