

# TURKEY

## DOVER-SHERBORN HIGH SCHOOL

### A. Introduction

Turkey, a country that has political relations with major powers throughout the world, is currently involved with the nuclear power and weapon industry that is threatening to change the world order. As of 2018, Turkey is a member of NATO (The North Atlantic Treaty Organization), a military alliance, and the NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons), a treaty that limits the usage and spread of nuclear weapons. The threat of terrorist groups in Turkey including ISIS and the PKK, is causing international countries to worry about the unauthorized use of nuclear weapons. As a result, the United States is considering to remove the nuclear weapons they store at the Incirlik base in Southern Turkey per the NATO treaty. If the United States was to follow through with this, it would greatly disrupt the relation between Turkey and the US, changing the dynamic they had for many decades as NATO allies.

### B. Key Points, bulleted

- Turkey wants to fight against ISIS without supporting the Kurds in Syria who the US is backing
- Kurdish groups and peoples should be abolished/ kicked out of Turkey
- United States should cease all actions of supporting YPG and funding groups which Turkey views as terrorists
- Turkey is building more nuclear power plants in order to provide energy for its own people (right now gets most energy from Russia)
- The United States wishes to remove its nuclear weapons from Turkey's Southern military base, Incirlik

### C. Background

The evolution of Turkey's current governmental structure first started in 1908 when Turkish people led a revolution, ultimately introducing both civil and social reforms. The leader

of this revolution, Mustafa Kemal, was a Turkish nationalist leader who took the offensive against the Allies during World War I. Kemal, who led Turkey to complete independence, was later elected as president once the Republic of Turkey was proclaimed in 1923. The most impactful event during Kemal's time in office was in 1924 when the original constitution was ratified. This constitutional adjustment not only moved the capital to Ankara, which still remains the capital city today, but it also began the modernization of Turkey. Though Islam became the primary religion due to the ratification, Turkey still became a completely secular republic in 1928. Upon Kemal's rule, the formation of three assemblies were seen and Kemal's own assembly, the Republican People's Party, remained in control leading up to 1950. Along with that, Kemal's own policies were written into Turkey's constitution in 1937 which included republicanism, nationalism, populism, statism, secularism, and revolution. Changes such as a new political and legal system, the abolishment of a sultanate, advanced Turkish industry, and increased rights for women were evident. Additionally, the majority of Kemal's followers were Muslims, thus leading the way to the prominent Muslim religion in present-day Turkey. In 1938, however, Kemal died, eventually giving way to the election of Ismet Inonu.

World War II occurred during Inonu's presidency and as a result, foreign affairs was the most important issue in government. Although Turkey claimed to be neutral in the beginning of the war, Turkey eventually joined the Allies in 1945 and in 1952, Turkey became part of NATO, an international military alliance between several countries. Due to the Soviet increased power after the war, Turkey's seas and straits were demanded by the Soviet. As a result, Turkey sought United States military aid in 1947 and economic aid in 1948. Because of the war, there were shortages of raw materials and by 1945, agricultural output decreased 70%, compared to 1939.

Additionally, inflation increased by almost 345% between 1938 and 1945. Though there were many negativities because of the war, the importance and focus on education began to increase and Turkey's literacy rate rose to almost one third of the adult population. World War II also increased popularity for democracy and as a result, a new group, the Democrat Party, was founded in 1946 and gathered much support. Many government officials, particularly Minister Recep Peker, wished to suppress the Democratic Party, which occupied sixty-one seats in government; however, Inonu denied this wish, hoping that the Democratic Party would lead way to possible changes in government. Press censorship was relaxed and the first mass circulation of newspapers was established during the postwar era. In addition, in 1947, trade unions were permitted but were not given the right to act out until 1963.

Taking over the Republican People's Party (CHP) during Inonu's rule, was the Democratic Party in 1950. At first, the Democrats whose priority was economic growth, prospered due to good harvests and an economic boom as a result of the Korean War from 1950-1953. In opposition to the Democrat's first three years, shortages of food and foreign trade were experienced beginning in 1954. By 1960, the international balance of trade was shifted against Turkey and inflation dramatically increased. Along with that, from 1950 to 1960, support for the Democrat Party greatly decreased, and the newly formed Freedom Party merged with the CHP. The final push for a rebellion against the Democrat Party was urged when the Democrats alleged that there was a plot against them and accused many innocent people. In April, 1960, the government and army prevented Inonu from campaigning and began to investigate the matters of the CHP. Following this, student demonstrations occurred and martial law was brought in place on April 28. On May 27, 1960, a military coup was carried out and the previous government was

ousted and replaced by a 38 member National Unity Committee. The leader of this committee was General Cemal Gursel who had previously demanded political reforms.

