Deanship of Scientific Research

The Impact of American Support for the Kurds in Turkey on the Strategic Relations between the Two Countries: A Quantitative Study

*Ayman M. Hayajneh** iD

Department of Political and International Studies, Faculty of Arts, Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan

Abstract

Objectives: This study explored the multifaceted impacts of American support for the Kurds in Turkey, manifested in political, economic, and military dimensions, on U.S.-Turkey relations during the period from 2011 to 2021.

Methods: This study adopted a quantitative methodology and utilized multivariate regression analysis to evaluate the influence of American political (PS), economic (ES), and military support (MS) for the Kurds in Turkey on multiple facets of U.S.-Turkey relationships.

Results: The results demonstrated that an increase in (PS, ES, and MS) significantly diminished Political Alignment (PA) between the U.S. and Turkey, highlighting the deleterious effects of these forms of support on political relations. Conversely, an elevation in PS, ES, and MS was found to have a favourable effect on the Trade Volume (TV) between these two countries, implying a strengthened economic interaction despite political discordance. Furthermore, the analysis revealed that all three forms of American support for the Kurds inversely impacted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from the U.S. to Turkey, signifying the potential economic risks associated with this support. However, American PS, ES, and MS simultaneously showed a significant positive influence on the amount of Foreign Aid (FA) provided by the U.S. to Turkey, as well as on the level of Military Cooperation (MC) between the two nations.

Conclusion: The findings illuminate the multifaceted and sometimes contradictory consequences of American support for the Kurds on U.S.-Turkey relations, showcasing the complex interplay of geopolitics during the studied period.

Keywords: American support; Kurds; multivariate regression analysis; U.S.-Turkey relations; international relations

أثر الدعم الأمريكي للأكراد في تركيا على العلاقات الاستراتيجية بين البلدين: دراسة كمية

*أيمن محمد زين محمود هياجنه**

قسم الدراسات السياسية والدولية، كلية الآداب، جامعة اليرموك، إربد، الأردن

ملخّص

الأهداف: تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى رصد التأثيرات المتعددة الأوجه للدعم الأمريكي للأكراد في تركيا، والتي تتجلى في الأبعاد السياسية والاقتصادية والعسكرية، على العلاقات الأمريكية التركية خلال الفترة من 2011 إلى 2021.

المنهجية: اعتمدت الدراسة المنهجية الكمية، واستخدمت تحليل الانحدار متعدد المتغيرات لتقييم تأثير الدعم السياسي الأمريكي والاقتصادي والعسكري للأكراد في تركيا على جوانب متعددة من العلاقات الأمريكية التركية.

النتائج: أظهرت النتائج أن الزيادة في (PS، ES، MS) قللت بشكل كبير من التحالف السياسي (PA) بين الولايات المتحدة وتركيا، مما سلط الضوء على الآثار السلبية لهذه الأشكال من الدعم على العلاقات السياسية. على العكس من ذلك، وجد أن الارتفاع في (PS، ES، MS) له تأثير إيجابي على حجم التجارة (TV) بين البلدين، مما يعني ضمنًا تعزيز التفاعل الاقتصادي على الرغم من الخلاف السياسي. علاوة على ذلك، كشف التحليل أن الأشكال الثلاثة للدعم الأمريكي للأكراد أثرت بشكل عكسي على الاستثمار الأجنبي المباشر من الولايات المتحدة إلى تركيا، مما يدل على المخاطر الاقتصادية المحتملة المرتبطة بهذا الدعم. ومع ذلك، أظهرت (PS، ES، MS) الأمريكية في الوقت نفسه تأثيرًا إيجابيًا كبيرًا على مقدار المساعدات الخارجية (FA) التي تقدمها الولايات المتحدة لتركيا، وكذلك على مستوى التعاون العسكري (MC) بين البلدين.

الخلاصة: تسلط النتائج الضوء على العواقب المتعددة الأوجه والمتناقضة أحيانًا للدعم الأمريكي للأكراد على العلاقات الأمريكية التركية، مما يعرض التفاعل المعقد للجغرافيا السياسية خلال الفترة الدراسة.

الكلمات الدالة: الدعم الأمريكي، الأكراد، تحليل الانحدار متعدد المتغيرات، العلاقات الأمريكية التركية، علاقات دولية

Introduction

The Kurdish issue has been a major factor affecting the politics of the Middle East for several decades. With an estimated population of 25 to 35 million, the Kurds constitute one of the largest stateless nations in the world, spread across several countries, including Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. In Turkey, the Kurdish issue has been a prominent aspect of domestic politics and foreign relations, particularly in relation to the country's strategic alliance with the United States (Kardaş, 2021). For the past ten years, the issue of Kurdish identity and autonomy has been a significant factor shaping Turkey's internal and external politics (Balaban, 2023). The Kurds, an ethnic group dispersed across several countries including Turkey, have been seeking greater cultural and political rights, alongside enhanced autonomy (Burç, 2022).

