## Turkey DA

### 1NC – UQ CP

#### Counterplan: The United States federal government should intervene in the 2023 Turkish presidential elections covertly through methods including but not limited to reprogramming voting machines and disinformation campaigns to ensure that candidate Recep Tayyip Erdogan gains [x] percentage points but no more.

#### Provides uniqueness.

Kartikay Mehrotra, Andrew Martin, and Bloomberg 19, reporter for Bloomberg news, journalist for Fortune, international news agency headquartered in New York City and a division of Bloomberg L.P., December 26, 2019, “What Is Election Hacking— And Can It Change Who Wins?”, https://fortune.com/2019/12/26/what-is-election-hacking/ \\SYang

1. What is meant by ‘election hacking’?

It’s sometimes used as a catch-all phrase to encompass all sorts of underhanded efforts to subvert elections, including the type of social media disinformation campaign undertaken by Russia to taint elections in the U.S., Europe and Africa. But in its most literal form, election hacking refers to computer breaches that are intended to manipulate voter data, change a vote tally or otherwise discredit tabulated results.

2. How could an election be hacked?

A hacker could reprogram an electronic voting machine directly, if it’s left unguarded, or remotely, if it’s connected to the internet. (A popular topic at hacker conferences is just how easy that would be to do.) Doing so undetected, and on a scale large enough to influence an election result, wouldn’t be easy, as there are thousands of local jurisdictions with different voting methods and equipment. But hackers might only need to focus on a few key precincts in a swing state. Or they could alter a state’s voter-registration data so that large numbers of voters get turned away at the polls. The wireless process of transmitting tabulated results to a local database is another possible target. Ransomware could be used in the days leading up to or on Election Day to hold the vote hostage. For anyone determined to do harm to the democratic process, a successfully hacked election could sow lasting mistrust in the voting process, whether or not it actually changes who wins.

### 1NC – UQ – Winning Now

#### Any other poll that isn’t a more outdated version of SONAR is months old with ridiculously small sample sizes.

#### Latest polls – Erdogan has a plurality but not a majority – that means as opposition coalesces the elections are on a brink.

SONAR Polling 6/26, a Turkish polling group, June 1, 2022, “June 2022”, https://sonararastirma.com.tr/haziran-2022/, \\SYang \*\*Poll release Carbon Dated to June 26. Field work done from June 13 to June 24. If you have any questions regarding the dating of this article email @ stephen.yang25@paceacademy.org

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#### Second most recent poll – Erdogan is ahead and on the rise but it’s a tight race – proves the brink, plus AKP base is uniquely strong – no thumpers.

Abdulkadir Selvi 6/15, columnist for the Turkish poll Optimar, June 15, 2021, “Optimar poll: AKP votes 36 percent, Erdogan on the rise”, https://t24.com.tr/haber/optimar-anketi-akp-nin-oyu-yuzde-36-erdogan-yukseliste,1040625 \*\*Title and card text translated using google translate. If you have any questions regarding the translation of this article email @ stephen.yang25@paceacademy.org \\SYang

Hürriyet columnist Abdulkadir Selvi shared the results of the survey conducted with 2519 people between 12-15 May in his column.

According to Selvi; "Which party would you vote for if there was an election today?" If the undecided ones are distributed, the rate of those who answered the question is as follows:

AKP 35.9, CHP 26.2, Good Party 10.7, MHP 10.4, HDP 10.1, DEVA 1.1, Turkey Change Party 0.9, Country Party 0.5, Re-Wealth Party 0.9, Felicity Party 0.8, BBP 0.8, Future Party 0.4, Victory Party 1.1, Vatan Party 0.1

Hilmi Daşdemir, President of Optimar, commented, "Votees who voted for the AK Party before do not go to other parties. Their heart is still with the AK Party. If the AK Party makes a one-unit improvement, it will provide a return of 10 units."

Presidential election

According to Selvi, in the presidential election, 36.1% of those who participated in Optimar's survey say that they will vote for Erdoğan in the presidential election. Kılıçdaroğlu comes second with 11.9 percent. Mansur Yavaş comes in third place with 11.9 percent, followed by Ekrem İmamoğlu with 8.4 percent. Selahattin Demirtaş is in the fifth place with 4.7 percent, and Meral Akşener is in the sixth place with 3.2 percent.

If there were an election this Sunday, would you vote for Erdogan for the presidency?