Although these changes to Turkey influenced the government, societal changes were still developing. In 1927, the population was recorded to be about 13.6 million. Later, in 1940, the overall population was 17.8 million. During both of these two censuses, the urban population remained at one-fourth. In addition, the income and literacy rate of Turkey was far worse compared to countries that were already developed. By 1961, a civilian government was reinstated and a new constitution was drafted. Later, after the civilian government, was the Justice Party.

The Justice Party (JP), was created but was unable to form a government; however, in 1964, after a new law was passed with intentions of opposing the JP, the Justice Party won in the 1965 election. With that win, Suleyman Demirel, the JP leader, was able to form a government with the goal of political and economic liberalization. During the JP's time in office, much violence was seen in Turkey with the National Action Party (NAP) being the primary source. The JP, unable to deal with the violence, lost the election to smaller parties in 1969.

Violence also increased when army officers, who worried about the political revolts in Kurdish parts of Turkey, warned the government in 1970 and later forced the resignation of Demirel. For the next two year, Turkey was ruled by conservative politicians who had the support of the Turkish army. Martial law was established and until 1973 and the annual death toll rose from 34 in 1975 to 1,500 in 1980 due to political violence. Once again, the CHP rose to power again in the 1977 elections. In 1980, a bloodless coup led by General Kenan Evren was led and leading politicians were arrested. As a result of the coup, a five member National

Security Council took control of government and passed a constitutional that gave members unlimited power to military commanders. Due to this, martial law was expanded throughout Turkey and a large operation to remove terrorism was taken into action. In 1982, a new constitution was ratified that modeled the French constitution of 1958. This constitution provided a stable president who could appoint a prime minister and judges. After the new constitution, the MP or Motherland Party led by Turgut Ozal assumed governmental power until 1991 in Turkey. Under Ozal, inflation decreased and the economy greatly grew. However, after 1987, Turkey's economy fell due to the world recession in late 1980's to early 1990's.

The appearance of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) was most distinct starting during the 1970's. Led by Abdullah Ocalan, a PKK member, started violent attacks against the Turkish state in 1984 from bases in Iraq. The PKK who wanted a fully independent Kurdish state, directed attacks against government property and officials as well as Turks living in Kurdish dominated regions. Along with that, the PKK received support from Syria and in 1991, new bases formed from safe havens in Iraqi Kurdistan were granted to the PKK. The Turkish government wished to suppress the PKK and due to that, martial law was imposed in Kurdish areas. Between 1982 and 1995, about 15,000 Kurdish civilians were killed with dozens of villages destroyed. In late 1992, Turkish troops entered PKK safe havens in Iraq and again in 1995 with approximately 35,000 troops and by 1999, Abdullah Ocalan was captured by the Turkish government in Kenya.

After Ozal's death in 1993, Demirel was elected president and Tansu Ciller became Turkey's first female prime minister. At that time, Ciller focused on privatization as well as stronger bonds with the European Union. In 1995, however, Ciller failed to form a new coalition

government. Later, in 2002, the Justice and Development Party took over parliamentary elections and leadership went to Abdullah Gul. Once a constitutional amendment removed the rule that those who were convicted could not serve in government, Erdogan won a spot in Parliament and became prime minister. Later, in 2007, an Armenian journalist was murdered in Istanbul, causing many to think that this murder was a planned political attack. Due to this, the treatment of Armenians when the Ottoman were still at rule was brought up again, leading to further tensions between Turkey and Armenian citizens. Due to this, in 2009, the two countries signed an agreement that they would normalize diplomatic relations and reinvestigate the killings of World War I.

The AKP, in 2007, nominated Gul as prime minister. People in Turkey began to believe that the AKP might be an obstacle to Turkey's secular democracy while others believed that the intrusion of military to Turkish politics was more risky. Later, in 2008, the court disapproved of the AKP and the five year ban of Erdogan from Turkish politics. The AKP, however, was still able to keep its position. In 2008, the Turkish constitution was once again amended with 26 amendments. Part of these amendments allowed Erdogan as well as the AKP to control the military and judicial system. Then, in 2011, the AKP campaigned during an election, wishing to make a new constitution. As a result of the election, the AKP won and made up a majority of the Grand National Assembly, but still did not have enough votes to make a new constitution.

#### **D. Issues**

##### **Committee on Sovereignty:**

Turkey is a strong proponent of individual sovereignty. Turkey has stood for its own sovereignty in the face of EU alliance restrictions, but has also breached the sovereignty of other

nations for the goal of worldwide peace and prosperity. Turkey has mobilized troops into Syria, at the time a country overrun by ISIS, to protect refugees and reestablish order. Turkey is cognizant of the importance of sovereignty versus international security.

As a member of the United Nations, Turkey acknowledges the sovereignty of all UN acknowledged nations, yet sometimes sovereignty must be temporarily broken in order to protect world peace. The principle of non-intervention is an international law that forbids countries from using force or threatening to use force to get land from a state or attack the political sovereignty of a nation. Turkey is a supporter of this principle yet believes that whether or not a country has jurisdiction over a certain contested issue should be decided by the international court.

