

# Democracy to Dictatorship: Lessons from Turkey 2023 Presidential Election

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**Abstract:** *The ruling party has transformed the country from democracy to autocracy in 20 years (Tuncer 2022, DOI: 10.55559). Meanwhile, it has fallen into a severe economic crisis due to the collapse of its institutions and corruption. In the last 20 years, the Justice and Development Party has caused severe damage on many issues (Adar, 2021); Parliament Weakened, Undermining Local Government, Increasing Dysfunctionality of the Judiciary, A Largely Paralyzed Bureaucracy, and Deteriorating Quality of Institutions. The opposite, the country's disaster due to mismanagement, has also been experienced in the example of Turkey. This article summarizes what the rude, greedy, illiberal, and ignorant rulers have done to a country and democracy. This article reveals how a dictator's regime can advance, how democracy can be disregarded by making fake elections, how unlawful attempts can be made, how the opposition can be organized and achieved despite all these illegal interventions, and a lesson can be drawn from similar situations believe that this study will make a serious contribution to behavioral political science and how democracy is murdered, as an example of Turkey.*

**Keywords:** Democracy, Opposition, Presidential Election, Good Governance, Autocracy, Transparency, Corruption, Election, Dictatorship

## 1. Introduction

The first step in modern Turkey was establishing the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TBMM) on April 23, 1920. Then the Republic was established on October 29, 1923, by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (Tuncer 2022, DOI: 10.55559/sjahss.v1i05.29).

Erdoğan is the lowest - educated leader and the only one without a career in Turkey's political history. This is a summary of 20 years of suffering caused by an uneducated, illiterate, greedy, careerless leader of the people of a nation - state. I wish it to go down in the history of democracy as an example and not happen again, even if it is unrealistic.

Erdogan is acting with the satisfaction and interest of his complexes, not Turkey's prestige, interest, and future.

The depoliticized way of regulating money, micro, and macroeconomic management was studied in parallel with introducing dependent financialization as the predominant capital accumulation regime until 2013. Since 2013, the governments have struggled with the combination of the crisis of control and the state, leading to two changes: the mode of regulation has been re - politicized, and the struggle within the power bloc has intensified. As a result, By switching from a parliamentary to a presidential system in 2017, the ruling party Justice and Development Party (AKP) launched more ambitious survival plans and increased authoritarianism. And further authoritarian and consolidation efforts in 2019 (Akçay, 2020).

It has been five years since Turkey transited into a presidential system. The country's strong-man, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, won his second presidential term on 24 June 2018. In the parliamentary elections held the same day, the alliance between his Justice and Development Party (AKP) and the far - right Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) gained an absolute majority. The two votes also

marked the official switch from a parliamentary system to a 'Turkish - type' presidential system (Adar, 2021). Since 2002 the AKP has ruled Turkey as a single - party government. While Article 101 of the Turkish Constitution clearly and unequivocally states that a person who has participated in two elections can never be a candidate for the third time, Erdoğan will run for the third time.

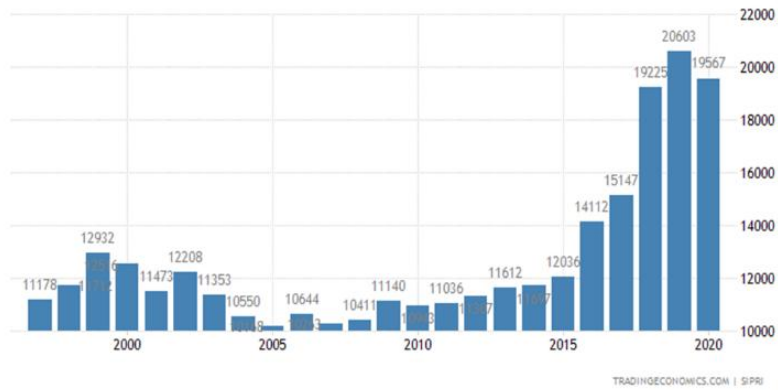
He is violating the Constitution by participating in the 2023 elections, and if elected, he will have no legitimacy as President. In other words, an authoritarian, unconstitutional tsarist regime is already in effect in the country.

The most tragic aspect of the situation was that the AKP itself made the Constitution, which said it would not be possible to be a candidate for the third time. In other words, we can talk about the existence of a tsar who does whatever his interests require, a tsar who knows that if he loses power, he will be prosecuted for human rights violations and crimes.

Misgovernment gradually plunged the country into the abyss. The process started with the collapse of institutions, and the disappearance of the rule of law, followed by an economic collapse with great weight (Grayling 2018).

The reason for the collapse was the desire to withdraw in different directions for fear of foreign powers, which increased cross - border military operations. As a result, military expenditures significantly burden the economy (tradingeconomics.com/turkey/military - expenditure).

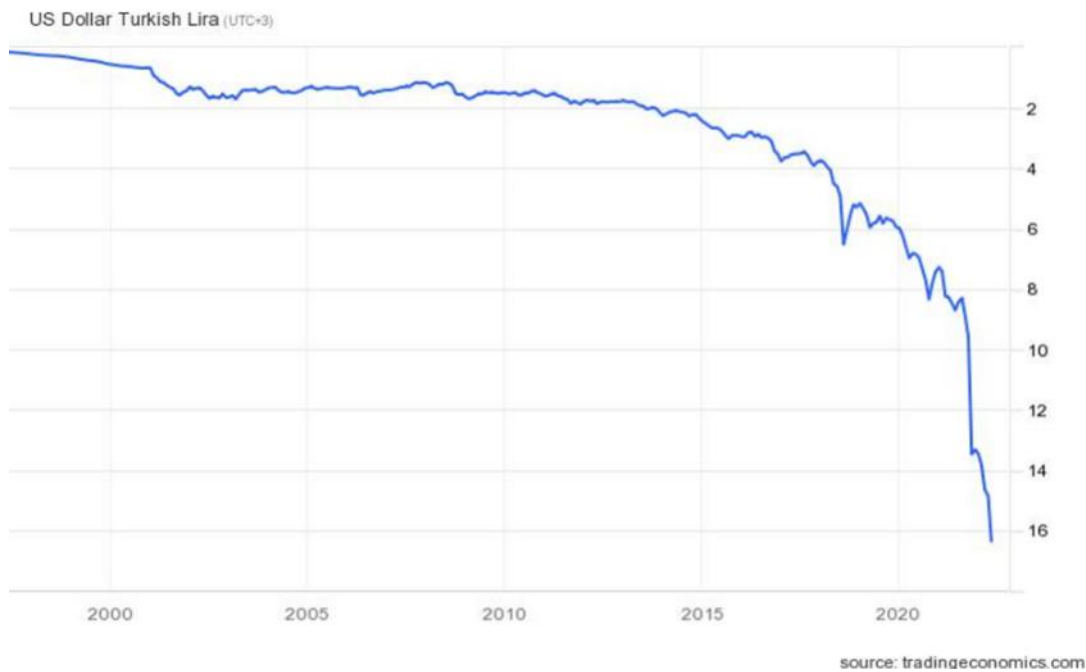
**Table 1: Turkey Military Expenditure**



**Economic Collapse**

While the Turkish lira fell into the bottomless pit in history, it lost even more value than the Ukrainian currency in the war (tradingeconomics.com/turkey/currency).

**Table 2: Value of Turkish Lira against Dollar**

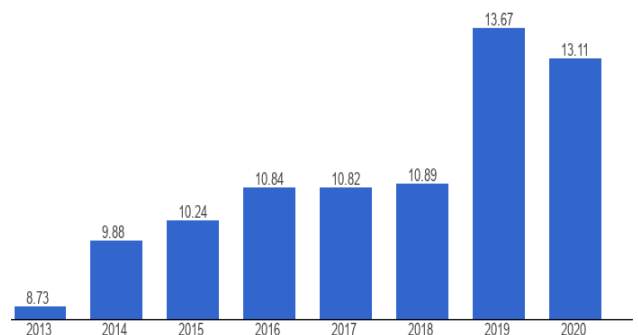


For many years, the government supported the construction industry, where corruption was easiest, without encouraging production, and tried to keep most of the annual domestic product afloat with the construction industry (tradingeconomics.com/turkey/gdp - from - construction).

While Turkey is a rare country that is self - sufficient in terms of food, the number of farmers and livestock producers who cultivate the land and engage in animal husbandry has decreased by one - third (tradingeconomics.com/turkey/gdp - from - agriculture).

