### 2AC – AT: QPQ – No Leverage

#### NATO can’t afford to upset Turkey – they’re geostrategically important in the southern bloc and have Russia as an ally

Alkan 22 Abdulmelik Alkan (He is a doctoral researcher focusing on Foreign Policy Analysis, South Caucus, diaspora and ethnic minorities.), 6-28-2022, "A perspective on souring Turkey-NATO relationship," Politurco, <https://politurco.com/is-nato-willing-to-let-go-of-turkey-for-good.html>

Turkey will not leave NATO, but press for its interests — expert Head of the Russian International Affairs Council Andrey Kortunov noted that **without Turkey "NATO's southern flank will lose a lot, if not everything"** MOSCOW, May 30. /TASS/. Turkey will continue to pursue an independent military policy, but will refrain from "challenging" the United States or quitting the North Atlantic alliance, the head of the Russian International Affairs Council, Andrey Kortunov, told TASS on Monday. "Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, while being a full-fledged member of the North Atlantic Alliance, pursues an independent, externally unrestrained military policy. The way I see it, he will continue like this this further on," Kortunov said. Erdogan "firmly defends his interests, for he is well aware that Turkey will not be expelled from NATO, while he will not leave on his own," the analyst said. At the same time, Kortunov predicts Ankara’s conflicts with NATO. "There will be harsh statements and threats from both sides, but I don't think it will come to Turkey's withdrawal or expulsion from NATO. It would cost both sides too much." Turkey’s interests Without Turkey, Kortunov explained, "NATO's southern flank will lose a lot, if not everything," since the country is the bloc’s leading member and its armed forces are inferior only to those of the US. For this reason, he continued, the Turkish leadership will be pressing for concessions from the US and EU countries, "but it will never challenge them." Erdogan has a whole list of complaints against the United States, Kortunov recalled. For instance, Turkey wants the lifting sanctions related to its purchase of Russia’s S-400 air defense systems and its return to the US F-35 fighter program. "There is as great deal to bargain about. Clearly, Erdogan will not get everything, but he will be able to get something in the end," he believes. The expert also suggested that the Turkish side might be able to defend its interests on the issue of Finland and Sweden joining NATO. For one, the Turkish leadership wants these countries to curtail their traditional support for the Kurdish opposition. "I think they will eventually come to an agreement. Here, concessions are expected not only from Stockholm, but also from Brussels," Kortunov explained. While commenting on the Turkish leader's contacts with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the expert noted: "In the alliance, **no one would want Erdogan to play his own game with Moscow behind its back. But it be impossible to prevent it, so they will have to leave everything as it is."** The analyst stressed that Turkey had long had a very special relationship with the North Atlantic Alliance and declared certain interests that often do not coincide with the stance of other NATO members. The Turkish leadership, Kortunov forecasts, will continue to pursue a policy that, in a sense, might violate the unity of the bloc. "However, in this regard, Erdogan will go as far as he will be allowed to," he stressed. "He will be declaring his special interests in Libya or the Eastern Mediterranean, he will put himself in opposition to some European countries, or position himself as a global advocate of Islam, but I don't think he will go to extremes."

#### Turkey has leverage over the US, not the other way around. Turkey also doesn’t solely rely on the US b/c they have Russia and Iran.

Erlanger 22 Steven Erlanger (Steven Erlanger is the chief diplomatic correspondent in Europe for The New York Times, a position he assumed in 2017), 7-20-2022, "Seeking ‘Axis of Good’ Against U.S., Russia Taps Allies of Convenience," New York Times, https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/20/world/europe/russia-turkey-iran-axis.html