The international community should both be vested in the sovereignty of each country while promoting global peace. By doing this, the world will be safer yet the rights of each country would not be infringed, which is often the cause of conflict. International Government Organizations (IGOs) should strive toward global security by decreasing international tensions and working to eliminate hostile threats. The United Nations, as well as other IGOs should continually strive for world peace for each country. If a country rescues its sovereignty, it is able to reclaim it, as history has shown. This was shown specifically in the case of the UK, which renounced its sovereignty to become part of the EU, but then renounced its membership in a referendum and is taking steps to become a fully sovereign once again. Turkey specifically supports sovereignty in its support of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. However, because of the current nuclear climate, a disintegration of all nuclear weapons is not supported by Turkey or its affiliates, which would leave Turkey unprotected. Turkey is not a nuclear state,

but it relies on the nuclear protection from NATO, specifically the US, which houses nuclear weapons in Turkey.

Global security is more important than state sovereignty when the sovereignty of the state threatens the peace of another nation. International measures must be taken to ease tensions, and even violate the sovereignty of the hostile state to preserve global peace. Turkish leadership, as well as the input of IGOs and foreign nations, would decide Turkey's action in a situation like this.

### **Committee on Security:**

As a nation, we are currently more worried about national security than global security. This is, in large part, due to the recent actions, and normalization of said actions by the global community, that have been executed by the Kurdish people and the YPG through what has been called the PKK. The connection between the YPG and the PKK is something that most definitely exists and it would be ignorant to say otherwise. In an interview with the Wall Street Journal, Zind Ruken, a fighter for this vile rebel group, said "Sometimes I'm a PKK, sometimes I'm a PJAK, sometimes I'm a YPG. It doesn't really matter. They are all members of the PKK." This should be beyond disturbing for anyone who is familiar with the actions of the YPG as they have killed 59 Turkish soldiers in the city of Afrin alone. This has, in effect, not only stopped any possible joint operations between our military and their militia, but it has also made anyone who backs them the enemy. The United States and other nations have backed these scum in their fight against ISIS as well as backing us Turks, holding 70 nuclear weapons in Incirlik air base, for which we are very grateful as we wish to maintain a stable relationship with the United States. However, they must decide whether to back the Republic of Turkey, a fellow member of NATO,



a nation that supported the US during the Cold War, aided the US in their fight against ISIS, and a nation that has traded \$17.4 billion worth of goods in 2016 alone, or to back a group that has worked in partnership and on the same level as a terrorist organization and are, in reality, an organization that has worked to destroy us as a nation.

On nuclear conflicts in the modern day, we hold the do not support the escalation of nuclear tensions and are actively for a nuclear free world. However, we understand that until North Korea and other unstable regimes give up power, there is no use in asking large and stable powers like the United States to give up their nuclear arsenal. North Korea has also recently attacked our nation through the hacker group “Hidden Cobra” and we will not continue to put up with this action and for this reason. We will have to seriously consider the \$7 billion that we trade with North Korea each year and to decide whether this is a national security threat or even necessary as we know that is not moral. As for the India-Pakistan nuclear dilemma, we do not necessarily support one country over the other. However, we do support Pakistan for their stance on Kurds in Iraq. It is important that we do not give a single inch to these people or else they will soon believe that they can rebel against all nations they currently reside in. We are also equally grateful to India for purchasing over \$5 billion dollars of Turkish goods in 2016. Our relationship with Iran, a country that has been caught in nuclear controversy relatively recently, is pretty rocky. Iran’s leadership does not enjoy the more western and liberal values that our nation holds. They view our liberal and secular values as a betrayal of traditional Islam. We are also majority Sunni while Iran has one of the largest Shia populations in the world. Despite these differences, we wish to keep a stable relationship with Iran as we share a 500 km border and we are currently working on a 144 km border wall that should be finished by around 2019. We would never want

Iran, as a nation that has been found to have enriched uranium, to be at odds with us as they would be our main nuclear threat if they were to develop nuclear weapons.

As a nation that does not own their own nuclear weapons, we believe that the best way towards a safe world would be to have no nations that our nuclear capable. However, we understand schematically this is something that would be almost impossible to achieve. We view our current landscape of nations and their bulked up nuclear arsenals to be the cause of a myriad of cold wars that are going on currently. This theory is reflected in mutually assured destruction (MAD) as we believe that once two sides have nuclear weapons, as long as they are not allied, a standstill in which no side wishes to attack the other has been reached as any nation that is strategically led will ally with one of the two nuclear nations. For this reason, we believe that using nuclear weapons as a sort of trump card is not just immoral, but it is also illogical as it incentivises nations to nuclearize as it gives them an extra bargaining chip which only leads to higher tensions. This is our fundamental problem with brinkmanship as we can not accept that the nuclear option be on the trading table and believe it should instead be relegated to the submarine patrolling near, a silo kilometers away from, or a jet flying over the metaphorical trading table. This opinion also extends to what may become the normalization of nuclear conflict or what has been referred to as a “limited nuclear war”. We believe, as a nation, that once the use of nuclear weapons becomes the norm and begins to be used in conventional warfare, we, as race have lost. This is because we will have to legalize all nuclear weapons in the global community and let events similar to that of Hiroshima and Nagasaki become the norm, which no one with a trace of empathy should be for, or we will have to create a scale of which nuclear weapon use should be allowed because we are too afraid of starting a total nuclear war,