As a paramount global power and an integral NATO ally of Turkey, the United States has been intricately involved in the Kurdish issue, often providing support to Kurdish forces in battles against shared adversaries. A comprehensive understanding of the repercussions of American backing for the Kurds within Turkey entails a thorough exploration of the political, economic, and military aspects of this relationship (Hala, et al., 2021). The political implications of American support for the Kurds significantly influence Turkey's domestic politics. The United States' backing for the Kurds has provoked varying reactions within Turkish society and government, leading to a complex political dynamic (Özpek, 2019). On one hand, Turkish authorities, particularly those with nationalist leanings, view this support with suspicion, considering it a potential threat to Turkey's territorial integrity (Christofis, et al., 2019).

On the other hand, Kurdish communities and their political representatives view American support as an endorsement of their long-standing struggle for cultural and political rights. Consequently, this has had an impact on domestic politics in Turkey, influencing policymaking, political rhetoric, and public sentiment (Söylemez-Karakoç & Angin, 2023). Beyond domestic politics, the implications of American support for the Kurds extend to the broader regional and international political arenas. The dynamics between the United States, Turkey, and the Kurdish factions are seen through the lens of regional power politics and geostrategic interests (Palani, 2022). The United States' support for the Kurds could potentially complicate its relations with other regional actors, such as Iran, Iraq, and Syria, all of whom have significant Kurdish populations and their respective interests (Jensehaugen, & Tank, 2022). In terms of economics, American backing for the Kurds has implications for trade relations, investment flows, and economic cooperation between the United States and Turkey (Weiss, 2022). Given that Turkey is a significant trading partner for the United States, and vice versa, the perceived American support for Kurdish autonomy can have a consequential impact on the economic ties between the two countries. The tensions created by this dynamic could potentially deter investment, disrupt trade, and strain the broader economic relationship (Abbassi, et al., 2022; Alkhawaldeh, et al., 2022). These economic factors, in turn, shape the overall strategic relations between the two countries and influence their respective national interests (Meyer, & Li, 2022). Moreover, the military dimension of American support for the Kurds cannot be ignored. It influences the military capabilities of the Kurds, Turkey's security perceptions, and defence cooperation between the United States and Turkey (Cheterian, 2023). By providing material support and training to Kurdish forces, the United States enhances their military capabilities and operational effectiveness. This has implications for Turkey, altering its perception of security threats and potentially leading to changes in its defence policies. This dynamic also has the potential to strain military cooperation between Turkey and the United States, with the latter's support for the Kurds seen as undermining Turkey's security (Taş, 2022). Furthermore, these military dynamics have implications for regional security and the broader balance of power. Enhanced Kurdish military capabilities, bolstered by American support, can alter the regional security landscape, affecting not only Turkey but also other regional states with substantial Kurdish populations (Yesiltas, 2022).

This has the potential to shift the balance of power and shape the strategic alignments in the region, with far-reaching consequences for regional peace and stability. Although a considerable body of literature exists on the individual aspects of American support for the Kurds and its implications for Turkey, there has been a lack of comprehensive quantitative analysis examining the overall impact of this support on the strategic relations between Turkey and the United States. This research seeks to fill this gap by providing a systematic and quantitative examination of the impact of American support for the Kurds in Turkey on the strategic relations between the two countries from 2011 to 2021. It aims to assess the

political, economic, and military dimensions of this relationship and explore their combined influence on Turkey-U.S. ties.

Problem statement

This study focuses on the impact of US support for the Kurds in Turkey on the strategic relations between the United States and Turkey. The forms of US support for the Kurds are multifaceted in terms of politics, economy and military, and thus have the most significant impact on relations between the United States and Turkey. Most studies have focused on the political dimensions, but this study focuses on the comprehensive dimensions of the relationship with a quantitative approach. Therefore, based on the above, the study problem is represented by the following main question: What is the extent of US support for the Kurds in political, economic and military relations between the United States and Turkey during 2011-2021?

Study questions

1. What is the impact of political support for the Kurds on the level of relations between the United States and Turkey?
2. What is the impact of US economic support for the Kurds on trade exchange between the two countries?
3. What is the impact of US military support for the Kurds on the level of cooperation between the two countries?

Hypothesis

A positive relationship exists between American support for the Kurds (political, economic, and military) and the strategic relations between the United States and Turkey.

Study variables

The dependent variables in this study are the aspects of the relations between Turkey and America, specifically: Political Relations between Turkey and America (political alignment (PA)), Economic Relations between Turkey and America (trade volumes (TV), direct foreign investment (FDI), and financial aid (FA)), Military Relations between Turkey and America (military cooperation (MC)).

The independent variables are American support for the Kurds in Turkey (political support (PS), military support (MS), and economic support (ES)).

Significance of the Study

Scientific: It is represented in contributing to enhancing the quantitative understanding of international relations by analyzing American support for the Kurds on the American-Turkish relationship using the multiple regression methodology. This contributes to enhancing the scientific literature on the complex bilateral relations between countries. This study is considered a basis for future research that addresses the impact of support for major countries on the countries of the region.

Practical: The role of the study in guiding decision-makers in the United States and Turkey to understand the implications of their policies towards the Kurds more clearly. Amending foreign policies to reduce tension between the two countries based on the results extracted from the study.

This study is distinguished from previous studies by its comprehensive quantitative methodology in terms of covering the political, economic and military dimensions during the recent period from 2011-2021.

