## AT: Turkey DA

### 2AC – UQ – Losing Now

#### The mob is turning on the Sultan—rising inflation, low interest rates, and currency crisis guarantee Erdogan’s loss.

Singh 7/21 [Atul Singh; founder, CEO and editor-in-chief of Fair Observer. He has taught political economy at the University of California, Berkeley and been a visiting professor of humanities and social sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar; 7-21-2022; "Sultan Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's Erdonomics is Driving Turkey to Disaster"; Fair Observer; https://www.fairobserver.com/world-leaders-news/sultan-recep-tayyip-erdogans-erdonomics-is-driving-turkey-to-disaster/; Accessed 7-21-2022; AW]

To cut a long story short, the Islamist tide could not be held back by the military dam. Eventually, Erdoğan led them to power. He cut the wings of the military, initiated a rapprochement with the recalcitrant Kurds and made Islamism the new guiding principle of the country, both at home and abroad. Out went Kemalism, in came Erdoğanism. In the early days, this meant moving closer to Europe to avoid yet another military coup and fairly sound management of the economy. As war rages between Russia and Ukraine, the early era of Erdoğan seems a lifetime away. In June, some researchers estimated inflation in Turkey to be 160%, more than twice the official estimate of 79%. The country is also facing a currency crisis. In 2021, the Turkish lira fell by 44% against the dollar. In 2022, the lira is in freefall, the current account deficit (imports minus exports) is rising and the budget deficit (expenditures minus revenues) has reached a record high. Millions of workers, young people and pensioners have fallen below the poverty line, which is set at $1,200 a month for a family of four. While much of the economic pain was inevitable given the global economic downturn, some of it is self-inflicted. By stubbornly insisting on cutting interest rates at a time of soaring inflation, Erdoğan has scored a spectacular own goal. Elections and Revolutions Depend on the Price of Bread The Turkish economy has struggled with its economy long before Erdoğan. With an oversized military, Turkey spent too much on defense. The country has long relied on dollar-denominated debt, which leaves it very exposed to external shocks. As a NATO member and a frontline state against the erstwhile Soviet Union, Turkey was regularly bailed out by the US and institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Like Pakistan, Turkey extracted geopolitical rent from the West and bailouts have been par for the course. Only last year, the IMF doled out $6.3 billion to Turkey. The World This Week: Sultan Erdogan Tightens Grip on Turkey READ MORE Erdoğan has been putting a gun to the head of European leaders to wring some cash out of them. In 2016, the European Commission coughed up over $6.6 billion (€6 billion) for Turkey to host refugees and not disgorge them into the EU member states. Like a good bazaar merchant, Erdoğan has somehow kept the Turkish economy from falling into collapse because the US, the EU, the IMF and NATO all need Turkey for one reason or another. It is too important to fail. Even geopolitical rent and political blackmail have limits. They do not yield infinite amounts of cash or gold. When inflation rises, central banks raise interest rates so that people keep their money in the bank instead of spending them on goods and services or assets. Inflation is a regular feature of the Turkish economy. In the 1980s and 1990s prices soared. Then, the central bank raised interest rates and brought it under control. Erdoğan wants his central bank to keep interest rates low. Some of his key supporters have long been small businessmen who resent high interest rates. Turkish economists privately tell this author that Erdoğan thinks raising interest rates would put a spoke in the wheels of the economy. Like many politicians who want economic growth, Erdoğan wants to print money to achieve it. After all, he is doing what the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank did when they printed money through their policy of quantitative easing. The US and European central banks have since reversed course in the face of rising inflation. Erdoğan has held the fort and pressured his central bank to cut rates instead. This means there is more money sloshing around in the Turkish economy than necessary. With oil, food and commodity prices high thanks to the Russia-Ukraine War, Erdonomics has sent prices soaring even further. Turks are scrambling to get rid of liras as fast as they can. They are buying dollars, properties (prices are up by 182% over the past year), cars, electronics and other consumer goods, and even high-risk volatile assets such as overpriced stocks and cryptocurrencies. Turkey might not be Sri Lanka yet but Erdonomics is causing its economy to collapse. Over the last few years, he has become a de facto sultan. He has built Ak Saray, a pure white palace of 1,000 rooms on 50 acres of Atatürk Forest Farm, after razing Atatürk’s country lodge to the ground. Hagia Sophia is no longer a museum but a mosque. Secular Kemalist Turkey is dead. Istanbul’s elites have been defenestrated. Critics have been castrated. Furthermore Erdoğan has been able to project himself as a key leader of the Muslim world and won much popularity in places like Palestine and Pakistan. Recently, he even changed Turkey’s name to Türkiye. In his 19 years in office, Erdoğan has accomplished a lot. He has changed the nature of the state and the arc of Turkey’s destiny. Yet he is increasingly vulnerable. Turkey may not be Sri Lanka yet but it is in turmoil. Elections and revolutions depend on the price of bread. Erdonomics has set that on fire. At some point, the mob might turn on the sultan.

I realized after cutting this that it was from 2019 (oops) but the warrants are fire.