which, after a long series of boundary pushing, would end up being first option without the direct path. Because of our hardline approach to the use of nuclear weapons in warfare, we believe that first strike capabilities should be off the table in virtually all circumstances. Unless there is confirmable information that a nation will use nuclear weapons on another nation or there is a small nation that is oppressing their people with no allies and only a small number of nuclear weapons, all being stored in one location and another nation that knows they will be able to, 100 times out of 100 times, destroy said nation's arsenal, this option should not be on the table. This is because of the destructive nature of nuclear fallout and what will follow after. Environmentally, the dropping of one of these nuclear bombs can be catastrophic. Richard Turco of UCLA said that the detonation of 50-100 nuclear bombs (0.03% of the world's nuclear weapons) would cause the ozone layer to be depleted by at least 40%, causing an increase of ultraviolet rays, an extreme drop in the earth's temperature, making it almost impossible for a majority of the world to grow crops for five years, and the deaths of millions of organisms including 10 million people. There would also be an extreme economic cost to the dropping of nuclear weapons that we must be weary of. The cost of the rebuilding of Hiroshima after it was bombed was estimated to cost 2 billion yen. Now it would be a lot worse. A 1 megaton bomb, similar in size to a B83, has a blast radius of 6 kilometers. This would be twice the force needed to destroy Manhattan (a city that would cost \$578 billion) to purchase. To avoid these extreme losses, we believe that North Korea not attempt to be solved in a nuclear manner. We must, however, not allow North Korea to use their nuclear weapons to blackmail us and we must firmly state that their use of nuclear weapons will end in their destruction. This is, in effect, the only way we will be able to deal with a state that is this unstable.

### **Committee on Diplomacy:**

Overall, Turkey tends to solve its diplomatic through passive aggression. Turkey typically prefers to avoid engaging in direct conflict with other countries, often forced to maintain a delicate balance in diplomacy, due to differences of opinion with its allies. Turkey's participation in NATO has lead it to have strong ties to the United States, however these two countries remain at odds over the United States' support of Kurdish terrorist groups.

Turkey does not support the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Due to terrorist groups in and around Turkey, such as the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), Turkey is very wary of the destruction that Nuclear weapons could cause if they landed in the wrong hands. The Middle East is often seen as a dangerous area for proliferation, and Turkey's proximity to it has added to their feelings that it is safer for Nuclear weapons to remain only in Nuclear Weapons States. Turkey has shown their anti-proliferation views on several occasions. They supported the Treaty on Non-proliferation of 1979, as well as the Comprehensive Test Ban of 2000. Turkey is also very supportive of the Proliferation Security initiative (PSI) started by George W. Bush, as well as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) launched by Vladimir Putin of Russia and George W. Bush of the US. Turkey has long been working to gain a spot in the European Union. Due to this process, Turkey has avoided developing nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons which would hurt their chances of ascension into the EU. Turkey has been working hard towards utilising nuclear energy. Turkey's current government, lead by Tayyip Erdogan and the AKP party are especially passionate in regards to using nuclear energy to prevent the predicted energy shortages in Turkey. Despite the AKP's determination for nuclear energy, many members of the Turkish public are fearful of the damage power plants may cause

because Turkey is susceptible to earthquakes. Turkey does feel that there are rogue states. While they do not have a nation state, Turkey considers the Kurds to be a harmful and destructive group which threatens the nations they reside in, therefore making them similar to a rogue state. Turkey considers Syria, among others, to be a rogue state due to the dangerous leadership of the Assad regime.

Turkey isn't truly for or against the current world order; they are for Turkey and against those who stand in their way. While they've been trying to get into the western led EU, and are a member of NATO, Turkey's recent tensions with the West set it drifting further away from the current world order. The West has been Turkey's focus for many years, but with the US's support of the YPG (a Kurdish terrorist group), and their refusal to extradite the leader of an attempted Turkish coup, Turkey has chosen to leave the door to the east open. Turkey is hanging in the balance between east and west waiting to see where they can get the most.

Turkey supports global disarmament across the globe. If these weapons came to be possessed by terrorist groups the results would be devastating. However, due to our current relations with other countries, we'd prefer to stand by whatever they feel is best.

