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Turkish Foreign Policies in the Horn of Africa: A Case Study of Ethiopia and Somalia (Perspectives from Political Economics)

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Abstract. Particularly after 1998, Türkiye's diplomatic and economic relations with African nations have improved. Türkiye's interest in Africa was initially dormant but after 2005, notably, this relationship changed into a more widespread, active, and expanded desire to forge relationships with the continent. The paper assesses Türkiye's connections with the continent from a political economics perspective. Emphasis is placed on the Horn of Africa with a focus on Ethiopia and Somalia. In order to properly assess the strengths and limitations of Turkish foreign policy toward Africa, various policies implemented by other nations, including the USA and China, are discussed and contrasted with Turkish international policy. The Turkish diplomatic and economic policies—which are carried out to forge links with Ethiopia and Somalia—are utilized as a case study to assess the advantages and disadvantages of the current approach used in the continent. In light of these analyses, the paper's ultimate goal is to identify the best practices in policy and, as a result, to offer advice to Turkish foreign policy decision-makers.

Keywords: Aid, Culture, Diplomacy, Political economy, soft power

Introduction

Türkiye's foreign policies have seen notable changes in recent years, particularly in strategically crucial locations like the Horn of Africa, as part of the constantly changing international relations landscape. The Horn, known for its geopolitical importance and unexplored economic opportunities, has become a significant area of interest for global countries competing to expand their influence. The Horn of Africa, which includes nations such as Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, and Djibouti, is geographically located at a crucial intersection between Africa, the Middle East, and the Indian Ocean. The geopolitical importance of this region stems from its proximity to crucial marine routes, its strategic dominance over the Bab el Mandeb strait, and its ability to act as a gateway to the African

hinterland. Türkiye's growing interest in the Horn region is driven not only by economic factors but also by its ambition to build a strategic presence in this crucial intersection (Bacik, 2019).

Türkiye's historical interest in Africa may be traced back to the time of the Ottoman Empire when diplomatic relations were established far before the creation of the Republic of Türkiye (Öktem, 2017). Nevertheless, it is within the last 10 years that Türkiye has significantly increased its endeavors to position itself as a prominent participant in the African continent, deviating from its customary emphasis on Europe and the Middle East. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's government has aggressively implemented a comprehensive foreign policy, placing significant emphasis on economic ties, diplomatic contacts, and humanitarian endeavors (Öniş & Yılmaz, 2015). This shift is in line with Türkiye's wider goal of expanding its diplomatic and economic relationships worldwide, thereby strengthening its position as an emerging power.

Ethiopia, as one of the rapidly developing economies in the area, and Somalia, facing political instability and humanitarian issues, provide interesting examples for comprehending the intricacies of Türkiye's foreign policies. The fact that Ethiopia is a landlocked country and Somalia is located strategically along the Gulf of Aden greatly adds to the challenges faced by Türkiye in its involvement in the region.

The diplomatic ties between Ethiopia and Türkiye have been enhanced by mutual visits, leading to the formation of the Türkiye-Ethiopia High-Level Cooperation Council in 2014 (T.C. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2014). Institutional systems of this nature promote continuous conversation and collaboration in various domains, including commerce, investment, and security cooperation.

Meanwhile, in Somalia, Türkiye's engagement has been remarkable, not only in terms of its diplomatic initiatives but also due to its significant humanitarian aid. Türkiye's involvement in Somalia is characterized by a diverse range of activities, such as the development of infrastructure, including hospitals and roads, as well as the implementation of training programs for Somali security personnel (Özkan, 2020). In Somalia, Türkiye's economic involvement goes beyond traditional investment. The Turkish government's dedication to infrastructure development, exemplified by the renovation of Mogadishu's Adde International Airport and the construction of roads, is part of a comprehensive economic plan aimed at promoting peace and progress in the country (Çolak, 2018).

Analyzing Türkiye's foreign policies in the Horn of Africa requires a political-economic perspective to understand the underlying objectives and strategies. The framework of political economics enables us to examine the interaction between political choices and economic circumstances, revealing how these elements reciprocally impact and mold Türkiye's approach to Ethiopia and Somalia.