"If there were an election this Sunday, would you vote for Erdogan for the presidency?" In the question, the rate of those who said "I will vote for Erdogan" was 43.8 percent. "In the past months, this rate has fluctuated between 38 percent and 41.5 percent. Erdogan has been on the rise again in recent months," said Selvi.

### 2NC – U/Q – Framing

#### Erdogan won’t go down without a fight – black swans like election reforms ensure he maintains a tenuous grasp on power.

Laura Pitel 22, FT's Turkey correspondent, covering Turkish politics, foreign policy, business, the economy and society, March 14, 2022, “Unexpected Turkish electoral reforms could hit Erdogan’s opponents”, https://www.ft.com/content/2613206f-e33f-452b-803a-eed3edc8ce2d \\SYang

Turkey’s ruling alliance has unveiled a plan to amend the country’s electoral laws that could damage the opposition’s efforts to wrest control of parliament from the ruling party of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. A long-awaited package of changes unveiled on Monday included a surprise measure that would alter the way that members of parliament are allocated within electoral districts.  The proposal, analysts say, could undermine efforts by a group of opposition parties to take control of the Turkish parliament after almost two decades of dominance by Erdogan’s Justice and Development party (AKP). Erdogan, whose AKP came to power in 2002, has witnessed an erosion of support for his ruling party in recent years as Turkey has suffered a succession of economic crises. Although he spearheaded a 2018 change in the country’s system of governance that handed more power to the president, he still needs control of parliament to approve legislation, including the government’s annual budget. Under the proposed changes, members of parliament would be allocated based purely on the vote share of each party in a given district. The current system, by contrast, allocates MPs according to the vote share won by each electoral alliance before dividing them up in line with the vote share of each party within that bloc. That allows parties to pick up MPs in districts where they get a small share of the vote. Can Selcuki, director of the Turkiye Raporu polling agency, said that if the new rules had been applied to parliamentary elections that took place in 2018, they would have resulted in 10 more MPs for Erdogan’s ruling alliance out of a total of 600. While that number is small, Selcuki said, it could be critical for Erdogan if the next election is very close. The change, if passed, also significantly reduces the likelihood that Erdogan will bring forward presidential and parliamentary elections that are scheduled for June 2023 because the legislation would take 12 months to come into force once approved. The draft legislation, which was put forward by the AKP and its partners from the Nationalist Movement party (MHP), is likely to be adopted into law given that the parties hold a majority in parliament. Opposition parties, who for years struggled to dent the president’s popularity, struck their first serious blow in 2019 when they formed an official electoral alliance to defeat the AKP in local elections in Istanbul, Ankara and several other big cities. They have built on that co-operation and grown increasingly bullish about their chances of defeating Erdogan at the next national vote. The unexpected plan to alter the voting system is the latest sign of the challenges faced by an opposition in confronting Erdogan, who has a wide array of tools at his disposal as he seeks to hang on to power.

### 2NC – UQ – AT: Opposition Winning

#### DISUNITY – no single opposition candidate means no shot Erdogan loses.

Selcan Hacaoglu 6/10, journalist for Bloomberg News, June 10, 2022, “ Turkey Opposition Frets Over Challenger to Erdogan in Vote”, https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-06-10/turkey-opposition-frets-over-challenger-to-erdogan-in-2023-polls \\SYang

Cracks appeared in a Turkish opposition alliance hoping to take on President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in polls next year after members of the bloc had a public spat over who should be their candidate.

Kemal Kilicdaroglu, a member of Turkey’s Alevi religious minority and head of the secular CHP party is seen as a potential opposition nominee. But one of his allies questioned whether he can muster the support of majority Sunni Muslim voters crucial to ending the decades-long rule of Erdogan’s AK Party.

With elections scheduled for June 2023, Erdogan still has no clear rival.

“His being an Alevi is not an obstacle for me, because I know him, I know his principles. But the goal in politics is to win,” said Ibrahim Halil Oral, a lawmaker from the IYI party, referring to Kilicdaroglu.

“If 65% or 70% of Turkey has a conservative profile, a different name would be chosen that can appeal to them,” Oral said in an interview broadcast on social media.

Engin Altay, a senior member of Kilicdaroglu’s CHP, dismissed Oral’s concerns.

IYI leader Meral Aksener publicly apologized to Kilicdaroglu and leader of the opposition Saadet Party, Temel Karamollaoglu, expressed sadness over the remarks.