### **Committee on Terrorism:**

Terrorism in Turkey is one of the most pressing issues occurring in the country at the present moment. The PKK, an acronym for the "Kurdistan Workers' Party", has been a topic of discussion in Turkey for many decades now. The organization, which the nation has classified as a terrorist group, made their most prominent appearance in Turkey during the 1970's. However, they made their first attack against the Turkish nation on August 15th, 1984. Led by Mahsum Korkmaz, this attack started a long battle between Turkey, and the PKK who wish to create their

own recognized Kurdish state using part of Turkey's land. The PKK attacked a gendarmerie station in Eruh in Siirt, killing one soldier, and injuring six others, as well as three civilians. At the same time of this attack on the station, the also attacked a gendarmerie open air facility. After these first attacks, the Turkish government did not realize the extent of the PKK's power and saw little threat from the group. However, The PKK carried out many more raids and ambushes. By September of 2008, the PKK had 44,000 deaths as a result of their attacks.

During this present moment, Turkey is greatly aware of how powerful and ruthless the PKK are. Since 1984 there has been a huge increase in violence in the PKK, as well as in other splinter groups. Specifically, the end of July 2015 has sparked a great increase in the violence of the PKK in the southeast and eastern provinces in Turkey. The PKK have purposely targeted Turkish security forces by attacking security building and vehicles. With this increase of attacks, Turkey's armed forces and police have seen a chilling increase of deaths and injuries.

Along with the the PKK, there are other terrorist groups in Turkey. The TAK also has implemented many attacks on Turkey, such as in the cities of Ankara and Istanbul. Although the PKK denies their affiliation with the TAK, it is believed that these groups are connected as they both have the same goal of developing a Kurdish state. There have also been a number of suicide attacks by ISIS. Both the TAK and ISIS have made serious and public threats for attacks, specifically in popular tourist sites in Turkey.

ISIS and Turkey's relationship has been extremely complicated over the years. As the ISIS organization grew and gained more power, Turkey did very little to stop their efforts. Similarly, the ISIS organization left Turkey alone in terms of attacks. Still, fighters and soldiers for ISIS traveled through Turkey. When Turkey recognized the growing threat of the

organization, ISIS had already taken advantage of Turkey. They had established strong supporters and large footholds in the nation. The United States Department's "Country Reports on Terrorism 2014" states that "[throughout 2014, Turkey served as a source and transit country for foreign terrorist fighters wishing to join [ISIL, al-Nusrah Front and other al-Qa'ida-affiliated organizations,] and other groups in Syria". Although Turkey did aid in ISIS's efforts, they did deny any potential foreign fighters that served as a threat and created a "Banned from Entry" list. In addition, Turkey launched a military operation in Syria backing opposition forces to drive ISIS out of a critical area along the border. They hope that these efforts will weaken the relation between the Syrian Kurds and Turkish separatists.

Terrorism in Turkey has been specifically linked to extremism and radicalism. As of 2014, Turkey had two key programs to counter these issues. The first is a system to reach vulnerable population in Turkey before terrorist groups do. The system works to prevent recruits and work on establishing a strong group dynamic. This is done through executing methods looked at in research of social science programs. These activities are administered from the Turkish National Police and include training officers and teachers. In addition, they work towards preparing programs on interventions to undermine the messages from terrorist groups looking to find vulnerable people for recruitment. This system has been comparable to anti-gang systems in the United States. The second system to prevent recruitments is run by the Turkish government's Religious Affairs Office which specifically focuses on the extremist messages and works to counter it directly. These systems are in place in the hope that they will limit the impact the terrorist groups have on the people of Turkey.

Although Turkey has mimicked some of the systems that the United States uses to prevent violence, their relationship is extremely complicated. When looking at the history of the two nations' relations, it is clear that it was built upon mutual interests. Both part of NATO, they were meant to act under universal values that include democracy, freedom, and respect for human-rights. For decades their disagreements did little to affect their relationship as two nations. In addition, they both have important roles in the trade in their countries. The trade volume between Turkey and the US reached 18 billion dollars in the first eleven months of 2017. As NATO allies, the United States has also stored a vast number of tactical nuclear weapons at the Incirlik Air Base in Southern Turkey. Although Turkey and the United States had a solid relationship for many decades, there is a main disagreement that is causing their relationship to deteriorate quickly. The United States's main priority is to defeat ISIS. The US army has supported Kurdish fighters in Syria who are working against ISIS fighters. Turkey however, is threatened by these Syrian Kurds, as they have the same goal to establish a Kurdish state like the PKK. This key difference between the United States and Turkey is causing major conflict. In addition, Turkey's possession of American nuclear weapons is threatening to the United States, even if there is not any immediate danger of unauthorized use and or theft of these weapons.