Historical Context of Turkish-African Relations

To comprehend the historical connections between Türkiye and Africa, one must extensively examine the period of the Ottoman Empire, which lasted from the late 13th century until the early 20th century. During this century, the Ottoman Empire engaged in significant exchanges with diverse African regions, establishing the basic foundation for the subsequent development of diplomatic ties between Türkiye and African nations.

The Ottoman Empire's involvement with Africa was helped by extensive naval operations in the Red Sea and the Mediterranean. Ottoman merchants played a significant role in trade, establishing connections between Anatolia and North Africa through dynamic trading networks. The commercial exchanges, emphasized by renowned historians like Shaw (1976) and İnalcık (1997), are fundamental components for comprehending the evolution of diplomatic and economic relations during this period.

Diplomatic interactions during the rule of the Ottoman Empire were marked by a reciprocal acknowledgment of common interests and a dedication to upholding peaceful relations. The Ottoman Empire frequently employed diplomatic missions, ambassadors, and envoys to demonstrate its commitment to political stability and economic collaboration while engaging with North African governments (Lewis, 1982).

Post-Ottoman Era and the Republic of Türkiye

Following World War I, the Ottoman Empire dissolved, and in its stead, the Republic of Türkiye was founded in 1923. Under the guidance of Atatürk, the newly established republic embarked on an ambitious program of reforms to modernize Turkish society, politics, and the economy. Türkiye's foreign policy during this period was mainly centered on ensuring its position in the international order after the war and promoting itself as a progressive and non-religious nation.

During the initial years of the Turkish Republic, there were only a few diplomatic interactions with African countries. Türkiye's emphasis on internal consolidation and modernization resulted in a shift of its foreign policy interests towards Europe and the Middle East. The main objective was to establish Türkiye as a significant participant in world affairs, and diplomatic endeavors were focused on fostering connections with crucial regional and international stakeholders.

During the transition into the 21st century, Türkiye experienced substantial shifts in its approach to foreign policy. In the early 2000s, there was a significant shift in Turkish

leadership's approach, as they demonstrated a renewed commitment to enhancing diplomatic relations, particularly with African countries. This change demonstrated Türkiye's intention to broaden its international alliances and interact with places that had previously had limited Turkish engagement.

This reinvigorated commitment was highlighted by a succession of diplomatic efforts and prominent trips to African nations. A significant development was the establishment of Turkish embassies throughout the continent, indicating a concrete move towards increased involvement. The building of diplomatic posts was a deliberate choice to enhance Türkiye's influence in Africa and promote more robust political, economic, and cultural connections.

The 21st Century Renaissance: A New Chapter

Türkiye initiated a substantial foreign policy endeavor in the early 21st century to strengthen its relations with African nations. This revolutionary undertaking involved the creation of Turkish embassies throughout the continent and a significant increase in diplomatic activities. The intentional change in Turkish foreign policy indicated the recognition of Africa's increasing geopolitical importance and a strategic dedication to expanding diplomatic alliances (Altunışık & Tür, 2018; Çetinsaya, 2015; Özkan, 2017).

The building of Turkish embassies demonstrated a concrete dedication to strengthening mutual relations, signifying Türkiye's acknowledgment of Africa as a crucial participant in the changing global geopolitical scenario. This action demonstrated a commitment to promoting direct and long-lasting diplomatic involvement with African countries (Altunışık & Tür, 2018; Çetinsaya, 2015; Özkan, 2017).

Simultaneously, Türkiye greatly enhanced its diplomatic involvement with African nations, encompassing visits by high-ranking officials, bilateral discussions, and active participation in multilateral conferences. The endeavors focus on promoting discourse, comprehension, and collaboration, while also addressing the political, economic, and cultural aspects of Turkish-African ties (Altunışık & Tür, 2018; Çetinsaya, 2015; Özkan, 2017).

