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Afghan – turkey foreign relations after 9/11

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Abstract

This research is undertaken on Afghanistan-Turkey foreign relations after 9/11. A country's foreign relations as an approach in bringing a country closer to other world countries plays an earnest role in a country's political, economic, cultural and social development. Given this fact, Afghanistan, as an independent country, wants to expand political, economic and cultural cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Turkey. Therefore, Afghanistan's relations with Turkey is considered as one of the strategic goals of Afghanistan's foreign policy. The development of further cooperation with this country has a significant role in regional cooperation in various ways. There is no doubt that Turkey, as a regional power, can also help develop the regional goals of Afghanistan's foreign relations. Considering this fact, the present study has been conducted using library resources. While gathering the information for the article authoritative books related to the subject, articles and websites have also been utilized.

Keywords: security, military, cooperation, economic, trade.

Introductions

Since Afghanistan and Turkey are two Islamic countries and Turkey was the center of the Islamic Caliphate for the Muslims of the world, they are undoubtedly related. Relations between Afghanistan and Turkey have expanded day by day, and thus the Turks have played a major role in the political, military and legal life of Afghanistan. Turkey has played a positive role in Afghanistan during the recent wars and it had taken a non-partisan attitude and kept its Embassy in Afghanistan open.

In particular, the foreign relations between Afghanistan and Turkey on the basis of 9/11 are very important and universal. The main purpose of this article is Afghanistan-Turkey foreign relations after 9/11. This is considered one of the strategic goals of Afghanistan's foreign policy, how and with what approach to develop its relations with the countries of the heart of Asia? Which can play an important and beneficial role as a land bridge in the heart of Asia in the current situation. The role of both countries in political, economic, cultural and trade interactions, the effectiveness of negotiations with opposition groups in the military and security direction and how to solve the insecurity challenges in Afghanistan and identify ways to reduce the challenge of relations between the two countries have been considered in this study using library resources and qualitative method.

The results obtained from this research show that the foreign relations of both countries have been a positive approach and both countries played an admirable role in various developments towards each other. They were able to unite for military and security, economic, cultural, social and political cooperation for the sake of peace and security in the region against extremism and terrorism. As the strengthening of political and economic relations between Afghanistan and Turkey has played a major role in the development of political and economic cooperation in these important areas, successful results and further advantages can be achieved in expanding relations.

The research problem statement

Turkey is one of the most powerful countries in the heart of Asia. After 2002, the country began a new chapter in its relations with the heart of Asia by choosing the East-facing policy approach. And now it has close and friendly relations with these countries and we can say that it is one of the influential countries in the political and economic equations in this region. Afghanistan also has a special and strategic position in the heart of Asia, and this point has strategically led Afghanistan to play an important role as a land bridge in the heart of Asia and Central Asia, Euro-Asia, Europe and the East. Accordingly, the development of

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political and economic relations between Afghanistan and Turkey has a major role in the development of regional political and economic cooperation in the heart of Asia. Joint cooperation between the two countries is considered important in the development of political and economic relations in the West Asian region.

The main goal of the article: to recognize the importance of Afghanistan-Turkey foreign relations after 9/11.

Sub-objective of the article: awareness of the importance and role-playing of both countries in political, economic and cultural interactions.

The importance and necessity of the research

The importance of Afghanistan-Turkey relations lays in the fact that both countries share the same religion and have consensus in the international system. On the other hand, throughout history, Turkey has been and continues to be Afghanistan's military and economic partner and collaborator. Given that terrorism and violent extremism are common threats to the region, the spread of this phenomenon will have a negative impact on the region's economy and trade if joint cooperation is not considered to address these challenges. Therefore, the need for political and economic cooperation and the adoption of a joint strategy of Afghanistan and Turkey in order to contain and eliminate common challenges and threats is felt more than ever. Given what has been said, the development of Afghanistan-Turkey relations, considering that Turkey had an active role in launching the Istanbul process or hosting the Istanbul Conference, more cooperation between the two countries will contribute to the success of the Istanbul process. Strategic and long-term cooperation among Afghanistan and Turkey will lead to economic developments in the West Asian region, which is of particular importance.

Main research question: What is the significance of Afghanistan-Turkey foreign relations after 9/11?

Research sub-question: To what extent does the expansion of relations and the role of both countries have an impact on their interactions?

