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Recep Tayyip Erdogan

A Case Study of Turkey’s Economic and Democratic Development

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ABSTRACT

This article has examined Turkey’s economic and democratic development considering the general contributions of the political parties. Turkey is doing well because previously Erdogan served as a Prime minister for the country from 2003 to the year 2014 and also served as a Mayor of Istanbul for five years i.e. 1994 to 1998. When it comes to numbers related to the economy the score of economic freedom is nearly 64.4, making the economy of the country the 71st freest in the index of the year 2020. This is also critically analyzing through defining the industries supported and benefited by that particular policy leading to economic development for trade that ultimately has a positive and significant impact on the entire economic conditions of a country. In politics and administration of the country, the decision and policymaking is most important factor, therefore through this article certain policies are discussed. The qualitative method and analytical approach are used in this study.

Keywords: *Economy, Democracy, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Administration, Policies.*

Introduction

The considered problem statement emerges from the different school of thoughts, which have considered and highly scandalized the era of Recep Tayyip Erdogan, as

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an autocratic leader. Though despite these issues and the image, the growth measured in Turkey was great and made Turkey recognized to be a developed country under OECD and similar platforms. This provides a direct rejection on the claimed accusations for the Autocratic role, being opposed towards democratic forces. Currently, Turkey is recognized in the world as the 17th largest country in the world according to its GDP production capacity. Further, the country is one of the oldest countries of the world with being the founding members of the OECD 1961 and the G-20 Major economies (1999) of the globe. According to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA); Turkey is classified as a developed country, with the description of the newly industrialized economy. According to the labor force participation and the World Bank Reports; Turkey's man hour rate is \$ 10.02, and participation rate of 56.1%. Further, according to the Forbes in 2013, Turkey's capital of Istanbul; had a record 37 Billionaires and more than 5000 individuals with net worth of more than a million dollars (Jenkins and Hossain, 2017).

Described that it has been called by the major politicians throughout the world, that the position of the Turkey as a growing country is due to the economic and the democratic change provided by the now President of Turkey; Recep Tayyip Erdogan (Erdogan). Erdogan is the presidential seat since 2014 who previously serving as the Prime Minister, and the mayor of the country. This proposal will consider the era of Erdogan for the Turkey's economic and the democratic environment and the policies being considered to ensure the country's positive future (Gardner, 2016).

Highlighted the term period of Erdogan had the start from 1994, when he came forward as the mayor for Istanbul, later being persecuted and became the prime minister of the country, and in 2014 being elected as the president of the country. The ruling of the Erdogan from the Turkey people being considered was taken as an Autocratic style, in which many different political parties were negated on some activities to be considered. Though, despite the controversies and the general negative aura behind the Erdogan are ruling. The position of the country only improved in his era, this was taken with increased direct foreign investments, high levels of reserves being available, increased cooperation with Japan, the increased stock price and the levels of boom for the organizations, being renamed as a developed country, and the debt levels being reduced. This was a direct contradiction to the democratic element, as the style is followed by Erdogan was criticized by many democrats and political leaders; but it was successful. This research will focus on the exact political, economic, and democratic factors and policies being considered by Erdogan in his careers during all three stages, and the set aims and objectives will be justified (Akkoc 2015).

Objectives

1. To explore Erdogan occupied 3 places in his eras; the position of the Mayor, then Prime Minister, and the President; what are some of the developments taken by Erdogan being different from his predecessors.
2. To analyze and assess the economic and democratic developments of Turkey that occurred during Erdogan's periods.

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Significance of the Study

1. The evaluation of Turkey's economic and democratic development is beneficial for the governmental bodies as well as the policy makers of the nation.
2. The questions considered for the research proposal base and evaluate the tenure of Erdogan in considerate to the economic and democratic conditions of Turkey which can offer a clear and detailed insights within this domain.
3. It can benefit in terms of contributing towards the body of literature of the existing literature. Further, the research will emulate and inform on the exact challenges being faced by Erdogan 1994 to 1997 as a mayoral stabilizing the economy and improving the conditions of the Turkish people, hence providing literature for the future researchers and users.
4. The findings of the study will be significant for the future researchers as well, and they and they can use these findings of their future research purposes. Therefore, its significance is increased to undertake and likewise the results of the study must have the above-mentioned theoretical and practical significances. The country is ranked 36th amongst all 45 countries of the region of Europe and its entire score is much below the regional average slightly greater to the average of the entire world.

