

NEW TRENDS IN TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

*Mukatova D.B.¹, Mansurova Sh.Sh.², Anuarbekova A.A.³

¹master degree, lecturer of Basic department of International Relations, Kazakh Ablai Khan UIR and WL, Almaty, Kazakhstan, e-mail:diddy1606@mail.ru,

²master degree, lecturer of Basic department of International Relations, Kazakh Ablai Khan UIR and WL, Almaty, Kazakhstan, e-mail:shakhniza.mansurova@mail.ru,

³master degree, lecturer of Basic department of International Relations, Kazakh Ablai Khan UIR and WL, Almaty, Kazakhstan, e-mail:airi-noir@ya.ru

Abstract. Developing the relations and cooperation with the African Continent is one of the basic principles of Turkey multi-dimensional foreign policy. The article considers a comprehensive Turkey's strategy for Africa in terms of both priorities and geographic scope. Türkiye and Africa have agreed to implement projects in various fields along with the five-year schedule programme "The 2015-2019 Joint Implementation Plan". In this context, projects developed according to the priorities of the African countries, in the fields of trade and investment, peace and security, education and culture, youth empowerment and technology transfer, rural economy and agriculture, energy and transportation have been implemented. This article also provides an excellent opportunity to highlight the growing socioeconomic dynamism of Africa-Turkey cooperation based on the "win-win" principle. Furthermore, it demonstrates Africa's emerging role as a dynamic player in the global business landscape. The choice of this theme demonstrates the African Union's commitment to the Africa-Turkey Cooperation in shaping an economically progressive future for the peoples of Africa and Turkey. In addition, the paper analyses and discusses the main economic, political, and strategic motivations, as well as some of the perceptions and current challenges this Implementation Plan faces.

Keywords: foreign policy, international cooperation, large-scale plans, collaboration objectives, interaction issues, long-term relationship, historical approaches, Turkey

Basic provisions

Turkey employs a wide range of complementary political, economic, humanitarian, and cultural instruments and pursues a global diplomacy while acting locally in every corner of the globe. Turkey now has the world's 5th largest diplomatic network, with 260 diplomatic and consular missions. It has built a global cooperation network with 29 countries, intergovernmental summits and regional entities. Turkey maintains collaboration with the Balkans, the Middle East and North Africa, the South Caucasus, South and Central Asia, expands its presence in Latin America and the Caribbean and also deepens its partnership policy in Africa.

Introduction

Today, Turkey is a more visible actor in Africa, and Africa has played an important role in Turkey's multifaceted and proactive foreign policy over the last 15 years. The President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, hosted the third Turkey-Africa Partnership Summit in Istanbul on December 16-18, 2021. The summit

adopted a 5-year action plan and established a follow-up mechanism to ensure its implementation [1]. Turkey seeks to expand its influence on the continent through diplomacy, trade, investment, education, health, security, and military cooperation, as well as soft power tools such as culture and history [2]. Africa and Turkey's international political cooperation consists of strengthening multilateral and bilateral relations, trade and economic ties with African countries, and interaction in cultural and humanitarian spheres [3]. Ankara (Turkey) has been on a path toward developing a multi-vector policy since the end of the twentieth century. At the moment, it is consistently implementing the adopted strategy of deepening and expanding its ties with African countries, with some backing from the influential African elite in many African countries.

According to E. Gönen, a Turkish political scientist and publicist, "Turkey may be the most recent player in Africa, where the absence of colonial rule (no one remembers Ottoman rule in North Africa or Sudan), combined with the desire to be a regional power, has contributed to the establishment of a significant favorable image and a number of important advantages, especially in failed states like Somalia"[4]. Yagya and Kolesnikova (2017) claim that Turkey's appeal to former Ottoman Empire North African states appears natural. In terms of the states of Black Africa, Ankara is a pioneer in the countries' foreign policy cooperation. Positioning Turkey as a major Eurasian country on the African continent drew African countries to it, increased its global significance, and instilled confidence in its confessional conjugation of the three world religions (Judaism-Christianity-Islam)[3].

