

# Turkey's Ties to the West Are in Deep Trouble

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

Apr 14, 2017

## 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.



Articles & Testimony

---

**As Europe and the United States await the fallout from the April 16 referendum to gauge the future of an important partner, they must also recognize some sad realities about the state of Turkish politics and society.**

**S**peaking at a rally in Istanbul on March 26, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan further escalated his ongoing fight with Europe: "Have you [Europeans] not burned and destroyed my mosques? You are fascists, fascists!" Erdogan's creation of alt-facts, wholesale targeting of all Europeans as "fascists," and bare knuckles fight with European countries initially appear as part of his strategy to mobilize the right-wing voters in Turkey ahead of the April 16 constitutional referendum. If Erdogan wins this referendum, he will become an all-powerful president with control over three branches of government. But I think there is something deeper to Erdogan's anti-European animus. Beyond electoral politics, his incendiary anti-European rhetoric indicates a new phenomenon in Turkey, in which the West has become the enemy...

**[Read the full article on the Cipher Brief website. \(https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column/strategic-view/turkeys-ties-west-are-deep-trouble-1093\)](https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column/strategic-view/turkeys-ties-west-are-deep-trouble-1093)** ❖

*Cipher Brief*

---

## 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)

Democracy & Reform (/policy-analysis/democracy-reform)

### REGIONS & COUNTRIES

Turkey (/policy-analysis/turkey)