Seeking ‘Axis of Good’ Against U.S., Russia Taps Allies of Convenience A trilateral meeting of the leaders of Iran, **Russia and Turkey** seemed to suggest a new anti-American alliance. But there are major fissures between the countries, too. President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, left; President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran, center; and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey at the talks in Tehran on Tuesday. Sign up for the Russia-Ukraine War Briefing. Every evening, we'll send you a summary of the day's biggest news. Get it sent to your inbox. BRUSSELS — Commenting on the visit of Vladimir V. Putin to Iran, a member of the Russian Parliament and television talking head, Yevgeny G. Popov, said that the two countries hoped to form an “axis of good,” mocking former President George W. Bush’s description of Iran, Iraq and North Korea as an “axis of evil.” Trolling American foreign-policy blunders and rhetoric is a popular sport in Russia, from Mr. Putin, the president, on down, but the growing affection between Russia and Iran is that of two isolated, sanctions-stricken countries whose main connection is their active opposition to the United States, its allies and its domination of the multilateral world order. While the United States likes to wrap its alliances in grandiloquent words about shared values and democracy, Russia, Iran and China, Moscow’s other openly supportive pal and American rival, are far more transactional in their connections. But transactional relations do not make for lasting alliances or disguise the strains within them. “Russia is isolated on the global stage in a way it’s never been,” said Charles A. Kupchan, a former American official who is a professor at Georgetown University. “Putin is looking for recognition and acceptance wherever he can get it, and that he can get it in Tehran speaks volumes.” Even China, which has stood by its anti-American partnership with Russia, “has carefully kept its distance from the war in Ukraine,” Mr. Kupchan said. “And even though the lion’s share of the world’s countries aren’t enforcing the sanctions regime against Russia, they get it: that Russia’s invasion was a bald act of aggression.” Damage from a rocket strike in Sloviansk, Ukraine, on Tuesday. As the war grinds on, Turkey has created a vital role for itself as the mediator between Moscow and Kyiv. Neither Russia nor China has eager allies or much soft power, said Jeremy Shapiro, a former State Department official who is research director for the Berlin-based European Council on Foreign Relations. “No one really likes China, but everyone understands their power,” Mr. Shapiro said. “Russia is worse — they have the soft power of a drunken porcupine. But they have a lot of assets, too, including energy, and the will to use their military.” Most of the world just wants to stay out of what it sees as a superpower conflict being fought over Ukraine, said François Heisbourg, a French defense analyst with the Foundation for Strategic Research in Paris. If half the world’s population is staying publicly out of this war, half of that half is India and China, Mr. Heisbourg said, and the United States has been largely successful in keeping China from aiding Russia militarily in Ukraine and in not heavily pushing India, which is no friend of China’s and remains dependent on Russian arms. With Western sanctions having a “colossal” impact on Russia, in Mr. Putin’s own words, Moscow needs places to do business, especially as the sanctions bite harder over time. Iran, isolated by even tougher American economic sanctions over its nuclear program, is happy to do business with Russia, Mr. Kupchan said. Russia also needs more surveillance of the battleground in Ukraine, and Washington has revealed Moscow’s interest in buying both armed drones and observation drones from Tehran. Russia and Iran have a long and complicated history. Ties and trade improved after the collapse of the Soviet Union, which was the first country to recognize the Islamic Republic after the country’s 1979 revolution, though Moscow went on to back Iraq in the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s. In general, the two countries have had a mutual interest in pushing back American power in places such as Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. Relations improved with the deterioration of Russia’s ties to the West and the steady imposition of sanctions on Russia after its annexation of Crimea in 2014. In 2021, mutual trade hit record levels, though at a relatively modest amount of about $3.5 billion. Hassan Rouhani, left, then the president of Iran, with Mr. Putin at a meeting in Russia in 2014. Moscow has been largely helpful in negotiations to restore the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran. Hassan Rouhani, left, then the president of Iran, with Mr. Putin at a meeting in Russia in 2014. Moscow has been largely helpful in negotiations to restore the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran.Credit...Pool photo by Alexey Nikolsky But there are important fissures, too. Russia does not share Iran’s enmity toward Israel and does not want Tehran to develop