

# National Importance in Turkey's Foreign Policy

**Ergashev Islamjon Zuhridin oqli**  
Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies  
3-course student of World Politics

**Annotation:** The article analyzes the importance and development of NATO in Turkey's foreign policy.

**Keywords:** Cooperation, Turkey, NATO, bilateral relations, foreign policy, integration, military cooperation

Cooperation between Turkey and NATO began with Turkey's accession in 1952. Turkey has quickly embarked on the task of fulfilling common values and responsibilities with its allies. Turkey sees NATO as a key player in maintaining security and stability in European and North Atlantic geopolitics, as well as political and military consultations. Some countries, especially the United Kingdom, oppose the accession of NATO members Turkey and Greece. But during the Cold War, these contradictions coincided, firstly, with U.S. intervention, and secondly, with the realization of the need for a general opposition to the socialist camp, and also with the use of Turkey as a balancing force in the Middle East. which requires the admission of the state to the union under the Charter of the Alliance. After the fall of the monarchy in Iran in 1979, efforts to defuse tensions proved that Turkey was important for the alliance, and Turkey's strategic role and prestige in the east grew by leaps and bounds.

Turkey's balance with key NATO members has not been stable before. Such contradictions will continue in the coming years. But despite the instability, Turkey is a key supporter of NATO's "defense transformation" efforts in the Asia (Middle East) region. At the same time, in 1998, an emergency preparedness command was set up in Istanbul, and as part of the reconstruction, an order was issued to replace the air command in Izmir with the ground command. The Peace Training Center (BIOEM), established on June 29, 1998 within the framework of the Turkish Armed Forces, will provide comprehensive strategic and tactical training to allied and partner countries. By the early 2000s, The Iraq war has sparked some controversy within the alliance. During this period, a crisis arose within NATO, with a number of European countries refusing to take part in the war, and Washington saw only Turkey as a "wonderful" ally. In this regard, the European trio opposed Turkey's key role in the east. This led to a cooling of relations, and this situation persisted until 2007. Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in the United States, troops will be deployed as NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) against the Al-Qaeda terrorist organization in Afghanistan. because a number of European countries have refused to take part in the war, Washington sees only Turkey as a "wonderful" ally. In this regard, the European trio opposed Turkey's key role in the east. This led to a cooling of relations, and this situation persisted until 2007.

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This is the first military operation in NATO history in Central Asia, in which Turkey's role has come to the fore. Specially equipped planes were sent to İncirlik, a southeastern region of Turkey, and military units

were deployed. By 2002, Turkey began to play a credible and independent role as a key player in the Middle East, as can be seen in the following. First, changes in Turkey's domestic policy, in particular the coming to power of the Justice and Development Party, which will make the country's national security a priority; second, that Islamic fundamentalism and Kurdish separatism are upsetting the balance in the region, with Turkey taking control; and third, assumptions about the passivity of relations with the West, and the fact that this has not yet improved, showed that the country was motivated to act independently in the region. By 2009, a new phase in Turkey's transatlantic relations had begun, with growing instability in the Middle East, the imbalance of Iran, conflicts in Eastern Europe (Ukraine) and divisions in the Caucasus improving the balance of the Southeast's borders for the Alliance. began to feel the need for power.

In turn, this has led to the need for a strong base for Turkey, which has been caught in the middle of regional conflicts, and a number of similar factors have begun to improve relations. During this period, the ice between them melted and the relationship warmed up for some time. NATO members have a negative view of modern Turkey's actions, and this is leading to a worsening of relations. It can be said that the increase in pressure on Turkey, led by Erdogan, is more related to him. Tensions between the United States and Turkey by 2019 have raised questions in bilateral relations, such as halting major arms sales and imposing congressional sanctions on Turkey. Improved cooperation with Russia in defense issues has become more visible, The United States has strongly opposed Turkey's offer to buy American Patriot systems. Among Ankara's NATO allies, in particular, there have been concerns that Moscow may have access to classified information about American F-35 fighter jets. Turkey has rejected the offer, saying the deal with Moscow will run until the end. In response, the United States excluded Turkey from the F-35 joint production program. In October 2019, the Ankara side successfully tested the S-400, which was again criticized by the Pentagon. While Turkey could move to Russia's major weapons platforms in the coming periods, this has raised questions about staying with NATO on defense issues.

Ankara is outraged by the policy of US President Donald Trump's administration, an article published in The Wall Street Journal on November 17, 2019, said that Washington had prepared a package of sanctions against Turkey over Russia's purchase of S-400 anti-aircraft missile systems. was. Reuters reports that sanctions have been imposed on a number of individuals under the CAASA, including the Turkish Defense Industry Secretariat and its head, Ismail Demir. restrictions have been introduced. In an interview with Haberturk TV, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said: "But now the United States is using CAASA against Turkey." "This is a disrespect to a very important NATO partner," he added. Since the attempted coup on July 15, 2016, traditional institutional ties between the United States and Turkey's ally have weakened and confidence has been lost.

A report by a special commission of the Turkish parliament also said that suspicious forces were hiding behind the incidents. We can conclude that the views of the ruling Turkish coalition, such as "Turkey's geopolitical significance" and "Our irreplaceable services," will force the Biden administration to cooperate with Erdogan. the President added. Since the attempted coup on July 15, 2016, traditional institutional ties between the United States and Turkey's ally have weakened and confidence has been lost.

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