Research Methods

In this article, an attempt has been made to research the foreign relations between Afghanistan and Turkey after 9/11 using library resources. Since the library research method is the basis of all scientific research, and using this method, all the information that has already been researched in relation to the research topic can be analyzed. While collecting information, one should pay full attention and focus on the primary resources such as books and articles.

Background and theoretical foundations of the research

Research history

Through library studies and documentary methods, the researcher has examined and reviewed the research background. Because every research has a background and various topics have already been presented in that field, the following are some of the key quotes from the authors related to the research topic:

Farhang, Mohammad Siddiq (1384)^[7] writes in his book entitled *Afghanistan in the last five centuries*. Since Afghanistan and Turkey are two Islamic countries and Turkey was the center of the Islamic Caliphate for the Muslims of the world, they undoubtedly had relations with

each other. The relations between Turkey and Afghanistan became warmer after the fall of the Ottoman Empire and the disintegration of the great empire in the era of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of Pan-Turkism, thus playing a major role in the political, military and legal life of Afghanistan (Farhang 24, 1384)^[7].

Faramarz Tamana (1393)^[2], in his book entitled *Afghanistan's foreign policy in the sphere of regional cooperation* points out: Turkey, along with the global coalition, has been one of the main allies of the Afghan government in the field of counter-terrorism and political and economic cooperation with Afghanistan. Thousands of Turkish troops in the Afghan fight against terrorism, along with other NATO and Afghan security forces, fought the Taliban and terrorists, and when the NATO leadership in Afghanistan was led by the Turks, their cooperation with the Afghan government increased than before and in addition at that time the number of civilian casualties in the country decreased significantly (Faramarz, 20, 1393)^[2].

Sayed Azim Hossain (1394)^[3], in his book entitled *History of Afghanistan's Trade Relations with Foreign Countries* writes: Another issue in Turkey's foreign policy is to ensure peace and stability in Afghanistan and its foreign policy is active in negotiating with Afghan opposition groups and mediating between the two. What is more, since the formation of the High Peace Council, this council has repeatedly expressed interest in traveling to Turkey to help the Afghan peace process. Following this agreement, both the West and the Islamic world can play a more active and positive role than other actors in the changes that are taking place in Afghanistan (Hossain 72, 1394)^[3].

Faramarz Tamana (1393)^[2], in his book entitled *Afghanistan's foreign policy in the sphere of regional cooperation* points out: The rise of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) in Turkey led to the formation of many debates in the political future of this country. But with the rise of the AKP as an Islamist party, it was seen as the beginning of significant changes in domestic and foreign policy. Accordingly, the foundations of foreign policy were looking to the East, and within the framework of this policy, Afghanistan found a special place in Turkish foreign policy, and therefore, since the beginning of new developments, Turkey has played an important role in political and economic developments in Afghanistan. Afghanistan's importance in Turkish foreign policy is not limited to the political arena, but goes beyond that (Faramarz 55, 1393)^[2].

Nizhad Naqhdee (1391)^[9], writes in an article entitled *Foreign Justice and Development Policy Magazine: Afghanistan currently plays an important role as a land bridge in the heart of Asia and Central Asia, Eurasia and Europe*. Accordingly, the development of political and economic relations between Afghanistan and Turkey has a major role in the development of regional political and economic cooperation in the heart of Asia. Joint cooperation between the two countries has long been considered important in the development of political and economic relations in the West Asian region (Naqhdee 9 -7).

Abdul Ghafoor Arezoo (1388)^[11], writes under the title *Afghanistan's foreign policy on the eve of the 21st century: Afghanistan's relations with Turkey have developed in recent years in various fields, but along with the development and progress of the relationship, there are a series of challenges and obstacles, one of which is political. Insecurity challenges in Afghanistan have been one of the*

most important obstacles to political and economic development, and even beyond the domestic situation, there have been negative assessments of Afghanistan's foreign relations. Therefore, security challenges are one of the most important obstacles in the political relations between Afghanistan and Turkey.

Research Findings

The findings of this research have been obtained by researching books, articles and authoritative scientific journals. According to the data obtained, a significant number of consequences of Afghanistan-Turkey foreign relations after 9/11 and the long-term strategic cooperation between Afghanistan and Turkey that will lead to the economic transformation of the countries of the heart of Asia has been met with a positive response from both countries. In both countries, the importance of these relations in order to contain and eliminate common threats is felt more than ever.