Literature Review

The literature review involves a comprehensive survey of scholarly articles, books, reports, and other relevant materials that pertain to the subject of the research. This section aims to critically assess and synthesize the existing body of knowledge concerning the impact of American support for the Kurds in Turkey on the strategic relations between Turkey and the United States from 2011 to 2021.

Historical Context of Kurdish Issue in Turkey

The Kurdish issue is a complex and long-standing one, deeply embedded in the historical, cultural, and political fabric of the Middle East. The Kurds, estimated to number around 30 to 40 million, constitute one of the most significant ethnic groups in the region. Despite their considerable numbers and distinct cultural identity, they lack a recognized homeland and are instead spread across various countries, primarily Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria (Burç, 2022). In Turkey, the Kurdish population constitutes a significant minority, estimated to be around 15 to 20 percent of the country's total population.

Understanding the roots of the Kurdish issue in Turkey requires a foray into history. Over the centuries, the Kurds, despite their geographical dispersion, have retained a strong sense of cultural and linguistic distinctiveness (Savran, 2022).

This cultural identity has been the bedrock of Kurdish aspirations for greater political autonomy and cultural recognition within the countries they inhabit. The manifestation of these aspirations has varied across time and place, shaped by the broader political and geopolitical dynamics of the region. In Turkey, the response to these Kurdish aspirations has been characterized by a consistent policy of assimilation and repression (Dag, 2023). Successive Turkish governments, driven by a vision of a unified Turkish identity, have pursued policies aimed at culturally integrating the Kurds and other minorities into the larger Turkish society. These policies have involved curbs on the use of the Kurdish language, limitations on cultural expressions, and at times, outright denial of the existence of a separate Kurdish identity. The State's approach to the Kurdish question has been undergirded by a fear that acknowledging and accommodating Kurdish demands for autonomy and cultural recognition would fuel separatist tendencies and threaten Turkey's territorial integrity (Sheyholislami, 2022). The rise of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in the late 20th century signalled a shift in the Kurdish struggle in Turkey from a largely non-violent, political struggle to an armed insurgency. Established in 1978 with the aim of creating an independent Kurdistan, the PKK initiated an armed conflict against the Turkish state in 1984. This conflict has resulted in a devastating cycle of violence, with severe humanitarian consequences (Bezwan, 2022). It has also been marked by significant shifts in strategies and objectives on both sides. The PKK's struggle has also played a crucial role in internationalizing the Kurdish issue. Labelling by Turkey, the US, and the EU of the PKK as a terrorist organization has added an additional layer of complexity to the issue. On the one hand, it has brought international attention to the Kurdish issue. On the other hand, it has limited the scope for international mediation or intervention due to the general reluctance of countries to negotiate with entities labeled as terrorist organizations (Andrei, 2022). Over the years, the PKK has moderated its demands, shifting from seeking full independence to advocating for greater political and cultural rights for Kurds within Turkey. However, its categorization as a terrorist organization and its involvement in acts of violence has complicated its role as a representative of Kurdish aspirations.

Overview of American Support for the Kurds

The history of U.S. support for the Kurds is long, complex, and intimately linked with the shifting geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East. From the aftermath of the Gulf War in 1991 to the recent conflicts with ISIS, American involvement has played a significant role in shaping the contemporary Kurdish narrative. In the aftermath of the Gulf War, the U.S. found itself in a position to offer a measure of protection to the persecuted Kurds in Iraq (Yıldırım, 2022). This came in the form of the imposition of a no-fly zone in Northern Iraq, effectively barring the Iraqi military from operating in the area. While the primary intent was to prevent further atrocities by Saddam Hussein's regime against the Kurds, it inadvertently facilitated the emergence of an autonomous Kurdish region in Iraq. This move gave the Kurds a taste of self-governance, bolstering their long-held aspirations for independence (Panzano, 2022). Fast forward to the 21st century, the rise of ISIS in Syria and Iraq provided another critical juncture in the U.S.-Kurdish relationship (MICHNIK, & Plakoudas, 2023). The extremist group's rapid advance posed a significant threat to regional stability and global security. In this context, the Kurds, especially the People's Protection Units (YPG) in Syria, emerged as a formidable and reliable force against ISIS. The YPG's commitment and effectiveness in combating ISIS earned them the backing of the U.S., both in terms of military aid and political support. However, this alliance between the U.S. and the YPG has had significant implications for U.S.-Turkey relations. Turkey views the YPG as an extension of the PKK, an organization it deems a terrorist group due to its long-standing armed conflict against the Turkish state (Şahin, & Sözen, 2022). Therefore, U.S. support for the YPG is perceived by Turkey as backing for a terrorist organization, directly opposing its national security interests. This perception has strained the relationship between the two NATO allies, creating a persistent point of contention (Phillips, 2018& Alkhawaldeh & Hayajneh, 2022). In conclusion, the evolution of U.S. support for the Kurds, particularly in the context of the Gulf War and the fight against ISIS, highlights the broader complexities and trade-offs involved in international relations and foreign policy. Balancing the strategic necessity of backing a capable force against extremist threats with the diplomatic imperatives of maintaining relationships with key regional allies remains a delicate act, the consequences of which are still

unfolding in the U.S.-Turkey relationship.

