### Turkey

#### Turkey is recognized as a just government. Zubaida 11 [Sami Zubaida, 30 May 2011, “Turkey as a model of democracy and Islam,” Sami Zubaida is Emeritus Professor of Politics and Sociology at Birkbeck, University of London and a Fellow of Birkbeck College. He is also Research Associate of the London Middle East Institute and Professorial Research Associate of the Food Studies Centre, both at SOAS. He has held visiting positions in Cairo, Istanbul, Beirut, Aix-en-Provence, Paris, Berkeley CA and NYU, and has written and lectured widely on religion, culture, law and politics in the Middle East, with particular attention to Egypt, Iran, Iraq and Turkey.. He is the author of Beyond Islam: A New Understanding of the Middle East (IB Tauris, 2011); https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/north-africa-west-asia/turkey-as-model-of-democracy-and-islam/]

In the diverse discourses on the ‘Arab spring’, **Turkey often comes up as a positive model of democracy, and one which is harmonious with Islam.** In that model Islam is friendly to democracy and distant from militant jihadism. **The system is favourable to enterprise and open to world markets**, and has achieved enviable economic growth and a degree of generalised prosperity. It is reassuring to the west: a friendly and capitalist Islamic democracy, at peace with its neighbours, and indeed a force for stability and problem-solving in the Middle East. **The main demands and slogans of the oppositional and revolutionary movements in the Arab countries are to do with liberty, democracy**, jobs and livelihood and an end to corruption. Islam does not appear to be an issue. But, of course, there are diverse Islamic elements in the field, notably the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and Syria, and al-Nahda in Tunisia, those chiming in with the main thrust of the movement emphasising liberty and democracy. **They are opposed by Salafi conservatives for whom Islamic observances and disciplines are paramount, to be enforced by just government**, and who reject alien and infidel models of society. This confrontation is now raging in Egypt. In these ideological fields, Turkey is regularly cited as a model of co-existence of Islam with democracy and pluralism, as well as a healthy capitalist economy.

#### Define unconditional: not conditional or limited. Merriam Webster

#### Compared to the rest of the world, Turkey has some of the worst working conditions, empirics prove. OECD 18 [The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2018, “How does TURKEY compare?” The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. Our goal is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all. We draw on 60 years of experience and insights to better prepare the world of tomorrow.; https://www.oecd.org/turkey/jobs-strategy-TURKEY-EN.pdf]

ASSESSING JOB QUANTITY, QUALITY AND LABOUR MARKET INCLUSIVENESS The new OECD Jobs Strategy presents a dashboard of labour market performance that provides a comprehensive overview of the strengths and weaknesses of different national labour markets, going well beyond the standard measures of employment and unemployment rates. These include measures of job quantity (employment, unemployment and broad underemployment), job quality (pay, labour market security, working environment) and labour market inclusiveness (income equality, gender equality, employment access for potentially disadvantaged groups). Some countries score well on most or all indicators, implying that there are no hard trade-offs that prevent countries from performing well in all areas.  **Turkey has the lowest employment rate and one of the highest broad labour underutilisation rates** among OECD countries, mainly due to low participation of women. **The unemployment rate is also significantly higher than the OECD average**.  **Turkey has the second lowest earnings quality and second highest job strain among OECD countries**. **42.9% of the wage earners experience job strain and accordingly working extra hours is common**. Labour market insecurity is the third highest among OECD countries after Greece and Spain, partly due to limited availability of unemployment benefits.  **The employment gap for disadvantaged groups is the highest in Turkey among OECD countries.** In another aspect of inclusiveness, i.e. low-income rate, Turkey does slightly better, but remains below the OECD average. Despite recent improvements, the share of working-age persons living in households with less than 50% of the median income remains at 13.5%.

#### The right to strike is not recognized by Turkey and is not unconditional, the restrictions on strikes are extremely limiting. EPSU 18 [European Public Service Union, 2018, “The right to strike in the public sector, Turkey”; The European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) brings together trade unions from across Europe. We influence the policies and decisions of employers, governments and European institutions that affect public service workers, their families and communities. We mobilise for action and change and are committed to achieving another, social Europe. The European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) represents 8 million public service workers across Europe. We are the strong trade union voice that workers need, whether that’s with employers, the European Parliament, the Commission or national governments. https://www.epsu.org/sites/default/files/article/files/Turkey%20-%20Right%20to%20strike%20in%20the%20public%20sector.pdf]

