

Turkish Regional policy After 2002

The studying of regional policy for any given state, occupied major importance, since it aims to describe and analyze the attitudes of state and its political behavior in regional arena. The Turkish regions considered most important region in the world, this importance lies in its characteristics particularly geography, economic, and strategy.

Since establishment of Turkish Republic, Turkey has the leading regional role characteristic and this stems from its natural geographical position. Its exclusive control of the Straits, since its control only waterway linking the Black Sea and the littoral countries, and the Mediterranean Sea and its countries, allowed it for control of the major international transport routes. Its watery littoral (the Black Sea, the Marmara Sea, the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea) With important navigational features, Turkey has great importance to the international and regional maritime strategy, as well as its land location adjacent to the ex-Soviet Union and other states.

Turkey has multi strategic options because of its strategic hinterland in many regional systems. Turkey has historical, geographic, political and economic features which enable it to play a regional role that serves its national interests. The internal events and developments within Turkey, especially in early of the 21st century led to winning of Justice and Development Party (AKP) and the formation the first majority government in the history of Turkey, which enable it to control the parliament and the government as well (2002), lead to a major internal revolution in various aspects of political, economic, social and military life, as well as radical changes in the patterns of Turkish foreign policy based on new

regional principles and perspectives, adapted with the conditions and requirements of the new phase, internally and externally. These events including the war on terror, invasion of Iraq 2003, uprising in Arab countries, emergence of the so-called "Islamic State in Iraq and Syria" (ISIS) and emergence the threats to the national entity of the Turkish state and national integrity.

In related with the internal political environment of Turkey, the AKP government succeeded in activating its strategic performance, which facilitating internal reforms within the framework of the requirements of the Copenhagen criteria and the conditions for its accession to the EU. this enable its from eliminating the role of military establishment in political arena and reduce the influence Atatürkism supporters in favor of Islamic trends. these political reforms and economic success, lead to making Turkey occupies the sixteenth position globally in the economies of the world, and its strategic quest to reach the tenth place in the world in 2023 according AKP strategy coincided with the 100th(centenary) anniversary to foundation of Turkish Republic.

In its regional policy, Turkish government adopted new and different attitude from the traditional one . The new attitude based on the theory of strategic depth and multiple options in its distinct environment. Turkey achieved remarkable successes under the leadership of an Islamic attitude , But the changes in the Arab region confused its calculations and forced its to be dragged behind policies seemed completely different from what it was or adopted by "Zero problem" policy, and its adopt the role of effective mediator, however it became one of conflict parties to in The Middle East region, and what further confused Turkey's political performance, is exacerbating the state of sectarian conflict with the

growing the terrorism in the Middle East. since The most critical region for Turkey lies in Syria and Iraq.

The existence regional interactions which are both unexpected expectancy and unregulated making Turkey's regional policy less aware of what has happened and how it has been affected than before. This lead to decline its role before the change and chaos in the Middle East. But if we focus on Turkish foreign policy approach, which combines between pragmatism and Islamic ideology adopted by AKP. Turkey's policy makers have reassessed foreign policy. After Turkey saw the West as the basis of its foreign policy orientation, this policy conflicted with the interests of Turkey's relations with the Muslim world and conflicted with Western policies in general – and the West's main ally in the Middle East(Israel) . This is why the Arab and Islamic peoples view Turkey as a regional power that can achieved what t Arab and Islamic countries cannot. That is because Turkey possesses the elements of hard and soft power, that have enabled it to achieve great successes. This has led to a greater role in its regional environment(Central Asia and the Caucasus), Through the support of Turkey to install its secular model, as the model acceptable in these countries and seek to encourage the free economy in this region, to achieve economic gains, especially as it is one of the most prominent areas that have large quantities of oil resources.