

Republic of Turkey



Türkiye Cumhuriyeti

—GENERAL INFORMATION—

GEOGRAPHY &

DEMOGRAPHICS SUMMARY



Capital is Ankara

- Located partly in **Europe** and partly in **Asia**, bordering Greece, Bulgaria, Syria, Georgia, Armenia, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Iraq.
- Member of OSCE, BSEC, COE, and Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
- While Turkey's Government doesn't distinguish any ethnic group legally, **80%** of the total population identifies as **Turkish**, while **15-20%** identifies as **Kurdish** (largest ethnic minority in Turkey).
- 90% of Turkians are **Muslim** (predominantly Sunni with a small percentage of Shi' ai). Yet, the nation prides itself on its secularism and has **no official state religion**. As such, they tolerate religious groups like Christians and Jews in small numbers.

HISTORY SUMMARY

- Turkey was founded in **1923** following the collapse of the **Ottoman Empire** (post WWI).
- It was controlled by a **single party** under its founder **Mustafa Kemal** until 1938 and his successor until the 1950s, when it **became a multi-party democracy**
- The Democratic Party lead by Celâl Bayar stayed in power for the entirety of the 1950s
- **US military aid** to Turkey began in 1947, and economic aid began in 1948, when the Turks sought out assistance in **fighting off Soviet aggression** and land claims surrounding the Black Sea. In 1952, Turkey became a member of **NATO** and thus an integral part of preventing Soviet expansion.



HISTORY SUMMARY 2



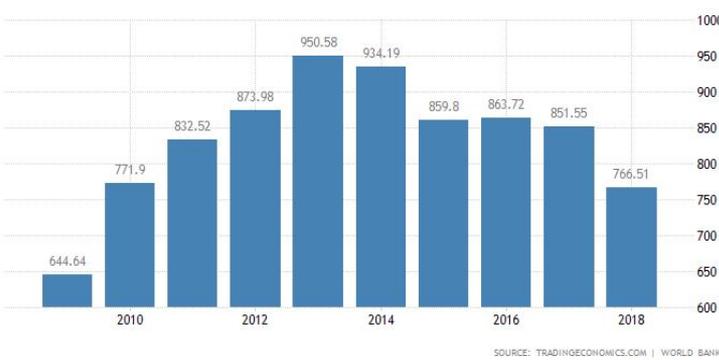
- With a declining economy, Turkey's multi-party system came to an abrupt halt in 1960 when a **Military Coup d'Etat** took place. Military officers feared the Democratic Party (DP) wasn't upholding secularist, progressive ideas. A bloodless coup took place on May 27 where Democratic leaders were imprisoned
- In 1960, the **National Unity Committee** was formed with the goal of destroying the DP and preparing a new constitution. In 1961, a **new constitution** was **approved** by referendum that established a **two-chamber parliament**.
- In **1980**, there was once again a **military coup** (the 3rd military intervention in 20 years). This led to a **new 1982 constitution** modeled after the French constitution of 1956, which included the **liberalisation of the Turkish economy**.

HISTORY SUMMARY 3

- In 1978, the Kurds (ethnic minority) established the Kurdistan Workers' Party. The **Kurds** demand **greater political and social rights** within the country. Turkey has thus had a tumultuous relationship with the Kurds, and beginning in 1984 **frequent armed combat** occurs between the two groups.
- In 2005, Turkey began **talks with the European Union (EU)** to start negotiating a potential entrance to the EU as a member state. However, the **EU ended these talks in 2019**.
- On July 15, 2016, there was an **unsuccessful coup attempt** in Turkey. This has led to a recent government attack on dissent in the country.
- In 2019, Turkey has invaded Kurdish controlled regions of Syria further increasing aggression against the ethnic group.

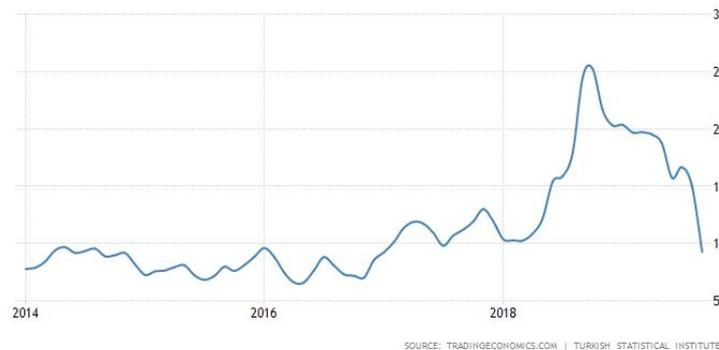


ECONOMY SUMMARY



NOMINAL GDP OVER TIME

INFLATION RATE



- The Turkish economy is in a **sorry state**.
- **GDP has actually decreased** in recent years despite a 14.01% average annual inflation rate.
- **Unemployment has increased** to around 13%, while the prices of goods has also risen.
- This is because of **Turkey's currency crisis**. For a long time now, Turkey has had a high current-account deficit and higher interest rates than most western nations, encouraging many businesses to invest in the Turkish government's infrastructure projects. Recently, however, the U.S. and others have raised interest rates above 2%, meaning that investors often wish to pull out of Turkey and sell Turkish lira in exchange for euros, pounds, or dollars. As a result, without any government intervention, **the lira is devalued**. This normally happens all the time, but recently, it has been happening at significantly disproportionate rates.