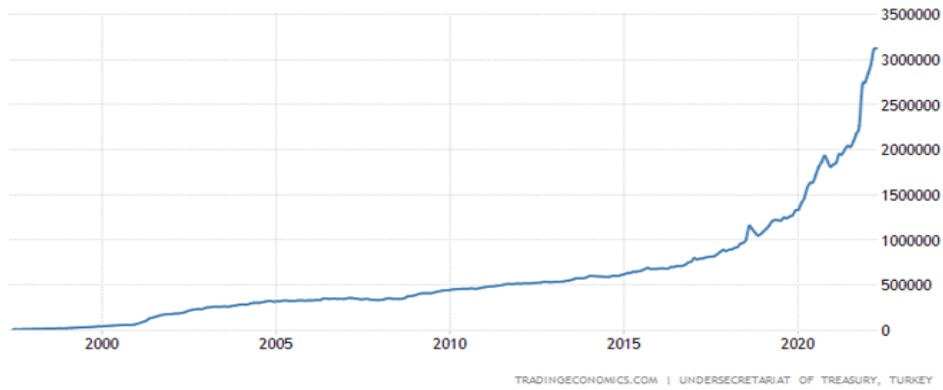
Growth rates were sensitive to the imbalance in industry and production (tradingeconomics.com/turkey/gdp - growth - annual), and unemployment rose to nearly 14%. Youth unemployment increased by as much as 25% (https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Turkey/unemployment\_rate/).

**Table 3: Unemployment Rate in the years**



Along with all these negativities, the expense - income gap increased rapidly (tradingeconomics.com/turkey/government - debt).

**Table 4:** Expense - Income Gap in the years



Central bank reserves dried up quickly (tradingeconomics.com/turkey/treasury - cash - balance).

Erdogan, the leader of the ruling party, who intervened in the Central Bank and the economy to lower the interest rates, dragged the country into an economic depression in a

short period of 4 months. Despite the warnings of all economists, Erdoğan, who accused banks of interest lobby, caused interest rates and inflation to increase with his wrong approaches. The banking sector made the highest profit in the last 19 years.

**Table 5:** Banking Sector Profit in Turkey by the Years



While the banking sector was making the highest profits, the mistakes made by Erdoğan, who had the delusion that he would control inflation by lowering the interest rate, broke a

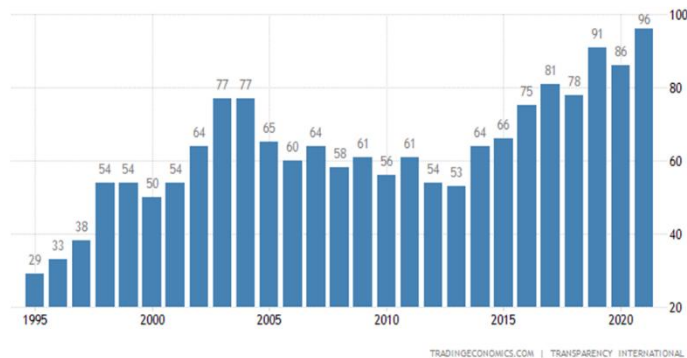
historical record due to his mistakes. (https://tradingeconomics.com/turkey/core - inflation - rate).

**Table 6:** Inflation rate by years



This economic collapse turned into a deeper problem with the increase in corruption. (https://tradingeconomics.com/turkey/corruption - rank).

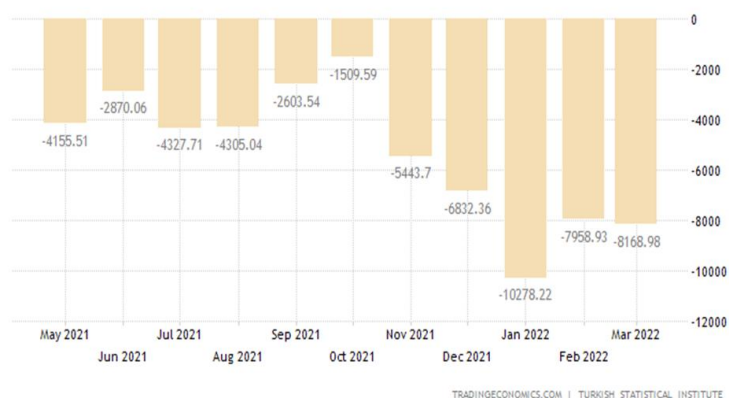
Table 7: Massive Bankruptcies



There was a massive wave of bankruptcies caused by all of these mistakes (https://tradingeconomics.com/turkey/bankruptcies).

The balance of trade has collapsed. The country has experienced a historical economic depression in the last couple of years (https://tradingeconomics.com/turkey/balance-of-trade).

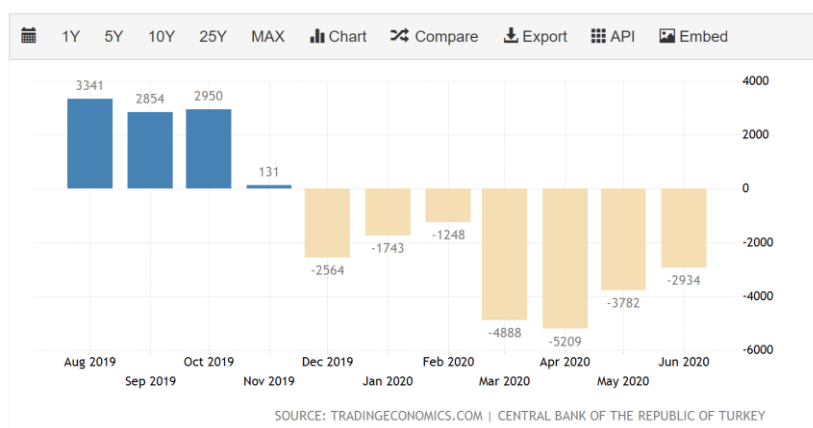
Table 8: Balance of Trade Collapsing



Debatable social policies aside, Erdoğan has pursued economic policies that would largely be deemed disastrous by independent economists. After the Turkish economy started to slow down, he chose to force the central bank (TCMB) to keep interest rates low, below inflation. He sacked the governor of the TCMB who disagreed with him

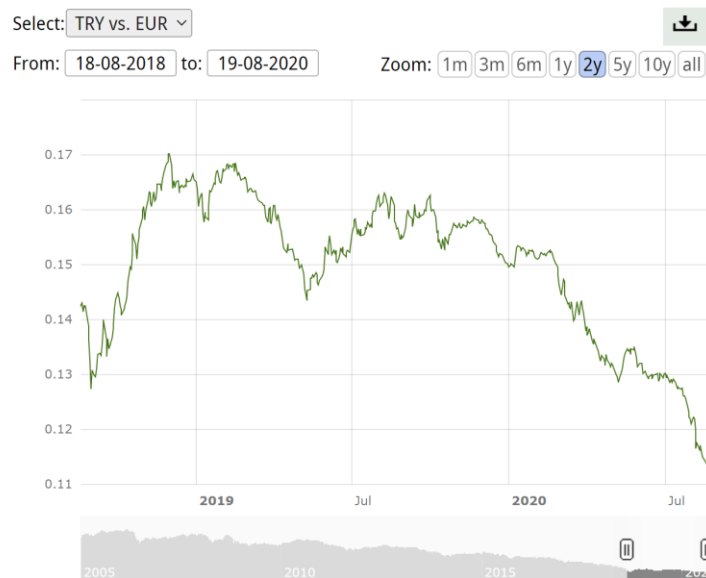
and replaced him with a yes - man. Instead of sparking growth as he believed it would do, the cheap liquidity offered to businesses and civilians encouraged consumerism of foreign imported goods. That turned Turkey's positive trade surplus negative.

Table 9: Turkish Central Bank Negative Balance



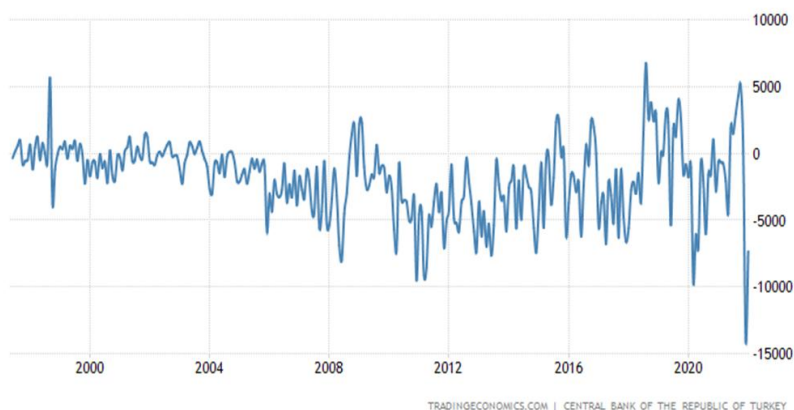
It also put negative pressure on the Lira and started to mark its sharp decline (from Michael Gaziotis, https://www.quora.com).