Like the nuclear weapons Turkey possesses from the United States, their own supply of nuclear materials is threatening to the rest of the world. The United States and Georgia have spent many years and millions of dollars to combat the illegal sale of nuclear materials in the black market. The black market for these materials is still very prominent in Turkey. These radioactive materials are thought to originate from the Cold War. They include uranium, plutonium, cesium, and iridium. It is unknown how big these black markets are, and the extent of



them. There have been cases in Turkey where citizens have attempted to make their own nuclear bombs, or dirty bombs. The main concern of this black market is the potential for civilians to make powerful nuclear weapons. There is no reason for people to be buying such powerful and reactive materials if their purpose was not to make nuclear weapons.

### **Committee on Climate and Energy:**

Of all energy sources, Turkey is most dependent on Natural Gas at 34% of electricity production. However, their ongoing investment in expanding the coal industry is contrasting the need to decarbonize the Earth's atmosphere. Turkey currently has the third largest coal power development program in the world with 67 units of coal power plants, 6 more under construction, and 73 more planned for the future in hopes of independently supplying their rapidly increasing energy demand. Turkey produces just a quarter of the energy they consume, spending a whopping 60 billion on energy imports per year, which is a sizeable chunk of their GDP. That said, Turkey is more concerned with finding more domestic energy sources and further industrializing themselves than they are with climate change. Turkey's emissions grew 110 percent from 1990 to 2013, and their carbon pollution is expected to grow 134 percent by 2030 which directly contradicts the global change agreement signed in Paris in 2015. Ozgur Gurbuz claims that "Turkey's government never, ever puts climate change on the agenda" because they see action against climate change as a threat to their economic development. Turkey aspires to build more bridges, motorways, and megaprojects, all of which require fossil fuels. Activists say that Turkey wants process as much coal as possible before regulations are forced upon the country, but many Turks wonder why global environment criticism is facing the country just as the economy is taking off. Turkey is also investing in an additional airport and

bridge in Istanbul, and both require mass deforestation. Locals were angered, however Ozcan Omurai assured that developing Turkey “has to grow somewhere.”

Turkey has recently made small attempts to combat climate change. In 2010, the government implanted a law aimed at increasing the contribution of clean energy to 30 percent by 2020. A separate energy strategy is attempting to reduce primary energy intensity by 20 percent in 2023. However for Turkey to become part of a global solution to climate change, they need to become less dependent on coal, and remove obstacles for clean power companies. The country has a large renewable energy potential, but you need a license to install a solar panel on your roof. Worldwide, emissions of carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels has stopped rising over the past three years, which is proof that the current climate safeguards are effective on many nations. It is time for Turkey to follow along by replacing coal and natural gas with renewable energy sources.

Currently, Turkey has no operating nuclear power plants, but they have been willing to invest in nuclear energy as an alternative energy source since the 1970's. However all attempts to build a nuclear power plant have failed due to lack of financial guarantee. Multiple countries like Canada and Russia have offered to finance nuclear power production. Finally, in June of 2017, The EPDK issued a power generator license for a 4.8 GWe power plant and subsequently the Turkish government granted a construction permit. A nuclear power plant in Akkuyu is currently under construction, and a second plant in Sinop is predicted after the government accepted a proposal from a Franco-Japanese consortium. Furthermore, the Turkish Department of Energy discovered a Uranium deposit in central Turkey in the 1980's, and the URI plans to develop the deposit into a mine to fuel nuclear power plants. Concerning Nuclear weapons, Recep Erdogan

controls overall access to NATO's largest nuclear storage facility in Incirlik, a stockpile of some 50 B-61 Hydrogen bombs that are nearly 12 times greater than the bomb that wiped out Hiroshima in 1945. These bombs are a holdover from the Cold War, and are currently of unuse. However as Erdogan's relations with the US and Western Europe are deteriorating, the need to withdraw these bombs is more urgent than ever.

### **Committee on Economic**

As of 2017, Turkey's economy has greatly increased. From 2000 to 2013, Turkey's GDP grew from \$272 billion to \$950 billion. An increased growth of GDP was seen again during the third quarter of 2017 where the GDP of Turkey increased by 11.1%; however, due to terror attacks, political turmoils, high inflation, credit bloom, and increased prices by 13%, Turkey's direct foreign investment is half of what it originally was a decade ago. As a result, Turkey has had difficulties with providing energy for its population of eighty million people. Most energy that Turkey uses is imported, primarily from Russia with 56% of gas and 11% of oil supplied by the Russians. By itself, Turkey produces only enough energy to satisfy about 26% of domestic need as of 2017. Along with that, the recent war against the Islamic State has reduced Iraq's second city and large market for Turkish goods, thus decreasing Turkey's total exports, as a large amount of Turkish goods are distributed to various parts of the Middle East. While Turkey has expanded its exports to Asian countries and other European countries, Turkish exports are still far behind the export number of other European nations. Currently, clothes, electronics, automobiles, and agricultural products are the most exported goods with electrical equipment, mechanical appliances, optical instruments, iron and steel, and pharmaceutical products being the major imports. Among Turkey's major import partners, are the United States, Russia, Germany,

Italy, France, Switzerland, and the UK. With goals of improving the overall economy, Turkey is now looking into building nuclear power plants.