#### Prefer long term, structural factors to snapshots—

#### AKP’s loss in Istanbul mayoral elections signals a cataclysmic shift against Erdogan—lagging economy, corruption, loss of urban votes, and disunified party forecast a loss.

Ray ’19 [Ashis Ray; writer for the National Herald; 6-27-2019; "Whoever wins Istanbul wins Turkey: Erdogan loses Istanbul but can he rule till 2023?"; National Herald; https://www.nationalheraldindia.com/international/whoever-wins-istanbul-wins-turkey-erdogan-loses-istanbul-but-can-he-rule-till-2023; Accessed 7-21-2022; AW]

For 16 years Erdogan as prime minister, and then president, tightened his grip on Turkish politics, proving forecasters of all hues wrong about his ability to remain in office, including seeing off an attempted coup d’etat in 2016. He, however, suffered a significant setback on 23 June. His party’s candidate in the crucial mayoral election in Istanbul, Turkey’s biggest city, lost to Ekrem Imamoglu. Indeed, the result in a re-run of voting, after Erdogan objected to the original result in March, reconfirmed the first outcome by a much bigger majority. AKP had previously ruled Istanbul for a quarter of a century. Imamoglu prevailed even in religious precincts of the city. His healing touch in a climate of confrontation and divisive politics struck a chord. He united a disparate opposition, including drawing in the secular nationalist Iyi party. Imamoglu can now be deemed to be a powerful alternative to Erdogan in Turkey’s national polity. With the all-important metropolis of Istanbul in the fold, opposition parties will in the foreseeable future control all major urban areas of the country other than Bursa. This means cities which collectively account for a distinctly greater part of Turkey’s GDP. This means the resources AKP had access to and which helped to catapult it to centre stage will in all probability diminish. “Whoever wins Istanbul, wins Turkey,” Erdogan asserted and virtually forced the country’s election board to order a re-poll on the basis of unsubstantiated claims of malpractice. But the bravado backfired. Imamoglu swept the election by the biggest margin in Istanbul’s history for 35 years. In the brief period he administered the city before facing a second ballot, his team uncovered corruption linked to tenders worth US $4 billion awarded to Erdogan’s family. AKP leaders may now also query the seemingly unpopular centralisation of authority triggered by the transition to a presidential system last year. To become mayor of Istanbul is considered to be a potential launchpad to Turkey’s presidency. This was the case with Erdogan. Consequently, the defeat of his former prime minister Binali Yildirim in the contest has given rise to speculation that this could finally be the beginning of the end for Turkey’s embrace of orthodox Islam. Erdogan’s hardline on a wide section of the opposition as a response to the coup may have troubled his people. It has certainly concerned countries in Europe and North America. Turkey possessed a relatively independent judiciary. But thousands of judges were purged after the coup and replaced by pro-Erdogan justices. Besides, all concerned function in an atmosphere of tension. Under Erdogan, Turkey has also sunk like a stone in international human rights and press freedom indexes. But as always, more importantly, an underperforming economy is probably the primary cause of the public’s discontent. Indeed, Turkey’s economic woes could worsen if the United States carry out its threat of economic sanctions because of Ankara placing an order for the Russian S-400 missiles system, despite being a member of the western military alliance North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). The opposition in Turkey has been muzzled ever since Erdogan came to power. But Imamoglu’s win could have a cataclysmic effect. A national election is not due until 2023; there’s already talk, though, that Erdogan may not succeed in holding on that long. Indeed, Erdogan’s predecessor as president is about to unveil a breakaway party. That is bound to split the conservative vote.

### 2AC – UQ – Thumper – Astana

#### Astana summit either disproves the magnitude of the link or thumps – Erdogan isn’t solely focused on nationalist interests.

Melih Altinok 7/21, columnist for the Daily Sabah, Turkish Daily available in English and Arabic, July 21, 2022, “Erdoğan's equilibrium policy is a chance for the world”, https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/columns/erdogans-equilibrium-policy-is-a-chance-for-the-world \\SYang

The last summit of the Astana process, which started in 2017 between Ankara, Moscow and Tehran and aims to bring peace to Syria, was held in Iran on July 19. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met in Tehran.

The summit was more important than ever as it coincided with Russia's military operation in Ukraine. The eyes of the whole world were on the three leaders.

We witnessed how the Orientalist comments, which were ready and full of prejudices, appeared in the Western press before the summit. Because at the summit, which many assumed only focused on the countries' struggle for influence over Syria, the three prominent actors of the process agreed on issues that directly concern the region and Europe, such as the grain corridor and Syrian refugees.

And, of course, the focus of attention on these issues was thanks to the efforts of Erdoğan. The Turkish president did not use his "trump cards" only for Turkey's national interests. As the leader of a NATO member and EU candidate country, he also became an observer of the interests of the Western bloc with his emphasis on U.N. resolutions.