Research Questions

1. What are some of the steps taken by Erdogan in the direction of the economy as well as the democratic development of the region?
2. What are some policies designed by Erdogan to improve economic and democratic development?

Research Methodology

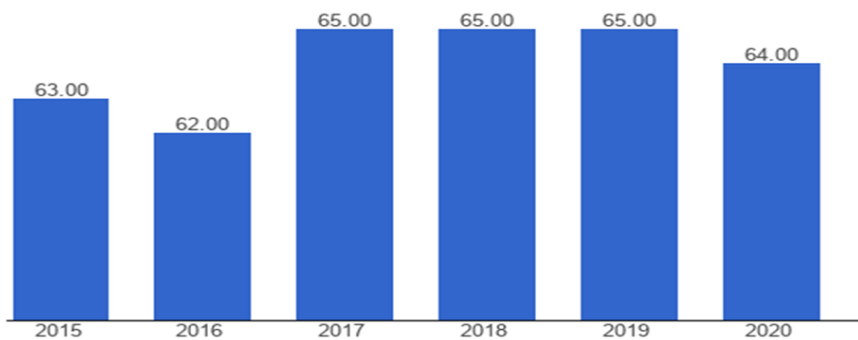
This study has presented under the framework of qualitative research design. Qualitative methods will be used to analyze the case study of Turkey's economic and democratic development and the role of Erdogan in bringing economic change. The researcher has collected data from secondary sources available on the official figures and explanations being provided by the Turkish departments, and other third-party reports from organizations and researchers; such as the World Bank. The analytically approach is how the researcher gathers, analyzes, and interprets the knowledge in the report (Creswell, 2009). Secondary review is a structured method with methodological and evaluative phases, although there is a shortage of literature to describe a particular process. Available data for the economic circumstances have available from the OECD, World Bank, other economists, and similar resource. The research has considered the data which focus on the course of the economic conditions throughout the term period of Mr. Erdogan. This study has considered the policies being provided by Erdogan against economic conditions, analyzing the effects of these policies on economic factors has provided in the literary section above. The research has further considered every move being taken by Erdogan in his political and his state role, with repercussions and advances being noted on the

factors; creating a chart on the changes being observed with every move, with the critics and economists review on the policies, and the exact turnout of the events. This has analyzed the exact movements of the different forces of the economic and democratic forces after the decisions being taken, providing a critical analysis of the policies and the considerations being taken by the autocratic leader, Erdogan.

Economic Development

Erdogan played as the mayor of Istanbul from 1994, then being voted as the prime minister, and taking the presidency position lately after. During the 2009 era, the share prices of the stock market doubled, with high expected growth rates for the country in the near future. The BIST (Borsa Istanbul) 100 index, recorded the highest growth of 95,732 points. Though, the current era in 2018 and the 2019 are under pressures; due to the foreign American controversies. This was against the world expectations, as the 2017 OECD expected Turkey to impress with one of the fastest growing economies between the OECD. Further, the Moody's Investor service also limited the growth of the country with the projected growth at 2.5%, and the economy growth to 2% from 3.5% (Meschi, Taymaz, and Vivarelli, 2021).

Fig. 1. Turkey Economic freedom, overall index - data, chart



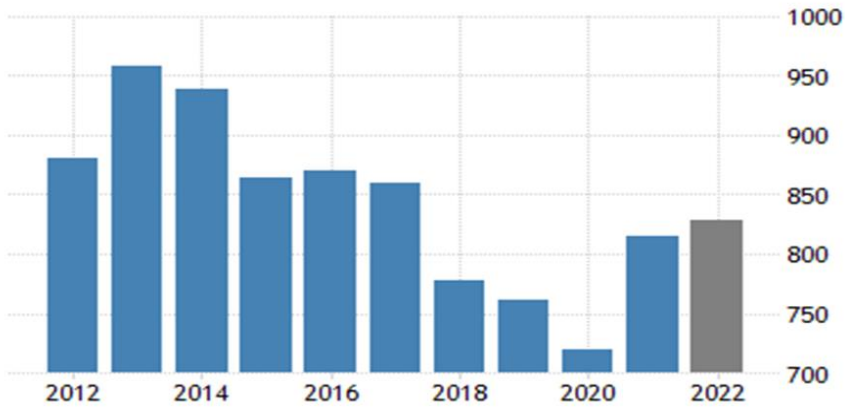
Source: *TheGlobalEconomy.com*

The economic factors are those forces in the environment, which proves a direct guidance to assess the competitiveness of a country or any other entity. The main economic factors are the conditions of the economy, the per capita income, financial health, job environment including the unemployment levels, and etc. One of the main ways in which to assess any country's economic position is the considered of the GDP of the country, which provides the total production of the economy in considering or opposition to the imports (Carañana, Peris-Ortiz, and Rueda-Armengot, 2018).