“Seeking race or sect rather than merit in the nomination criteria is the greatest evil that can be done to our country, our people and our future,” Karamollaoglu said in a written statement.

Alevis, members of an offshoot of Shiite Islam, are estimated to make up around one-fifth of Turkey’s population. They have complained of discrimination under Erdogan and his AK Party, which has roots in Sunni Islamist movements. The government has denied discrimination.

Kilicdaroglu’s party is buoyed by a 2019 local election victory that ended the AK Party’s quarter-century rule over Turkey’s largest city, Istanbul, and its capital of Ankara. The party has formed an alliance with five other parties in the hopes of defeating Erdogan in the parliamentary and presidential elections.

Another potential presidential hopeful for the opposition, Istanbul mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, is facing a prison term of as many as four years on charges of insulting election board officials.

### 2NC – UQ – AT: F-16s

#### F-16 sale isn’t going through – the house is blocking.

Connor O’Brien 7/14, defense reporter for POLITICO, July 14, 2022, “House adds roadblock to Biden's plan to sell U.S. fighter jets to Turkey”, https://www.politico.com/news/2022/07/14/house-adds-roadblock-to-bidens-quest-to-sell-u-s-fighter-jets-to-turkey-00045825 \\SYang

The House on Thursday threw up a roadblock to President Joe Biden’s push to sell new F-16 fighters to Turkey in yet another blow to the administration’s efforts from fellow Democrats.

Lawmakers tacked on a provision to annual defense policy legislation that bars the U.S. from selling or transferring the jets unless the administration certifies that doing so is critical to U.S. national security.

The vote was 244-179 on an amendment offered by New Hampshire Democrat Chris Pappas to the National Defense Authorization Act. The majority of Democrats, 184, backed the effort, along with 60 Republicans.

It’s the latest dent in a potential sale of the Lockheed Martin-built jets to Ankara. Senate Foreign Relations Chair Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), one of the four top lawmakers who must sign off on weapons sales to foreign nations, is refusing to back the transfer.

The dual hurdles make it nearly impossible for Biden to follow through on selling the fighters to the NATO ally as lawmakers express exasperation over Ankara’s purchase of advanced Russian equipment, violating the territory of its neighbors and its drift toward autocracy under President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

#### Erdogan won’t say yes to the conditions – the link proves.

Dora Antoniou 7/16, journalist for Kathimerini, a daily, political and financial morning newspaper published in Athens, “Ankara not likely to accept F-16 strings”, https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/1189154/ankara-not-likely-to-accept-f-16-strings/ \\SYang

The approval this week of a relevant amendment by the US Congress which is seen as a first step to stop the sale of new F-16 aircraft to Turkey and the upgrading of its existing ones has caused optimism in Greece that its positions are being heeded. But there are also several opposing forces at play, which are making the situation complicated.

According to Dr Triantafyllos Karatrantos, an analyst at the Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) think tank, a clearly positive development would be that any agreement to sell or upgrade aircraft to Turkey is accompanied by a strict framework stipulating good neighborly relations and avoiding provocations, disputes or engagement with third countries.

However, he expressed reservations as to whether Ankara would agree to such a restrictive framework at the current juncture.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, he said, is in pre-election mode and with the issue of nationalism high on the agenda would not accept such an agreement.

#### The House has blocked the sale of F-16’s to Turkey.

Wichmann 7/15 [Anna Wichmann; writer at the Greek Reporter; 7-15-2022; "Congress Votes to Block Sale of F-16 Fighter Jets to Turkey"; GreekReporter; https://greekreporter.com/2022/07/15/congress-fighter-jet-f-16-turkey/; Accessed 7-22-2022; AW]