The shift in Turkish foreign policy towards Africa demonstrates a sophisticated comprehension of the continent's increasing geopolitical significance. Türkiye acknowledged the economic prospects, abundant resources, and developing markets in Africa as crucial catalysts for worldwide expansion, aligning its foreign policy with the ambition to actively influence the geopolitical terrain (Altunışık & Tür, 2018; Çetinsaya, 2015; Özkan, 2017). The endeavor to enhance connections with African nations was a component of a broader plan to broaden Türkiye's diplomatic alliances, surpassing conventional allies. Türkiye actively sought to establish a more comprehensive and equitable network of international ties by actively involving African countries. This was

done to reduce reliance on a restricted number of allies and develop a more robust foreign policy framework (Altunışık & Tür, 2018; Çetinsaya, 2015; Özkan, 2017).

Diplomacy and Development: Türkiye's Dynamic Engagement with African Nations since 1998

Türkiye's diplomatic and developmental engagement with African nations began with the African Outreach effort, a significant policy effort introduced in 2005. The Turkish government's effort represented a significant milestone in Türkiye's foreign policy strategy toward the African continent (Öktem, 2010).

The African Outreach Initiative was developed as a comprehensive strategy to cultivate stronger political, economic, and cultural connections between Türkiye and African states. A key principle of this strategy was a reinvigorated dedication to diplomatic connections, demonstrated by important trips and enhanced involvement in international forums.

The effort aimed to enhance Türkiye's influence in African diplomatic affairs. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, a significant influencer of this diplomatic change, initiated a sequence of prominent visits to diverse African nations. These visits were not only symbolic gestures but deliberate efforts to develop strong bilateral relationships. Erdoğan's visits were marked by diplomatic gestures and the conclusion of agreements aimed at strengthening collaboration in diverse areas, including trade, investment, education, and cultural interchange (Smith, 2017).

In addition, the African Outreach Initiative prioritized a multilateral strategy, acknowledging the significance of collaborative endeavors in tackling global concerns. Türkiye actively engaged in regional and continental forums, such as the Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit. This platform functioned as a medium for exchanging ideas, enabling Türkiye and African states to engage in discussions about common issues, develop cooperative strategies, and establish alliances (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Türkiye, 2019).

The project also placed significant emphasis on the economic aspect of Türkiye's involvement with Africa. The Turkish government sought to support the sustainable development of African states by making strategic investments and establishing economic ties. Dr. Mehmet Aydın's research emphasizes the significant impact of Türkiye's economic expansion, namely in infrastructure projects, on promoting favorable economic results throughout the African continent (Aydın, 2015).

Türkiye Policy in Ethiopia

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's dedication to expanding Türkiye's presence in Africa has established the country as a progressively powerful participant on the continent. The focus on enhancing relations with African countries, such as Ethiopia, is not just symbolic, but it is in line with Türkiye's strategic goal of expanding diplomatic alliances and promoting economic collaboration (Zeybekci, 2016).

Nihat Zeybekci, the Minister of Economy, plays a crucial role in promoting the growth of economic relations between Türkiye and Ethiopia. Türkiye's economic involvement with Ethiopia has experienced steady expansion under his leadership, as demonstrated by the continuous increase in both export and import operations. Zeybekci's clear plea for a reevaluation of the trade balance in Ethiopia's favor highlights a dedication to fostering mutually beneficial economic ties, as explained in Zeybekci's speech in 2016 (Zeybekci, 2016). Zeybekci's notable focus on Ethiopia's advantageous investment atmosphere highlights Türkiye's acknowledgment of the economic opportunities inherent in the Ethiopian terrain. Türkiye's confidence in Ethiopia's economic trajectory is evident in its characterization of the country as having the most favorable investment climate in Africa. Zeybekci's aggressive promotion of Turkish investors to take advantage of this favorable climate demonstrates a strategic dedication to making a substantial contribution to Ethiopia's economic advancement, as stated by Zeybekci in 2016 (Zeybekci, 2016).

The creation of the Joint Economic Commission, together with subsequent bilateral agreements between Türkiye and Ethiopia, demonstrates a committed effort to achieve extensive cooperation in economic sectors. Nihat Zeybekci's declaration of agreements across many industries suggests a comprehensive strategy for economic collaboration, embracing sectors that stretch from commerce to technology. The establishment of the "Türkiye Help Center" by the Ethiopian Minister of Economy is a concrete demonstration of the dedication to assist and accelerate the growth of business operations, as expressed by Zeybekci in 2016 (Zeybekci, 2016). Ethiopia's significant role as a beneficiary of foreign direct investment (FDI) in East Africa and the wider continent is an important aspect of Türkiye's involvement. In 2017, although there was a slight decrease of 3 percent in foreign direct investment (FDI) in East Africa, the region still managed to attract a significant \$7.6 billion in capital. With a remarkable \$3.6 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI), Ethiopia claimed nearly half of the total FDI in Africa. This achievement positioned Ethiopia as the second-largest beneficiary of FDI on the continent and secured its eighth place overall (Ankomali, 2013).

