

# **Security Council**



## **Turkey's Identity Crisis**

**Director: Enrique González**

**Co-Director: Tatiana Boillat**

**LMUN 2018**

Dear Delegates,

After many amazing years of MUN experiences, I've decided that the best way to end my MUN career, is by being the chair of my favorite councils in my school. I've always liked politics and I love to talk about serious issues with my friends and relatives, even if I end up alone defending myself. But besides MUN and politics, I love finance and the business world as well as incredible sports such as Formula 1 and tennis. I've been a Lincoln student since day 1 and I'll graduate as an original this 2018. I can tell you that one of my favorite things this school has offered me, is all the opportunities to meet new people; and yes, most of that new people I've met is thanks to MUN. Even if you sometimes meet really weird people, these experiences have been great. As I obtained the privilege to be chair of the most important committee of the UN, the Security Council, I decided that I want to have this last committee as the cherry on the cake of all my MUN experiences. So, for those who know me, they'll know I will expect simply the best from every single delegate. And for those who don't know me, trust me, you will. Lastly, I also have the tremendous honor of having an incredibly smart and charming Co-Chair. Delegates... please prepare yourselves like never before because this weekend will be heated. As a head start for your research, please read the study guide below which will start you off on the topic, but we highly encourage you to do deep research and align with your position because you'll need it.

Best regards,

Your Director and Director



## SECURITY COUNCIL

---

## UNITED NATIONS

### **Introduction to the Security Council**

One of the six principal organs of the United Nations are the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Its main roll is the maintenance of peace and security throughout the international community. The UNSC is one of the most closed councils present at the United Nations. It is composed of five permanent members, which are the ones who also hold the veto power, being China, France, United Kingdom, United States, and the Russian Federation. And then there are 10 temporary seats that are chosen at the UN General Assembly and they chose representatives from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean, Western Europe, Eastern Europe; these members are rotated every two years. The Security Council itself was

formed at the San Francisco Conference in 1945 since the present nations believed that the United Nations has to have a smaller branch (organ) that would be in charge in defense and execution operations. This means that the UN Security Council has the undisputed authority to exercise powers from the international law in order to create binding resolutions. One of the features the Security Council was given since its creation, was the ability to rapidly respond to international crises as the they develop. The Security Council must then transform international disaster into constructive development. But the Security Council does not act as a “minute men” response team; before they deal with any issues, the whole council must have a clear concept of the issue and any underlying problems that come along with it.

The history of the Security Council has varied from being quite effective at solving international crises to a slower approach at reaching a solution. The new "Cold War" atmosphere in the international community between the US and Russia, drags the Security Council, and all of the other main UN organs, leaving the whole purpose of peace keeping and peacemaking, off to the side. But what acts as the biggest obstacle, is finding the sufficient

international support to deal with the issue; it is often the case that the SC approves a decision, but when they try to implement it, many nations that did not take roll in the sessions, decide that they do not want to cooperate with the UN and since the UN does not assume an authoritarian roll, the issue is left undealt with.

### **Statement of the Problem**

A liberal democracy has been present in Turkey on and off since 1950. Be that as it may, ever since the 2015 elections were held, tension has grown due to the political rejection. Political elites did not accept the results, in which the Justice and Democracy Party (AKP) lost its absolute majority to the Peoples' Democracy Party (HDP, pro-Kurdish leftist). This became a crisis to the representative democracy, and given that they are far from compatible, anger aroused. In July of the election year, conflict between the PKK armed group and the Armed Forces was renewed, which only concluded to the end of the peace process between the Government and the Kurds.

Elections were repeated that same year in November, and the AKP now won with absolute majority. Before, during and after Turkey suffered from various terrorist

attacks, work of both the PKK and the Islamic State. The climax of this instability was the attempted coup on July 15, 2016. The failed attempt by a section the Turkish military to topple the government and unseat President Recep Tayyip Erdogan resulted in the bloodiest coup in the country's history as Turkish citizens assembled in the streets with only kitchen utensils to oppose the coup leading to 241 people killed and 2, 194 injured.