Starting in 1970, Turkey has had plans for establishing a nuclear power generation. These plans would serve as a key aspect for Turkey's goals of economic growth. The first major steps toward increased nuclear activity in Turkey, was in 2007 when the Turkish government began to try to build a nuclear power plant by passing "The Law on Construction and Operation of Nuclear Power Plants and Energy Sale". This proposal ultimately started discussion with Russia which concluded with Russia building a nuclear power plant in Turkey. The building of Russia's nuclear power plant is expected to be completed by 2023. Another power plant is also being planned to be built in Sinop on Turkey's Black Sea coast by a Japanese-French consortium. This power plant along with the plan to build another nuclear plant in Igneada are expected to be completed by 2030. Additionally, a small uranium mining project is being planned by Turkey. In total, Turkey is planning to build three nuclear power plants between 2023 and 2030. By building these power plants, Turkey hopes to alleviate its dependency on fossil fuel imports from other countries. The Russian power plant plan will be one of the first nuclear production sites in Turkey. Another country that shows interests in building a power plant in Turkey, is China. Recently, China has been strengthening its relations with Turkey. China's goal by doing so is to create a contract that will allow the building of a third nuclear power plant.

Independently, Turkey does not have its own nuclear weapons. The United States, however, has placed about one-hundred fifty nuclear weapons in five of NATO's countries, one of which includes Turkey. The main base where the United States stores its nuclear weapons, is in the Incirlik Air Base in South Turkey. Due to the increased risk of unauthorized use and threats with bombs and nuclear weapons in Turkey, the USA has recently considered removing its weapons from Incirlik. Additionally, as a result of the Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan's anti-United States decisions and actions, tensions have grown between these two nations. Building upon the tedious relationship of US and Turkey, was the accusation that Turkey placed on US citizens after a failed coup attempt in 2016. Because of this, Turkey arrested US citizens and detained an employee at a US consulate. Additionally, due to Turkey and the YPG's conflict, after the United States government armed and supported groups which the Turkish government consider to be terrorist organizations, the strenuous relationship between the United States and Turkey has greatly increased.

Not only has tensions between US and Turkey grown, but other NATO members have also had difficulties with Turkey. Germany, for example, removed all German soldiers from Turkish military bases and the European Union and Turkey have also faced tense relations. With Turkey considering reinstating the death penalty, the EU, which is a major trading partner with

Turkey, has considered to economically sanction Turkey though definite actions have not been confirmed.

Turkey's economy, though yearly significantly increasing in GDP faces difficulties with not only supplying its own energy to Turkish people, but also with ISIS being a domestic source of terror as well as conflicts with the YPG and PKK. With bombings by terrorist groups on the horizon, tourism rates have tremendously dropped, ultimately causing a loss of profit for Turkey. Additionally, Russia's recent bans on both charter vacations to Turkey and Turkish food imports will cause a financial loss of several billions for Turkey. Finally, the everlasting conflict with Syrian borders once again causes Turkey to face economic problems.

### **Committee on Disaster Preparedness:**

With tensions threatening to reach breaking point between the US and North Korea, it has emerged Turkey could be trying to build up its weaponry as relations with the EU reach a new low. Although Turkey has been vying to join the EU for more than a decade, with official negotiations to become a member dragging into their 12th year, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan claims, "The people of Turkey don't want the EU anymore," due to the unwanted behavior the other EU countries are showing them. The incident in November of 2010 when a website called Wikileaks published confidential cables revealing that France and Austria have been deliberately blocking Turkey's EU membership negotiations is just one example of this misconduct. Either

way, Turkey is looking to expand its arsenal to include atomic bombs. President Erdogan stated there were plans for Ankara to expand, and a “secret plan to acquire weapons of mass destruction - including an atomic bomb for deterrence.” Other than that, Turkey is on the verge of carrying out a new aggressive move which aims to advance his neo-Ottoman agenda in the Middle East and beyond. Rather than preparing for a nuclear attack, Erdogan’s Turkey is preparing itself for a war against Kurds. Turkey’s focus on this potential war is mainly domestic as the US and NATO are looking in a different direction. The US and NATO haven’t shown much interest in stopping Erdogan from taking over Afrin, Syria, because for them it is not part of the effort to eradicate the remaining ISIS hubs in eastern Syria. The United States’ presence in Syria is solely to defeat ISIS and emphasized Turkey is a “very important and valued NATO-ally.”