Türkiye's diplomatic relationship with Ethiopia is marked by frequent high-level meetings and the founding of the Joint Economic Commission. Nihat Zeybekci, in a Joint Economic Commission meeting, declared that Türkiye and Ethiopia would establish agreements

encompassing many businesses (Zeybekci, 2016). This demonstrates a dedication to extensive cooperation that goes beyond just economic sectors.

The establishment of the "Türkiye Help Center" by the Ethiopian Minister of Economy highlights the dedication to facilitating and accelerating commercial growth (Zeybekci, 2016). The implementation of these systems showcases a collaborative endeavor to simplify procedures and surmount possible obstacles in commercial and diplomatic interactions.

Cultural diplomacy is an essential component of Türkiye's policy in Ethiopia, as it promotes reciprocal comprehension and enhances interpersonal connections. Türkiye actively fosters cultural exchanges in Ethiopia by organizing events that exhibit Turkish arts, music, and literature (Demir, 2020).

Collaboration in the field of education is an additional aspect of cultural interaction. The Turkish scholarship programs, university exchange agreements, and the creation of Turkish cultural institutions all assist in cultivating a more profound comprehension between the two nations (Demir, 2020). Türkiye's focus on cultural exchange and educational collaboration is in line with its wider policy of employing soft power diplomacy to increase its influence by fostering common cultural experiences.

Türkiye's involvement with Ethiopia is not limited; it is integrated into wider geopolitical deliberations. Türkiye's involvement in Ethiopia is strategically motivated by its ambition of extending influence in Africa, taking advantage of Ethiopia's crucial position in the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia's significance is augmented by the marine trade routes of the Red Sea, establishing it as a pivotal participant in maintaining regional peace (Oktay, 2021).

Türkiye's participation in diplomatic endeavors, such as peacekeeping activities in the region, demonstrates the diverse character of its relationship with Ethiopia (Ergin, 2017). Due to its stability and influence in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia is a significant ally for Türkiye in its endeavors to impose diplomatic influence and promote regional peace and stability.

Following the termination of Ethiopia's state of emergency in the latter part of 2017, the Horn of Africa had a significant increase in foreign investments, particularly from Turkish and Chinese corporations. The increase was especially noticeable in the areas of light manufacturing and the automotive sector, indicating a move towards more varied economic collaborations. Prominent global fashion suppliers, such as PVH (Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger) from the United States, Velocity Apparelz Companies (Levi's, Zara, and Under Armour) based in Dubai, and Jiangsu Sunshine Group (Giorgio Armani and Hugo Boss) from China, have established manufacturing facilities in Ethiopia. These factories are primarily located in the Hawassa industrial park, which was established by the Chinese.

The partnership between Turkish and Chinese businesses in Ethiopia highlights the intricate network of global economic interconnections. Foreign investments are drawn to Ethiopia due to its advantageous geographical position and promising economic prospects. The creation of industrial parks, particularly Hawassa, has served as a catalyst, attracting enterprises from many parts of the globe, notably Türkiye and China, to enter the Ethiopian market.

Türkiye's involvement in Ethiopia and subsequent achievements can be attributed to various sources. Timing is a crucial determinant. To fully grasp the history of their relationship, it is essential to appreciate the exact moment when Türkiye decided to engage with Ethiopia. Türkiye's entry into Ethiopia occurred at the same time as the removal of the state of emergency, creating a favorable opportunity to establish business connections and investments.