The US House of Representatives voted to approve a measure that will likely block the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Turkey on Thursday. The measure prohibits the US President from selling or transferring the fighter jets or kits to Turkey unless the President can show Congress that Turkey has “not violated the sovereignty of Greece” in the last 120 days. It also requires the President to stipulate that providing the materials to Turkey is in the national interest of the United States, a high but not impossible bar to clear. The amendment was added to the National Defense Authorization Act, the country’s massive military spending bill for 2023, and was approved by a House of Representatives committee this week. After its approval, it had to be passed by Congress. The amendment, which was pushed by Greek-American Democrat Chris Pappas from New Hampshire and Frank Pallone, Democrat from New Jersey, was passed by Congress in a 244 to 179 vote on Thursday. Although passed by Congress, the entire bill, including the amendment, must be voted on by the Senate before becoming law. The massive bill, which allots a stunning $800 billion in defense spending, will likely go through a round of changes before it is passed by the Senate in the coming months. The amendment also mandates that the US President show concrete steps have been “taken to ensure that such F-16s are not used by Turkey for repeated unauthorized territorial overflights of Greece.” US Congress passes amendment to block sale of F-16 fighter jets to Turkey The amendment comes at a particularly tense moment in Greece-Turkey relations. In recent months, the Turkish military has conducted overflights of its aircraft above Greek islands without approval, prompting rebuke from Greece and other nations. In June, a spokesperson for German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said “the violation of Greek air space and overflights above Greek islands is not correct.” Turkey’s refusal to talk to allies within NATO was “counterproductive and contrary to the spirit of the alliance,” the spokesperson added.

#### It fails in the Senate too.

Harris 7/19 [Bryant Harris; reporter for Defense News; 7-19-2022; "Greece moves to join Lockheed’s F-35 program as Turkey F-16 bid stalls"; Defense News; https://www.defensenews.com/congress/2022/07/19/greece-moves-to-join-lockheeds-f-35-program-as-turkey-f-16-bid-stalls/; Accessed 7-23-2022; AW]

He made the remarks after a meeting with Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., who exercises considerable leverage over arms sales to other nations as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. Menendez’s home state of New Jersey boasts the sixth largest Greek American population in the U.S. and the fourth largest Armenian American population, making Greece’s adversarial NATO ally Turkey particularly unpopular among many of his constituents. Greece, Turkey jockey for position in Washington Menendez has threatened to use his leverage to block the $6 billion sale of 40 Lockheed Martin Block 70 F-16 fighter jets to Turkey. Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis directly appealed to Congress to block the F-16 sale during an address before a joint meeting of Congress in May – immediately after he announced Greece’s intention to acquire the F-35 at the White House. The U.S. kicked Turkey out of the F-35 co-production program in 2019 over Ankara’s purchase of the Russian S-400 missile defense amid fears its advanced radar system could allow Moscow to spy on the stealth fighter jets. The Greeks have found a critical ally in Menendez as they seek to block the F-16 sale to Turkey amid repeated Turkish violations of Greek airspace, the ongoing occupation of Northern Cyprus and maritime disputes over gas exploration in the eastern Mediterranean. This puts Athens at odds with President Joe Biden, who voiced support for the F-16 sale at the NATO summit in Madrid last month after Turkey dropped its opposition to Swedish and Finnish accession to the alliance. The Turks are also seeking a separate $400 million sale to upgrade their current F-16 jets with new missiles, radar and electronics. “We should sell them the F-16 jets and modernize those jets as well,” Biden said in Madrid. “But I need congressional approval to be able to do that, and I think we can get that.” It remains unclear how the White House plans to persuade Menendez, who remains committed to using his position to block the sale. Menendez told Defense News on Monday that he remains a hard no on the F-16s but said he could consider the sale if Turkey addresses issues he has previously raised with Ankara. Those include its actions in the eastern Mediterranean, its continued possession of the S-400s, it human rights record and ongoing attacks against the US-backed fighters in northeast Syria.

### 2NC – UQ – AT: Swinland

#### Turkey will freeze Sweden and Finland membership, or Erdogan will spin it as a win.

AP 7/18 [Associated Press; American non-profit news agency headquartered in New York City. Founded in 1846, it operates as a cooperative, unincorporated association; 7-18-2022; "Turkey warns it can 'freeze' Sweden, Finland's NATO process"; PBS NewsHour; https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/turkey-warns-it-can-freeze-sweden-finlands-nato-process; Accessed 7-20-2022; AW]

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey can still “freeze” Sweden and Finland’s membership in NATO unless the two countries take steps that meet Ankara’s security demands, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Monday. Last month, Turkey lifted its objection to Sweden and Finland joining the alliance but warned that it would block the process if they fail to extradite suspects with links to outlawed Kurdish groups or the network of an exiled cleric accused of orchestrating a failed coup in 2016. The Nordic countries’ accession still needs to be approved by the parliaments of all 30 NATO members and Turkey’s parliament could refuse to ratify the deal. NEWS WRAP: NATO takes another step toward Finland and Sweden memberships “I would like to remind once again that if these countries do not take the necessary steps to fulfill our conditions, we will freeze the (accession) process,” Erdogan said in a televised addressed following a Cabinet meeting. “Our stance on this issue is very clear. The rest is up to them.” Erdogan said that Sweden in particular was not “projecting a good image,” but didn’t elaborate. There was no immediate reaction from Sweden and Finland to Erdogan’s comments. Turkey accuses the two countries of being too lenient toward groups it considers to be national security threats. Turkey’s justice minister said earlier this month that the government had renewed requests for the extradition of terror suspects wanted by his country.