Description of materials and methods

The President of the African country, Cape Verde Jorge Carlos Fonseca, said that "The future belongs not to Asia, but to Africa. Because of its vast natural resources, human potential, and young people striving for a better life, the continent has a bright future in the next 50 years. Today, Africa requires leaders who are tough, ambitious, and ambitious. Africa must strengthen relations with all countries, as has already been discussed at summits with the United States, the European Union, China, and Turkey"[5]. As a result, Turkey began to play an increasingly prominent role in the African political field by 2017, as evidenced by: the number of visits by Turkish leaders to African countries; obtaining Turkey's status as an African Union strategic partner; and, in fact, the unanimous support of African countries for Turkey's desire to become a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2008 [3]. Turkey actively seeks to host international events on its territory, demonstrating its willingness to play a larger role in international affairs and claiming to be the region's central dialogue platform.

A study of the evolution of Turkish-African relations was conducted by Dobronravin N.A., Dyakov N.N., Zelenev E.I., Ivanov N.A., Kireev N.G., Meyer M.S., Petrosyan Y.A., Savateev A.D., Uchehara K.E., Haron M., Sheremet V.I. and others. The study of the works of these authors made it possible to determine the key mechanisms of political cooperation.

Dumnova E.S. claims that Turkey is able to develop a unique model for expanding its activity on the African continent, which is distinguished by the following characteristics: a refusal to establish selective relations with African

countries; an emphasis on cultural-historical ties and common Ottoman heritage; a stake in humanitarian aid; and training for Africans to develop and reproduce technology on their own [6]. The implementation of large-scale plans for the development of the African continent begins in 2005, when Turkey declared the Year of Africa with the election of President R. T. Erdogan. The government has set the following tasks in this new direction:

- ✓ to establish a new platform for the long-term realization of Turkish foreign policy ambitions by utilizing all of the African continent's geopolitical opportunities;

- ✓ to enter and gain a foothold in the African market, becoming the primary partner of the leading African countries in the fields of energy, mining, and their introduction to the global market;

- ✓ create favorable conditions for the Turkish economy's Islamic sector, ensuring the sustainable development of business in African countries and thus strengthening the positions of both the ruling political forces and their supporters;

- ✓ actively promote and widely exploit the Turkish economy's success in the fields of energy and mining, as well as their introduction to the global market;

Objectives of Turkish-African collaboration in today's world.

The Turkey's current political efforts are aimed at strengthening bilateral relations with African countries as well as achieving global ambitions related to increasing the country's international authority [7]. The following tools were used to implement this approach: high-level visits, an increase in the number of diplomatic missions, deeper cooperation within international organizations (primarily the UN), the development of interaction mechanisms through foreign affairs agencies, and inter-parliamentary cooperation. Expert consultations and training sessions of military and civilian forces in African countries, as well as funding a set of counter-terrorism measures, are prominent in the field of military-technical cooperation. The establishment of a Turkish military base in Somalia is the most significant result of cooperation in this area today.

Approaches, methods and analysis

The research uses historical-genetic and historical-dynamic approaches to reveal the evolution of Turkish foreign policy, as well as a sociological approach to analyze the issues under consideration in light of the new realities of modern international relations associated with the increased role of non-state actors ranging from various non-state organizations to individuals. Furthermore, methods such as observation, which allows for the collection of important information on international relations problems, event analysis, which is based on tracking the dynamics of events in the international arena in order to determine the main trends in the development of the political situation in individual countries, regions, and the world as a whole, and scenario construction were used. The content analysis method and comparative analysis were used to study official documents, scientific publications in the periodicals, and information and analytical materials.

Results

Issues, affecting the interaction of Turks and Africans.

Turkey's achievements in increasing the export of its technologies and goods, implementing humanitarian projects, and promoting "moderate Islam" ideas appear to be impressive. Kolesnikova (2020) declares that Turkey's position is also ambiguous: for some African countries, Ankara's Euro-Atlantic solidarity may act as a deterrent, and in societies where Christians predominate, the Islamic component of Turkish foreign policy is not always viewed favorably [7].

At the same time, the Turkish leadership's large-scale activities in the political, economic, and humanitarian fields are confronted with a number of challenges that may impede the expansion of the Turkish presence on the continent. Domestic political challenges include limited Turkish material resources, skepticism of entrepreneurs preferring traditional partners, the ambitious nature of Ankara's plans, which are not fully practical, and trade imbalances.