Since then, the country is under a state of emergency. As "punishment" for those who attempted the coup actually backfired, costing the work of more than 130, 000 people, 165 journalists are in jail and 149 media outlets have been closed (July, 2017).

After all these events, Turkey held a referendum in April of 2017 to amend the Constitution. The changes imply a switch from a parliamentary system to a presidential system, without control mechanisms. However, the international observers of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) stated that the referendum in Turkey did not follow the Council of Europe standards. The campaign period was very unfair, the principles of "free and fair" elections were violated multiple times. This, combined with

the decision issued by the Supreme Electoral Commission to also count the votes without official seal, raised many doubts about the legitimacy of the referendum, despite its importance for the future of the country. Marches occur every month, and people are furious that their democracy is not being fulfilled as it should. Still, many are afraid to speak out, due to the corruption from the government and the multiple terrorist attacks that have happened.



### **History Behind the Problem**

The Republic of Turkey has had a long and conflictive history. But the history behind Turkey's Identity Crisis sprouts from two factors. The first one being Atatürk's Kemalist Reforms which built the Turkish republic and the Erdoğan Mandate. These began in 1923 after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. The Reforms are based on a mythology of "Turkishness" and the "Six Arrows". The Six Arrows are: republicanism, statism, reformism,

populism, nationalism, and secularism. Atatürk also believed that in order for Turkey to modernize, it had to follow the way of the Western ideologies. So, the Republic of Turkey was created as a secular Western nation.

The Kemalist Reforms were also created with a strict and controlled approach towards religion. Atatürk moved to disestablish Islam as the official religion. He instituted Latin scripts, European numerals, the Georgian calendar, etc. Currently, Turkey is the only Muslim Country with no official state religion.

The idea of "Turkishness" implies that the Kurds had to be alienated. The identity of the Kurds where officially denied.

Atatürk's secularization was simple; opposition was a personal piety; and religion could not enter the public sphere of: politics, education, media, and the arts.

Turkey, as a culture has been divided into two parallel societies; a secular and a religious one. Throughout time, the Islamists nationalists have accepted the idea of the secular Republic and the Republican Elite has used the concept of religion to their own benefits.

After 2003, Turkey would fall into an authoritarian regime, born under a democratic Government. The former mayor of Istanbul, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the current President, was elected into power along with the conservative Justice and Development Party (AKP). Erdoğan had a clear objective for Turkey, to become a global superpower and a mayor economic power. Another objective, which the government has aimed for, is the complete integration of Turkey into the European Union, thus becoming a European nation. But Erdoğan has also tried to achieve his objectives ruling as an autocratic leader and as the ultimate power. He has tried to shift Turkey from a parliament to a presidential democracy; which equals more power lying upon Erdoğan. Since 2003, Turkey's economy has boomed, as well as its private debt. But even with the major economic growth, Erdoğan has ruled in a way that the society is split apart. Along with some military unrest, a coup d'état broke out in 2016. Although it is officially declared a terrorist act according to the Turkish government.

### **Current Situation**

After the country declared itself in a state of emergency because of the failed

coup, media outlets have been closed down, innocent people such as teachers, police officers, and civil servants have been sacked, and more than 50,000 have been arrested. These actions have led to tension with the European Union because of the suspicion that president Erdogan used the post-coup to justify his elimination of the opposition in the country. In addition, freedom of speech has been endangered by Erdogan's attempt to intimidate media and businesses, scholars, and journalists to shut down peaceful campaigns against his rule.

On the other hand, Turkey has ongoing security threats all over the country; ISIS has been suspected to be affiliated to multiple attacks, and other groups continue to terrorize the nation. Turkey is probably going to confront a continuation of the dangers that it encountered amid 2017 – common turmoil, outside strategy pressures, an agitated economy, and progressing dangers from fear-based oppressor gatherings. In any case, that most likely won't stop Erdogan (Turkish president) from establishing his dictator direction and continuing on the way of growing provincial impact.