### 2AC – UQ – Thumper – F-16s + Swinland

#### F-16 talks and Swinland thump.

Selcan Hacaoglu, Jordan Fabian, and Jenny Leonard 6/29, journalist for Bloomberg news, White House Correspondent for Bloomberg News, White House reporter for Bloomberg News focusing on international economic issues, “Biden to Discuss With Erdogan the Sale of F-16 Jets to Turkey”, https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-06-29/turkey-seeks-support-in-talks-with-biden-to-buy-f-16-fighters \\SYang

US President Joe Biden and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will discuss the sale of dozens of new F-16 warplanes to modernize Turkey’s fleet on the sidelines of a NATO summit.

The meeting later on Wednesday in Madrid comes after Erdogan dropped his opposition to Swedish and Finnish bids to join NATO, bringing the alliance one step closer to bolstering its eastern front with Russia. That move appears to have won him US backing to strengthen the air force of Turkey, the second-largest military force in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

“The US Department of Defense fully supports Turkey’s modernization plans for its F-16 fleet,” Celeste Wallander, assistant US defense secretary, told reporters. “These plans are in the works and they need to be worked through our contracting processes, but the United States supports Turkey’s modernization of its fighter fleet, because that is the contribution to NATO security and therefore American security.”

Earlier, both the US and Turkey ruled out any bargaining on long-standing requests like F-16 fighter jets in exchange for allowing Sweden and Finland to begin the process of joining the alliance.

The Turkish leader’s decision to let the Nordics’ NATO bids proceed paved the way for a formal meeting with the US president, according to a senior Biden administration official. The two leaders are expected to discuss a full range of issues, the official said, which includes Turkey’s long-standing defense requests.

### 2AC – UQ – Thumper – Rafales

#### Rafales negotiations thump.

Spiros Sideris and Théo Bourgery 7/22, reporters for EURACTIV, a pan-European media network specialized in EU policies, “Paris silent over alleged Macron – Erdogan Rafale talks”, https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/short\_news/paris-silent-over-alleged-macron-erdogan-rafale-talks/ \\SYang

Turkish media has reported that President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has expressed interest in acquiring French top-generation Rafales fighter jets in a phone call with French President Emmanuel Macron on 16 July.

### 1AR – UQ – AT: Gen-Z Voter Base

#### Gen-Z flows aff – heavy opposition means it’s impossible for Erdogan to win 2023, and link turn – they don’t like Erdogan’s ultra-nationalist language.

bne IntelliNews 7/11, business media company focusing on emerging markets, July 11, 2022, “80% of Turkey’s Gen Z tell pollster they won’t vote for Erdogan”, https://intellinews.com/80-of-turkey-s-gen-z-tell-pollster-they-won-t-vote-for-erdogan-250221/ \\SYang

The opinion polling data continues to look bleak for Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who must face the electorate by next June at the latest.

Some 80% of Turkey’s Generation Z—those born after 2000—say they will not vote for Erdogan’s ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), according to a study by Gezici Research.

By next June, Gen Z will represent 11.8% of Turkey’s voting adult population.

“They do not approve of dictating, imperious or harsh language from politicians,” Gezici Research chairman and international security expert Murat Gezici told Turkish daily Cumhuriyet on July 10.

### 1AR – UQ – AT: No F-16s

#### This is a joke – Biden can step over Congress.

The National Herald 7/18, English-language weekly newspaper, based in New York City, focusing on the Greek-American community, “Pappas Amendment Gives Biden Out to Sell Turkey F-16’s, Skirt Greece” \\SYang

WASHINGTON – A US Congressional amendment pushed by New Hampshire Democrat Chris Pappas aimed at preventing the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Turkey gives US President Joe Biden a way to get around it and get his way.

Biden wants the US to let Turkey buy the jets at the same time the US has said it supports Greece against provocations including Turkish fighter jets constantly violating Greek airspace.

Pappas and a team of other House members opposed to the sale got approval of the amendment barring it but Biden can get around any veto simply by stating it is in the US national interest.

### 2AC – Erdogan Bad – Climate

#### Erdogan’s authoritarian state causes climate change.

Clément Girardot 7/21, French freelance reporter who writes mainly in-depth stories about the Caucasus region and Turkey, “Turkey’s authoritarian development ignores planetary boundaries”, https://news.mongabay.com/2022/07/turkeys-authoritarian-development-ignores-planetary-boundaries/ \\SYang

Turkey, an increasingly autocratic country since Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his AKP political party came to power in 2002, was the very last G20 nation to ratify the Paris climate agreement, doing so in October 2021. It has failed so far to take meaningful action against the steady increase of its greenhouse gas emissions.

Turkey may also be exceeding limits to many of the nine planetary boundaries critical to the survival of civilization. In addition to unregulated carbon emissions, experts are concerned over the nation’s worsening air and plastic pollution, altered land use due to new mega-infrastructure projects, and biodiversity harm.

For the past two decades, Turkey’s economic growth has been based on carbon-intensive sectors — including fossil fuel energy, transportation, construction, mining and heavy industry — all heavily supported by the state via subsidies, questionable public-private partnerships, and lax environmental laws.

Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s authoritarianism has undermined checks and balances which might otherwise enhance environmental governance. As activists and academics criticize the lack of transparency regarding environmental data, they face rising governmental pressures and repression.