Long-term political relationship

President Erdogan had more than 30 visits to 23 African countries in the last decade, a record number of visits for a non-African leader. In 2016, Turkey hosted numerous heads of state from African countries such as Ethiopia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Somalia, which has increased the visibility of our African policy both at home and abroad. Mr. Mevlüt Avuşolu also emphasizes that Turkey's diplomatic presence on the continent is rapidly expanding. There are currently 39 Turkish embassies in African countries. The number of African embassies in Ankara has also increased significantly, bringing the total to 33. Turkey was designated as a "strategic partner" by the African Union in 2008, and the first "Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit" was held in Istanbul. The summit kicked off a steady and long-term collaboration process that resulted in the second "Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit" in Equatorial Guinea in 2014, with the third summit scheduled for Istanbul in 2019. Furthermore, two countries recently agreed to rename the "Opening Policy to Africa" to a more accurate concept, namely "Turkey's Africa Partnership Policy" [8].

Turkey contributed \$5 million to the G5 Sahel Joint Force in March 2018 to strengthen the fight against terrorism. Ankara funds the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) in order to address the economic and social drivers of violent extremism in West Africa.

In recent years, African states have become increasingly interested in purchasing Turkish military equipment, particularly its more affordable drones, adding a new dimension to relations [9]. Ankara signed a military cooperation agreement with Niger in 2020, with the possibility of establishing a military base in the future. In the same year, Turkey signed defense treaties with Nigeria in October 2021, Togo in August 2021, and Senegal in February 2022. This could herald the start of a new era in Ankara's security relations with West Africa.

Discussions

The Turkish Maarif Foundation, meanwhile, now has schools in 26 African countries, including Chad, Gabon, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Tunisia.

After 1998, trade between Turkey and African countries has increased from \$3 billion in 2003 to \$26 billion in 2021, thanks to the establishment of 45 Turkish

business councils across the continent. Trade links are growing in tandem with the establishment of diplomatic missions (the number of Turkish embassies on the continent has increased from 12 in 2003 to 43 by 2021) and military cooperation. For example, Algeria has become Turkey's fourth largest gas exporter, and bilateral trade between Nigeria and Turkey accounts for 90% of Turkey's LNG imports from Nigeria. Chad, the African city, which is rich in oil and minerals, invited Turkish companies to explore for oil in 2017. Similarly, Somalia invited Turkey to explore for oil in its territorial waters. In addition, Turkey signed a maritime agreement with Libya's UN-recognized Government of National Accord, allowing for the establishment of an exclusive economic zone from Libya's northeast coast to Turkey's southeast coast, as well as the exploration of oil [10].

Turkish private companies are also looking for investment and business opportunities in Africa. Turkey has nearly \$10 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) in Africa. Ankara works with organizations such as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. Turkish Airlines (THY), now, flies to 61 different destinations in 40 African countries across the continent [10]. Also, the parties discussed food security, nutrition, financing and credit opportunities, agro industry, and development issues in order to strengthen Turkey-Africa cooperation [11]. As for education sector, approximately 15000 African students have received full scholarships from the Turkish government [12]. Until today, 249 African diplomats have participated in "The International Junior Diplomats Training Program," which has been organized annually by the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey since 1992. Furthermore, in response to requests from African countries' Foreign Ministries, our Diplomacy Academy organizes training programs in diplomacy, archives, and communication in order to develop capacity and human resources.

Conclusion

As has become clear, Turkey's growing involvement in Africa can be understood in terms of its and development aid ambitions and motivations, as manifested through diplomatic and commercial activity. To some extent, Turkey's renewed involvement with Africa can be attributed to the country's internal transformation in the sense that it has shifted away from its traditional economic partners, but it is also a result of changes in the global macroeconomics that necessitate the diversity of Turkey's trade alternatives, in this case through poverty relief policies and discourses. In response to these changes, Turkey has defined a multifaceted foreign policy based on the establishment of economic and political ties with new partners.

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ОРТАЛЫҚ АФРИКА РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНДАҒЫ СЫРТҚЫ ТҮРКИЯ САЯСАТЫНДАҒЫ ЖАҢА ТЕНДЕНЦИЯЛАР

*Мукатова Д.Б.¹, Мансурова Ш.Ш.², Ануарбекова А.А.³

¹магистр, халықаралық қатынастардың негізгі кафедрасының оқытушысы, Абылайхан ат. ҚазХҚжәнеӘТУ, Алматы, Қазақстан, e-mail:diddy1606@mail.ru,

²магистр, халықаралық қатынастардың негізгі кафедрасының оқытушысы. Абылайхан ат. ҚазХҚжәнеӘТУ, Алматы, Қазақстан, e-mail:shakhniza.mansurova@mail.ru,

³магистр, халықаралық қатынастардың негізгі кафедрасының оқытушысы. Абылайхан ат. ҚазХҚжәнеӘТУ, Алматы, Қазақстан, e-mail: airi-noir@ya.ru