History of Afghanistan-Turkey relations

Since Afghanistan and Turkey have been two Islamic countries and Turkey was for a time the center of the Islamic Caliphate for the Muslims of the world, they undoubtedly had good relations, but the relations between Afghanistan and Turkey entered a new phase with the visit of a joint German-Turkish delegation on the eve of the First World War (489: 7).

Therefore, in general, the historical background of Afghanistan-Turkey relations in several areas is discussed as follows.

Political arena: It should be noted that the signing of the 1921 treaty made Turkey the second country after the former Soviet Union to recognize Afghanistan's independence. However, after the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan, a change in Turkey's foreign policy towards Afghanistan was unveiled. Therefore, we can say that during the Jihad of the Afghan people, Turkish Islamic parties, especially the Welfare Party led by Najmuddin Erbakan, had close relations with Mujahidin leaders. In defense of the freedom and independence and victory of the Mujahidin, with the defeat of the communist government and the formation of the Mujahidin government in the 1990s, Turkey also had a close relationship with the government of the martyred Burhanuddin Rabbani, but with the emergence of the Taliban in the Islamic Emirate reached its lowest level (42, 1390).

In the military field: In 1920, during the reign of Amanullah Khan, an agreement was signed between Afghanistan and Turkey in Moscow, according to which the Turks took charge of organizing the Afghan army and a number of Turkish military officers and specialists entered Afghanistan and also Afghan students were sent to Turkey in 1920 (Yar Ghazi 71, 1389)^[10].

In Educational and cultural fields: There are hundreds of Afghan students studying in cultural and educational institutions of Turkey. From 1993 onwards and between 1994 and 1997 the Islamic State of Afghanistan have sent about 500 young students to Turkey. In 1996 and 1997, after the approval and permission of the Islamic State of

Afghanistan the Afghan - Turk Schools, obtained the license to open schools in Afghanistan (Farhang 62, 1384)^[7].

In economic and Commerce fields: The first Treaty of Friendship between Afghanistan and Turkey was signed on March 1, 1921 between General Mohammad Wali Khan Darwazi, Afghanistan's ambassador to Moscow (1021: 7) as a result of Afghanistan's full support for the Ataturk uprising. Similarly, in 1300 AH, the Treaty of Friendship with the Republic of Turkey made it possible to conclude agreements between the two countries in various cultural and economic fields. In 1978, it was limited to a series of official visits by government officials and the conclusion of cultural, economic, trade and transit agreements between the two countries. In 1982, 4,000 to 5,000 Afghan immigrants of Uzbek and Turkmen descent migrated to Turkey from Peshawar by special flights and promoted Afghan carpet weaving art in that country (Seyed Azim, 1394, 55)^[3].

Opportunities and challenges in the relations between the two countries

Political Opportunities: In the current situation, Afghanistan and Turkey have many political opportunities ahead of each other due to shared needs of both countries. Afghanistan desires to expand political and economic relations in the framework of regional cooperation with the countries of the region, especially the countries of the heart of Asia, and through this, it wants to pay attention and attract their assistance to development and progress in Afghanistan. So, Turkey as a key power in the region can help Afghanistan in this regard, especially in the success of the Istanbul process. On the other hand, Turkey in the current situation not only wants to play a role in the political interactions of the Middle East, but the study of Turkey's foreign policy towards Central Asia shows that the country wants to have a close relationship with the Central Asian countries due to its cultural and historical commonalities and also to play an important role in the political and economic developments of these countries in the coming years. Therefore, considering the special and strategic position of Afghanistan in Central Asia Turkey cannot play an important role in Central Asia without cooperation and proximity to Afghanistan. In general, both countries have many fields and opportunities to expand relations in various areas (Faramarz, 49, 1393)^[2].

Another issue in Turkey's foreign policy regarding peace and stability in Afghanistan is the activeness of its foreign policy in negotiating with opposition groups in Afghanistan and mediating between the two (Rahmani, 257,1393)^[4].

Military and Security Opportunities: Afghanistan and Turkey share a common vision on many issues in the region, given their long-term goals. Therefore, for the sake of peace and security in the region and the fight against extremism and terrorism, both countries have many opportunities for military and security cooperation. The Turkish government has been very active in counterterrorism after 9/11 with NATO forces and has been cooperating positively with allies and foreign forces in the military and security sectors since the beginning of the new era to fight terrorism. At first, the country sent 2,800 troops to Kabul and later 313 more troops, and according to Chapter 413 of the Security Council, the ISAF Command from July 20, 2002 to December 20, 2003 –was given to the Turkish forces.