#### Doesn’t thump—Sweden and Finland have to meet a list of conditions for membership—ratification will drag out into next year

AFP 7/21 [Agence France Press; French private international news agency; 7-21-2022; "Turkey To Assess Finland, Sweden Compliance On NATO Accession"; Barron’s; https://www.barrons.com/news/turkey-to-assess-finland-sweden-compliance-on-nato-accession-01658394607?tesla=y; Accessed 7-21-2022; AW]

Turkey on Thursday said a new "permanent committee" would meet Finnish and Swedish officials in August to assess if the two nations are complying with Ankara's conditions to ratify their NATO membership bids. Finland and Sweden dropped their history of military non-alignment and announced plans to join NATO after Russia invaded Ukraine at the end of February. All 30 NATO members must ratify the accession. NATO member Turkey has demanded the extradition of dozens of suspected "terrorists" from both countries under an accession deal the three signed last month. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has threatened to "freeze" the process over Sweden and Finland's failure to extradite the suspects. He accuses them of providing a haven for outlawed Kurdish militants. "If these countries are not implementing the points included in the memorandum that we signed, we will not ratify the accession protocol," Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu reaffirmed in a televised interview. He said the committee would meet in August but provided no details. Turkey's parliament has broken for its summer recess and will not be able to hold a ratification vote before October. Some Turkish officials have warned that the process may drag out until next year.

### 2NC – UQ – AT: Economy

#### The Turkish economy structurally beats inflation—adaptation, diversity, and demand signal durable growth.

Economist 7/21 [Economist; newspaper dedicated to reporting on global economics; 7-21-2022; "How has Turkey’s economy kept growing despite raging inflation?"; the economist; https://www.economist.com/briefing/2022/07/21/how-has-turkeys-economy-kept-growing-despite-raging-inflation; Accessed 7-25-2022; AW]

Amid such chaos, it is remarkable that the economy has kept going as well as it has. Much of that is the result of Turkey’s many commercial strengths. It has a large domestic market of 85m mostly young consumers, and has long been a staging post for trade between east and west. The country’s business culture has deep roots. The proportion of the population that aspires to be entrepreneurs is high by international standards. There are, broadly speaking, three kinds of Turkish business. The first is large firms, often conglomerates. These account for a quarter of employment and half of the business sector’s value-added. Some are joint ventures with European firms. The best manufacture high-quality capital goods, car parts and military hardware for export. They approach German levels of productivity. At the other end of the scale are small, unregistered firms, with low productivity. In between is a third group of medium-sized family firms, with some workers on the books and others not. This structure helps explain the agility of Turkish business. Many large firms are conservatively run and diversified across industries and export markets, which gives them a built-in resilience. The largest conglomerate, KocHolding, has four main divisions: vehicles and parts (in joint ventures with Ford and Fiat), white goods, oil refining and banking. Sabanci Holding, another conglomerate, has retail, energy, cement-making, banking and manufacturing businesses. The best mid-sized family firms share with them a nimbleness that comes from years of living with economic volatility. Turkey has a history of high inflation. Bosses have become experts at juggling finances. Companies have had time to adjust to a weak lira since 2018. Many have reduced their dollar debts. Smaller firms adjust by other means. The line between company and household is blurred. Risks are pooled among family members. Very often the response to adversity is to work harder. Four-fifths of the workforce put in more than 40 hours a week in their main job, one of the highest shares in the oecd—though long hours compensate for low labour productivity. Another strategy for small and mid-sized firms is to push business into the grey economy, where wages often do not keep up with inflation or minimum-wage laws. Istanbulls Hard work and agility help businesses to keep going. But they also need demand. One of the big surprises in Turkey has been the strength of consumer spending. Inflation in the high single-digits has weighed on consumers in Europe and America. Yet, in Turkey, far higher inflation has not sapped demand. There are plenty of theories as to why. One is that consumers saw the fall of the lira, knew what that meant for future inflation, and splurged in anticipation of higher prices. Durable goods in particular are a hedge against inflation. New cars, white goods or imported luxuries hold their worth better than lira, even if they are not as liquid a store of value as, say, gold coins or dollar bills. With interest rates so low in real terms it is almost negligent not to borrow to spend.