**Table 10:** Turkish Lira Decline versus Euro

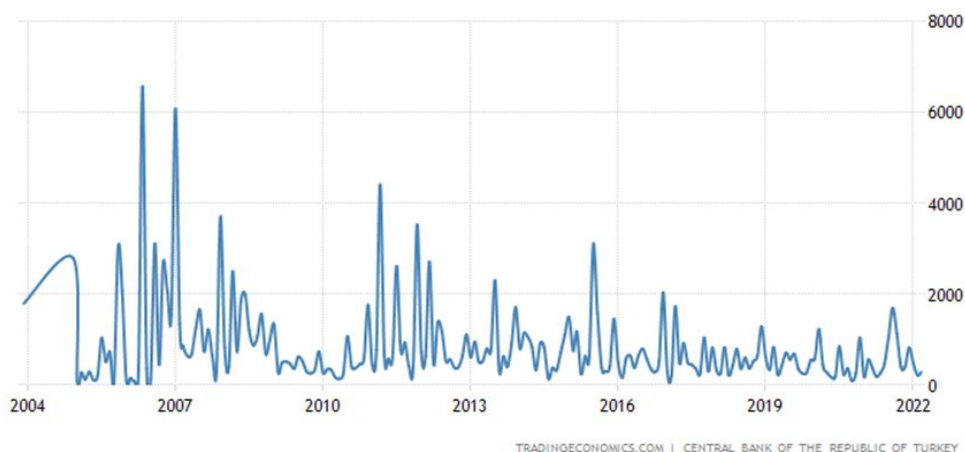


With the economic collapse and the loss of trust in the law, capital inflows to the country also stopped (<https://tradingeconomics.com/turkey/capital-flows>),

**Table 11:** Capital - Flows by the years (<https://tradingeconomics.com/turkey/foreign-direct-investment>).



**Table 12:** Decline of Employees



There was a rapid decline in the number of employees under the social security umbrella (Regulation/[tradingeconomics.com/turkey/social-security-rate-for-employees](https://tradingeconomics.com/turkey/social-security-rate-for-employees)).

this money is still unknown (<https://www.transparency.org/en/blog/turkey-128-billion-what-happened-central-bank>).

With the destruction of the transparency principle, the holes in the financial structure also grew. The Central Bank destroyed one hundred twenty-eight billion dollars fate of

Breakdowns in all economic and social data also showed themselves in world measurements. Turkey is among the ten worst countries for employees in the Global Rights Index (tr.



euronews. com/2022/08/27/kuresel - haklar - endeksi - turkiye - calisanlar - icin - en - kotu - 10 - ulkeden - biri). According to the International Trade Union Confederation's (ITUC) Global Rights Index covering 148 countries, Turkey is one of the ten worst countries for workers in 2022. Evaluation is based on workers' rights.

Other than Turkey, the worst countries for workers in the index are Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Myanmar, the Philippines, Eswatini, and Guatemala. According to the report, Turkey is among the ten worst countries because of strike bans, the arrest of trade unionists, and systematic union hostility.

The traditional annual report of the International Trade Union Confederation captures the situation of workers' rights in 148 countries. The report is prepared by examining workers' rights and working life practices. The place of Turkey, which was one of the ten worst countries last year, has not changed in 2022. The index divides countries into 5+1 groups: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 5+. In terms of workers' rights, the best group is 1. The worst group is number 5.5+ indicates countries where workers' rights cannot be guaranteed due to the absence of the rule of law principle.

Turkey is in Group 5. Group 5 means "no guarantee of workers' rights." In the 5th group, apart from Turkey, there are also countries such as Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, and China. The index identifies the ten worst countries among them. Systematic violation of Group 4 rights; Group 3 shows regular breaches of rights, Group 2 shows repeated violations, and Group 1 shows occasional violations.

The report discussed each of the ten worst countries on a separate page. In the section on Turkey, the information drew attention to "strike bans," "trade union arrests," and "systematic union hostility." The findings in the report are as follows:

"Workers' rights and freedoms continued to be violated in Turkey in 2022. Police intervention in protests, pressures, and arrests against trade unionists drew attention. On May 1, 2021, 212 people were detained." According to the report, employers systematically continued anti-union practices and fired workers who tried to organize.

Especially in the last ten years, Turkey's prohibitions and pressures have continued to increase.

### International Relations and Mistakes

Bordering Europe, Turkey's political future is of vital importance to the European Union and its member states. On the one hand, prospects for domestic reform and democratic repair will inform the EU's handling of Turkey regarding the country's stalled membership process. At the same time, Ankara's recently coercive foreign policy severely challenges individual EU member states and the Union's cohesion. Ankara is trying to redefine its role in a changing international order, albeit incoherently, as the recent efforts to reset relations with the EU and the US suggest. Pulled adrift by domestic power struggles, ideological currents, geopolitical ambitions, and economic realities, Ankara's future strategy towards Europe, Russia, and its neighborhood will likely remain ambiguous.

The last point of the international relations policy of the AKP government, which started with the motto of zero problems, resulted in a situation with all countries. There is no other country other than a few African countries with which Turkey has good relations. Moreover, especially in Syria, due to Turkey's wrong policies, millions of people remained the status of immigrants away from their homes. Turkey suddenly turned into a second Middle Eastern Arab country. Turkey hosts more than four million refugees, including more than three million Syrians, whose presence has increasingly come under public scrutiny, with figures across the political spectrum blaming them for the country's economic crisis. The most crucial reason for Turkey to open its doors to Syrian immigrants and all its possibilities is to ensure that Erdogan wins the election by secretly becoming a Turkish citizen. No matter how many uneducated and easily persuaded people there are, the Erdogan regime's door is open. This policy will drag Turkey into a severe crisis shortly. At the same time, the growth rate of Turkish citizens is 2, and the growth rate of immigrants is 4. In the last year, 100,000 Syrian babies have been born in Turkey.

The influx of refugees and irregular and transit migrations came to Turkey, particularly from the Middle East (Iraq), starting in 1980. The most critical factors are (1) armed conflict, (2) ethnic intolerance, (3) religious fundamentalism, and (4) political tensions (www.amnesty.org/en). The fact that most of the at least 3 million immigrants who came from Syria received citizenship has been one of the most important reasons affecting the election.

While it exports 68,0 billion dollars to Germany, the USA, the UK, France, the Netherlands, and Israel, which are highly problematic relations, it imports 48,6 billion dollars from them. However, it exports only 9,0 billion dollars to Russia and China, where proven relations purchases 61,2 billion dollars from them. This situation, which is highly dictatorial regarding final relations, was entirely formed by decisions, personal ambitions, and complexes.

Due to wrong relations, Turkey has displayed inconsistent stances regarding joining Sweden and Finland into NATO. (Tuncer 2022 DOI: 10.21275/SR22521111020).

### Transparency and Good Governance

Studies have shown an intense relationship between good governance and the excellent development of the country. Governance is a broad concept covering all aspects of a country governed, including its economic policies, regulatory framework, and adherence to the rule of law (AL - Jurf, 1999). Poor governance offers more significant incentives and more opportunities for corruption—the abuse of public office for private gain (www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/The - IMF - and - Good - Governance). Good Governance as a term has since been taken up by the international development business – in particular, the World Bank – and used by them as a new label for aid conditionality, in specific structural adjustment in all its various manifestations.

International financial institutions eventually assume state - society relations, not just technocratic transparency - accountability mode (Mkandawire, 2007).

Citing to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the concept of good governance has eight principles (uclg - aspac. org/en/good - governance - definition - and - characteristics);

- 1) Participation  
Participation in the concept of good governance here is suitable for everyone to voice their opinions through institutions or representations. In addition, everyone, without exception, has the right to freedom of association and expression.
- 2) The rule of law  
To implement good governance, the legal framework in the country must be enforced impartially, especially concerning human rights law.
- 3) Transparency  
Transparency means that every policy taken and implemented by the government must be carried out under existing regulations. In addition, there must be a guarantee that all information related to the procedure can be accessed by everyone, especially those directly affected by the policy.
- 4) Responsiveness  
Good governance needs institutions and processes to attempt to serve all stakeholders within a reasonable time.
- 5) Consensus oriented  
This fifth principle is related to the decision - making process. When the decision - making process cannot accommodate everyone's wishes, then at a minimum, the decision must be a decision that can be accepted by everyone and does not harm anyone.
- 6) Equity and inclusiveness  
Good governance ensures justice for the community. Everyone has the same opportunity to maintain and improve their welfare.
- 7) Effectiveness and efficiency  
Every decision - making process and institution must produce decisions that meet every community's needs. Community resources must also be utilized optimally by the government.
- 8) Accountability  
All institutions involved in good governance have full responsibility to the public to improve society's quality.