Türkiye has established itself as a reliable mediator in the Horn of Africa, especially in the view of Ethiopian players who facilitated Türkiye's dominance in the railway and textile sectors. The favorable impression has been strengthened by fruitful engagements and partnerships between Türkiye and Turkish companies in crucial sectors of Ethiopia's economy. Ethiopia and Türkiye have employed platforms such as Joint Economic Commission meetings to engage in negotiations and establish agreements in several sectors, thereby strengthening their economic collaboration. The creation of the "Türkiye Help Center" by the Ethiopian Ministry of Economy serves as a clear demonstration of the collaborative endeavors to expedite and simplify commercial growth between the two countries.

The importance of Ethiopia as a dominant force in the region is emphasized by its strong security system, huge transportation networks, and economic influence, which positions it as a vital entry point to East Africa. Türkiye's involvement with Ethiopia is based on a strategic approach, acknowledging the geopolitical significance of the area and the possible advantages of allying with a powerful African nation.

Due to its historical association with Western nations following its independence, Ethiopia has become a politically stable and appealing ally for Türkiye. The Ethiopian government's prompt and effective response to Türkiye's economic and political initiatives has strengthened their diplomatic relationship. The juxtaposition between Ethiopia's political stability and the historical volatility of certain surrounding countries, such as Somalia, highlights the distinct advantages that Ethiopia offers to Türkiye.

Furthermore, Ethiopia's recognition of Türkiye as a reliable and influential actor in the region has facilitated the successful implementation of commercial agreements and collaborations. Türkiye's soft power, derived from its historical connections and skillful

diplomacy, has been instrumental in solidifying its position as a dependable ally for Ethiopia.

Türkiye's foreign policy has experienced a significant shift, especially during the Cold War, due to several factors such as the Ottoman legacy, geographical positioning, and Kemalist Ideology. The present administration, headed by the Justice and Development Party (AK Party), has played a crucial role in facilitating these changes.

Davutoglu's influential book, "Strategic Depth and Türkiye's International Position" (2012), outlines the core principles of Türkiye's current foreign policy. Türkiye's developing diplomatic policies have been characterized by a shift from classic power dynamics to a more nuanced and flexible approach, with an emphasis on soft power.

Turkish Policy in Somalia

Turkish foreign policy has recently expanded to include Somalia, resulting in positive outcomes thus far (Ozkan, 2012). Türkiye's involvement in Somalia commenced officially with Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to Mogadishu on August 19, 2011. Erdogan's visit, although not Türkiye's first encounter with the continent, carries great importance in influencing the course of Türkiye's diplomacy in Africa. The historical relationship between Türkiye and Africa is based on shared historical and cultural links, which include the period of Ottoman dominance in different regions of the continent (Akıncı, 2014). Nevertheless, Erdogan's visit acted as a spark that revitalized and strengthened Türkiye's diplomatic influence.

In addition to Somalia, Erdogan's diplomatic endeavors in Africa extended to other African nations as well. Türkiye's comprehensive participation demonstrated its strategic objective of enhancing relations with African nations, with a focus on fostering mutual collaboration, economic partnerships, and cultural interaction (Dikici Bilgin & Yetim, 2014). Erdogan's trip to Mogadishu, as part of Türkiye's broader African strategy, significantly bolstered Türkiye's influence on the continent. Türkiye's increasing diplomatic and economic interactions with African nations are in line with its objective to broaden its global alliances and extend its geopolitical influence (Çelik, 2019). Türkiye's endeavors to establish fresh alliances were centered on the African continent, motivated by economic concerns, diplomatic cooperation, and cultural interchange. Türkiye's growing impact in Africa extends beyond diplomatic initiatives. Trade agreements and investment initiatives have played a vital role in Türkiye's strategic approach (Özkan, 2015). Türkiye's efforts to strengthen its commercial connections with Africa were exemplified by Erdogan's visit to Somalia, which served as a symbolic demonstration of Türkiye's dedication to the development of the continent.

Türkiye's involvement in Somalia was initially presented as part of their humanitarian aid efforts. Erdogan's visit, prompted by a severe drought, emphasized Türkiye's dedication to promptly providing aid and assistance to a nation struggling with a humanitarian emergency. Academics have observed that this strategy is consistent with Türkiye's wider foreign policy doctrine, which prioritizes humanitarian diplomacy as a method of assisting nations in need (Kirişci, 2016; Tekeli, 2017).