- Rapid **monetary devaluation** and massive **inflation**
- **Potential genocide** against **Kurdish** people
- Erdogan's **imperial presidency**
- **EU accession** and **migration crises** due to border with Syria
- Islamicism or **secularism**?

NATIONWIDE ISSUES



— OTHER RESOURCES —



TURKEY GEOPOLITICS



NO
COMMISSION

ALIS - BUYING

USD 6085

EUR 7025

GBP

The
Guardian

- General:

- [CIA World Factbook](#)
- [BBC Country Profile](#)

- Economics:

- [Observation of Economic Complexity \(OEC\)](#)

- Health & Humanitarian:

- [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Country Profile](#)
- [UN FAO Country Profile](#)

- Diplomatic Relations:

- [Council on Foreign Relations \(CFR\) Overview](#)
- [U.S. State Department's Official Stance on U.S.-Turkish Relations](#)

—TURKEY & THE PMUNC TOPICS—

Click on your committee's name for research ideas!

[DISEC](#)

[SPECPOL](#)

[SOCHUM](#)

[WHO](#)

[ECOFIN](#)

[ITU](#)

DISEC - Anti-Nuclear Proliferation & Small Arms and Light Weapons

Topic A:

Turkey seeks to obtain nuclear weapons of its own, so it won't support measures that would eliminate that possibility. However, as it would be internationally unacceptable to do otherwise, they state that they are against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Thus, an argument could be found in the basis of national sovereignty.

Topic B:

Turkey is concerned about the proliferation of small arms and light weapons by those it views as terrorists such as the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG). It has supported initiatives such as UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW to end the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons.

SOCHUM - Foreign ISIS Fighters Detained in Syria & Detention of Uighur Muslims in China

Turkey seeks to create a 20 mile “safe zone” on the Syrian-Turkish border. It views the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG) as an extension of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), a terrorist organization. Turkish advances into Syria as part of Operation Peace Spring may have contributed to the escape of some ISIS prisoners.

Despite Turkey’s initial silence surrounding the topic, it has condemned China’s treatment of Uighur Muslims, referring to it as “a great shame for humanity.” One reason Turkey may have been initially hesitant to speak out is its trade relations with China, from whom 11% of its imports (in terms of value) originate. In addition, Turkish-Chinese relations strengthened in 2018 following a failed coup attempt against President Erdogan.

ECOFIN - Global Food Insecurity & Restructuring Economic Aid to Indebted Countries

NO ONE ON THIS COMMITTEE AS OF NOW

SPECPOL - Kashmir Conflict & Palestinian Refugees

Turkey has urged India to hold talks with Pakistan on Kashmir's status and has largely been pro-Pakistani with its stance, with the parliamentary speaker saying that standing with Pakistan "is Turkey's duty."

Turkey recognizes Palestine as a state and supports a two state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. In this vein, Turkey has supported Palestine's bids at UN membership and had worked through the UN to aid Palestinian refugees. Turkey has advocated for the rehabilitation of Palestinian infrastructure in order to bring about peace.

WHO- Standards for Addressing Mental Health & Maternal Health Post-Labor

NO ONE ON THIS COMMITTEE AS OF NOW

UNHCR - Nigerian Boko Haram Refugee Crisis & Yemeni Civil War

NO ONE ON THIS COMMITTEE AS OF NOW

ITU - Cyber Security & Computer Science Education in Developing Nations

Topic A: Turkey has recently seen a serious uptick in the number of cyber attacks its experienced. In comparison to other middle eastern countries, Turkey is quite technologically and economically advanced yet its domestic attempts to secure itself have been futile. Thus, Turkey will likely be in favor of international cooperation and information sharing on this issue in order to gain knowledge and secure its interfaces.

Topic B: Turkey has found interest in developing computer science programs within the country. However, as a nation it faces certain challenges like an insufficient number of science and computer technology teachers that are taking part in the preparation of courses and programs for students, as well as large class sizes, lack of great school infrastructure, and minimal in-service teacher training. As a developing nation, Turkey will likely be in favor of pushing programs that partner external resources (NGOs, developed nation's resources) with national education programs.