



**THE EXTENT TO WHICH AMERICA'S SUPPORT FOR KURDISH  
GROUPS THAT THREATEN THE TURKISH BORDERS  
AFFECTED THE U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS**

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## Abstract

The paper discusses the status of U.S.- Turkey relationship as a result of America's support for Kurdish groups that threaten the Turkish borders. The analysis shows the strong relationship between the two countries for a long period of time. However, in the recent past, the relationship between Turkey and the USA has declined, majorly because of contradicting opinions and interests between the two countries. The USA openly supports the activities of the Kurdish groups, which threaten the Turkish borders, which has negatively affected the relationship between the two countries. The Kurds living in Turkey have experienced rejection in some form. They live in predominantly poor areas and do not enjoy rights and freedoms as the rest of the Turkish population. The post-cold war relationship between the U.S. and Turkey was cordial, due to the political and socioeconomic partnerships. However, most recently, the relationship has turned sour, majorly due to the different interests which are mostly colliding. Turkey has recently acquired weapons from Russia which has devastated the already poor relations between the two countries. U.S. has imposed sanctions on Turkey which may force Turkey to purchase more weapons from Russia to upgrade its almost obsolete firearms. Recent developments show Turkey's commitment to reduce its dependence on the West. The country has diversified its exports and imports to reduce Western influence. It is necessary for the U.S. government to determine if their support for Turkey's efforts will enhance and coordinate the security of the Middle East region. The coordination of security needs to take place in complex strategic and regional environments to reduce the risk of insecurities and promote more peace. The U.S. and Turkey should hold talks to discuss Turkey's decision to acquire the S 400 system from Russia, a widely known adversary for the U.S.. U.S. on the other hand needs to avoid holding tough decisions on CAATSA sanctions.

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