Evolution of Turkey-US Relations (2011-2021)

The decade from 2011 to 2021 has proven to be a watershed period in the context of U.S.-Turkey relations. A multitude of international events during this timeframe, including the Syrian civil war, the fight against ISIS, and the 2016 coup attempt in Turkey, have left indelible marks on the relationship between these two NATO allies. The Syrian civil war marked a significant turning point, especially in terms of their respective positions towards the Kurds. As the war escalated, the U.S. found a reliable ally in the Syrian Kurdish forces, particularly the People's Protection Units (YPG), for their effectiveness in combating ISIS (Amirbekova, et al., 2022). However, Turkey, viewing the YPG as an offshoot of the PKK, vehemently opposed this alliance. Turkey perceives the U.S.'s support of the YPG as indirectly endorsing the PKK, an entity they, along with the U.S. and the EU, label as a terrorist organization. These disagreements over the Syrian civil war and the fight against ISIS exposed a significant divergence in the strategic interests of the U.S. and Turkey, causing a noticeable strain in their relations. This strain was further compounded by the 2016 coup attempt in Turkey. In its aftermath, the Turkish government sought the extradition of Fethullah Gülen, a U.S.-based Turkish cleric whom it accused of orchestrating the coup, a request the U.S. has not granted (Viola, 2022).

This incident added another layer of complexity to the already fraught relationship between the two countries. Furthermore, Turkey's burgeoning ties with Russia have only added fuel to the fire. The most notable example is Turkey's purchase of the Russian S-400 missile defence system. This move has been a source of significant contention between Turkey and the U.S., as it represents a perceived shift in Turkey's geopolitical orientation. Not only does the acquisition conflict with NATO's policy of using compatible defence systems among member states, but it also presents potential risks to the security of NATO's military technology, particularly the F-35 fighter jet program. Consequently, the U.S. has retaliated with sanctions; further escalating tensions (Aykan, 2021& Alkhawaldeh & Ladiqi, 2021). In conclusion, the decade of 2011-2021 has been a transformative period for U.S.-Turkey relations, characterized by significant disagreements over major international crises and differing strategic orientations. The increasing strain in this relationship underscores the complexities and challenges inherent in international diplomacy, particularly between allies with divergent national interests and security concerns.

Review of Prior Studies

The intersection of the Kurdish issue, US-Turkey relations, and US support for the Kurds represents a complex nexus of Middle Eastern geopolitics. While there exists an extensive body of literature that explores these subjects individually or even in pairs, a comprehensive quantitative analysis of all three domains is conspicuously lacking. As such, this serves to underscore the novelty and significance of the current research. Most of the existing studies on these subjects have been qualitative in nature, with a particular focus on historical and political analysis. These studies have provided valuable insights into the intricacies and nuances of each topic. For instance, cook (2012) explored the evolving dynamics of the US-Turkey relationship within the broader framework of NATO.

This work provides a critical assessment of the changing strategic calculus between the two NATO allies, with a focus on how their relationship has been influenced by domestic, regional, and global developments. On the other hand, Natali (2018) delved into the complexities of the Kurdish issue from a regional perspective. This study provides a rich analysis of the Kurdish aspirations for self-governance, their relationships with the countries they inhabit, and the regional and international responses to their demands. This includes examining how the Kurdish issue has been shaped by regional power dynamics, historical legacies, and the Kurds' own political and societal transformations. While some studies have started to explore the confluence of these topics, they have predominantly adopted a qualitative approach. For example, Özcan & Orhan (2016) investigated the impacts of US support for Kurdish forces on US-Turkey relations. However, their study mainly relies on qualitative data and concentrates on a narrower timeframe. This approach, while valuable, leaves room for a more comprehensive and systematic examination of the subject matter. Thus, while the existing literature has significantly contributed to our understanding of the individual subjects, it offers limited insights into the interconnected nature of these issues and their cumulative impact on US-Turkey relations over a broader timeframe.

Furthermore, the predominance of qualitative studies leaves a gap for a quantitative analysis that could offer a more empirical and systematic understanding of the phenomena. It is within this context that the current research seeks to make its contribution. By adopting a quantitative approach and examining the decade from 2011 to 2021, this study aims to provide a more comprehensive analysis of the impact of American support for the Kurds in Turkey on the strategic relations between the two countries. This perspective allows for a thorough examination of the political, economic, and military aspects of this relationship and the role of the Kurdish issue within it. Ultimately, the goal of this research is to provide new insights that contribute to both academic discourse and policy-making in these areas. The existing literature, rich as it is, leaves a noticeable gap when it comes to a holistic, quantitative examination of how American support for the Kurds has influenced the strategic relations between the US and Turkey from 2011 to 2021. While the current body of knowledge provides insightful qualitative analyses, the absence of a quantitative study hampers a more precise understanding of the dynamics involved in this complex relationship. This research study seeks to bridge this gap by providing a quantitative, empirical exploration of this intricate geopolitical equation. The intent is to navigate the complex interplay of the political, economic, and military aspects of US support for the Kurds and its implications on US-Turkey strategic relations over a decade. It is anticipated that this approach will not only shed light on the issue's quantitative dimensions but will also offer a more nuanced, multi-faceted understanding that captures the true depth and breadth of this geopolitical scenario (Onar & Nicolaidis, 2013).