These principles were destroyed one by one, especially in the last ten years of the AKP period.

Sweden, France, Denmark, Norway, Canada, Germany, and Austria stand out with their high scores in the excellent governance group. The first group of countries has fully deserved to rank at the top of the index with their corporate governance infrastructures and practices.

According to Erdogan, these countries were presented to the public as pathetic countries that were jealous of Turkey. An essential part of the public tried to be deceived by these lies. The main goal was to try to hide the great collapse in the

country while maximizing personal interests (Mearsheimer, 2013). Turkey is not even on the ranking list in this ranking.

### The Problem of the Justice System and Human Rights Violations

During the July 15 coup, 251 people lost their lives, and 2.194 people were injured. The state of emergency (OHAL) declared on 21 July 2016 ended in July 2018.

The state of emergency was extended seven times in total and lasted for two years. After that, the conditions of the state of emergency continued with the enactment of OHAL's legislation. After the July 15th coup, the number of people dismissed from their jobs using the decree laws was 125.6 was.

When the numbers of those whose schools were closed, whose graduations were deemed invalid, who were victims of military schools, police school students, and those who were victimized by the decrees in other public and private institutions, exceeded 250.000 by adding up the numbers above.

According to the State of Emergency (OHAL) Report, the number of secondary victims, who are relatives of the OHAL/KHK (decree - law) victims, approached 1 million 500 thousand (ohalkomisyonu. tccb. gov. tr, January 2022).

These, unfortunately, show us state paranoia.

While the number of academics and other public personnel dismissed by the Nazis in Germany from 1933 - 1941 was 12, 000, the number of public personnel and academics dismissed by the Erdogan regime in Turkey after July 15, 2016, is approximately 300, 000 (OHAL'in Toplumsal Maliyetleri. Araştırma Raporu Eylül 2022).

During the state of emergency, 204 media organizations were closed in total. The closure decision was revoked for 25 afterward. Among the other 179 media organizations are 53 newspapers, 37 radio stations, 34 television stations, 29 publishing houses, 20 magazines, and six news agencies.

Passports of many academics that police have retained during the coup attempt in 2016 have not yet been returned, despite their acquittal on all trials

Legislative, executive, and judicial organs were rendered unable to function independently.

Primary institutions, such as law and education, were damaged after 2017.

Freedom House shows Turkey as a not - free country with a score of 32/100 in the evaluation made according to the following criteria (freedomhouse. org/ report/ freedomworld/2018/democracy - crisis);

- a) Political rights,
- b) Political Pluralism and Participation
- c) Functioning of Government
- d) Civil Liberties/Freedom of Expression and Belief
- e) Associational and Organizational Rights

- f) Rule of Law
- g) Personal Autonomy and Individual Rights

Unfortunately, Turkey is one of the leading countries where the democracy index has fallen the fastest.

Journalists, academicians, members, and leaders of opposition parties are under pressure and threats. Mexico ranks first in the murders of journalists, and Turkey ranks first in the number of journalists in prison (IFJ, 2022).

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights) and the European Commission reported serious violations regarding Turkey in his application to the European Court of Human Rights and the United Nations due to human rights violations. Turkey is among the top 3 countries with the most human rights violation files and the continuing deterioration of human and fundamental rights. ([ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/country](http://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/country), January 2022). Between 2015 and 2020, the total number of formal investigations launched for the crime of 'Insulting the President' was 159,487; the number of people on trial was 38,476. The number of convictions in the cases that were concluded reached 12,841 ([www.dogrulukpayi.com/bulten/2018-yilindacumhurbaskanina-hakaretten-kac-kisi-sanik-oldu](http://www.dogrulukpayi.com/bulten/2018-yilindacumhurbaskanina-hakaretten-kac-kisi-sanik-oldu)).

Number of lawsuits filed for insulting the President (last 6 President of Turkish Republic) ([gazeteduvar](http://gazeteduvar.com), January 2022);

Kenan Evren 340

Turgut Özal 207

Süleyman Demirel 158

Ahmet Necdet Sezer 163

Abdullah Gül 848

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan 38,581/year 2022 (more than 1000 are under age 18) (in last 8 years total 200,000) ([www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/siyaset/son-8-yilda-cumhurbaskanina-hakaret-sorusturma-sayisi-200-bine-dayandi](http://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/siyaset/son-8-yilda-cumhurbaskanina-hakaret-sorusturma-sayisi-200-bine-dayandi)).

#### Four Stages in the Transition from Democracy to Autocracy

First Step; Progress Without Determining Your Purpose by Populism. In this step, the aims of establishing the AKP were economic development, civil liberties, integration with the European Union, good relations with neighboring countries, and democracy. From 2002 to 2010, much work was done for these purposes, especially for maintaining the democratic system and civil liberties (Azgın 2020, Grayling 2018).

Democracy and pluralism are essential for Muslim people to practice their faith freely. It is a severe contradiction in their beliefs that the parties defending Islam are oppressive when they are in power. However, they fiercely defend democracy and pluralism when in opposition (Tuncer 2022, DOI: 10.55559/sjahss.v1i05.29). Determining which types of belief differences will be accepted or rejected by those in power is contrary to the understanding of democracy and pluralism advocated by Islam (Sen 2020).

In 2008, populist policies began to dominate (Castaldo, 2018), and Second Step named this step "Stronger Financially and Captured the Media."

Kleptocracy is the essential tool that gives a financial advantage to those in power. The corruption case involving some ministers and the children of ministers on 17 - 25 December 2013, the failure to open an investigation into this corruption, the obstruction of dismissal of ministers, the inability to open an investigation, and the prevention of studies have been the most critical breaking point in our democracy.

The financial framework of this corruption operation, which is claimed to be the An initiative of the Fetullahist terrorist organization is estimated to be billions of dollars. Populism and increasing individual economic insecurity while increasing the economic crises and the adverse effects of financial globalization in the country, on the contrary, have a strengthening impact on those in power (Funke, 2016).

The government has powerfully used the advertising sector as a "carrot and stick" tactic to control media by distributing official announcements and advertising by state-owned enterprises (Yanatma 2021).

For media operation, the regime and economic system are essential for explaining media capture in Turkey (Yanatma, 2021). The systematic pressure encouraged the government to pressure the publishers, who then employed journalists and columnists overtly supportive of the ruling party. New authoritarian nations have noticed the forced change of the mass media as an institution (Coşkun, 2020).

The transparency rank of the government is 86 out of 180 countries, reflecting high corruption (<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2020/index/tur>). The percentage of public service users who paid a bribe in the previous 12 months is 8% (<https://www.transparency.org/en/countries/turkey>).

Third Step; Capture and corrupt institutions, marginalize and intimidate all dissidents and opponents. The election is only for show. Elections made by using media and state facilities in favor of the government do not show democracy. The election does not mean democracy alone without freedom for citizenship practices.

The regime system that changed with the 2017 referendum weakened the legislative and supervisory responsibilities of the parliament. Consolidation of the executive in the hands of one man; The concentration of power in one man harmed debate and exchange of ideas and facilitated wrong decisions on both domestic and foreign policy, and a loss of accountability occurred. Of the 46 thousand parliamentary questions the deputies addressed to the ministers in the last three years, 16 thousand were not answered. The person who was asked the most questions was Vice President. ([www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/bakanlar-16-bin-soru-onergesine-yanit-vermedihaber-1527804](http://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/bakanlar-16-bin-soru-onergesine-yanit-vermedihaber-1527804)).

Eight hundred - eight law proposals were submitted to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. Six hundred sixty - two of the opposition proposals were not included in the



plan. This picture indicates that the executive does not take the legislature into account. ([www.sozcu.com.tr/2021/gundem/muhalefetten - gelen - 662 - teklif - reddedildi - 6217254](http://www.sozcu.com.tr/2021/gundem/muhalefetten-gelen-662-teklif-reddedildi-6217254)). Algorithms in important international and national decision mechanisms were excluded.

The Directorate of Communications was used as a propaganda ministry. The pressure was put on social media and other media outlets. The pro - government media was financially supported.

The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) tries to reduce the voices of the opposition by giving unlawful punishments to the opposition television. Between 1 January 2021 and 24 December 2021, RTÜK held 50 Supreme Board meetings. In these 50 Supreme In council meetings, RTÜK handed down 71 sentences against broadcasters criticizing the government, questioning the government when appropriate, and trying to broadcast freely.