### 2NC – U/Q – Gen-Z

#### Erdogan just adopted a new strategy catering to Gen-Z voters involving cancelling student loan interest – it’s working and key.

Stratfor Worldview 7/19, the world's leading geopolitical intelligence platform, July 19, 2022, “Turkey: Erdogan Cancels Student Loan Interest in Bid to Win Student Support”, https://worldview.stratfor.com/situation-report/turkey-erdogan-cancels-student-loan-interest-bid-win-student-support \\SYang

What Happened: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced that student loan borrowers would only repay the principal from now on, admitting that keeping interest rates tied to inflation was proving too much for many borrowers, Al-Monitor reported July 18. A July poll by Gezici Research found that 80% of Generation Z Turks — defined as those born after 2000 — would not vote for Erdogan in Turkey's 2023 general election.

Why It Matters: Erdogan is resorting to populism to try to attract Gen Z voters, who will account for around 11.8% of the voting population in 2023, and the president likely will try more special subsidies that may adversely affect the government's finances to try to win them over. Without Gen Z's support, Erdogan could lose the election next year.

### 2NC – Link – Gen-Z

#### Gen-Z voters want reliable politics, hate hypocrisy, and are nationalist – the plan’s bolt from the blue is a disaster for Erdogan.

Seyma Nazli Gurbuz 21, Journalist for the Daily Sabah, Turkish Daily available in English and Arabic, April 12, 2021, “Turkish youth focus on reliability in politics, demand firm economy”, https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/news-analysis/turkish-youth-focus-on-reliability-in-politics-demand-firm-economy \\SYang

With a young population that has seen constant growth, Turkey is getting ready to welcome millions of new voters from Generation Z in the 2023 presidential and parliamentary elections. Although there are still two years until the polls, which sounds like a long time, the political parties have already rolled up their sleeves to attract the youth, who have unique characteristics compared to the previous generations due to being raised in a digital era. Being aware of their worth, the members of Generation Z expect more understanding from the elderly, demanding a stable economy and reliable politics, pointing to these as their criteria to vote for any political party.

"My primary criterion in voting for a political view is to stand strong against the outside world, to defend our rights and not to compromise," said 17-years-old Kaan. "The second is that the candidate or the political party should not be hypocritical. He/she should not speak differently to everyone in order to to make everyone happy. Of course, they should also keep their promises."

### 2NC – I/L – Gen-Z

#### Gen-Z voters are key to the election – huge voter population and they’re swing voters who vote temporally.

Çiğdem Yılmaz 7/19, journalist for the Hurriyet Daily news, the oldest English-language daily in Turkey, July 19, 2022, “Generation Z to hold key to Turkey’s future as millions of new voters set to cast ballots in 2023 polls”, https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/generation-z-to-hold-key-to-turkeys-future-as-millions-of-new-voters-set-to-cast-ballots-in-2023-polls-156687 \\SYang

Millions of Turkish youth will vote for the first time in their lives in the general elections in 2023, as parties are expected to put those who are seen as holding a key to the country’s future at the heart of their campaigns, according to a research conducted by daily Milliyet.

“Generation Z is a very political generation contrary to popular belief that they are apolitical. The only difference is that their political views are not stable; they determine politics temporally,” said Murat Şeker, the head of the City Politics Center at Istanbul University.

Gen Z, the world’s first digital natives who have never known a world without internet in their pocket, make up 39 percent of Turkey’s population, according to data compiled by Milliyet. Twenty percent of them, therefore a little over 5 million of members of Gen Z, will vote for the first time in their lives in Turkey’s general elections in 2023. One million of them will be new voters in Istanbul, the country’s largest city by population, in 2023.

“Since their birth, the country has been governed by the same political party,” said Şeker.

They do not know a Turkey without the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). That’s why, according to Şeker, it is important to understand that they do not care about the past Turkey and comparisons made to indicate the old Turkey is nothing to long for.