Türkiye's foreign policy has prominently featured humanitarian diplomacy, which has positioned the country as a humane and influential actor in international affairs. Türkiye's involvement in Somalia during the drought crisis aligns with this principle, establishing Türkiye as an active participant in global humanitarian endeavors (Çelik, 2019). Türkiye's involvement in Somalia has not only impacted its ties with the African continent but has also had repercussions on the global scene. According to scholars, Türkiye's proactive diplomatic efforts in Somalia have played a significant role in changing how people view Türkiye's global influence, establishing it as a crucial participant in crisis resolution and international collaboration (Dikici Bilgin & Yetim, 2014). Türkiye's improved status is a result of its strategic endeavors to become a more prominent and dynamic participant in global events.

The strategic flexibility of Türkiye in Somalia is further emphasized by its proven ability to take risks. Türkiye has shown a readiness to handle uncertainties and explore unfamiliar areas while operating in a region characterized by historical difficulties and ongoing challenges. Türkiye's distinctive involvement stands out from conventional diplomatic techniques due to its risk-taking inclination, coupled with a planned approach. Türkiye's ability to endure and handle risks has enabled it to undertake ventures that could have been seen as too ambitious or risky by other entities, highlighting a distinctive aspect of Türkiye's foreign policy (Kirişci, 2016). Türkiye's success in Somalia is largely due to its deployment of a wide range of products and expertise. Türkiye's approach to participation goes beyond simple economic assistance and includes infrastructural development, healthcare efforts, and educational projects. Türkiye's capacity to provide a comprehensive range of support, specifically designed to tackle the complex issues encountered by Somalia, displays a sophisticated comprehension of the region's requirements (Cannon, 2016a). This diverse involvement is in line with Türkiye's dedication to promoting sustainable development and self-reliance.

Türkiye's performance is enhanced by its efficient deployment of soft power assets, generating a favorable narrative that goes beyond real contributions. Türkiye's cultural and educational endeavors, such as the creation of schools and clinics, have not only met urgent requirements but have also bolstered Türkiye's impact and positive reputation in Somalia. Türkiye's utilization of soft power follows the wider global pattern of employing cultural and social connections as tools of foreign policy (Tekeli, 2017). The effectiveness of

Türkiye's soft power measures is shown in the favorable perception of Türkiye as a cooperative and dependable ally.

Türkiye's strategy is characterized by a harmonious combination of coordinated endeavors and independent initiatives. Türkiye has maintained a level of independence in decision-making and strategic implementation while collaborating with international partners. This equitable strategy enables Türkiye to effectively meet the particular requirements and priorities of Somalia while simultaneously contributing to wider global goals. Türkiye's dedication to making direct and effective contributions in the region is demonstrated through unilateral activities, while coordination of efforts ensures synergy with global projects.

Türkiye's strategic aspects in Somalia have had a cumulative influence, resulting in its increased status as an emerging force in the Horn of Africa. The success of Türkiye is seen in various areas, such as humanitarian assistance, diplomatic sway, economic cooperation, security endeavors, and political involvement. Türkiye's incorporation of these characteristics establishes it as a proactive and influential participant, reconfiguring the regional environment and making a significant contribution to the socio-economic progress of the Horn of Africa (Cannon, 2016a).

In addition to real contributions, Türkiye's utilization of soft power resources has been crucial in influencing favorable opinions throughout the region. Cultural and educational efforts have become essential elements of Türkiye's soft power capabilities. Türkiye's establishment of schools, cultural institutes, and clinics has not only met immediate needs but also cultivated a spirit of benevolence and cultural kinship. Türkiye's soft power measures in Somalia are in line with its overall policy of establishing enduring links and shaping narratives (Tekeli, 2017).

Türkiye's approach to Somalia is characterized by a balanced combination of synchronized endeavors and independent initiatives. Türkiye actively collaborates with foreign partners while also maintaining a level of autonomy in decision-making and strategic execution. This well-balanced strategy guarantees that Türkiye's activities are in line with wider international objectives, while also enabling prompt and effective interventions that are customized to meet the specific requirements of Somalia. Türkiye's skill in maneuvering diplomatic complexities is seen in its successful combination of coordination and unilateralism (Cannon, 2016a).

