

# Turkey's Complicated Relationship with the Middle East, Explained by One Word

by [Soner Cagaptay \(/experts/soner-cagaptay/\)](/experts/soner-cagaptay/), [Nick Danforth \(/experts/nick-danforth/\)](/experts/nick-danforth/)

Sep 2, 2017

Also available in

[العربية \(/ar/policy-analysis/laqt-trkya-almqdt-m-alshrq-alawst-mwdwht-bklmt-wahdt/\)](/ar/policy-analysis/laqt-trkya-almqdt-m-alshrq-alawst-mwdwht-bklmt-wahdt/)

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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

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

[Nick Danforth \(/experts/nick-danforth/\)](/experts/nick-danforth/)

Nick Danforth is a senior policy analyst at the Bipartisan Policy Center.



Articles & Testimony

## The Eid holiday highlights Turkey's almost complete lack of allies in the Middle East.

**T**his weekend is Eid al-Adha, the Muslim holiday that marks the end of the hajj pilgrimage season. To nearly all Muslims, it's known simply as Eid. But to Turks and their kin in other nations, it's called Bayram. The dividing line between the two names offers unexpected insight into how Turkey's bid for influence in the Muslim world has played out: between one region where it has successfully built on cultural ties to expand its soft power -- and another, the Middle East, where it has tried and failed to expand its hard power...

**[Read the full article on the Washington Post website.](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/09/02/turkeys-complicated-relationship-with-the-middle-east-explained-by-one-word/)**

**[\(https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/09/02/turkeys-complicated-relationship-with-the-middle-east-explained-by-one-word/\)](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/09/02/turkeys-complicated-relationship-with-the-middle-east-explained-by-one-word/)** ❖

*Washington Post*

## RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

## Bennett's Bahrain Visit Further Invigorates Israel-Gulf Diplomacy

Feb 14, 2022



Simon Henderson

(/policy-analysis/bennetts-bahrain-visit-further-invigorates-israel-gulf-diplomacy)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

## Libya's Renewed Legitimacy Crisis

Feb 14, 2022



Ben Fishman

(/policy-analysis/libyas-renewed-legitimacy-crisis)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

## The UAE Formally Ceases to be a Tax-Free Haven

Feb 14, 2022



Sana Quadri,  
Hamdullah Baycar

(/policy-analysis/uae-formally-ceases-be-tax-free-haven)

### TOPICS

Arab & Islamic Politics (/policy-analysis/arab-islamic-politics)

### REGIONS & COUNTRIES

Turkey (/policy-analysis/turkey)