Turkish people are familiar with the concept of “the Father State,” a term meaning that the state is like a father who cares for his citizens. But Gen Z does not see the state as their father, he added.

“The state is no longer a father to them. They see it as an organization that must serve them,” added Şeker, stressing that they are well aware of global trends and are able to evaluate things in line with the patterns in the rest of the world. They see the mistakes of all political movements and can easily change their minds.

### 1NC – ! – Syrian Invasion

#### Erdogan will invade Syria if he thinks he’s losing to save face with his nationalist base because Ukraine opened an opportunity – that causes Russia draw-in and terrorism – turns case.

Leena Khan 7/6, writer for the Middle East Institute, a non-profit, non-partisan think tank and cultural center in Washington, D.C, July 6, 2022, “Erdoğan’s opportunism in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war”, https://www.mei.edu/publications/erdogans-opportunism-wake-russia-ukraine-war \\SYang

Erdoğan’s one-man foreign policy strategy

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is notorious for pursuing a one-man foreign policy strategy to consolidate his popularity with his nationalist voter base. Five years ago, Erdoğan resolved to transform Turkey’s parliamentary system into a highly centralized presidential system without any meaningful checks and balances. To sell his plan to Turkish voters, Erdoğan insisted that an executive presidency would solve Turkey’s economic woes, enhance its stability, and facilitate more effective decision making. He subsequently won a 2017 referendum on the issue that granted sweeping power over the country to the presidency, despite widespread allegations of irregularities in the vote. Erdoğan secured this power for himself after winning the presidential elections a year later. Since then, he has enjoyed full control over Turkey’s defense and foreign affairs. Erdoğan has utilized bold, and sometimes reckless, foreign policy as a vehicle for his political ambitions. He has launched military interventions in Libya and Syria, pressed territorial claims in the Mediterranean, and even courted Russia for a military partnership, all to rally nationalist sentiment behind his leadership. Now, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has opened up new high-risk opportunities for Erdoğan to improve his domestic image, especially as the next Turkish presidential and parliamentary elections approach.

A Turkish invasion of northern Syria

Turkey considers the armed Kurdish presence at its border with Syria an absolute and existential threat. Ankara fears that an organized and militarized Kurdish force striving for autonomy in Syria could rally Turkey’s substantial Kurdish population and compromise Turkey’s sovereignty. Given this acute danger, a Turkish invasion of northern Syria appears inevitable — it simply boils down to a question of when. Erdoğan, with his opportunistic mindset and concerns for his political position, has calculated that the moment could be near.

On Oct. 6, 2019, President Donald Trump ordered American troops to abruptly withdraw from northeast Syria in an effort to reduce U.S. military commitments abroad — a move that was not actually fully implemented. Three days later, Turkey capitalized on the partial security void and established a 30-km “safe zone” along its border with Syria. Erdoğan’s goals were to push back Kurdish fighters that he regards as terrorists and to relocate the Syrian refugees that had flooded into Turkey throughout the Syrian civil war. Today, Erdoğan hopes that Russia’s preoccupation with Ukraine will create a similar power vacuum in northeast Syria that he can once again exploit. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has consumed Moscow’s attention and depleted its resources, creating the impression that Syria has become less of a priority. This perception of a shrinking Russian presence in Syria has provided an excuse for Turkey to launch yet another military incursion into its southern neighbor. Erdoğan has renewed threats of a military campaign to “clean up” Syrian border cities and rid them of terrorists, and Turkish forces have already begun shelling countryside villages there. There is a very real possibility that Turkey may launch another invasion soon.

Bolstering Erdoğan’s domestic political position

With Turkey’s June 2023 presidential and parliamentary elections looming, Erdoğan needs to consolidate his voting base now more than ever. Six opposition parties in Turkey have declared their commitment to unseat Erdoğan and restore parliamentary democracy by rolling back his executive presidential system. These developments have taken place as various public opinion polls show the president’s approval rating has declined and as Turkey faces a worsening economic crisis. Erdoğan’s re-election prospects are growing dimmer.

A Turkish offensive in Syria could provide the win that Erdoğan needs to save his domestic political position. The Kurdistan Workers Party’ (PKK) is a Kurdish militant group that operates in both Turkey and Syria and has engaged in an armed struggle for Kurdish autonomy against the Turkish state since 1984. A new Turkish military campaign against PKK bases across the Syrian border could bolster Erdoğan’s reputation as a victor in the fight against terrorism.