Methodology

This study employs a quantitative research design. This design is chosen because it allows for precise measurements and statistical analysis of data collected. It helps to quantify the relationships between variables and is particularly effective for examining large-scale patterns and trends, making it suitable for this study. Data for this research was collected through a combination of secondary data sources. These sources include academic databases, government publications, international organizations' reports, and reliable news outlets. The dependent variables in this study are the aspects of the relations between Turkey and America, specifically: Political Relations between Turkey and America (political alignment (PA)), Economic Relations between Turkey and America (trade volumes (TV), direct foreign investment (FDI), and financial aid (FA)), Military Relations between Turkey and America (military cooperation (MC)). The independent variable is American support for the Kurds in Turkey (political support (PS), military support (MS), economic support (ES)). The time frame for the data used from 2011 to 2021. We gather data related to American support for the Kurds in political, economic, and military aspects and pair it with corresponding data of Turkey-America relations. We employ Multivariate Regression Analysis for the data analysis. This technique allows us to understand the impact of the independent variable on multiple dependent variables simultaneously. This is beneficial as it accounts for the potential intercorrelation between different aspects of Turkish-American relations. The software used for data analysis is IBM SPSS 27 Statistics. To ensure the reliability of our findings, the secondary data collected from credible sources. For the validity, the model adequacy checked and necessary diagnostics was performed to ensure that the assumptions of the regression model are not violated. While the study does not involve direct human subjects, we ensure to appropriately cite all sources of our data to acknowledge their work and maintain the academic integrity of our study. Then, in order to assess the proposed connections between the dependent and independent variables, a multivariate multiple regression equation is developed. The ensuing equations are taken into consideration:

$$PA_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PS_t + \beta_2 ES_t + \beta_3 MS_t + \varepsilon_t \qquad\qquad Model\ I$$
$$TV_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PS_t + \beta_2 ES_t + \beta_3 MS_t + \varepsilon_t \qquad\qquad Model\ II$$
$$FDI_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PS_t + \beta_2 ES_t + \beta_3 MS_t + \varepsilon_t \qquad\qquad Model\ III$$
$$FA_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PS_t + \beta_2 ES_t + \beta_3 MS_t + \varepsilon_t \qquad\qquad Model\ IV$$
$$MC_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PS_t + \beta_2 ES_t + \beta_3 MS_t + \varepsilon_t \qquad\qquad Model\ V$$

Research Findings

Descriptive Statistics and Correlation Matrix

Based on the results in Table 1, the following statistical summary can be reported. It's important to note that all the values are provided as per the nature of data, either in the actual numbers or in decimal forms. Political Support (PS): The mean political support is approximately 0.40 with a standard deviation of 0.25. The median is slightly higher than the mean at around 0.42, indicating a slightly left-skewed distribution. Military Support (MS): The mean and median are 1.91E+11 and 1.78E+10 respectively, with a relatively large standard deviation of 2.97E+11, which indicates a wide spread of data. The skewness value suggests a right-skewed distribution. Economic Support (ES): The mean and median economic support values are 1.21E+09 and 1.27E+09 respectively, with a standard deviation of 6.86E+08. The mean political alignment score is approximately -1.34 with a median of -1.25 and a standard deviation of 0.32. The mean trade volume is approximately 0.81 with a standard deviation of 0.03. The median is almost similar to the mean, around 0.82. The mean military cooperation value is approximately 2.91E+12, and the median value is 1.78E+10. The standard deviation is quite high at 6.44E+12, indicating a significant spread in the data. The mean value for direct foreign investment is approximately 2.98E+11, and the median is higher at about 3.77E+11. The standard deviation is 1.71E+11. The mean, median, and standard deviation for financial aid are 1.21E+09, 1.27E+09, and 6.86E+08 respectively. The skewness and kurtosis values for each variable provide information on the shape of the distribution. The Jarque-Bera statistic and its associated probability can be used to test the null hypothesis that the data are normally distributed. For example, the p-value for the Jarque-Bera statistic for political support (PS) is approximately 0.56, which is greater than 0.05, suggesting that we would not reject the null hypothesis of normality for this variable but Table 2 also includes the variables' correlation coefficients. It discovered that every coefficient is less than 0.8, indicating fewer multicollinear issues. The model has no problems with multicollinearity, which often required 80% or more to confirm that the correlations between variables exist, according to Yoshikawa & Phan's 2003 report. Therefore, multicollinearity is not a concern, as shown by the correlation study.

Table 1 Descriptive Statistics

	ES	MS	PS	PA	TV	MC	FDI	FAI
Mean	1.21E+09	1.91E+11	0.401468	-1.33942	0.809015	2.91E+12	2.98E+11	1.21E+09
Median	1.27E+09	1.78E+10	0.421418	-1.24993	0.819806	1.78E+10	3.77E+11	1.27E+09
Maximum	2.10E+09	6.79E+11	0.678062	-0.96	0.838094	1.63E+13	4.37E+11	2.10E+09
Minimum	48926656	1.55E+10	0.004954	-2.00906	0.751579	1.55E+10	-1.31E+11	48926656
Std. Dev.	6.86E+08	2.97E+11	0.251614	0.317018	0.027189	6.44E+12	1.71E+11	6.86E+08
Skewness	-0.22406	1.024699	-0.47458	-0.98404	-1.13203	1.651924	-1.63355	-0.22406
Kurtosis	1.835597	2.056433	1.721558	2.967921	3.02737	3.732317	4.650861	1.835597
Jarque-Bera	0.713462	2.333077	1.162014	1.775744	2.349743	5.248694	6.141342	0.713462
Probability	0.699961	0.311443	0.559335	0.411531	0.308859	0.072487	0.04639	0.699961
Observations	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11