Political pressures on judges and prosecutors in the judicial system led to unlawful decisions. Unlawful arrests and criminal accusations were made. With his confession, tens of thousands of innocent people were tried with severe charges. Police are used as a paramilitary force against university students, lawyers, academicians, workers, villagers, environmental activists, feminist activists, and LGBT+ members. Before 15 July 2016, the fetullahist terrorist organization in the army and the judiciary was tolerated. Then after the 15 July coup, the replacement of thousands of officers expelled from the military with pro - government views weakened the army.

Political pressure was applied to the Central Bank. Instead of the rules of the economy, decisions were made with political stubbornness without knowledge. Four Central Bank governors and several Ministers of Finance have been replaced in the last two years. In the Ministry of Education, religious education was supported instead of secular national education; it moved away from the secular education system and came under the influence of religious communities and sects.

Higher Education Council (YÖK), which should decide independently, has been qualified and rendered meaningless. The universities were put under pressure because of unqualified rector appointments, unlawful punishment of academics, and students who opposed this were prevented from researching by reducing support.

Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK) has started providing unreliable information about inflation and economic progress with untrustable data. Three presidents have been replaced in the last few years. While the Independent Inflation Research Group (ENAG) was %114.87, TUIK declared the inflation as %48 ([www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/ekonomi/sondakika - - enag - enflasyon - verilerini - uc - haneli - acikladi - 1904832](http://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/ekonomi/sondakika--enag-enflasyon-verilerini-uc-haneli-acikladi-1904832)).

Presidency of Religious Affairs (Diyanet) was made the voice of political power, and contributing to the political discourse became its primary purpose. Religion and beliefs were used for political reasons. By unlawfully exiting the

Istanbul Contract (İstanbul Sözleşmesi), femicides and socially distorted understanding of gender. (<https://kadincinayetlerinidurduracagiz.net/>).

Fourth Step; Do whatever you want, period. After 2016, we could consider the “do whatever you want” period. A new Jacobin perspective and view were built under the Jacobin mentality and vision. In this period, everything seems permissible, such as influencing the law, ignoring the constitution, ignoring decisions of international human rights courts, publicly lying and slandering, giving dissenting opinions and unlawful punishments to journalists, using parsing language, exploiting religious and nationalistic feelings, turn a blind eye to corruption, wasting the country’s resources, nepotism, kleptocracy (Tziarras, 2018).

Especially after establishing close cooperation with the ruling party (AKP) and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), every amendment except the constitutional amendment is made regardless of whether it is by the law. All kinds of bullying, pressure, discrimination, and insults have become normal behaviors. Sustainable policy became the central policy of the AKP Government.

### **Education**

Education has degenerated from primary schools to universities, with an imaginary education system that is rote and imitative, which has changed from the secular and democratic education system to the Sharia system for hidden purposes. The education system, a toy in the hands of inadequate and unqualified Ministers of National Education, was gradually destroyed and injured in a way that could not be healed for a long time. The education system, which was tried to be made a slave of the Autocratic Power, finally gave its fruits. According to the “Global Competitiveness Capability Index” (The Global Talent) in the age of artificial intelligence, Turkey’s global competitiveness while it ranks 52nd among the world countries examined in 2015, it fell to 64th place in 2016 - 2018 and 73rd place in 2019 - 2021, and in this process, Colombia, Mexico, Botswana, Thailand, Namibia, Albania countries behind Turkey such as Ukraine, Argentina, Indonesia, it is ahead of Turkey.

### **Constitutional violations and Illegitimate Presidential Candidacy**

According to Article 101 of the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey on Presidential Candidacy and Elections, a person can be elected President a maximum of two times. This is the most obvious finding of the violation of candidacy in the 2023 Election. However, this is not the first violation of the Constitution ([www.sozcu.com.tr/2015/gundem/erdogan - anayasayi - ihlal - ve - vatana - ihnet - sucu - isliyor](http://www.sozcu.com.tr/2015/gundem/erdogan-anayasayi-ihlal-ve-vatana-ihnet-sucu-isliyor)). President Erdoğan has consistently violated constitutional provisions with his dubious university degree, court decisions he did not comply with, and single - signature decisions in international agreements.

### **The Government Was Ruined by the Earthquake**

On 6 February 2023, Earthquake was the one of the worst earthquakes in history. FAO Director Viorel Gutu, The deadline for the seed season is approaching. Farmers urgently need help with fertilizer and seedlings. This is the only chance to maintain production levels this year.” said.

According to the FAO, more than a third of the population in earthquake - affected areas depend on agriculture for their survival. According to the UN, the cost of earthquakes to Turkey is over \$103 billion (tr. euronews.com/2023/03/31/bm - depremler - turkiyenin - tarim - uretiminin - yuzde - 20sinin - zarar - gormesine - neden - oldu). The fact that the earthquake taxes collected since 2002, when the AKP came to power were spent, and that the Red Crescent, which had to provide free tents, blood, and clothing, was selling them for money, caused the Erdogan regime to fall under an earthquake.

Almost all of the survivors in the earthquake area claim that they were not provided with organized and timely assistance, and they think that the Erdogan administration is responsible for this.

The anger was so great that it overcame the fear of the Erdogan regime and caused massive protests. Those who seriously considered postponing the election could not discuss postponing against this anger.

The Red Crescent Institution gave the most distorted example of institutional collapse and degeneration by selling tents to non - governmental organizations that helped in the earthquake (Arı 2023). However, the very interesting issue is that Erdogan was supported by getting higher votes in both the 14 and 28 May elections in the earthquake zone. Undocumented immigrant votes are to blame for this (ysk.gov.tr).

### Turkish Style Tsarism

The Tsarist state system had developed over a long period in Russia. Several features supported the Tsar's authority. These are known as the 'Pillars of Autocracy' (Bechev, 2022). We can summarize the bases of the Tsarist system and the similarities of the Turkish style of Tsarism as follows;

- 1) Autocratic government. A series of Tsars ruled this vast, diverse Empire. They ran the country as autocrats. This meant that the Tsar, and only the Tsar, governed Russia. In Turkey, President is the equivalent of the Tsar in the Turkish Style Presidential System. Tsar believed that they had a divine right to rule their position, and God gave them power. It is identical to the President of Turkey
- 2) The nobility accounted for approximately 10 percent. This upper class owned all the land and was dependent on the Tsar. They also dominated the army command and civil service. The civil service helped the Tsar run the Russian Empire. Administrators and officials carried out the instructions of the Tsar and his minister. They were appointed and paid by the Tsar. They owed their position to the Tsar and were very loyal to them. To oppose him would mean losing power and status. If we substitute the word President for Tsar, Turkish - style Tsarism will emerge. The difference here is that nobility is equivalent to vulgarity and ignorance.
- 3) The law; The Tsarist legal system was designed to support autocracy and Tsarist authority. It was also intended to suppress opposition and increase fear among the population:

- 4) A standard punishment for Tsar opponents was exiled to Siberia's remote region. Thousands of people viewed as enemies of the state were sent to Siberia. They were so far away that they had little chance of threatening Tsarist power. In Turkey, Turkish Style Tsarist system, opponents are punished by sending them to prison, Silivri, Sincan, or Edirne, or a political ban.
- 5) The Empire did not have an elected parliament, and there were no elections for positions in the government. There were no legal or constitutional methods by which Tsarist power could be challenged. In the Turkish Style Tsarist system, the government, which has seized the dysfunctional parliament, does not deign to answer the parliamentary questions, and all opposition proposals are rejected.
- 6) The Okhrana; The Tsar's will was enforced by an extensive police system that would report suspicious behavior and destroy subversive groups: the secret police had a vital role in identifying and spying on enemies. They had the power to arrest potential threats as required. Agents of the Okhrana worked undercover, infiltrating groups that might present a danger to the Tsar. They acted on the Tsar's behalf, treating citizens how they saw fit their methods included torture and murder. There is no name Okhrana in the Turkish Style System. But under Police and Special Security, similar bad behavior practices are done.
- 7) Cossack soldier on horseback aiming the rifle. The Tsar had a large army that became a very effective means of enforcing his power. The Tsar was the army's supreme commander military could deploy units at will. At times of civil unrest, he would often dispatch elite Cossack cavalry regiments to deal with unruly citizens. In Turkish Style, the police system seems more potent than my system. Although the army is similar to the Tsar system, individuals are still loyal to Democracy and its State.
- 8) The Orthodox Church; Black - robed man with two large crucifixes around his neck, Orthodox priests spread propaganda. The Tsar was the head of the Orthodox Church. The Church reinforced his authority: The religious institution (Diyanet) in the Turkish system took on the task much more strongly than the orthodox church and priests in the Russian Tsar system,

Official Church doctrine stated that God appointed the Tsar. Any challenge to the Tsar, the 'Little Father' - was said to insult God. This is the same in Turkish the Style Presidential System. In addition, the President is the one who knows best about every subject, including religion, economy, and health. The Church in Russia, The Religious Institution (Diyanet) were given financial rewards from the Tsar or President (the Turkish System) for this propaganda. Most of the Russian population was illiterate and had to rely on what the Church told them. It was their only source of education, and they tended to believe the teachings of the priests. The same can be said for the Turkish Presidential System or Turkish Tsar System (Tuncer 2022, DOI: 10.55559/sjahss.v1i05.29).