Türkiye's diplomatic agility is demonstrated by its coordinated and unilateral strategy, which enables it to effectively navigate the ever-changing geopolitical landscape of the Horn of Africa. Türkiye enhances its impact and influence by engaging in collaborative endeavors while also pursuing independent initiatives. This method not only simplifies the process of effectively interacting with international partners but also allows Türkiye to

quickly address emergent difficulties, demonstrating a sophisticated and adaptable foreign policy strategy.

Türkiye's absence of historical and political burdens in the eastern Africa region serves as a notable benefit, distinguishing it from other actors such as the United States. Türkiye's lack of colonial legacies or controversial historical interventions has established it as an emerging nation and a feasible ally. Türkiye's absence of historical baggage has enabled it to readily accept and cooperate with other countries, enabling it to interact with the area on its own conditions. Türkiye's successful establishment in the Horn of Africa has had a good impact, promoting trust and collaboration with local participants (Kirişci, 2016).

Although the International Crisis Group (2012) suggests that Türkiye's role in Somalia is influenced by its Ottoman history, it is important to acknowledge that Türkiye's commitment is a complex and varied undertaking. The Ottoman heritage may somewhat motivate and contribute to a historical link, but the current activities of Türkiye are mostly influenced by a combination of strategic, economic, and diplomatic factors. The strategy of Türkiye is characterized by its adaptability and responsiveness to current geopolitical circumstances, demonstrating its ability to transcend historical paradigms.

Conclusion:

Ultimately, analyzing Türkiye's foreign policies in the Horn of Africa, specifically in Ethiopia and Somalia, offers unique insights into the interplay of political and economic factors in the region. Türkiye's dynamic diplomatic and economic ties with African nations, particularly since 1998, highlight a substantial shift in its approach to the continent. Türkiye's increased involvement in Africa since 2005 demonstrates its strategic acknowledgment of Africa's geopolitical significance.

An analysis of Türkiye's relations with Africa from a political economics standpoint provides a detailed comprehension of the advantages and constraints of its foreign policy. An analysis of the strategies adopted by other significant actors, such as the USA and China, provides a basis for comparison, revealing the complex structure of global interactions in the Horn of Africa. Türkiye's unique strategy, characterized by diplomatic endeavors and economic involvements, is situated within the wider geopolitical backdrop.

The case study analyzing Türkiye's diplomatic and economic policy towards Ethiopia and Somalia provides a central focus for assessing the merits and drawbacks of Türkiye's current approach in the continent. Türkiye's strategy in the Horn of Africa involves a complex interaction of aid, cultural exchange, diplomacy, political economy, and soft power, which collectively shape its impact in the region.

Recommendations:

- Türkiye should continue its proactive diplomatic involvement in the Horn of Africa, with an emphasis on enhancing current relationships and seeking out new chances for collaboration through frequent discussions, visits by high-ranking officials, and active participation in regional conferences.
- In order to improve the efficiency of economic involvement, Türkiye should broaden its economic strategy in the Horn of Africa. Engaging in the exploration of new industries, promoting innovation, and providing assistance to sustainable development initiatives can help form enduring economic collaborations.
- Increasing cultural exchange programs can develop cultural linkages and foster people-to-people contacts between Türkiye and states in the Horn of Africa, thereby enhancing mutual understanding and reinforcing Türkiye's cultural diplomacy.
- Türkiye should implement flexible soft power plans customized to the distinct socio-political circumstances of each country in the area. An intricate comprehension of local cultures, traditions, and political dynamics is essential to guarantee that soft power projects have a strong impact.
- Implementing cooperative assistance initiatives that include local communities and target specific socio-economic obstacles can be crucial. Türkiye ought to collaborate closely with local stakeholders, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international organizations in order to develop and implement aid programs that yield enduring and beneficial outcomes.
- Türkiye may gain valuable insights by examining and adopting effective foreign policy initiatives from other countries, drawing inspiration from international models. Examining the experiences of the United States and China, as outlined in this article, can offer useful insights and lessons that Türkiye can integrate into its diplomatic and economic strategies.

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