Although Turkey does not seem to be a direct target according to many sources, neighboring cities have been concerned and estimates of the civilian toll in other Iranian cities are horrendous. A nuclear assault on the city of Arak, the site of a heavy water plant central to Iran’s nuclear program, would potentially kill 93% of its 424,000 residents. Three 100-kiloton nuclear weapons hitting the Persian Gulf port of Bandar Abbas would slaughter an estimated 94% of its 468,000 citizens, leaving just 1% of the population uninjured. A multi-weapon strike on Kermanshah, a Kurdish city with a population of 752,000, would result in an almost unfathomable 99.9% casualty rate. Turkey is among the countries most exposed to nuclear

proliferation developments in the Middle East. New disclosures regarding Iran's nuclear ambitions, and Tehran's apparent commitment to proceed with more extensive International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections and safeguards, comes at a time of general flux in Turkey's strategic environment and in the country's foreign and security policy outlook. For some 50 years, Turkey has lived with nuclear weapons on its borders and deployed on its territory. Although not a nuclear state, and unlikely to become one, nuclear forces and doctrines have been part of the security calculus of the modern Turkish republic for the majority of its existence. But only since the Gulf War of 1990-91, and with increasing attention over the past few years, have Turkish planners and policymakers begun to view the combination of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and the means for their delivery at longer ranges as a proximate threat to the security of the country.

Turkey has long been a land of asylum due in part to its geographical location as well as shared social, cultural, and historical ties with the Balkans, the Caucasus, Europe, and the Middle East. Since the 1980s, the influx of refugees and irregular and transit migrations in Turkey have intensified. With its temporary protection regime, Turkey has been trying to cope with a growing number of refugees since the 1988 and 1991 Iraqi Kurdish refugee flows and the intensification of violence within Syria from 2011 onwards. Turkey opted for the same solution for both cases: creating no-fly zones and safe havens for refugees inside the refugees' country of origin, outside



the Turkish territory. This has been implemented in the Iraqi case, but has not yet found enough international support to undergo the Syrian case. These two significant cases bring about challenges for the Turkish policymakers of foreign and refugee policies, particularly in formulating a new asylum and refugee policy that is in line with Turkey's new foreign policy invasion and its emerging regional and global agency. This also pushes the idea of a substantial change and update in the Turkish refugee regime that is long overdue.

The Turkish state, which provides both camp-based services and assistance to urban refugees finds itself shouldering significant financial burdens. For example, by early 2015, the cost of all the Syrian refugees had reached more than US \$5 billion. Of that, the international community only covered some 3%. While Turkey's response has already been extremely generous, its capacity to receive and support further refugee flows is not unlimited. It is likely that as the Syrian population grows, social tensions and xenophobic reactions against refugees in certain regions and neighborhoods will increase, with implications for the political, social, and economic stability of Turkey as a whole. This would go the same for any other refugees seeking security and shelter after a nuclear attack. Speaking of which, host communities have complained about the impact of dense refugee concentrations on the labor force, social benefits refugees receive and potential for increased crime and terror. In March 2005 the government

adopted the Action Plan on Asylum and Migration, which laid out the steps required for Turkey to bring its national legislation in line with EU directives on asylum and migration policies.

As far as assisting refugees and zones in the strike area, in the past Turkish policies toward Syrians were initially very welcoming (for example, the displaced were officially referred to as “guests” and not “refugees”). Authorities were quick to assume that the crisis would end soon and enable the displaced to return home—despite previous experiences with Kurdish refugees from Iraq. They therefore ignored the possibility of long-term or permanent stay and instead focused on providing aid and assistance to refugees in camps. Until early 2013, almost all Syrian refugees lived in camps, but changing conditions and greater flows have increased the number outside camps. At the start of 2014, almost half of Syrian refugees lived outside formal camps, and by late 2014 the vast majority—almost four out of five refugees—were sheltered in towns and cities. Recreational and educational activities were available, and security is provided by the Turkish armed forces to prevent petty crimes or quarrels among residents. Conditions in urban areas are reportedly worse than in camps, and many Syrians have faced difficulties finding housing, paying rent, obtaining employment, or accessing the education system or health services. However, these conditions are just the solutions for the vast majority of refugees pouring into Turkey. Once this crisis is over, which may not be anytime soon based on the lengthy “temporariness” the Turkish authorities assumed in the first place, Turkey’s capacity will

be much more open and willing to help (since after all, Turkey's generosity does bloom their national pride). As of now, the refugee capacity is over the top and cannot be passed for the sake of the citizens in Turkey and the government.

As far as international policies go, the Turkish government authorities have established a new Temporary Protection (TP) Regulation. This TP regulation sets out specific provisions for registration and documentation procedures; provides refugees with the right to a lawful stay in the country until safe return conditions are established in Syria, regulates the TP identification document, and grants access to social benefits and services such as health, education, and entry to the labor market. According to the regulation, persons in possession of TP identification documents can apply for a work permit in certain sectors, professions, or geographic areas and they have been issued new biometric identity cards by the authorities. Psychological and social support and rehabilitation services are prioritized for groups with special needs, such as children, women, and the elderly.

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