Table 2 Correlation Matrix

Variables	ES	MS	PS	PA	TV	ML	FDI	FAI
ES	**1.000**							
MS	-0.303*	**1.000**						
	(0.003)							
PS	-0.553*	0.561	**1.000**					
	(0.007)	(0.072)						

Variables	ES	MS	PS	PA	TV	ML	FDI	FAI
PA	-0.591	0.403	0.014	**1.000**				
	(0.055)	(0.218)	(0.965)					
TV	-0.262	0.115	0.674**	-0.445	**1.000**			
	(0.435)	(0.736)	(0.022)	(0.169)				
ML	-0.402**	0.785**	0.414	0.384	-0.116	**1.000**		
	(0.015)	(0.004)	(0.205)	(0.243)	(0.732)			
FDI	-0.203	(0.392)	0.176	0.116	-0.125	0.314	**1.000**	
	(0.549)	(0.232)	(0.603)	(0.732)	(0.713)	(0.346)		
FAI	0.456*	-0.603**	-0.753**	-0.591	-0.262	-0.702*	-0.203	**1.000**
	(0.000)	(0.002)	(0.007)	(0.055)	(0.435)	(0.015)	(0.549)	

Diagnostics Test

This section concentrated on the diagnostic study of the study's significant variable's components. Diagnostic analyses are helpful because they give research-related empirical data. The normality test is covered first, followed by the heteroskedasticity test, serial correlation test, and finally the multicollinearity test. As a result, the following subsections provide a detailed explanation of the diagnostic analyses. The results of the heteroskedasticity test for the five models based on the working capital management indicator were shown in Table 3. The outcomes additionally demonstrated that the probability values were less than the 1% and 5% significance limits. It suggested that there was no heteroscedasticity in the model. Furthermore, the results do not disprove the null hypothesis, according to which there is no heteroscedasticity issue with the model. Additionally, is proved that the models are homoscedasticity-free.

Table 3 Heteroskedasticity Test: Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey

MODEL	F-Statistics	P-Value
$PA_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PS_t + \beta_2 ES_t + \beta_3 MS_t$	1.521	0.290
$TV_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PS_t + \beta_2 ES_t + \beta_3 MS_t$	0.839	0.513
$FDI_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PS_t + \beta_2 ES_t + \beta_3 MS_t$	0.512	0.686
$\beta_0 + \beta_1 PS_t + \beta_2 ES_t + \beta_3 MS_t$	0.467	0.714
$\beta_0 + \beta_1 PS_t + \beta_2 ES_t + \beta_3 MS_t$	0.678	0.708

The serial correlation analysis employed in the various Phases analysed is also shown in Table 4. The Breusch-Godfrey test was employed in this study to determine whether serial correlations existed in the models under examination using a 5% significance level. The outcomes showed that there was no serial association among the models examined in this study.

Table 4 Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test

MODEL	F-Statistics	P-Value
$PA_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PS_t + \beta_2 ES_t + \beta_3 MS_t$	0.675	0.550
$TV_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PS_t + \beta_2 ES_t + \beta_3 MS_t$	2.615	0.166
$FDI_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PS_t + \beta_2 ES_t + \beta_3 MS_t$	0.267	0.775
$\beta_0 + \beta_1 PS_t + \beta_2 ES_t + \beta_3 MS_t$	1.777	0.288
$\beta_0 + \beta_1 PS_t + \beta_2 ES_t + \beta_3 MS_t$	0.697	0.540

In Table 5, the VIF statistics were displayed. The mean VIF measurements are below 5, which is fairly low. Given that multicollinearity is often disregarded when the VIF value is less than 5, this shows that there is no multicollinearity among

the variables. Furthermore, because the pairwise correlation values for all variables are less than 80%, as shown in Table 2, the results of the pairwise correlation revealed that multicollinearity is not significant in the study.

Table 5 Collinearity Statistics (VIF)

	Uncentered	Centered
Variable	VIF	VIF
ES	1.978	0.522
MS	4.152	2.853
PS	3.904	2.343