Additionally, the Turkish population appears to be losing patience with the 3.6 million Syrian refugees resident in the country. In August last year, mobs of Turkish nationals ransacked Syrian-owned businesses and homes after a Turkish teenager was stabbed to death in a fight with a group of refugees. Furthermore, a 2021 poll suggested over 70% of Turks would support any party promising the toughest action on refugees. Establishing new safe zones in northern Syria would enable Erdoğan to send many of these refugees to Syria, thus improving his standing with voters.

Finally, intervening in Syria would enable Erdoğan to shift Turkey’s national conversation away from its economic troubles and towards identity politics. A Turkish invasion of Syria directly targets two of Turkey’s most notable ethnic minorities: the Kurds and the Syrians. By othering these groups, Erdoğan can pump a populist nationalist discourse mobilizing public opinion in his favor.

Conclusion

Erdoğan views the international stage through a lens of opportunities. The emerging power vacuum in Syria is the next opportunity for him to pursue Turkey’s national security agenda and quash the PKK while strengthening his political position at home. A Turkish invasion would feed the increasingly nationalist fervor in Turkey that has kept Erdoğan in power for so long. Foreign policy is his instrument of choice to shore up his domestic standing and maintain his hold on power, and now that his position is under threat with the upcoming elections, Erdoğan will be sounding his trumpet as loud as he can. For Bashar al-Assad’s Syria, this means a hostile foreign power infringing on its already chaotic borders. For Russia, this means a revitalized threat against a critical regional ally. For the United States, this could mean an emboldened ISIS presence in the Middle East, since Kurdish forces in northern Syria regularlnoy collaborate with the U.S. military to contain ISIS. Finally, for Erdoğan, this is a chance for yet another boost forward in his quest for absolute authority over his country.

#### It's likely now – Erdogan’s telling the U.S. to withdraw.

Ragip Soylu 7/20, Middle East Eye correspondent based in Ankara and former correspondent for Turkish media outlets Daily Sabah and ATV, “Turkish president tells US to remove forces from northern Syria”, https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/turkey-erdogan-wants-us-out-northern-syria \\SYang

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has called on the United States to leave northern Syria, saying the withdrawal could weaken "terror groups" supported by Washington.

"The US needs to leave the areas on the east of the river Euphrates, this is our conclusion at the Astana [talks]," Erdogan told a group of journalists who accompanied him to Tehran on Tuesday for a trilateral summit with his Iranian and Russian counterparts.

"It is the US that feeds the terror groups there; it would ease our work if the US withdraws or cuts support to these groups."

In recent weeks, the Turkish military has been sending reinforcements to northern Syria, especially areas near the town of Tal Rifaat, which is held by the People’s Protection Units (YPG), a US-backed Kurdish militia that Turkey considers the Syrian branch of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), and a terror group.

#### That causes terrorism and instability – conflict multiplier.

Will Todman 19, fellow at the Middle East Program of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, October 7, 2019, “The Implications of a Turkish Intervention in Northeastern Syria”, https://www.csis.org/analysis/implications-turkish-intervention-northeastern-syria \\SYang

A3: A Turkish invasion of northeastern Syria is likely to result in a high number of casualties in the near term and significant instability in the longer term. For years, the SDF was the principal U.S. partner in the campaign against the ISG, and it has grown into a formidable fighting force.

Perhaps the greatest fear is the resurgence of the ISG in Syria. With the SDF focused on the north to repel a Turkish attack, it will redeploy forces from southeastern Syria. These areas have already witnessed sporadic attacks from ISG cells and a spike in tensions between the local Arab tribes and the SDF in recent months. The attack may also mean the release of up some 12,000 jihadi prisoners and tens of thousands of dependents who are in areas controlled by the SDF. The ISG has called on its members to free the detainees. The White House claims that Turkey will assume responsibility for these detainees, but the chances of a smooth handover from Kurdish to Turkish authorities is slim.

In addition, the humanitarian impact of a Turkish attack likely would be dire. The United Nations says that more than 758,000 people live in the border zone, many of whom have already been displaced at least once during the conflict. These civilians would likely flee south from the border area into Arab-majority areas and across the border to Iraq, which is experiencing widespread and violent protests. Turkey’s plans to resettle as many as a million Syrian refugees to the border area would dramatically change the ethnic makeup of the region, fueling further instability.