

Turkey and what to expect in 2015

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Hanan Tokay

After a year of intense political and economic developments, Turkey stands at a crossroads. The country's political landscape is characterized by a complex interplay of power, with the military and the judiciary playing significant roles. The economic situation is also volatile, with inflation and currency fluctuations posing challenges. Looking ahead to 2015, several key factors will shape Turkey's trajectory. The political arena is expected to be highly contentious, with various factions vying for influence. The military's role remains a critical point of contention, and the judiciary's independence is under scrutiny. Economically, the government faces the task of stabilizing the economy and addressing the needs of its citizens. The international environment is also dynamic, with Turkey's relations with its neighbors and major powers being a focus of attention. The year 2015 is likely to be a period of significant change and uncertainty for Turkey.

Voice of the People

Learning through mistakes

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

The world is full of lessons, and the most valuable ones are often learned through our own mistakes. History is a vast repository of human experience, and it is our duty to learn from the successes and failures of others. In the context of Turkey, the legacy of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is a source of inspiration and guidance. His vision of a modern, secular, and democratic Turkey has shaped the nation's identity. As we move forward, it is essential to embrace the values of Atatürk and to learn from the mistakes of the past. The challenges we face today are not insurmountable, and with the right leadership and the participation of the people, we can build a better future for our country. The path ahead may be difficult, but it is a path that leads to progress and prosperity.

Muslims are not terrorists

Takir Iqbal Azeem

The world is often divided into two camps: the 'good' and the 'evil'. However, this is a simplistic view of a complex world. Muslims, as a diverse and ancient civilization, have contributed immensely to the world's culture, science, and art. The label of 'terrorist' is often applied to Muslims, but this is a gross generalization. Most Muslims are peaceful and law-abiding citizens who follow the teachings of their faith. The actions of a few extremists do not represent the entire Muslim community. It is important to distinguish between the actions of individuals and the beliefs of a religion. Muslims are not terrorists, and they should not be treated as such. We must promote understanding and tolerance between different cultures and religions to build a peaceful and harmonious world.

A plea to CM

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

A plea to the Chief Minister of the Government of Punjab, Mr. Shehbaz Sharif, regarding the issue of the National Assembly. The National Assembly is a vital institution in our democracy, and it is essential that it functions effectively. There are several concerns regarding the current state of the National Assembly, and it is hoped that the Chief Minister will take prompt action to address these concerns. The issues include the independence of the judiciary, the role of the military, and the protection of civil liberties. It is the duty of the government to ensure that the National Assembly is able to perform its functions without any undue influence or interference. We urge the Chief Minister to take the necessary steps to restore the integrity and effectiveness of the National Assembly.

View From Abroad

Europe is becoming a no God zone

Cristina Odrea

In the heart of Europe, there is a growing sense of despair and hopelessness. The continent, once a beacon of civilization and progress, is now becoming a 'no God zone'. The traditional values and beliefs that have shaped European culture are being eroded by a new, secular, and materialistic ideology. This is leading to a loss of identity and a sense of purposelessness. The people of Europe are feeling alienated and disconnected from their own history and heritage. The political system is also in a state of crisis, with corruption and inefficiency undermining the trust of the citizens. It is time to re-evaluate the values and beliefs that have made Europe a great civilization. We must find a way to reconnect with our roots and to build a society that is based on respect, dignity, and shared values. Only then can Europe truly be a place where people can thrive and flourish.

Good enough to vote..!

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

If you are good enough to vote, you are good enough to be elected. This is a simple but powerful principle that should guide our political process. The people are the source of power, and it is their right to elect their representatives. However, it is also the responsibility of those elected to serve the people and to act in their best interests. We must ensure that the political process is fair and transparent, and that the voices of all citizens are heard. It is not enough to simply stand for election; we must also be good enough to serve. We must be committed to the welfare of our country and to the well-being of our people. Only then can we truly be good enough to vote.

Traumatic December 16

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

The 16th of December is a day of deep sorrow and reflection for the people of Turkey. It is a day that marks a significant event in the country's history, one that has shaped the national identity and the course of the nation. The events of that day were traumatic and painful, but they also led to a period of national unity and a renewed sense of purpose. It is important to remember the lessons of that day and to strive for a better future. The challenges we face today are a result of the actions of the past, and it is our duty to learn from those actions and to build a more just and equitable society. We must not let the memory of that day fade, and we must not let the sacrifices of those who came before us go in vain. We must continue to fight for the values and principles that we hold dear, and we must work together to create a brighter future for our country.

USAID is a necessary evil

Hafsa Kazi

US Aid is a necessary evil in the current global context. While it provides much-needed financial support to developing countries, it also comes with strings attached. The conditions attached to the aid often undermine the sovereignty and self-determination of the recipient countries. The aid is used to promote the interests of the United States and to advance its foreign policy objectives. This is a form of neo-colonialism, and it is a violation of the principles of international law. We must demand that the United States end its policy of conditional aid and that it respect the rights and interests of all nations. We must also explore alternative sources of funding and support for developing countries, so that they can develop on their own terms and without the interference of external powers.

