

Dynamics and Direction of Changes in the Relations Between the Republic of Poland and Turkey in the Period from 1989 to 2014

Summary

Turkey and Poland lie in two completely different geopolitical areas, so ideological and social factors make political dialogue between them more difficult. Turkish-Polish relations have a long history. In 2014 both states celebrated the 600th anniversary of diplomatic relations. It should be noted that six centuries of mutual relations developed deep economic, cultural and political ties between the countries.

It is the only European state with which Turkey has such a long bilateral relation. The 17th century is the most important period in the Turkish-Polish relations. In the 18th century Turkey was the only state in Europe that did not acknowledge the partitions of Poland. The strength of those relations can be illustrated by the question that the sultan asked the grand vizier at every Friday selamlık meeting in front of all the diplomatic corps:

– Where is the envoy from Poland?

– Your majesty, the envoy from Poland has not arrived yet – the answer would sound.

Despite numerous conflicts in the history both states were consistently undertaking attempts to improve mutual relations. At the moment the language of diplomacy describes the mutual relations between both states as friendly. The author of this thesis will attempt to check if they can really be described as such.

The former Ottoman empire after 1923 transformed into a new state – the Republic of Turkey – thanks to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Turkey is a secular, post-imperial state with a Muslim population. It is located between Europe and Asia. For a long time it was the American “policemen” in the Middle East. Nowadays it is a global political, military, cultural and economic hub. Poland immediately recognized the Republic of Turkey by signing a “Treaty of Friendship” in 1924. Despite many differences in culture, religion, language and a large distance Turkey and Poland keep up mutual activities aimed at ensuring long-term and beneficial relations. The cooperation of Turkey and Poland develops at political, commercial, military and cultural levels. Poland supports Turkish aspirations to join the European Union and is a willing host for president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

The research for the thesis includes the territory of two states: Turkey, located in Europe and Asia – that has been a candidate for European Union admission for the last decades, and Poland – a

member of the EU. It will also take a look at political, cultural, economic and security relations.

The analysis and assessment of bilateral relations between Turkey and Poland in the period 1989–2014 were the subject of the thesis. The research undertaken allow to formulate a general conclusion that the moment of European Union accession was the turning point in the transformation of Polish politics initiated in early 1990's.

To recapitulate, it does not seem that Turkish-Polish relations are to change in the future, although one can also see perspectives for their development. Making a safe assessment of Turkish-Polish relations in the 1989–2014 period it can be stated that a noticeable change in this area took place after the political systems in both states stabilized.