### Building a Strong and Unity Opposition Alliance

Political opposition has long been one of real - world politics' most dramatically understudied elements in contemporary democratic and authoritarian regimes (Helms 2023). There is an underlying optimism in much of the literature that considers the emergence of social movements as being associated with deepening processes of democratization. The expansion of civil society is seen to expand political space.

As it is deduced from the previous successful and unsuccessful examples, there are some essential topics for the opposition to succeed.

- 1) To give priority to democracy
- 2) If several parties come together, priority should be given to the issues of the joint agreement, not to the points considered differently.
- 3) Including non - governmental organizations in the opposition group will be effective.
- 4) It should try to capture as broad a base as possible.

Leadership needs for alliances, the development of networks, and a focus on single issues and identities lead social movements to make substantial political compromises. The consequences can be negative for democratic development (Sommer 2021).

The main opposition party, the Republican People's Party (CHP), is on the democratic left, the İYİ Party with a nationalist view, the Saadet Party (SP) with a conservative right view, the Democratic Party (DP) with a conservative democratic view, and the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) are against autocratic practices. The Future Party (GP) and DEVA Parties formed a union under the name of Nation Alliance. As in every autocratic country, the formation and unity of the opposition in Turkey were very difficult.

### Efforts of Opposition Parties for Turkish Democracy and Attempts by the Justice and Development Party (AKP) to Divide the Opposition

The opposition must act together on the following main issues; 1 - Nationalism (nowadays the main political point of reference) and the Kurdish issue. 2 - Secularism. 3 - Individual freedoms and human rights. 4 - Turkish youth and especially the Turkish Generation Z. Other than these, a purely technical study can be done. For example, those who know technology should handle how to improve Higher Education. However, the opposition bloc makes mistakes on these specific issues. The power bloc is making heavy use of these lines.

Since 2010, to prevent the erosion of democracy, six opposition parties allied and started joint work as the "Nation Alliance." The leaders of the "Nation Alliance" parties, which published a consensus text in their first meeting, published the features they would look for in the candidate they wanted to nominate in 2023. The opposition In the following periods, a single - party period was experienced until 1946 when multi - party elections were held for the first time in the history of the Turkish Republic (but open vote closed count). The first genuinely democratic election (closed voting, available count) occurred in 1950

(Çimen 2019). Alliance, known to have issues on which they disagree, and problems they agree, do not cover all opposition parties. The People's Democracy Party (HDP), the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), and the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) are looking for another alliance that unites socialist ideas. However, the socialist coalition also stated they could support the candidate against the ruling party in 2023. (Tuncer 2022, The Unity of the Six Opposition Parties in Turkey, the Analysis of their Consensus, and its Meaning in Terms of Democracy).

The most crucial problem of the opposition bloc, the Nation Alliance, is that they are not in unity with the parties based on socialist ideology, which has solid oppositional ground, and they try to stay away from the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), which has the support of Kurdish voters.

The People's Alliance ruling bloc is doing its best to ensure that the dissidents do not come back from these mistakes and continue to do so. The only way for Erdogan to avoid a heavy defeat in the 2023 elections is to direct the opposition to make mistakes and persist in the wrong, forcing the six parties to split on the issues they disagree with.

The leaders of the six opposition parties and party bureaucrats, who met from time to time for more than a year, finally announced that their joint presidential candidate was CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu. After this decision, which found great hope and positive reflection in the society, İyi Party leader Meral Akşener announced that she left the alliance, arguing that this decision should be taken after much more deliberation with her. However, the reaction of the public to this behavior was very heavy. Countless people resigned from the membership of the Good (İYİ) Party. With the heavy reaction of the public, Meral Akşener decided to return to the alliance within 2 days, but she proposed the condition that Ankara and Istanbul Metropolitan Mayors Mansur Yavaş and Ekrem İmamoğlu also be vice presidents. With this accepted condition, a new memorandum of understanding was announced on 6 March 2023. Thus, the conflict within the Nation Alliance was resolved. The existence of these disagreements, but their resolution through harmony and negotiation, earned the Alliance an important point.

Muharrem İnce, who has been a candidate for the presidency many times within the CHP and opposes Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, lost the election even though he was nominated for the Presidency in 2017 by the CHP. However, holding his party responsible for this defeat rather than his failure, he left the CHP and established a new party, Homeland Parts. This party, which does not have a different ideology, aimed to satisfy Muharrem İnce's ego and became a candidate in the 2023 Presidential elections, aiming to divide the opposition votes, which was to punish Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, the most important and only goal of Muharrem İnce. The fact that Muharrem İnce's relative works in one of the construction companies where the government has been constantly giving corrupt tenders allowed this firm or companies to easily fund Muharrem İnce to prevent the opposition from winning. Only 72 hours before the election, a sex tape about Muharrem İnce was released and the opposition block was accused of it. CHP Leader

Kılıçdaroğlu announced that he had intelligence information that this and the black propaganda that has been going on for a few weeks is a work on the Russian secret service. Muharrem İnce announced that he withdrew his candidacy in the face of the events, but did not declare that he supported the opposition bloc. It justifies the emphasis that Russian intelligence may have a role in revealing much false information by using "deep fake" technology.

I believe that the opposition should take serious lessons from what happened in Turkey while organizing in countries governed by dictatorial regimes that do not have a quality democracy in world politics, and I advise them to examine the events well.

The AKP's lies and slanders against the opposition alliance, which made Goebels jealous, were carried so far that the opposition deliberately tried to incite a civil war, using hostile and divisive language that equates them with the enemies invading the homeland, accusing them of being associated with terrorism.

Black propaganda and fifth - column activities started to be carried out in the virtual world by the Presidency Communications Directorate ([www.dokuz8haber.net/fahrettin-altun-gorsel-ve-isitsel-medyada](http://www.dokuz8haber.net/fahrettin-altun-gorsel-ve-isitsel-medyada)).

### The Language of Threat

The opposition to the forefront of the election led the government to take more drastic measures. The meeting of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, who is expected to be the vice president, in Erzurum was provoked by about 200 militants on 7 May 2023. Ekrem İmamoğlu and his entourage were stoned. Erzurum Governor and Police Chief preferred to remain, spectators, rather than intervene in the events. On the same day, President Erdoğan gave hints of this attack at his meeting in Istanbul. While addressing the public, the people of Erzurum said that no one could walk without permission. In an interview, Interior Minister Soyulu declared that they would finish the job they could not complete in the July 15 coup attempt and have launched a chaos plan ([www.facebook.com/GlobalSavunma/videos](http://www.facebook.com/GlobalSavunma/videos)). There can be no greater threat to the survival of the country than this overt threat to democracy made by a minister. This is a clear Constitutional offense to the justice system, prosecutors just watched.

Black propaganda was made through the mouth of the opposition under the responsibility of official institutions through technology. The aim was to intimidate the opposition voters and prevent them from going to vote.

### Formation of a second opposition alliance; the Labor and Freedom Alliance

In the declaration announced by the Labor and Freedom Alliance on September 25, 2022, the economy, poverty, the Kurdish issue, fundamental rights, and freedoms were highlighted ([gazeteduvar.com.tr/emek-ve-ozgurluk-ittifaki-deklarasyonu](http://gazeteduvar.com.tr/emek-ve-ozgurluk-ittifaki-deklarasyonu)).

The alliance was formed by the Labor Movement Party (EHP), the Labor Party (EMEP), the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), the Socialist Assemblies Federation (SMF),

the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), and the Social Freedom Party (TÖP) put forward the Kurdish identity with the Turkish socialist left movement. It aimed to achieve the mass integration of thinking.