The economic factors base on many factors, including the unemployment levels, inflation rates, fiscal and governmental policies, and the tax system, the earning capacity of the residents or the population and their spending power (Kendirli, Cankaya, and Cagatay, 2017).

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Fig. 2. Turkey GDP Data 2012 - 2020 Forecast - 2022



Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/turkey/gdp>

Turkey under the regime of Erdogan is focused on the development, rather than the saving stage of the economy. This can be taken with the running of the huge current account deficits with January figures to around \$ 7.1 Billion in 2018, with a further rolling 12 months figure in excess of \$ 51 Billion. It is pointed out the country is under the debt with the figures of \$ 200 Billion approximately every year to fund its current account deficit and the maturing debts, creating problems for the country with \$ 85 Billion in current reserves (Balasubramanyam and Togan 2016). In addition to the above information that this was further taken by European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), which released an economic outlook that the Turkey's economy will recover by 2020 to around 2.5% growth to the current figures being available (Maltsoğlu, Rincon, Kojakovic, and Puri, 2020).

Democratic Development

Recep Tayab Erdogan by focusing the four years i.e. 1994 to 1997. It demonstrated all the major steps, changes in comparison to other leaders taken by the leader for the betterment of the country. Democracy as a government system which considers the employment of the government actors from the citizens, and the citizens vote and nominate their own ruling class for a usual period for 5 years; this can change with the regulations of the country. The ruling members form the government and provide occupancy for all the available government seats and positions for their term. Turkey is a democratic country, with a history of reputation due to different classes (Landau and Heper 2016).

In 2002, Justice and Development Party won the election and Tayyip Erdogan came in power in Turkey, the international community had hoped for progress towards democracy in the predominantly Muslim country. Minority Rights and Economic Reform After 9/11, Erdogan had big challenge in his country regarding economy and strategic position of Turkey. EU and the US are trying to bring countries closer to the transatlantic crisis, mimicking their experience after the Arab Spring uprisings. These include negotiations and the US bid in October 2005 to join the European Union. President Barack Obama will build a "model partnership" despite

past promises of reform. Turkish politics is becoming authoritarian and dysfunctional. This policy document addresses the weaknesses of Turkey's democratic institutions. Both internal and external factors support this economic downturn and the political and economic consequences of this negative trend. He also discusses how the transatlantic community should respond. Countries that came close to the Atlantic crisis included the US bid in October 2005 to join the European Union. US President Obama wanted to build a "model partnership" regardless of past promises of reform. Turkish politics is becoming dictatorial and dysfunctional. Economic downturn and consequences of negative trend, both factors i.e internal and external, supported the new new government.

There are many factors, which affect the democracy of the country; among them are wealth, social equality, culture, social capital, education, urbanization, foreign trade and intervention, peace and security, and etc. Furthermore, it is indicated that the take on the democratic factors, according to some other literalists on democracy, led to the inclusion of the nationalization under democracy, and pro-nationalization led regarded as democratic consideration. Though, opposing forces have a wider view with democratic behavior as upholding the law of the country (Kendirli et al. 2017).

The government policies under Erdogan was in place, and in check with high growth foreseeing; though the fell came under the Dollar-Lira impact in 2018; which was provided by Mr. Donald Trump; indicating that the Steel and Aluminum of Turkey will be heavily taxed. This resulted in the Turkey losing its value by 17% in 2018, and the resulting loss of 40% value to the Dollar. Providing an overall stop to the growth is being recognized by the Erdogan in his era. The dollar impact had a pervasive effect on the Turkish Economy, creating for the first time; losses in the reputation of the Erdogan organization, and the impact on the relations with the United States and the Turkish Stock market and industrial markets. According to the Turkish Statistical Institute, the last quarter of the 2018 projected results of economy negating 2.6%, as compared to the last year (Varol and Li, 2017).