2. Who has the right to call a strike? **In Turkey only trade unions have the right to call a strike and only with the aim of concluding a collective agreement. Non-union bodies, federations or confederations of workers and workers themselves are in general not allowed to call and launch a strike under Turkish law.** 3. Definition of strike Article 58 of the Act 6356 define strike as follows: ‘Strike means any concerted cessation by employees of their work with the purpose of halting the activities of an establishment or of paralyzing activities to a considerable extent, or any abandonment by employees of their work in accordance with a decision taken to that effect by an organization.’ Given that strikes must thus have an occupational objective related to an interest dispute, strikes aiming at bringing about a collective agreement or aiming at enforcing a collective agreement are not allowed. 7 Also as a consequence of the definition in Article 58, sympathy strikes are not permitted. Following the referendum of 2010, whereby Article 54§7 of the Constitution was abolished, political strikes are no longer prohibited. However as a consequence of Article 58, and the fact that it has to relate to a labour dispute, it seems that it is still accepted that the ban on political strikes still applies.8 Previous prohibitions of strike in public notary services, vaccine and serum producers, clinics, sanatoriums, dispensaries and pharmacies, education and schooling institutions, child-care institutions, aviation services and nursing homes have been removed with the new text of Act No. 6356. Other modalities of industrial action such as **solidarity secondary strikes, warning strikes, go slow, sit-ins, work-to-the-rule, rotating strikes, occupation of the enterprise’s premises, blockades, picketing and other acts of resistance are not permitted under Turkish law.** 9 **Strikes and lockouts are not allowed** according to the Article 62 of the Act No.6356 **for particular activities and services:  operations for saving life and property;  funeral and mortuary services;  exploration, production, refining or purification and distribution of water, electricity, gas, coal, natural gas and petroleum;  banking services  fire-fighting and land, sea, railway and other urban public transportation by rail;  hospitals,  cemeteries;**  establishments run by the Ministry of Defence, Chief Constabulary or Coast Guard Command. 10 The government is allowed to temporarily prohibit a strike action in case of war and natural disasters. Also, the law allows the Council of Ministers to suspend for a period of 60 days a strike in the case of being prejudicial to public health or national security. The suspension comes into effect on the date of the publication of the government’s order. 6 A law suit for the annulment of that order may however be brought before the Council of State.11 Following the attempted coup on 15 July 2016 and the declaration of the state of emergency, more than thirty emergency decrees have been adopted including Emergency Decree No. 678 which amended article 63§1 of Act N° 6356 which extended the criteria for allowing suspension. Next to public health and national security, the strike may also not be prejudicial to local public transportation services of the metropolitan municipality and economic and financial stability in banking services. Furthermore, any strike might not be exercised in contravention with the principle of good faith or in such a manner as to cause a harm to society or to destroy national wealth. The concepts of good faith is embedded in the Turkish Civil Code.12 7 4. Who may participate in a strike? In general, non-union members and union members (even if they belong to another union than the one that called the strike) can participate in a strike. **In Turkey, a law completely barring public servants from striking was passed in 2001.13 Nevertheless, according to the Article 53 of the Constitution public servants has the right to bargain collectively.14 Article 27 prohibits the right to strike for these workers: ‘It is prohibited for state civil servants […] to organise, declare or publicise a strike […] state civil servants may not take part in a strike […] may not support or provoke the continuation of a strike’.**15 This thus applies amongst other to the following categories:  armed forces, including civilian officials and public servants in the Ministry of National Defence and the Turkish Armed Forces;  Police;  judges and public prosecutors, financial auditors, employees of penal institutions, special security personnel, public employees "in positions of trust", presidents of universities and directors of higher schools. Essential services are not defined by Turkish law. However, the activities within the context of the strike bans stated above, come within the scope of ‘essential services’ and this irrespective of whether these activities are carried out by public or private sector entities.