Аңдатпа. Африка континентімен қарым-қатынас пен ынтымақтастықты дамыту - Түркияның көп өлшемді сыртқы саясатының басты қағидаларының бірі. Мақалада Түркияның Африкаға қатысты кешенді стратегиясы басымдықтар мен географиялық қамту тұрғысынан қарастырылған. Түркия мен Африка бес жылдық 2015-2019 бірлескен іске асыру жоспарымен » бірге әр түрлі салаларда бірлескен жобаларды жүзеге асыруға келісті. Бұл бағытта Африка елдерінің сауда және инвестиция, бейбітшілік пен қауіпсіздік, білім мен мәдениет сияқты басымдықтарына сәйкес әзірленген жобалар жүзеге асырылуда, жастардың мүмкіндіктерін кеңейту және технологиялар трансферті, ауыл шаруашылығы, энергетика және көлік. Бұл мақала сонымен қатар Африка мен Түркия арасындағы жеңіске жету принципіне негізделген ынтымақтастықтың өсіп келе жатқан әлеуметтік-экономикалық динамикасын атап өтуге тамаша мүмкіндік береді. Сонымен қатар, мақалада Африканың әлемдік бизнес ортадағы динамикалық ойыншы ретіндегі дамып келе жатқан рөлі көрсетілген. Осы тақырыпты таңдау Африка Одағының Африка мен Түркия халықтарының экономикалық прогрессивті болашағын қалыптастырудағы Афро-Түркия ынтымақтастығына адалдығын көрсетеді. Сонымен қатар, құжатта негізгі экономикалық, саяси және стратегиялық мотивтер, сондай-ақ осы стратегиялық жоспардың кейбір түсініктері мен қазіргі қиындықтары талданады және талқыланады.

Тірек сөздер: сыртқы саясат, халықаралық ынтымақтастық, ауқымды жоспарлар, ынтымақтастық мақсаттары, өзара іс-қимыл мәселелері, ұзақ мерзімді қатынастар, тарихи тәсілдер, Түркия

НОВЫЕ ТЕНДЕНЦИИ ВО ВНЕШНЕЙ ПОЛИТИКЕ ТУРЦИИ В ЦЕНТРАЛЬНО-АФРИКАНСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКЕ

*Мукатова Д.Б.¹, Мансурова Ш.Ш.², Ануарбекова А.А.³

¹магистр, преподаватель Базовой кафедры международных отношений, КазУМОиМЯ им. Абылайхана, Алматы, Казахстан, e-mail:diddy1606@mail.ru,

² магистр, преподаватель Базовой кафедры международных отношений,
КазУМОиМЯ им. Абылайхана, Алматы, Казахстан,
e-mail: shakhniza.mansurova@mail.ru,

³ магистр, преподаватель Базовой кафедры международных отношений,
КазУМОиМЯ им. Абылайхана, Алматы, Казахстан,
e-mail: airi-noir@ya.ru

Аннотация. Развитие отношений и сотрудничества с африканским континентом является одним из основных принципов многомерной внешней политики Турции. В статье рассматривается всеобъемлющая стратегия Турции в отношении Африки с точки зрения приоритетов и географического охвата. Турция и Африка договорились осуществлять совместные проекты в разных сферах наряду с пятилетней программой «Совместный план осуществления на 2015 - 2019 годы». В данном направлении осуществляются проекты, разработанные в соответствии с приоритетами африканских стран в таких областях, как торговля и инвестиции, мир и безопасность, образование и культура, расширение прав и возможностей молодежи и передача технологий, сельское хозяйство, энергетика и транспорт. Эта статья также предоставляет прекрасную возможность подчеркнуть растущий социально-экономический динамизм сотрудничества между Африкой и Турцией на основе принципа беспроигрышной победы. Кроме того, статья демонстрирует формирующуюся роль Африки как динамичного игрока в глобальной деловой среде. Выбор этой темы свидетельствует о приверженности Африканского союза афро-турецкому сотрудничеству в формировании экономически прогрессивного будущего для народов Африки и Турции. Кроме того, в документе анализируются и обсуждаются основные экономические, политические и стратегические мотивы, а также некоторые представления и текущие проблемы, с которыми сталкивается данный стратегический план.

Ключевые слова: внешняя политика, международное сотрудничество, масштабные планы, цели сотрудничества, вопросы взаимодействия, долгосрочные отношения, исторические подходы, Турция

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