a nuclear weapon. Moscow has been largely helpful in negotiations to restore the 2015 nuclear deal between six world powers and Iran that former President Donald J. Trump abandoned in 2018, and that President Biden has been trying fitfully to resurrect. ADVERTISEMENT Continue reading the main story Mr. Biden and Israeli leaders repeated their promises last week to do everything necessary to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear bomb, including military action. And Russia has no interest in a Western military campaign against Iran, which becomes a real possibility if there is no renewed nuclear deal. Russia and Iran are also competing to sell their sanctioned and discounted oil to China and other countries. Though the quality of the crude is different in both countries, it is difficult to imagine them forming some sort of cartel to sell sanctioned oil, Mr. Shapiro said. On Syria, however, they are largely aligned in their longtime support of the regime of President Bashar al-Assad. And Syria was the stated focus of the summit in Tehran, which included the Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Image A joint Russian-Turkish patrol in northeastern Syria in 2020. Turkey has been seeking a green light from Iran and Russia to conduct a new military incursion against the Syrian Kurds. A joint Russian-Turkish patrol in northeastern Syria in 2020. Turkey has been seeking a green light from Iran and Russia to conduct a new military incursion against the Syrian Kurds.Credit...Delil Souleiman/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images Turkey has no interest in being part of any new axis or alliance with Russia or Iran. Instead, Ankara has very artfully managed a foreign policy that is diversified and open to all sides and that gives it considerable leverage with both Moscow and Washington. “Turkey is skillfully walking a middle path, **signaling to the Americans that it won’t just be a compliant ally** and do what we want, but they’re signaling the same thing to the Russians,” Mr. Shapiro said. Mr. Heisbourg agreed. “The Turks continue to play both sides against the middle and they are in a very strong position to do so,” he said. “It’s a highly profitable game politically, economically and strategically — but that excludes any new alliance.” **Turkey has created a vital role for itself as the mediator between Russia and Ukraine** — effectively the mediator between Washington, NATO and Russia. It has worked with all sides, including the United Nations, to try to get Ukrainian (and Russian) grain exports out through the Black Sea to the developing world. Mr. Erdogan has bought Russian antiaircraft missiles and has not joined Western sanctions against Russia, which has irked Washington. But **Turkey remains a key NATO ally of the United States, signed a tough anti-Russian communiqué at the NATO summit in Madrid, has sold Ukraine weapons and drones that are helping to kill Russians, and has removed its block on the entry of Finland and Sweden into NATO**, at least for now. Turkey’s mediation may bring even more benefits, Mr. Kupchan said. Mr. Erdogan has credibility and channels to both Moscow and Washington, as well as to Kyiv, and “if he can broker a deal to get Ukrainian grain flowing again, that might be the first step to pivot to diplomacy, a confidence-building measure that would require concessions by both Russia and Ukraine, but could be done under the rubric of humanitarian aid,” Mr. Kupchan said. Mr. Erdogan at talks in Istanbul in March between Ukrainian and Russian representatives during the early days of Moscow’s invasion. Mr. Erdogan at talks in Istanbul in March between Ukrainian and Russian representatives during the early days of Moscow’s invasion.Credit...Turkish Presidential Press Service, via Agence France-Presse — Getty Images What Turkey clearly wanted from this trilateral summit, however, was narrower — a green light to conduct a new military incursion into northern Syria against the Syrian Kurds, who Mr. Erdogan says are allies with the P.K.K., or Kurdistan Workers’ Party, which he and the West consider terrorists. Attacking the Kurds is popular in Turkey, even among Mr. Erdogan’s opposition, and is part of his effort to win re-election next year, Mr. Heisbourg said. And Syria is the only issue where the policies of all three countries intersect, even though their interests are different. Iran and Russia have been the firmest allies of Mr. Assad. But Turkey has backed armed groups fighting for his removal; has sent its troops into northern Syria; and has kept Syrian, Iranian and Russian troops from conquering Idlib Province, still mostly controlled by anti-Assad rebels. “With so much leverage, now is a great time for Erdogan to beat up on the Kurds,” Mr. Heisbourg said. While Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran’s supreme leader, warned Turkey against further attacks in Syria, Mr. Erdogan was unfazed. And it’s likely that Russia does not much care, so long as the Turkish intervention is limited to the north. More likely, Mr. Heisbourg suggested, Mr. Erdogan used the meeting in Tehran to inform Russia and Iran of his plans and to try to avoid unnecessary confrontation.

