

Research Article**Jordanian-Turkish Relations in the Light of Regional Changes (2003-2020)**

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Abstract: This research paper sought to ascertain the relationship between Jordan and Turkey especially in the light of the regional changes from the year 2003 to 2020. The first chapter of the paper is the introduction part and seeks to ascertain how the relations between the two countries has been enhanced through having a history of shared values that have ultimately resulted in strengthened through bilateral associations. Based on the research paper, it is ascertained that the relationships between Turkey and Jordan were regarded as being the most ancient and were therefore first started by the founding fathers of the two nations namely King Abdullah I Bin Al Hussein who lived from 1882 to the year 1951 and the Turkish Republic founder known as Kamal Mustafa who lived from 1881 to 1938. The first chapter thus presents background information on when the relationship between the two countries (Turkey and Jordan) started and the relevant people that played significant roles in the establishment of bilateral relationships between the two nations. Among other aspects, the first chapter thus presents the various similarities that made the two countries have relations that helped in the enhancement of their social, economic, and cultural aspects. One of the important assertions in the first chapter is that the relations between the two countries were known to have had an immense development during the period of the “Justice and Development Party” that occurred from the year 2002 to the year 2020 and which was not only marked through mutual respect between Turkey and Jordan but which were also marked by lots of mutual visitations between the two nations. The visitations between the two countries were known to have been concerned with both the regional as well as global affairs that affected the two countries. It also sought to ascertain bilateral relationship between Jordan and Turkey in various aspects that included among others aspects of cooperation in matters to do with the Palestinian issues in which the two countries collaborated in order to oppose the annexing of Jerusalem by Israel as well as criticizing the occupation of the Israel government as well as the repressive practices that the countries executed against the people in Jordan. Another notable relationship that is highlighted in the introductory part of the research paper is the strengthening of ties between Turkey and Jordan as a result of a failed “coup attempt” that occurred in Turkey in the year 2016 in which Jordan as a country announced its support for Turkey through the closure of an organization that was linked to the “Fatah Allah Gulen” organization in Turkey. Another important aspect captured in the introductory part of the paper is statement of the problem or the reasons why there was need to carry out this research study. According to the significance of the study in the chapter, it is ascertained that there was need to carry out the study in order to ascertain the long history that the two countries share and why it is important to ensure that these relationships are maintained by the contemporary leadership. That apart, the stamen of purpose in the paper seeks to depict the major purpose of the research paper through ascertaining the numerous goals that the research study seeks to ascertain. For instance, it is ascertained that the purpose of this research study is aimed at explaining the nature of relations between the two countries while also giving an explanation on the nature of the relations between the two countries. Another goal was to ascertain the characteristics that are associated with the Turkey and the Jordanian relations through a discussion of both the internal components of the two countries as well as their respective dimensions. In addition to that, the purpose of the study was also the explanation of both the external and internal factors as well as determinations that prevailed in the relations between these two important countries. Another important aspect that has been highlighted under this section is actually a suggestion on how relations between Turkey and Jordan can be enhanced in order to ensure that the interests of the two nations are better taken care of. Another important goal of this research study is the clarification of the various determinants that have affected the relations between Jordan and Turkey especially in light or in the aspect of the coming to power of the Justice and the Development Party in the year 2002. Another important section in the introduction part of the paper comprises of the research

questions and the research objectives especially after the coming to power of the “Justice and Development Party” or AKP power in the year 2002. Another part in the introduction part is the research method that highlighted the historical and system analysis approaches that were used in the research study for the collection of data regarding the study. It also deals with the statistical approach in which the study was limited from a time period of the year 2002 to the year 2020 and which was determined through a variety of reasons such as the year 2002 which regarded as being an essential and vital year in the two country’s history in that it was the year that helped the “Justice and Development Party” to ascend to power thus leading to a range of numerous transformations in the country. The end of the chapter sums up by asserting that the time period that was specified for the study is indeed in one way or another enough in monitoring of the various trends in the different levels of the foreign policy in Turkey. The second part of the research paper which is chapter two dealt with a discussion of the political relations between Turkey and Jordan. According to the chapter, this sort to deal with the aspects in the degree or rate of ideological or compatibility homogeneity between the two states and the political systems that prevailed in both Turkey and Jordan. Based on the chapter, it was ascertained that a country’s foreign policy is actually the one which ultimately determines the outcomes of both the internal as well as external demands and inputs. As a result, this is highly influenced by both the regional as well as global systems in which one lives. Another important aspect that is discussed in the second chapter is the historical aspects associated with the relations between Jordan and Turkey and the numerous developments of this relationship. In this section, it is ascertained that the relations between the two countries are historically deep since they date back to the year 1516, an indicator that the relationship dates back than 500 years ago when Eastern Jordan was indeed part and parcel of the “Ottoman Empire” until the year 191 when Jordan became a sovereign state. This part also presents a discussion on the political relations between Jordan and Turkey from the year 1921 to 2009 through a discussion of the numerous stages of development in the two countries especially after the development of the “Turkish Republic” towards the end of the year 2009. Among the stages includes the founding King Abdullah I Bin Al Hussein from 1921 to 1952. The second stage is a discussion of King Hussein bin Talal from the year 1952 to 1999 in which it is ascertained that it is under the rain of this king that the relationships between Turkey and Jordan experienced not only constructive understanding but also honesty and friendliness in all the major fields. The third chapter of the research paper presents the major differences and compatibility between Jordan and Turkey. The differences between the two countries are defined in terms of the Gross Domestic Product or GDP as well as their position on both Islamic and Arab issues and how foreign policy is applied by Turkey. The chapter also presents a discussion regarding the “Muslim Brotherhood” in Jordan and the role that it plays in political issues in Jordan. The fourth chapter of the research study presents the economic, cultural, and military relations between Turkey and Jordan and this is done through making a similarity and the differences between the two countries in the three major aspects. The last part of the paper is the conclusion part and it presents a summary of all the details discussed in the paper.