The Labor and Freedom Alliance aimed to show that the peoples of Turkey were not without a choice between the one - person rule between the People's Alliance and the Nation Alliance's 6 table. ([evrensel.net/yazi/91670/emek-ve-ozgurluk-ittifakinin-ete-kemige-burunmesi](http://evrensel.net/yazi/91670/emek-ve-ozgurluk-ittifakinin-ete-kemige-burunmesi)). This new alliance is essential in that it defies the claims that President Erdoğan has formed a secret alliance with the HDP, which defends the National Alliance and Kurdish Nationalism every time. Some of the titles of the declaration announced to the public by the Labor and Freedom Alliance, started with the statement, "It is an urgent task to stop the destruction created by the People's Alliance in many areas from the economy to politics, to end the one - man rule, to improve the working and living conditions of the people, and to ensure that a change and transformation takes place based on democratic rights and freedoms";

An economic order that will work and live humanely,  
A democracy based on popular sovereignty  
The peaceful and democratic solution to the Kurdish question,  
Equality and freedom for women, youth, and disadvantaged groups,  
Protection of nature, environment, and cultural assets.  
The main topics of the Nation Alliance and the Labor and Freedom Alliance are a summary of the hardships people in Turkey have suffered in the last twenty years.  
The Alliance for Labor and Freedom announced on March 6, 2023, that after Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu was nominated by the Nation Alliance, they would not nominate a candidate and that they, as the opposition, opposed the division of votes. These approaches are an important and exemplary step that will go down in history in terms of the history of Turkey's democracy.

### Opposition's Mistakes and Things Done Right

- 1) The fact that the leaders of six political parties, which have very similar ideologies, came together with great devotion, prioritizing the country and protecting democracy is an event encountered for the first time in the history of democracy in Turkey.
- 2) The gradual destruction of democratic rights in the country, the thoughtless implementation of wrong economic policies by ignoring the economic crisis, the ignorance of justice and law, the erosion of human rights and freedoms, the courage to oppose them in a dictatorial regime where corruption and bribery are increasingly commonplace, and those who oppose are imprisoned unjustly. It is an event in itself that should be embraced.
- 3) The most important mistake of the leaders of the opposition is the content and forms of speech that put themselves forward rather than coordination. In addition, the behaviors that put each other in the background created confusion in the selection. This behavior was at least exhibited by the Felicity Party (SP) leader Karamollaoğlu and the Democrat Party (DP) Leader, and they acted more unifying.



- 4) The meaningless travels and contradictory statements of CHP leader Kılıçdaroğlu abroad at the most critical moments also created distrust in the electorate and gave serious trump cards to the power.
- 5) The Nation Alliance, founded by six opposition leaders, could not come up with an intelligible result as a result of their long meetings approaching a year, and the meetings became an activity similar to the "we are eating" program. At the end of a year, on January 30, 2023, although the joint agreement text appeared as a well - prepared text, it was criticized for expressing what would be destroyed rather than to be done, not giving place to civil society, and for serious mistakes in the details of higher education. Moreover, it is debatable how many voters will read this text.
- 6) The leadership and communication errors of the opposition leader Kılıçdaroğlu stand out as a repulsive feature such as a mustache grin, failure to express his excitement, reading even the simplest sentences from paper, and impulsive finger movements.
- 7) One of the most important issues that came to the fore in the analysis of the election speeches of all political leaders between 2014 and 2017 is that CHP leader Kılıçdaroğlu distanced himself from the voters and kept himself and CHP members separate from the electorate and always addressed him as you. Another important point is that participation and civil society, which are the real - size requirements of democracy, are given very little space. Another noteworthy point is that the arguments of the Alevi within the scope of freedom of belief were rarely included in Kılıçdaroğlu's speeches. (Doğanay 2017).
- 8) One of the most important mistakes is to exclude the HDP, which voters of Kurdish origin vote for, from the opposition alliance by assuming it does not exist. Because winning an election without HDP support would be a dream.
- 9) The rhetoric and accusations of many parties that define themselves as left or social democrats, except the six leaders in the alliance, weakening the Nation Alliance for their petty interests are perhaps the most serious mistake in the country's democracy.
- 10) The leader of the İYİ Party, Meral Akşener, suddenly left the alliance due to a disagreement about the common presidential candidate of the Nation Alliance and made meaningless and heavy accusations and returned to the alliance a few days later, which created serious negativity in terms of reliability.
- 11) Standing uncompromisingly on those trying to divide the opposition is an important plus of the Nation Alliance.
- 12) On the other hand, the fact that the People's Alliance made agreements with the HUDA - PAR (God Party) and Re - Welfare (Yeniden Refah) Parties, which are against women and human rights in pursuit of the smallest vote, and the MHP's inability to voice these marginal thoughts are the most important events that have developed against the Government and Erdogan. The relationship of HUDA - PAR with the terrorist organization Hezbollah was also considered a serious mistake on behalf of democracy and humanity.

### Turkey 2023 Election Result

The Erdogan regime fell under the rubble in the South East Earthquake on February 6, 2023. The disaster of state organizations was seen as the cause of the increase in deaths and suffering from earthquakes. The inadequacy of Erdoğan, who sees himself as the most important and effective leader in the world and is the most uneducated and illiterate leader in the Political History of Turkey, has been painfully seen at the end of this earthquake. The giant mirror in which all the dictators in history saw themselves was broken by the common sense of the voters in Turkey (Tuncer 2022, DOI: 10.21275/SR22302165252).

In almost all of the polls made until 15 days before the election, the candidate of the Nation Alliance Kılıçdaroğlu seems ahead. In 45% of these surveys, it was seen that Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu passed 50% in the first round of the election and completed the election in the first round. Meanwhile, the ruling AKP wanted to make a deal with the imprisoned Kurdish terrorist leader Öcalan, but this did not work out. For this, dozens of politicians, academics, and lawyers were detained in a very large operation in Diyarbakır and an attempt was made to intimidate them. In addition, Interior Minister Soylu described this picture in the March 14 Elections as a "coup" and accused the election, which is a necessity of democracy. It was to ensure that they remained in power permanently without the desired election. It was seen that state facilities were used by both President Erdoğan and ministers in election propaganda, as well as the aid that should go to earthquake victims was distributed for election propaganda purposes.

It planned to intervene in the election by creating a parallel state structure within the interior ministry to monitor the election illegally. The interior minister is also a parliamentary candidate. Thus, all kinds of illegal interventions were planned.

Despite all the threats and attacks, the people of Türkiye went to vote with courage and calmness. Participation was over 80%.

Despite everything, with the first results after 5 pm on 14 May, it was understood that the regime of oppression and persecution, which had continued for more than twenty years, is still close to 50%. Thus, the election went to the second round.

In the Presidential election held on May 14, in the first round, 2, 269, and in the parliamentary elections, 4, 825 conflicts were detected. As a result of voting for Syrian immigrants, who were given an undetermined number of citizens, the result obtained in the first round made the election questionable.

The voting rate of Presidential Alliance candidate Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who completed the first round of the 14 May 2023 presidential election with 49.5 percent, decreased in 73 of 81 provinces compared to the 24 June 2018 elections. Erdogan's votes rose in 8 provinces (tr. euronews.com/2023/05/16/14 - mayista - erdoganin - oy - orani - 2018e - gore - 81 - ilin - 73unde - dustu - en - cok - dusen - iller - hangisi).



Erdoğan was elected president in the first round of the 2018 elections, receiving 52.59 percent of the vote. In 2023, the vote rate in the first round was 49.5 percent. This shows that the vote rate decreased by 3.09 percentage points. According to the unofficial data of the Anadolu Agency (Anadolu Agency is the official institution of the state and is under pressure from the AKP government), Erdogan's vote rate in 73 of 81 provinces decreased compared to the 2018 elections. This includes three major cities.

### Reasons for not getting the expected result

There is a complex and also sociological underlying this result. We can summarize the factors related to voters, power, and opposition as follows;

#### 1) Reasons related to governmental bodies and ruling party;

- a) Using the institutional setup in favor of the government, such as unlawfully starting to give the election results of Anadolu Agency in favor of the AKP.
- b) To create the support of a people who are obedient and educated with a culture of obedience by creating sustainable poverty.
- c) State officials see themselves not as the protector of the state but as the party's servants, and not to speak out against lawlessness.
- d) Using state resources openly for elections
- e) Despite being a parliamentary candidate for the interior minister, his unlawful attempts to be responsible for election security
- f) To openly lie and slander by the methods of Goebbels and to repeat it constantly, to spread it with the means of the State.
- g) Erdogan unlawfully distributes citizenship to an unknown number of Syrian immigrants and imports voters.
- h) Again, with the means of the State, by abusing his office, to have the votes of the opposition written to himself by having them shifted.
- i) Erdogan had found miracles, found oil, and natural gas, made a warship, warplane, and EV car, and built hundreds of thousands of apartments in the earthquake region. Miraculous inventions such as gas extraction without a platform and production cars without a production center were encountered just before the election.
- j) No legal action was taken against the testimonies of the witnesses, who stated that they were involved in the corruption with the Erdoğan family, and an attempt was made to divert attention to this issue.
- k) To abuse the religious feelings of the people, to openly use the official institution of Religious Affairs and Mosques for this purpose, even though it is illegal.
- l) Erdogan tried to create a perception that opposition leader Kılıçdaroğlu was associated with terrorist organizations with the videos that were faked by montage with his own words (t24. com. tr/video/erdogan - miting - alanlarında - izlettiği - montaj - görüntüleri - sahiplendi -).
- m) There is an unexplained increase in the number of voters of 2.5 million between 2018 and 2023. Some of them are immigrants who have been granted citizenship on the condition of voting for Erdogan. The more important

issue is that those who died during this period are not dropped from the electoral list. Instead of these voters, it is focused on the suspicion of adding illegal collective votes (teyit. org/analiz/14 - mayis - secimlerinde).