HR under banking sector

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

Human Rights are a fundamental part of our civilization, and they are essential for the development and progress of our society. The banking sector, which is a key part of our economy, has a responsibility to ensure that it operates in a fair and ethical manner. It must respect the rights and interests of its customers and must not engage in practices that are harmful or exploitative. The banking sector must also be held accountable for its actions, and it must be subject to the same laws and regulations as other parts of the economy. We must ensure that the banking sector is transparent and that its operations are subject to public scrutiny. Only then can we ensure that the banking sector is truly serving the interests of the people and that it is contributing to the well-being of our society.

Innocent lives

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

Innocent lives are being lost every day, and it is a tragedy that we must not ignore. The world is full of suffering and pain, and it is our duty to help those who are in need. We must not let the innocent victims of violence and oppression go unheard and unaided. We must stand up for their rights and demand that their lives be valued and protected. We must work together to end the cycle of violence and to build a world where everyone can live in peace and dignity. We must not let the innocent lives of children, women, and the elderly be sacrificed to the interests of a few powerful men. We must ensure that every life is valued and that every person has the right to a better future.

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As the world enters a new year, new developments also await the turbulent Middle East. In this new year, new foreign policy initiatives await Turkey, which has been following a stable course over the past three years.

One can examine these expected developments in various spheres. First of all, we may say that we are facing a Turkey whose relations with the European Union in particular are becoming increasingly tense. This is no longer a secret; in 2014, the respective national interests of the EU and Turkey became prominent and ran up against one another in a number of areas that had an impact on the other side. For example, the EU expected Turkey to react more strongly to Russia's attitude toward the domestic turmoil in Ukraine and to its seizure of Crimea than it did. Turkey not only did not take part in sanctions against Russia, but also decided to improve trade relations even further. This had a negative impact on the EU, and in terms of diplomatic relations, we have entered one of the most stagnant periods of the last 50 years. Looking at the same issue from Turkey's point of view, it is easy to see that Turkey made a difficult choice and had to protect the interests of its own citizens before others. While Turkey had no close relations with the Arab world before the AK

Party came to power, it had increasingly improved relations with Northern African countries up until the Arab Spring and based many commercial equations on relations with these countries and their peoples. Although it managed to maintain domestic calm in the political sense during the Arab Spring, it is still impossible to say that it emerged scot-free from this process. If neighbors with whom you enjoy close relations are changing regimes one after the other, overthrowing their leaders and are preoccupied with civil war, uprisings and protests, then you need to look for alternative havens in order to protect your economy, especially if you share a border with two of those countries and have undertaken the responsibility of looking after two million refugees, then you are obliged to protect the lives of your own people and those of your neighbors.

It was under those conditions that Turkey decided to step up its trade relations with Russia. Trade with the EU is not sufficiently profitable for Turkey because of the provisions of the Customs Union. That being the case, Turkey must not risk its relations with Russia and the Turkic republics whether that pleases our ally the West or not. We see that Turkey will continue to implement that decision in 2015 as well. Being a member of NATO, Turkey will not join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization: Neither the nature of the Turkish people nor Turkey's international agreements make that possible. However, in terms of bilateral relations and trade, if the EU does not invite Turkey to sit down to the Transatlantic Free Trade Agreement negotiating table, its allies will see Turkey entering into warmer and closer relations with other states.

One of the neighbors with which Turkey will enjoy a different convergence in 2015 is Greece. Following Russia's decision to link the natural gas distributed in Europe to Greece over Turkey instead of Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey working together on this huge project has become a current issue. Besides this, Greece who has received massive amounts of rescue funding since 2010 will, of course, pay the price for that in the long term and it appears that its loneliness in the financial world will continue. It seems unlikely that there will be much demand for Greek bonds from major investors over the next decade or so. That means that, even if it persists on carrying out its policies regarding Cyprus that are against our policies, Greece will be obliged to draw closer to Turkey due to its healthy economy. As it is known, Prime Minister Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu paid an official visit to Greece at the beginning of December and carried out important meetings on a number of subjects: Goods from Turkish industry are a reasonable option for the moribund Greek economy, which needs to be revived, because they comply with delivery dates in a disciplined manner compatible with European standards and are cheaper, yet of far better quality than the products of Far East industry.

The general assessment we can make regarding the course Turkish relations will take in 2015 is that Turkey will look favorably on better relations with all countries, irrespective of what pact or union they may belong to. With our new Prime Minister, Ahmet Davutoğlu, being a foreign policy expert himself, it appears that it will become even smoother to building new and constructive links in terms of international relations.

Adnan Oktar's piece on Pakistan Observer:

<http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201501/17/comments-2.php>

<https://www.harunyahya.info/en/articles/turkey-and-what-to-expect-in-2015>