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The Topic of the Research: **Development Aid as a Factor in Turkey's Foreign Policy during the Justice and Development Party Rule**

Findings

My research topic is “**Development Aid as a Factor in Turkey's Foreign Policy during the Justice and Development Party Rule.**” Many countries worldwide participate in development aid or foreign assistance processes as donors, recipients, or both. In contemporary international relations, states often utilise development aid to achieve their foreign policy objectives. While development aid aims to enhance human welfare and economic development in recipient countries, states typically leverage aid allocations or restrictions to promote their foreign policy goals.

This study initially aimed to examine the impact of foreign aid on foreign policy by analysing Turkish humanitarian assistance during the JDP administration. However, given Turkey's extensive humanitarian and development aid across various regions, the study sought to investigate the full scope of Turkey's engagement, including humanitarian and development aid and its influence on the foreign policy process and effectiveness. Additionally, the study explored how development funding has shaped Turkey's image as an emerging global player over the past 15 years. Finally, it assessed how foreign aid affected Turkish international community relations.

This study examines the themes behind Turkey's development (foreign) aid under the Justice and Development Party. It argues that Turkey's humanitarian assistance is grounded in material self-interest rather than reflecting the Ottoman philanthropic culture. In other words, Turkey's foreign aid serves as a tool for foreign policy. Indeed, the philanthropic history of the Ottomans is informed by Roman notions of generosity and the ostentation of state authority. Furthermore, state agencies and Islamic faith-based organisations show a selective affinity for achieving foreign policy goals, such as expanding zones of influence, while Islamic rhetoric motivates volunteers.

Finally, foreign aid has greatly influenced Turkey's image as a global actor. Turkish development assistance has set the stage for the commencement of Ankara's authentic new foreign policy in various regions, which will see the Turkish flag waving proudly in numerous emerging countries within a few years.

The study concluded that Turkish aid under the JDP encompasses humanitarian and development assistance, indicating a philanthropic attitude. According to the findings, nearly all Turkish efforts under the JDP government during its first two years were humanitarian. Turkey initiated its most extensive global humanitarian campaign in this context, engaging all its public and private institutions and official and volunteer workers. Some Turkish funding for African countries was allocated to education, health, transportation, agriculture, infrastructure, and security development projects, which significantly supported the region's reconstruction.

Inventive methodologies were used to examine Türkiye's foreign aid/assistance policy thoroughly. These methodologies may help resolve this study area's obstacles and self-repeating patterns.