#### Unions are the only actors in Turkey allowed to organize strikes, but they often don’t carry out the interests of workers. Yildirim 21 [Hasan Yildirim, 10 July 2021, “Thousands of Turkish electricity workers launch wildcat strike wave”; Writer for Word Socialist, https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2021/07/10/turk-j10.html]

Thousands of energy workers in cities across Turkey are going on wildcat strikes against misery contracts imposed on them amid the social crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. After the April 30 action, when 2,000 Bedaş electricity workers in Istanbul launched a wildcat strike defying a strike ban, now **thousands of electricity workers** in Istanbul, Ankara, Adana and Zonguldak have spontaneously walked off the job. They **are protesting sell-out contracts made by the Tes-İş union affiliated to the Türk-İş union federation.** In recent days, **electricity workers held mass protests in various cities, inspired by the Bedaş workers, against the union’s attempt to hide plans for a sellout contract from them.** Energy workers generally earn near to minimum wage, i.e., a little over 3,000 Turkish liras (US$350). **The union announced its fourth meeting for collective bargaining with the EnerjiSA company** on June 29 in the Istanbul (Ayedaş), Ankara (Başkent) and Adana (Toroslar) branches. It said it had received the employer’s offer and agreed to negotiate as soon as possible. Ayedaş workers in Istanbul, who did not accept the company’s offer, gathered in front of the Sabancı Holding Headquarters, EnerjiSA’s parent company, defying objections from the Tes-İş union. Sabancı Holding, one of Turkey’s largest private conglomerates, has purchased privatized energy distribution operations in many cities. On Thursday, the workers gathered in front of EnerjiSA’s Maltepe, Istanbul, office with a banner reading, “We do not accept this slavery contract. We want a living wage.” They noted that while EnerjiSA CEO Murat Pınar reported that the company “grew by 48 percent in the first six months of 2021,” their raise was below the official rate of inflation. **Union officials who tried to speak to the workers were booed. Energy workers also mobilised in the capital, Ankara. After it was announced that the union had reached an agreement “in principle” behind the workers’ backs, workers protested in front of Tes-İş headquarters on July 7.** **The workers** staged a sit-in, briefly turning their backs on the union headquarters, then **entered the union building, chanting, “Union management should resign!” The union management was booed, and the protest continued into the evening hours.** A worker told the press: “There has been a 122 percent hike in electric bills, but our union is demanding a 9 percent [for the first six months] and 5 percent [for the second six months] increase. I almost died in this job.” Another worker added, “I have lost three coworkers since 2008.” Yesterday morning, the workers gathered and stopped work, chanting, “We don’t want an increase in misery.” Terrified by the workers’ militant stance, union officials tried to get workers back to work, but this failed. Workers protested horrific workplace safety records and repeated workplace deaths. One said, “We should die one day, not every day.” In Zonguldak, on the western Black Sea coast, electricity workers went on a wildcat strike yesterday morning after protesting against terrible conditions and the union’s cooperation with EnerjiSA on Wednesday. The workers expressed their determination to struggle, chanting a slogan: “This is just a beginning, more will come.” Protests and strikes also spread to Adana, where NATO’s Incirlik Air Base is located. On Wednesday and Thursday, hundreds of workers protested the union and shouted slogans after Tes-İş signed a sellout contract for a 9 percent raise for the first six months and a 6 percent raise for the second. Workers chanted, “**We don’t want such a union.” One worker told the press, “We work for hours in very hot weather. Everything gets a raise. Our wages have just melted. We have been waiting for this contract for two years. The real inflation rate is around 30 percent. We are given a 9 percent, and then a 6 percent wage increase. With this contract, our labor and sweat have been sold.”** While union leaders tried to appease the workers, claiming that “there will be a renegotiation, the contract has not been signed yet,” police came to threaten the workers in front of the Tes-İş Adana Branch. Yesterday morning, after an hour of booing and protesting the union, workers stopped work, pledging not to go back to work until their demands were met. A worker declared, “I will not be silent any more. Enough is enough!”

#### Strikes rarely happen, the approval process can be shut down and all employees must agree to the strike. Waas 12 [Professor Dr. Bernd Waas, September 2021, “Strike as a Fundamental Right of the Workers and its Risks of Conflicting with other Fundamental Rights of the Citizens”; Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany; https://www.islssl.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Strike-Waas.pdf]

**In Turkey, not only the trade union´s rank and file, but all employees in an establishment which will be affected by a strike have to approve the strike, independent of them being union members or not.** Legislation is in place according to which a strike ballot must be held as soon as one-fourth of all employees who work in the establishment request such a vote to be conducted. This request must be submitted to the highest local civil authority. According to the law, **the strike ballot must be conducted within six working days following the written request, outside working hours.**

#### Poor working conditions only increase unemployment and accelerate Turkey’s inflation crisis. Moss 21 [Daniel Moss, August 16 2021, “Inflation is Soaring. No Wonder Turkey Balked on Rates”; Daniel Moss is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering Asian economies. Previously he was executive editor of Bloomberg News for global economics, and has led teams in Asia, Europe and North America.; https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/inflation-is-soaring-no-wonder-turkey-balked-on-rates/2021/08/12/f1d339f2-fbe8-11eb-911c-524bc8b68f17\_story.html]