As for the people, there is a wedge in the population since half of the country is pro- Erdogan and the other half is against his regime. This rivalry has created a division in the nation, and as more attacks take place the tension grows because each side blames the other. Filled with oppression and resentment, the Turkish people have developed violence and rage which threatens to further damage the nation's situation. The conflict between the state and the PKK will just continue to evolve and magnify if something does not change, endangering the lives of thousands of Turks and even the regions stability. But what makes Turkey's identity crisis critical, is the lack of international commitment and interest given to solve the issue.

Also, Turkey is compromising the judicial independence of a United Nations war crimes tribunal by holding one of its judges in detention despite an order to release him, the court ruled, referring the matter to the U.N. Security Council. The U.N. court had earlier ordered Ankara to release Judge Aydin Sefa Akay, a Turkish national who was detained last year on suspicion of involvement in last July's failed coup, which claimed some 240 lives. This where the Security Council can interfere for the sake of the international community.

As for NATO, Turkey is not only a valuable member in military strength, but also an excellent asset for strategic and tactical positioning regarding Middle Eastern and Eastern European forces. Jens Stoltenberg, NATO's Secretary General has given official statements regarding the matter:

"Democracy and rule of law are shared values of NATO Allies. On the first anniversary of the coup attempt in Turkey I reiterate my strong message that any attempt to undermine democracy in any of our Allied countries is unacceptable."

"Immediately after the coup attempt I strongly condemned it and expressed NATO's solidarity with our valued ally Turkey. I also visited Ankara in the aftermath of the coup attempt and still remember the shock I felt seeing the damage inflicted at the Parliament building by the bombardments of the coup plotters."

### **Bloc Positions**



### The United States of America

The United States of America not only is one of the five permanent members of the UNSC, but it is also a major democratic superpower which holds a lot of weight in the issue. The US is also the leading nation of NATO and is a troops donator to the UN. Their interests are to keep the spread of democratic influence and keeping world order.

After the attempted coup d'état, the U.S saw itself in a very uncomfortable position. Turkey, a large NATO member, is also one of the very few Muslim countries with an established democracy. Turkey also supports the Islamic rebels in Syria. And reasonably, Turkey is a geographical position of advantage regarding the West and the Middle East.



### Republic of Turkey

The Republic of Turkey is the center of attention regarding the issue. After the coup, the Turkish government declared that

the CIA and some Turks auto-exiled in the U.S had deep roots in the organization of the coup. The government did not declare the “coup d'état” as such. They called it a terrorist attack by people who did not want a strong Turkish nation in order to overthrow the president. After the issue, many civilians along with more than 1,500 military personnel have been arrested. Any similar attempts have been suppressed by strong military action.



### Russian Federation

Months before the Turkish situation, the Russo-Turk relations had been at an all-time low since the Turkish forces had shot down and killed a Russian pilot. Leading to Russia banning all Turkish imports and placing a travel restriction to Turkey for Russians. Also, Turkey was helping the rebels overthrow Al Assar from power, who Russia support. But after the civil up rise, President Erdoğan got in



contact with the Russian President Vladimir Putin. Erdoğan flew to St. Petersburg to meet with Putin in order to improve the relations. The travel ban was lifted along with the products ban. There is still a tense atmosphere between both nations since the approach towards the Syrian issue is still different and in opposition.



### Egypt

Egypt emerged as a particularly vocal supporter of the failed coup. The regime of Abd el-Fattah al-Sisi is already hostile of Turkey's government due to the latter's public support of deposed President Mohamed Morsi and its condemnation of the Egyptian uprising in 2013. Despite Erdogan's dedication to Islam in his government and being the president that has the closest way of thinking to Saudi Arabia, Egypt has not forgotten Turkey's actions and in the aftermath of the failed Turkish coup in 2016, Egyptian lawmakers even proposed offering political asylum to Fethullah Gulen, official orchestrator of the

coup, in case he chose to leave the US, where he is currently living under exile following Turkish efforts to extradite the cleric.

