



**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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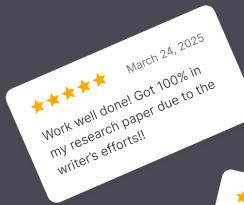
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## CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

### Introduction

This study assumes a secondary research approach. Newman and Robson (2014) describe the secondary research method as an approach that involves a systemic content analysis of existing scientific literature to derive new insights from the prior published material. This approach allows for an efficient method for satisfying the study aims. This study involves an evaluation of the threats posed by the support rendered by the U.S. to the Kurdish groups engaged in insurgent activities along the southern Turkish borders on its relationship with Turkey. The satisfaction of those study goals requires the utilisation of data related to the policy, practices, and concerns of the U.S. regarding the Kurdish groups currently engaged in an armed conflict with the Turkish authorities along Turkey's boarders, and their effects on the Turkish-American relations. The secondary research method allowed the researcher to obtain the data required to satisfy those study goals.

### Data Collection

This study utilised a secondary case study analysis of the published literature related to its research aims and objectives. The secondary research method requires the collection, summarising, analysis, and collation of existing research data related to the aims and objectives of the researcher's study (Creswell & Creswell, 2017). For the secondary research, the first step involved the determination of what the researcher really wanted to learn regarding the subject and what they currently knew. The researcher then needed to make a list of important terms that would precipitate the published literature containing the required information. The researcher then compiled and analysed the collected information to derive insights on the study themes, and

responses to the guiding questions. The researcher obtained the assistance of a librarian in locating information that was relevant to the study.

The researcher used case studies from secondary sources to collect and analyse data. The researcher used a research design which helped the research process. As identified by Johnston (2014), the secondary research approach requires the researcher to first identify and locate potential literature for inclusion in the dataset, then conduct an evaluation of that dataset to ensure its appropriateness for the involved study topic, and finally, to conduct a process of data triangulation to investigate whether the individual sources contained in the dataset generally agree with other literature material, to establish an internal validity and consistency of the current study by ensuring the utilisation of valid and reliable original research. Peer reviewed articles, books, magazines, and journals are the major resources used in this research. Desktop research was done to collect and review data from various secondary sources. Manuals, reports, procedures, policies, statistical data, standards, regulations, and project documentation from the international relations industry were analysed. These secondary resources were reviewed with an objective of meeting the research's objectives.

The desktop review, a research step, aided in the creation of a clear and polished research paper which will advance existing literature on international relations' topic on the relationship between Turkey and the USA. Additionally, the research was used in assessing and finding solutions to countries facing conflicts. During the study, discrepancies were identified. These discrepancies were sorted out before analysing and reviewing resources that were utilized in the research. The researcher exempted some of resources because of their keywords, the research titles, and contents of their abstracts. The key words used in the research were: Turkey, United States, bilateral, free trade, relations, politics, Kurdish groups, Turkey- Syria, strategic relations,

negatively impacted, relationship and governments. The researcher collated the literature material available for utilisation in the study and subsequently, analysed and reviewed those resources for their relevance to the study and the satisfaction of its aims.

The researcher went through the table of contents of the resources to ensure that the content was in line with the topic under study. That search generated 102 results. The researcher further narrowed down that number by eliminating the candidates that were less suitable for use in the study. Some of the eliminated resources were not in line with the set research topic. The researcher eliminated 52 resources by going through the table of contents. The researcher then examined the abstracts, hence eliminating a further thirty-two sources. The study made use of the remaining 19 sources, which were the most relevant and contained the research information required for the analysis. The research studies guided the research by giving new information and insights to the researcher.

### **Utility of the Secondary Research Approach in the Study**

Researchers use secondary data analysis to attempt to address an emerging research issue or investigate a different angle on a preceding study's actual question. The expenditure of secondary research is among the most evident benefits. A scholar does not have to commit any funds, time or energy in the information gathering stages with his or her project because others have already done so. While a scientist may need to acquire tertiary data in order to use it in a study, their prices are typically always below what it might cost to produce the identical data collection from the beginning.

Furthermore, the information from a secondary data collection is often already cleansed and saved in a digital form, allows the investigator to spend much more time evaluating the data rather than preparing it for analysis. The massive amounts and variety of knowledge that seems

to be openly available currently is yet another advantage of evaluating secondary data rather than analysing raw data. For example, utilising findings of published studies offers investigators with access to quantities of information that would otherwise be difficult for the researcher to get on their own.

### **Potential Weaknesses of the Secondary Research Approach**

While the secondary study methodology entails significant advantages to the researcher and the research process, the methodology does feature some drawbacks. One of the main limiting aspects of secondary research is that the utilised data was corrected for a purpose different from the current researcher's study aims, meaning that it might not respond to the specific research questions of the researcher (Boslaugh, 2007). However, in the case of the current study, that limitation was not especially significant because the research required the utilisation of widely available historical and political information that the researcher could readily triangulate to precipitate viable secondary data that could satisfy the study's aims and questions.

The secondary research approach may also face a challenge generated by a disconnect of the researcher from the initial research process. When undertaking a secondary research, the researcher is a non-participant in the data collection process, and does not know exactly how the initial inquirers conducted their study process, nor the entailed problems or issues (Cole & Trihn, 2017). Such issues might lead to problems such as misinterpreting the original findings, an aspect that may limit the utility of the data. To overcome that limitation, the researcher for the current study utilised a rigorous process of careful examination and critical evaluation of the utilised information, alongside a triangulation approach, to ensure the utilisation of factual data in the study.