

The Syria Breakdown, Episode Three: Turkey Turns an Enemy into an Ally

by [Soner Cagaptay \(/experts/soner-cagaptay\)](#)

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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Soner Cagaptay is the Beyer Family Senior Fellow and director of the Turkish Research Program at The Washington Institute.



Articles & Testimony

Part of a series: [The Syria Breakdown \(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/series/syria-breakdown\)](https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/series/syria-breakdown)

In this episode of the Institute's Syria Breakdown series, Turkey analyst Soner Cagaptay traces the revolutionary transformation of Ankara's relationship with Damascus from heated enemies to the closest of allies.

Beyer Family Fellow Soner Cagaptay, the head of the Institute's [Turkish Research Program \(/node/15961\)](#), describes the role that Turkey has played in supporting Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the Syrian rebel group that spearheaded the downfall of the Assad regime. He traces the "revolution" of Turkey's relationship with Syria Ankara's "most hostile and problematic neighbor" to its closest ally in the region. The video was produced on January 13, 2025. ❖

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