### **Questions the Committee Must Answer**

- How can the UN and Security Council open a dialogue with the Turkish government in order to start peace negotiations?
- How can we ensure the effectiveness of these talks in order to quickly restore the individual freedoms of the people against the oppressive government policies?
- How can the UN along with the EU join forces in order to have weight and influence over the Turks?
- How can the United Nations, NATO, and European Union join forces to co-operate for the restoration of peace in the region? Solve the humanitarian crisis?
- How can a proper democratic process in the next elections be guaranteed by the international community without the violation of national sovereignty?
- How can the UN and Turkish government work together to relieve

the tension and divisions in the country's population?

### **Works cited**

Cook, Steven A. "Turkey's Identity Crisis." The Atlantic, Atlantic Media Company, 25 June 2017, [www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/06/turkey-erdogan-akp/531468/](http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/06/turkey-erdogan-akp/531468/).

Cagaptay, Soner. "Opinion | Turkey's Permanent State of Crisis." The Washington Post, WP Company, 20 Dec. 2016, [www.washingtonpost.com/news/global-opinions/wp/2016/12/20/turkeys-permanent-state-of-crisis/?utm\\_term=.f3872d967858](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/global-opinions/wp/2016/12/20/turkeys-permanent-state-of-crisis/?utm_term=.f3872d967858).

"Turkey after Atatürk." Countrystudies.us, US Library of Congress, [countrystudies.us/turkey/15.htm](http://countrystudies.us/turkey/15.htm).

Özgündüz, Mehmet Ali. "What Is the Final Objective of Turkey's President, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan?" Quora, Quora, 23 Mar. 2017, [www.quora.com/What-is-the-final-objective-of-Turkey's-president-Recep-Tayyip-Erdoğan](http://www.quora.com/What-is-the-final-objective-of-Turkey's-president-Recep-Tayyip-Erdoğan).

Candemir, Yeliz. "Turkey's 2014 GDP Below Official Expectations." The Wall

Street Journal, Dow Jones & Company, 31 Mar. 2015, [www.wsj.com/articles/turkeys-2014-gdp-below-official-expectations-1427817362](http://www.wsj.com/articles/turkeys-2014-gdp-below-official-expectations-1427817362).

"Report for Selected Countries and Subjects." International Monetary Fund, 2017, [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2016/01/weodata/weorept.aspx?sy=1980&ey=2021&scsm=1&ssd=1&sort=country&ds=.&br=1&pr1.x=44&pr1.y=16&c=186&s=NGDPD%2CNGDPDPC%2CPPPGDP%2CPPPPC%2CPPPSH%2CLUR%2CLP&grp=0&a=](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2016/01/weodata/weorept.aspx?sy=1980&ey=2021&scsm=1&ssd=1&sort=country&ds=.&br=1&pr1.x=44&pr1.y=16&c=186&s=NGDPD%2CNGDPDPC%2CPPPGDP%2CPPPPC%2CPPPSH%2CLUR%2CLP&grp=0&a=).

"The World Factbook: TURKEY." Central Intelligence Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, 23 Jan. 2018, [www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tu.html](http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tu.html).

"Recep Tayyip Erdogan: Turkey's Pugnacious President." BBC News, BBC, 17 Apr. 2017, [www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-13746679](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-13746679).

Adams, Sam. "What Has Happened in Turkey? The Attempted Coup Explained." Mirror, MGN Limited, 21 July 2016,

[www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/what-happened-turkey-attempted-coup-8432395](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/what-happened-turkey-attempted-coup-8432395).

Djavadi, Abbas. "The Turkish Coup Attempt, Russia, And The West." RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty, RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty, 5 Aug. 2016, [www.rferl.org/a/turkey-notebook-coup-attempt-russia-west/27902350.html](http://www.rferl.org/a/turkey-notebook-coup-attempt-russia-west/27902350.html).