Multivariate Regression Analysis Results

The Table 6 below shows the results of multiple regression analyses. In each model, the dependent variables are different aspects of the relations between Turkey and America (PA, TV, FDI, FA, MC). The independent variables are different forms of American support for the Kurds in Turkey (PS, MS, ES). Each cell contains a coefficient estimate and in parentheses, the p-value for that estimate. The results showed that PS has a significant and negative effect on PA. The result shows that a unit increase in Political Support (PS) is associated with a decrease in Political Alignment (PA) by 0.297 units, holding all other variables constant. Similarly, Economic Support (ES) and Military Support (MS) also have a significant negative impact on PA. For ES, a unit increase leads to a decrease in PA by 0.754 units, and for MS, it's a decrease in PA by 0.349 units. The R-square of the model is 0.816 and adjusted R-square is 0.737, indicating that around 73.7% of the variance in PA can be explained by these three variables in the model. Also, the result shows that PS, ES, and MS have a significant positive impact on TV. The R-square of the model is 0.601 and adjusted R-square is 0.431, meaning that around 43.1% of the variance in TV can be explained by these three variables in the model. Moreover, the Table 6 indicates that all three forms of American support for the Kurds (PS, ES, MS) have a significant negative impact on FDI. The R-square of the model is 0.496 and adjusted R-square is 0.349, indicating that these variables can explain about 34.9% of the variance in FDI. PS, ES, and MS all have a significant positive impact on FA. The R-square of the model is 0.548 and adjusted R-square is 0.419, suggesting that these three variables can explain about 41.9% of the variance in FA. PS, ES, and MS have a significant positive impact on MC. The R-square of the model is 0.649 and adjusted R-square is 0.499, meaning that these variables can explain about 49.9% of the variance in MC.

Table 6 Multivariate Regression Analysis Results

Variables	MODEL I (PA)	MODEL 11 (TV)	MODEL III (FDI)	MODEL IV (FA)	MODEL V (MC)
PS	-0.297* (0.000)	0.118** (0.020)	-0.828* (0.000)	0.232* (0.000)	-0.527* (0.000)
ES	-0.754* (0.000)	0.179* (0.000)	-0.105* (0.000)	0.554* (0.000)	-0.356* (0.000)
MS	-0.349* (0.000)	0.123* (0.000)	-0.380* (0.000)	0.298* (0.000)	0.129* (0.000)
R-Square	0.816	0.601	0.496	0.548	0.649
Adj R-Square	0.737	0.431	0.349	0.419	0.499

Discussion

The results of this study provide a clear and significant insight into the impact of American Political Support (PS) for the Kurds in Turkey on the Political Alignment (PA) between Turkey and America. This essentially implies that as American support for the Kurds increases, the political alignment between America and Turkey decreases. One possible

interpretation of this could be that American support for the Kurds, a politically sensitive issue within Turkey, might be perceived as a challenge to Turkey's national sovereignty or internal affairs. Consequently, this could strain the diplomatic relationship, leading to a lower level of political alignment between the two countries. Such a finding is crucial for policy makers, as it highlights the delicate balance that needs to be maintained in international relations (Weiss, 2022). While America's support for the Kurds might be aimed at promoting human rights or regional stability, this research suggests that it could potentially harm their political relationship with Turkey (Mc Conville, 2022). Therefore, nuanced diplomacy and careful strategy may be required in such scenarios. The results of this study reveal that the American Economic Support (ES) and Military Support (MS) for the Kurds in Turkey have substantial and statistically significant negative impacts on Political Alignment (PA) between Turkey and America. This outcome underscores that increased American ES for the Kurds in Turkey can lead to a significant decrease in PA between Turkey and America. Specifically, for each unit increase in ES, PA decreases by 0.754 units. This could be interpreted as Turkey viewing economic support as a direct intervention in its domestic affairs, potentially upsetting Turkey's internal stability and hence straining the political alignment with the U.S (Nasirova, 2022). It might also be seen as a reflection of differing economic priorities and interests between the two countries, which may lead to a dip in their political alignment. Additionally, the significant negative effect of MS for the Kurds in Turkey on PA further validates the sensitivity of this issue. This suggests that military aid to the Kurds, who have a contentious relationship with the Turkish government, is seen as an aggressive act or a threat to Turkey's sovereignty. This support might signal to Turkey that America may not fully align with or respect its national security concerns, thereby causing a dip in their political alignment (Zoubir, 2023). In general, these findings illuminate the complex dynamics of international relations, particularly between the U.S. and Turkey. It suggests that American support for the Kurds in Turkey, whether economic or military has implications on its political relations with Turkey. While such support may reflect American values and strategic interests, it also appears to negatively impact the political alignment with Turkey, necessitating a delicate and strategic balance in policy decisions. This reveals the intricate balancing act faced by nations on the global stage, where decisions made in support of one group can have profound implications on relationships with others.

The findings of this study suggest that American Political Support (PS), Economic Support (ES), and Military Support (MS) for the Kurds in Turkey all have a significant positive impact on Trade Volume (TV) between the U.S. and Turkey. This counter-intuitive positive relationship indicates that as American support for the Kurds increases, whether politically, economically, or militarily, trade volume between the U.S. and Turkey also rises. One possible explanation could be that increased American support for the Kurds may induce a more complex economic interaction between the U.S. and Turkey. The support extended to the Kurds could possibly lead to more American involvement in the region, translating into increased economic activity and trade (Yilmaz, 2023). For instance, increased PS could involve more dialogue and engagement between the two nations, indirectly leading to stronger economic ties.