Purges and browbeating haven’t delivered Recep Tayyip Erdogan the economic results he craves: Low levels of interest rates and inflation. They have eluded the Turkish leader despite heavy-handedness toward monetary appointees. If he gives his current team some space, progress might be possible. Merely tossing out a central bank chief doesn’t get you a swift change of policy. That’s one of the big surprises, and lessons, of this saga in an important emerging market. The president’s preferences are clear. **Heads rolled at the central bank earlier this year after policy was tightened to fight an inflationary spiral.** The prevailing view was that a quick reversal of at least a portion of the rate hikes that peeved Erdogan was sure to follow, after hawkish governor Naci Agbal was fired in March. (I shared that view.) We are still waiting. No cut has been forthcoming. That the volte face hasn’t happened raises questions about whether switches in personnel can deliver radical change regardless of economic circumstances. Too much emphasis tends to be placed on the people who run organizations, not enough on the situation they are supposed to manage. Months after the eviction, followed by shifts in key roles below the rank of governor, the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey isn’t bending to Erdogan’s will. The bank kept the benchmark rate at 19% on Thursday and pledged to pursue price stability. “The policy rate will continue to be determined at a level above inflation to maintain a strong disinflationary effect until strong indicators point to a permanent fall in inflation and the medium-term 5 percent target is reached,” the bank said in a statement. **Galloping inflation makes a cave-in now dangerous for the lira, one of the worst-performing emerging market currencies this year.** Persistently defying the president isn’t an appealing career move for officials, either. **The country risks a half-way house, with rates neither high enough to decisively quash price increases nor low enough to satisfy Erdogan. The latest decision came after figures showed inflation picked up to 18.95% in July from a year earlier, a whisker away from the official price of money. If the goal is to wring inflation from the system, then there’s a strong case for a more muscular stance.** That would put Governor Sahap Kavcioglu on a collision course with the man who appointed him to succeed Agbal. Why wouldn’t Erdogan want lower inflation? His popularity, and that of the ruling party, is languishing. **Economic travails — unemployment is also high — are only part of the problem: A flailing response to the wildfires that have ripped through Turkey’s Mediterranean coast is also eroding support for the government.**

#### The impacts of the struggling economy only compound and further jeopardize Turkey’s values of democracy. The president is forced to verbally attack Europe and the US to gain supporters in the midst of an economic crisis. Kirişci and Sloat 19 [Kemal Kirişci and Amanda Sloat, 2019, “The rise and fall of liberal democracy in Turkey: Implications for the West”; Kemal Kirişci is the TÜSİAD senior fellow and director of the Turkey Project at the Brookings Institution. Before joining Brookings, Kirişci was a professor of international relations and held the Jean Monnet chair in European integration in the department of political science and international relations at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul. His areas of research interest include EU-Turkish relations, U.S.-Turkish relations, Turkish foreign and trade policies, European integration, immigration issues, ethnic conflicts and refugee movements. He is the co-author of the monograph, The Consequences of Chaos: Syria’s Humanitarian Crisis and the Failure to Protect (Brookings Institution Press, April 2016), which considers the long-term economic, political, and social implications of Syria’s displaced and offers policy recommendations to address the humanitarian crisis. His latest book, Turkey and the West: Faultlines in a Troubled Alliance, was published by the Brookings Institution Press in November 2017. Amanda Sloat is a Robert Bosch Senior Fellow in the Center on the United States and Europe at the Brookings Institution. She previously served in the U.S. government for nearly a decade, including at the White House, State Department, and House of Representatives’ Foreign Affairs Committee. Her most recent position was deputy assistant secretary of state for Southern Europe and Eastern Mediterranean affairs, where she was responsible for U.S. relations with Turkey.; https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/FP\_20190226\_turkey\_kirisci\_sloat.pdf]

