

Turkey Seeks to Lock In Long-Term Security

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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Articles & Testimony

Two years ago, I argued [in a Post op-ed \(http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/obama-erdogan-find-shared-interests\)](http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/obama-erdogan-find-shared-interests) that Turkey was pivoting toward the United States. This policy has not ushered in what Ankara wanted: American firepower to oust the Assad regime in Syria. And feeling alone, Turkey has started to seek other allies, including Beijing.

When the Justice and Development Party (AKP) came to power in 2002, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and other Turkish officials toyed with the idea of being a stand-alone actor in the Middle East. By 2011, they had realized that the Arab Spring would create long-term instability in their neighborhood and would position Iran against Turkey in Syria. Turkey adeptly pivoted toward the United States. The two nations worked with other countries to oust Moammar Gaddafi in Libya that year and, early on, coordinated policies against the Assad regime...

[Read the full article on the Washington Post website. \(http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/turkey-seeks-to-lock-in-long-term-security/2013/11/08/5f713ede-4713-11e3-bf0c-cebf37c6f484_story.html?tid=hpModule_6c539b02-b270-11e2-bbf2-a6f9e9d79e19\)](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/turkey-seeks-to-lock-in-long-term-security/2013/11/08/5f713ede-4713-11e3-bf0c-cebf37c6f484_story.html?tid=hpModule_6c539b02-b270-11e2-bbf2-a6f9e9d79e19) ❖

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