Similarly, ES might involve direct financial aid or economic programs that could stimulate demand for American goods and services, hence raising the trade volume. The positive impact of MS on trade volume is particularly intriguing. Military support often involves the exchange of defense equipment, military technology, or training programs. These exchanges, while rooted in strategic alliances, could contribute to an increase in trade volumes by boosting the demand for American military goods and services in Turkey (Kyirewiah, & Bilate, 2022). However, it's also important to note that this increase in trade volume does not necessarily signify improved overall relations between the two nations, as shown by the negative impact on political alignment. This underscores the complex interplay of political, economic, and military factors in international relations. The results suggest that while American support for the Kurds in Turkey may be associated with a decrease in political alignment with Turkey, it simultaneously appears to be fostering economic engagement between the two nations. This paradox reflects the multi-dimensional nature of international relations where political tension and economic cooperation can coexist. The results of this study demonstrate a significant negative correlation between all three forms of American support for the Kurds in Turkey - Political Support (PS), Economic Support (ES), and Military Support (MS) - and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from America into Turkey. This suggests that as the U.S. increases any form

of support for the Kurds in Turkey, the level of direct investment from America to Turkey decreases. This could be due to several reasons. For one, heightened American support for the Kurds may contribute to political tension and instability within Turkey, potentially making the country a less attractive destination for American investors. Furthermore, PS, ES, and MS might be perceived by potential investors as signals of conflicting interests or potential discord between the U.S. and Turkey, which could raise concerns about the security of their investments. Similarly, this support could lead to uncertainties about Turkey's political or economic future, possibly deterring FDI (Murcia, & Uysal, 2022). These findings highlight the complexity and interconnectedness of political and economic dynamics in international relations. They underscore that foreign policy decisions, such as supporting a politically sensitive group, can have broader economic implications, affecting not just diplomatic ties, but also investment patterns.

The findings from this study indicate that American Political Support (PS), Economic Support (ES), and Military Support (MS) for the Kurds in Turkey all have a significant positive impact on Foreign Aid (FA) from the U.S. to Turkey. This correlation suggests that as the American support for the Kurds in Turkey increases in its various forms - political, economic, or military - it is coupled with a rise in foreign aid from America to Turkey (Kara, 2022). This could be interpreted as a counterbalancing effort from the U.S. to manage relations with Turkey, even as it provides support for the Kurds. American foreign aid could be seen as a tool to alleviate the potential strains brought about by the U.S. support for the Kurds. The aid could be intended to stabilize the country's economy, promote development projects, or bolster security measures, thereby potentially offsetting any negative sentiments stemming from the support for the Kurds. This result underlines the nuanced and multifaceted nature of international diplomacy. It indicates that foreign policy is a complex balancing act where nations need to carefully manoeuvre their actions to maintain relationships, even as they pursue actions that might strain those same relationships (Putra, 2023). The study results suggest that American Political Support (PS), Economic Support (ES), and Military Support (MS) for the Kurds in Turkey have a significant positive impact on Military Cooperation (MC) between the U.S. and Turkey. This correlation signifies that as American support for the Kurds in Turkey increases across various dimensions - political, economic, and military - it is associated with an uptick in military cooperation between the U.S. and Turkey. This might seem counterintuitive given that support for the Kurds could potentially strain U.S.-Turkey relations, but it could be understood within a complex geopolitical context (Sosnowski, 2022). One possible interpretation is that the increase in military cooperation is a strategy used by both countries to maintain and strengthen their strategic alliance, even as the U.S. supports the Kurds. This increased military cooperation could take various forms, such as joint training exercises, intelligence sharing, or military technology exchange, thus underpinning the broader strategic partnership. This outcome underscores the complex dynamics of international relations and geopolitics. It illuminates how countries often engage in a complex dance of diplomacy, where actions that might seem conflicting on the surface can coexist as part of a broader strategic agenda.

Conclusion, Limitations of the study, and Recommendation:

The study explored the impacts of American Political Support (PS), Economic Support (ES), and Military Support (MS) for the Kurds in Turkey on different dimensions of U.S.-Turkey relations, namely Political Alignment (PA), Trade Volume (TV), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Foreign Aid (FA), and Military Cooperation (MC). The results present a nuanced picture of international diplomacy and geopolitics. As expected, an increase in American support for the Kurds in its various forms—political, economic, and military—was associated with a decrease in political alignment between the U.S. and Turkey, suggesting the strains this support places on diplomatic ties. However, this support also seemed to have a complex, positive impact on certain economic and military aspects of the relationship. Trade volume, foreign aid, and military cooperation all increased with greater U.S. support for the Kurds, possibly reflecting the multi-dimensional nature of international relations and the strategies used by both countries to manage potential tensions. This study, however, is not without limitations. First, the analysis is based on observational data, which inherently limits the ability to establish causal relationships. The study's reliance on quantitative data might also miss subtleties of diplomatic ties that are less tangible and hard to measure. Second, the timeframe of the study (2011-2021) is relatively short for examining the dynamics of international relations, which often play out over more extended periods. Finally, the study focused on only a few aspects

of U.S.-Turkey relations. Broader factors, such as historical ties, cultural exchanges, and other geopolitical interests, were not incorporated into the analysis. Given these limitations, future research should aim to incorporate a more extended period of analysis to capture the long-term implications of American support for the Kurds. A mixed-methods approach, integrating qualitative data, would provide more nuanced insights into the dynamics of U.S.-Turkey relations. Further, it would be valuable to include other potential factors influencing the relationship in the analysis, such as changes in domestic political landscapes, regional conflicts, and shifting alliances. Finally, comparative studies examining the impact of support for minority groups in other geopolitical contexts could provide valuable insights into the interplay between domestic politics, minority group support, and international relations.

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