**Turkey’s economic health will remain a domestic challenge.** **The value of the Turkish lira (TL) in American dollars depreciated from 2.15TL after Erdoğan’s first presidential election in August 2014 to 4.70TL at his re-election in June 2018.55 The economy further suffered in August 2018, with the lira reaching a record low of 7.24TL per dollar**, after the United States doubled steel and aluminum tariffs and sanctioned two Turkish ministers amid growing frustration over the detention of an American pastor on spurious terrorism charges.56 **Year-on-year inflation reached a 15-year high of nearly 22 percent in December 2018, well above the government target.**57 Turkish leaders frequently note the country’s impressive GDP growth rate, which was 7.4 percent in 2017. However, the economy has been sustained by government spending, reliance on the construction sector, and cheap credit that boosts consumption.58 **There are structural weaknesses, including large current accounts deficits, an external debt stock (of over half the country’s GDP, with 70 percent belonging to the private sector), and growing unemployment (averaging 11.6 percent in October 2018).**59 **The Turkish economy is also heavily dependent on trade and foreign direct investment, primarily from the EU. However, government data show that foreign investment was down 16 percent in 2017 from the previous year;60 it increased slightly in 2018**.61 These trends should worry Erdoğan, particularly given his reliance on pocketbook politics that have led some economically successful Turks to ignore his illiberal policies.62 The country’s poor economic performance is generally seen as the reason he called snap elections in June 2018 rather than waiting for the scheduled date of November 2019. He continues to face a contradiction between his economic and political interests: His tendency to attack Europe and the United States rhetorically to rally his nationalist base dissuades the investors needed to fuel Turkey’s economic success. **Declining rule of law** (including weakened due process and judicial independence), **growing xenophobia, and an unpredictable political environment also concern prospective investors.**

#### Increasing tensions between Turkey and other NATO nations results in expulsion or the country relying on Russia for economic support. Either scenario results in a stronger Russia and WW3. Pry 19 [Peter Pry, 23 October 2019, “Expelling Turkey from NATO would create a dangerous foe”; Contributor to The Hill; https://thehill.com/opinion/international/466747-expelling-turkey-from-nato-would-create-a-dangerous-foe]

Some Washington “experts” would kick Turkey out of NATO for aggression against the Kurds, and make the latter America’s new Middle East ally. They ignore the reality that **Turkey is vital to NATO** — and far more important to U.S. national security than the Kurds. Political scientist Samuel Huntington warned in “The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order” (1996) that Turkey eventually would turn Islamist and leave NATO. **Turkey’s president**, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is an Islamist strongman who **has been pulling away from NATO and leaning toward Russia**. Turkey’s departure from NATO may be historically inevitable — but it is irresponsible for Washington elites to accelerate a process that could begin the unraveling of NATO. Turkey, after all, is not the only discontented NATO member. President Trump is right to try to accommodate Turkey’s legitimate security interests on the Syrian border, while protecting the Kurds, in order to keep Turkey in NATO. **After the United States, Turkey has the second-largest standing armed forces in NATO, with more soldiers (639,000 military, paramilitary and civilian personnel), tanks (3,200), armored fighting vehicles (9,500), artillery (2,400) and military aircraft (1,067 fighter jets, attack helicopters and transports) than Germany, France or the United Kingdom.** Turkey’s navy comprises 194 ships, mostly frigates, corvettes and coastal gunships but including 12 submarines. Some analysts evaluate Turkey as among the most militarily powerful nations, ranking ninth among 137 military powers worldwide. **Do we really want to kick Turkey out of NATO and have its military power and strategic geography aligned with Russia?** Geographically, Turkey occupies some of the most strategically important territory in the world. **It is the only NATO member state in the Middle East, bordering Syria and Iraq, near Lebanon and Israel, a region that has been — and continues to be — the crucial crossroads of empire and history since biblical times**. Turkey controls the Bosporus Straits, Marmara Sea and Dardanelles Straits between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, giving it the capability to contain Russia’s powerful Black Sea Fleet. **Turkey’s geographic location and strong military makes it the anchor of NATO’s southern flank against Russian aggression. Turkey also is an unsinkable aircraft carrier, with 98 airports capable of supporting NATO air operations over the Middle East, Black Sea and the Balkans. It is one of only five NATO states (the others being Germany, Italy, Belgium and The Netherlands) storing U.S. tactical nuclear weapons on its territory.** Some 50 B-61 nuclear bombs are bunkered at Incirlik Air Force Base, controlled by U.S. personnel stationed there. Washington’s foreign policy elites are so fixated on recent Kurdish contributions to defeating the Islamic State (ISIS) that they seem to have forgotten Turkey’s much longer record as an ally of the U.S. and NATO:

### Advocacy

#### Resolved: The Republic of Turkey ought to recognize an unconditional right of workers to strike.

#### We reserve the right to clarify in cross ex and grant me an I meet on any shells not specified in cx since we don’t have a chance to meet them.