Democracy in Turkey and its Challenges

While it is difficult to pinpoint the exact date of the emergence of authoritarianism of Erdogan, the in May 2013 strict response to the protestors in Gezi Park by government, it was the crucial time for it. The Protests "which is the biggest protest in the history of Turkey," and it was began as a peaceful protest against urban planning for a park in Istanbul. Protests and their Strikes broke out rest of the Turkey in reaction to police action. And there is widespread concern about increased government interference in the lives of citizens. Amid cabinet disagreements over how to react, Erdoğan seized the opportunity to appeal to more liberal members of the AKP. This included then-President Abdullah Gul, who preferred the compromise approach to the protestors. After his presidency ended in August 2014, Erdogan refused to return to his party office, in October Erdogan contested by constitutional referendum, it was first direct Presidential election in Turkey. It sets a clear roadmap for the transition to a presidential system – replacing the old system of Congress electing the president.

Erdogan secured 52 percent vote in 2014 election held in 2014 and he believed that it is the will of Turkish people. As president, he was empowered to choose his prime minister and ex-foreign minister was selected as Prime Minister named Ahmet Davutoglu and also the interim head of the its party. The majority was lost of

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Erdoğan's party and continued resistance to political reforms, his desire to maintain a coalition government he replaced him with Binali Yıldırım, who believed he represented the will after winning a loyal vote to facilitate constitutional change.

Another crucial point was to snub power of president and *coup* was attempted in July 2016, it was the blamed by government of Turkey to Fethullah Gulen, a religious and spiritual leader and its associates who are government official and a big number of civilian, when the AKP was elected to rid the state and the army of the Kemalists and secularism, Gulen teamed up with Erdoğan. It is the "deep state" that supports their claims.

In 2011, after a successful concerted effort to limit bureaucratic opposition to the Islamist agenda, Erdoğan and Gulen begin a power struggle. Gulenist Prep School Downs (used for fundraising and recruitment); Police and prosecutors have launched a corruption investigation involving Gulenists, ministers and relatives of Erdoğan. The government shut down Gulen newspapers and television stations, handling the business of Gulen followers. and wiped out hundreds of government officials These reciprocal measures undermine civil society. Even with growing anger against the Erdogan regime, all political parties and most civil society in Turkey rejected the coup as an attack on Turkish democracy. "God Gifted" and use the new emergency powers to crush the remaining resistance.

On April 16, 2017, The *de facto* presidential government of Erdogan started, when in constitutional referendum was held and Turkish citizen voted for change, the political system from parliamentary to presidential. These reforms removed the premiership and allowed the president to serve as party leader. They gave the president new powers. This includes the right to issue a proclamation. He proposed a national budget. Appoints ministers and senior officials without a vote of no confidence in parliament. and appointed more than half of the members of the Supreme Court Experts of the Venice Commission and elsewhere expressed concern about inadequate checks and balances. There is too much power concentrated in an organization, limited parliamentary control and weakening judicial independence. Erdogan won the election in July 2018 and became the first head of the new government. As a result, in the early days of the AKP regime, there was a mixture of majoritarian beliefs, Islam, and intolerant Turkish nationalism. A deep dichotomy between supporters and opponents allows the liberal political agenda to continue.

Free and fair elections have been held in Turkey since the 1950s, but questions have been raised about how the last elections were conducted. Ahead of general elections in June and November 2015, Erdogan ignored constitutional provisions banning the incumbent president from party activities. The opposition complained of limited access to state media. The issue predates the referendum in April 2017, when the government used state resources, causing the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to say that "the line between state and party has been blurred".

Turkey's Supreme Electoral Council (YSK) has significantly reinterpreted Turkey's election laws to ensure that unstamped ballots are considered valid unless proven fraudulent. The strong result of the referendum (51 percent in favor of changing the constitution and 49 percent against the proposed changes) led to accusations that the decision allowed ballot boxes to be stuffed. Ahead of the presidential and

parliamentary elections in June 2018, the Electoral Act was amended to include the YSK system and replace the ballot boxes. Early elections were held under an emergency government, which limited the ability of opposition parties to campaign and mobilize without restraint.

Conclusion

In the end, this research article extensively and critically has measured two areas of environment under the era of Erdogan, from 1990's to the current era, providing in depth analysis of all the 3 positions being held by the autocratic and controversial ruler of the Turkey. There have been many instances and areas of the Erdogan, which involves jail time, money laundering, and corruption scandals for the leader, though one of the main areas still negating other areas, is the golden era of Erdogan and his constant theatrics and problem solving antics, which have seen him escape from different coups for over throw, and other domestic and international pressures from different lobbies throughout the world. This created the best position for Turkey for its growth and other areas of economy, creating value for the residents and chartering high following for Erdogan.

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