- n) The interior minister, with criminal characteristics, was made a deputy candidate, and pressure was created using the ministry's facilities.
- o) The interior minister provoked the voters by acting provocatively.
- p) Adding at least 4 million ghost voters to the election results from the Supreme Election Board
- q) Two days before the second round of elections, Kılıçdaroğlu's propagandawas illegally banned by State Institutions and GSM operators.

#### 2) Factors related to voters;

- a) The Machiavellian approach of the electorate
- b) Unquestioning acceptance of slander and lies among voters due to low education
- c) The majority of a population that is too immoral to ignore corruption
- d) Giving importance to election bribes of the ruling party and selling votes
- e) Passively influencing the result by not participating in the Election by not understanding its important contribution
- f) Due to his low level of education, he easily believes every lie and sets the game for only very small interests.
- g) Giving Erdogan sacred values because of his weak religious belief
- h) The fact that many poor voters are selling their vote for money or some benefit. To achieve this, the AKP administration followed a policy of sustainable poverty.
- i) Official sources keep secret how many foreigners voted and how many Syrians ghost - voted because of their sold or distributed citizenship.

#### 3) Problems on the opposition side;

- a) Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu's inadequacy and inaccuracy of communication skills
- b) The sectarian nature of the main opposition
- c) The laziness of the CHP administrative structure and the mistaken belief that it can voluntarily carry out election and ballot box security.
- d) Getting into pointless arguments, making ministerial negotiations, getting into a winning mood early on.
- e) Not understanding the voter psychology
- f) Not being aware of the fact that the internal factional strife of the parties is damaging the election
- g) Ignoring the electoral moves of the government by focusing too much on their actions.
- h) Speakers on opposition televisions that will attract the reaction of the public, or at least destroy their sympathy.
- i) Politicians who make statements that will create a reaction in the opposition parties
- j) The opposition parties, except the Felicity Party, do not work in the field.
- k) Incorrect parliamentary candidate lists
- l) When it comes to power, it is unclear who will take responsibility for the economy, which is the most important issue.
- m) Kılıçdaroğlu's image as a stand - alone and sole leader, not being clear on how to share responsibilities

- n) Not being able to create enough excitement and motivate the electorate

### Second Round Result

After meeting with President Erdogan, the third candidate in the first round, Sinan Ogan, decided to support the People's Alliance, contrary to his previous words. The agreement and concessions between them were not disclosed much.

Justice Party (Adalet Partisi) announced that they support Kılıçdaroğlu, the candidate of the Nation Alliance, which is one of the parties forming the Ata Alliance, for which Sinan Ogan was nominated.

President of the Victory Party (Zafer Partisi), Ümit Özdağ, the main partner of the Ata Alliance, for which Sinan Ogan was nominated, announced that after the negotiations with Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, they decided to support Kılıçdaroğlu, the candidate of the Nation Alliance. The text of the agreement between the Nation Alliance and the Victory Party, consisting of seven articles, was signed and announced transparently through the press.

Everyone was wondering if Türkiye's democracy would commit suicide when the date is coming to the second round on May 28, 2023 (Tuncer 2023).

May 18, 2023, the second round result is 48% Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu and 52% Erdoğan (tr. euronews.com/2023/05/28/28). Although the participation rate decreased compared to the first round, it was 85%. Erdogan was elected to rule for another five years of economic and moral collapse. After an undemocratic, biased election, Turkey has to continue with a wounded democracy. The election process carried out under pressure was ultimately effective. However, the votes given by foreigners are also an important factor due to the citizenships that have not been sold or given away yet.

Kılıçdaroğlu may have lost the election, but his contribution to democracy will be recorded in history. Kılıçdaroğlu worked for democracy and peace under such heavy dictatorial rule. He carried out a study that could be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Despite this bad course, political psychology studies should be carried out to explain the voter continues with Erdogan.

## 2. Conclusion

The party's leader, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, denounced double - digit inflation - consumer price inflation rocketed to 54.9 percent in 2001 - and called the rapid collapse of the lira a "national shame." Erdogan and his top team set about implementing economic reforms that upended the country's economy.

Almost 20 years later, the tables have turned dramatically: the orthodox economists. They once praised now - president Erdogan's handling of Turkey's finances in the 2000s look on in horror at his insistence on cutting interest rates even as the currency and inflation spiraled out of control. More than this, in addition to the central institutions of democracy such

as the law and justice system, and the parliamentary structure, the main central institutions such as education, economy, police organization, army, religious organization, and Turkish Statistical Institute have also degenerated.

The CHP is the oldest party in Republican Turkey. After transitioning to a multiparty political system, the party positioned itself in the center - left in the 1960s after holding power in the single - party period. The party was closed in 1981 and reopened in 1992, but it has not been in power. It has been the main opposition party since 2002. In the 2011 elections, the party recorded its best result since 1980, with 25.9 percent of the vote. However, this rate did not satisfy CHP sympathizers. The party has attempted to enlarge its voting base and reinforce its vision and ideology. (Kiriş 2012).

Obligated to operate within a "competitive authoritarian" environment, the six parties of the opposition, namely the Republican People's Party (Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi - CHP), the Good Party (İYİ Parti), the Democracy and Progress Party (Demokrasi ve Atılım Partisi - DEVA), Felicity Party (Saadet Partisi), Democrat Party (Demokrat Parti), Future Party (Gelecek Partisi) are in a multidimensional process of transformation and adaptation to the emerging needs and expectations of a growing part of the Turkish society.

Making changes that will legitimize all possible ways of cheating in the elections started at the end of 2021. The most important of these was determining the responsible judges in the election boards with the changes made in the Supreme Election Board. Criminal investigations and proceedings were initiated against the Presidential candidates, who are likely to be opposed by Erdoğan. The successful Istanbul Provincial Chairman of the Republican People's Party (CHP), Dr. Kaftancıoğlu, was banned from politics and sentenced to prison.

CHP Istanbul Mayor Ekram İmamoğlu was faced with the threat of being banned from politics and imprisoned on completely fabricated grounds as a result of political intervention and pressure.

The Erdogan regime in Turkey left behind hundreds of thousands of innocent people who were unfairly and unlawfully dismissed from their jobs, hundreds of thousands of children who were removed from their parents, the suffering of millions of refugees fleeing the civil turmoil in Syria and Iraq, including heavy corruption, bribery, injustice and unlawfully imprisoned journalists, opposition politicians. A management style that deafens 82 million citizens who are oppressed by environmentalists and wrong economic decisions, As an example of a government that did not stand by its people in the world's heaviest earthquake, One of the cruelest regimes in the history of world politics with its contribution to the establishment of new cocaine trade routes in the world, money laundering, will pass as one. While thousands of bureaucrats who turned a blind eye to this dictator's violations of the Constitution and became a tool for black propaganda, tried to disappear with the money of the country they smuggled abroad with the change of power, the country will never forget them. The change in Turkey should be the subject of political science courses for

years to show how a transition from democracy to a fascist regime can be achieved.

What happened in Turkey will go down in the history of World Democracy as an exemplary case. The whole civilized world must understand how the people of Turkey have endured and defended democracy. From another point of view, it is necessary to understand what kind of a threat to the civilized world is being turned away from at the bottom of Europe.

The founder of the Turkish Republic, Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, established democracy and the Republic and gave it to the people of Turkey. For this reason, the importance of Democracy and Republic, achieved without effort, has not been noticed much. By 2023, the people, who were oppressed under a heavy fascist dictatorship, defended their republic by fighting a real democracy war. Now the true value of the Democratic Republic is understood.

Although the price of experience in Turkey is paid heavily, it has been one of the rare examples in World History where dictatorship was ended by democratic methods.

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