Together with the Global Coalition, Turkey has been active in the fight against terrorism since the beginning of 2001.

Educational and cultural opportunities: Afghanistan and Turkey have many religious and cultural commonalities therefore, the cultural and historical commonalities of the two countries have caused the relations to be always warm and close. For this reason, there are many opportunities that Afghanistan can within the framework of cultural diplomacy develop a new approach to its cultural relations with Turkey. Afghanistan signed a cultural pact with Turkey in 1921, according to which a large number of students are sent to Turkey for education every year. Due to the new developments and the need to upgrade the capacity, it is necessary to sign a new cultural cooperation agreement with Turkey (Lal Mohammad, 1389, 143)^[10].

Economic and trade opportunities: In the field of economy and trade, it can be said that on August 12, the committee in charge of economic affairs and trade with Afghanistan was formed under the supervision of officials of the General Directorate of Foreign Trade and Treasury of Turkey which has been evaluated as a positive development toward economic and trade relations between the two countries. There is also a civil and trade cooperation agreement between Turkey and Afghanistan. The countries expressing their interest in expanding economic and trade relations among each other, and with these delegations at different levels between the two countries, previous exchanges and agreements in various fields between the two countries were considered as effective and enforceable by Turkey (Yar ghazi, 125, 1389)^[10].

Obstacles in Afghanistan-Turkey relations

Political obstacles: While Afghanistan's relations with Turkey have been expanded in recent years in various fields, along with the development and progress of relations, there are also a series of challenges and obstacles, one of which is political obstacles. It seems that political obstacles have cast a shadow over the expansion of relations between the two countries.

Military and security barriers: The challenge of insecurity naturally has a negative impact on different parts of a country. These challenges in the third World, especially in countries like Afghanistan, have been more than an obstacle to the security. Challenges posed by insecurity are different inside and outside country. Security is thought to be within countries, but sources of security threats can come from abroad. However, insecurity challenges in Afghanistan are one of the most important obstacles to political and economic development, and even beyond the domestic situation, they have negative consequences for Afghanistan's foreign relations. For this reason, insecurity is one of the most important obstacles in the political relations between Afghanistan and Turkey. (Arizo 53, 1388)^[1]

Educational and cultural barriers: There are many challenges to the development of scientific and cultural relations between Afghanistan and Turkey, the most important of which is the active cultural presence of Iran in Afghanistan. Some cultural experts have so intertwined the linguistic, cultural and historical commonalities of Afghanistan and Iran that no one can fill the cultural gap

occupied by Iran in this country. Most of Afghanistan's textbooks are in Dari - Persian. Many educational resources of Afghan students have been published in Iran. Therefore, we can say that the main challenge and obstacles to the development of cultural relations between Afghanistan and Turkey is the widespread cultural presence of Iran in Afghanistan.

Economic and trade barriers: Although in recent years, especially after 2002 to 2014, the volume of Afghanistan's trade relations with Turkey has increased and as mentioned above, Turkey has been successful in exporting and providing technical and engineering services in Afghanistan and has achieved a lot with this regard. The country has been able to provide a suitable market for its traders and craftsmen without any obstacles (Faramarz 1393, 54)^[2].

Conclusion

Turkey's increasing presence in Afghanistan seeks comprehensive political, economic and cultural support, and therefore increased military, political, economic, commercial and cultural activities, including: giving more than hundreds of scholarships for students, the activities of more than hundreds of Turkish soldiers, among the Afghan military forces, the establishment of domestic companies in the country, the establishment of schools, the establishment of the agricultural sector, the establishment of regular transport, mining, the establishment of hospitals, etc. are among the dimensions of Turkish diplomacy. Therefore, in this view, the presence and role of Turkey in Afghanistan is viewed with optimism. What is clear is that Turkey's presence and role in Afghanistan depends on many variables, including Afghan government's view of Turkey as a country with religious commonalities, and so on. The Afghan government seems to welcome Turkey's efforts at economic reconstruction and the process of restoring peace and stability. Therefore, it can be predicted that Turkey will play a greater diplomatic, economic and political role in Afghanistan in the future.

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