#### Turkey doesn’t need the US’ security guarantees b/c they have Russian arms sales

Jones 21 Dorian Jones (Dorian Jones reports for VOA from Istanbul. He was worked for a variety of outlets including BBC Sky News, Deutsche Welle, and CBC), 5-17-2021, "Turkey to Go Ahead with Russian Weapons Purchases Despite US Objections," VOA, https://www.voanews.com/a/europe\_turkey-go-ahead-russian-weapons-purchases-despite-us-objections/6205910.html

Turkey is threatening to go ahead with Russian military purchases despite warnings from Washington. The threat comes as the impasse between the NATO members deepens over Ankara's purchase of a Russian missile system. With Washington stepping up its pressure on Ankara to reverse its purchase of the Russian S 400 missile defense systems, Turkish defense minister Hulusi Akar this month defended its intentions, dismissing American concerns. This is not an offensive system, Akar said, adding, this system can't threaten anyone in any way where it is deployed. It is not a risk, threat, or danger to anyone, the official said. Washington says the S 400 missiles advanced radar poses a threat to NATO defense systems and calls for its removal. But Ankara has said it is considering purchasing more batches of the Russian missiles. One source close to the government says **Turkey has already struck a deal with Moscow**. Russian S-400 surface-to-air missile launchers take part in a second night of rehearsals for the WWII Victory Parade in Moscow on June 18, 2020. Last month, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned Turkey could face sanctions if it bought other Russian weaponry, including additional S 400 missile systems. Concerns over the S 400 have already resulted in Washington’s blocking Turkey from modernizing its aging combat aircraft with America's advanced F-35. But Turkish presidential advisor Mesut Casin warns Washington is forcing Turkey only further to deepen its military ties with Russia. "We need 200 combat aircraft. This is the reality on the table, but the US don't give the combat aircraft. And so you (the US) pressure (Turkey) to buy the Russian combat aircraft; we don't want to buy it," said Casin. "**But if the US don't give the combat aircraft, we can buy the Russian combat aircraft, because we need the combat aircraft."**

### 1AR QPQ – AT: Turkey Cooperates Now

#### Turkey only agreed to let Sweden and Finland join NATO b/c they agreed to help Turkey fight terrorists, not because Turkey wanted to strengthen its relationship with NATO

Fazeli 22 Mahmoud Fazeli (Analyst of International Affairs), 07-2022, "Reasons of Turkey’s U-Turn to Admit Sweden &amp; Finland Membership in NATO," Strategic Council on Foreign Relations (Iran), https://www.scfr.ir/en/strategic-perspective/note/144983/reasons-of-turkeys-u-turn-to-admit-sweden-finland-membership-in-nato/

Immediate demands of Turkey in order to show her green light for joining of Sweden and Finland to NATO were to “recognize YPK as a terrorist organization, putting an end to PKK/YPG activities, admitting the very same demand by Sweden and Finland, and if possible, to generalize the demand to NATO level, extradition of a number of terrorists whose names had already been given to the said countries and ultimately, lifting arms embargo of the said countries against Turkey”. From Turkey’s point of view, “NATO should end its rising opposition against Turkey, which has been increased with strengthening relations between the U.S. and Greece. Achieving a fair and just solution on militarized island of Aegean Sea, delivering of F-16 fighters to Turkey and considering security concerns of Turkey in its probable operations in Syria” should also be taken into consideration. While before leaving for Madrid to attend in NATO Summit meeting, Erdogan was not showing any willingness to lift his veto on admission of Sweden and Finland, but a few hours after his arrival to Madrid he confirmed the membership of the two countries. Turkey reminded the two countries of the conditions to be met. Only after taking promises from Sweden and Finland to assist fighting against Kurd groups, Erdogan accepted that the two countries become NATO members. Turkey’s measure to agree the membership of the two countries in NATO was a big surprise to all. With signing a trilateral agreement among Turkey, Sweden and Finland, Ankara dropped her opposition on the membership of the two Nordic countries in NATO, instead, Finland and Sweden will address to Turkey’s concerns in connection with terrorism. The two countries pledged not to assist YPD/YPG terrorist groups as well as Gulen. Likewise, there will be no arms embargo applied to Turkey, Sweden and Finland. Sweden promised to adjust its national stances concerning arms export to NATO allies. Article 9 is one of the important points of the agreement according to which a Permanent Joint Mechanism will be established to monitor the aforementioned issues. Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Justice Ministers as well as intelligent services will jointly be active in the said mechanism and will monitor their performance. Other NATO member countries as well as the EU members may also attend in the joint mechanism.