Keywords: Relations, history, Jordan, Turkey.

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INTRODUCTION

Based on the research paper, it is quite evident that both Jordan and Turkey share some significant relationships that ultimately make the two countries to be closely knit. One of the significant similarities is that both Jordan and Turkey hold a similar position on the issue of the Arab Spring revolutions right from the year 2010 to 2020 (Mathbout, Lopez-Bustins, Royé, Martin-Vide & Benhamrouche, 2020). It is ascertained from the research paper that the Arab Revolutions resulted in the emergence of the three major power blocks in which Turkey belonged to the change and pre-revolution block while Jordan belonged to the second bloc that aimed at restoring the status quo and therefore regarded what was happening in the Arab countries as being the correct “course of revolution” aimed at restoring the stability of the region. It can also truly be asserted that

both Turkey and Jordan hold a similar view regarding the “Hashemite Guardianship of Jerusalem” and this is therefore an indicator that the two countries have a lot in common.

The research paper holds the view that the relationship between Turkey and Jordan are quite essential and important and this is attributed to the fact that the two countries are known to common history and values that has resulted in even stronger ties between the two (Altındağ & Kaushal, 2020). Based on the research paper, it is quite evident that the strong bond and relationships between the two countries are highly attributed to founding fathers of the two countries who ensured that the relationship was not only developed during ancient times but also who ensured that the relationship was maintained at all costs. Despite

the fact that the two countries share some similarities, they also have notable differences between them. However, despite the notable differences in their economic, military, and cultural aspects, leaders from the two countries have always tried the best and ensured that the differences do not tear their long-term relationship apart (Soleimani *et al.*, 2020). The fact that the two countries share a similar opinion on various issues such as anti-communist opinions and in particular the Palestine issue is an indicator that the two countries are not going to part ways due to any differences in opinion and approach to different global matters. The enhanced development of the relationship between Turkey and Jordan are due to the constant visitations from the two countries who have worked hard in ensuring that there were constant consultations on various regional, local, and global issues. By so doing, this has greatly helped the two countries to have a common understand and approach to various issues that directly affect their associations with the outside world. Based on the research paper, it is evident that the enhancement of ties between Jordan and Turkey are attributed to the ability of the countries to develop a better understanding and agreements in the bilateral cultural, military, and economic relations.

The impact of the Arab Spring revolution is a notable event that had an immense impact on both countries and which tested the strength of the relationship between the two countries. One of the notable similarities between the two countries and which have helped in ensuring that the two countries are held together is a commonality that they are against the repressive practices that are carried out by Israel against the people of Palestine (Topuz *et al.*, 2020). The two countries agree that there is need for the two countries to co-operate in order to be in a better position of handling the various challenges that faced their countries and the region as a whole. All in all, it can truly be asserted that the relationship between these two great countries have stemmed from their history of having shared values that have ultimately helped in strengthening of the bilateral relationships between the two.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The relationship between Jordan and Turkey have gained a strategic force that has stemmed from not only history but also shared values that have led to enhanced bilateral relations between the two. The relations are indeed deemed as being ancient since they spun to the founding fathers of the two nations. This important history between the two nations is known to date back to the “thirties” of the last century by the forefathers of these two countries and since then, it has been sustained continuously by the leaders from the two countries. It was noted that the “Is un Enum” which was signed on 1st of January in 1947 by King Abdullah I. when he visited Turkey is indeed a very important

document that is in force even in the modern times (Kilic & Baydar, 2020). According to the document, it is stated that friendship and peace will always be prevalent between the Hashemite Kingdom in Jordan and the Turkish Republic. The treaty between the two countries was therefore aimed at consolidating and strengthening the relationship between the two countries as well as promoting them in official frameworks. This led to the establishment of the first Turkish Embassy in Amman in the year 1947 (Sekeryapan *et al.*, 2020). It is prudent to note that during the period of the Cold War, both Jordan and Turkey were known to have retained strong anti-communist and pro-western views and it is as a result of this consensus that it ultimately led to an extension of other affairs and issues especially in regard to do with Palestine that is known to have gone beyond the “foreign policy bonds” and which also became an ideological and historical dimensions of people in Turkey. It was further noted that there relations between Jordan and Turkey are known to have witnessed immense development and growth during the Justice and Development Party that was marked by mutual respect as result of the mutual visits that were done by stakeholders in the two countries.

In the issue of Palestine, it was ascertained that both Jordan and Turkey shared some similarity in that they both opposed the annexing of Jerusalem by Israel and even further criticized the occupation of the Israel government and its repressive practices that were carried out against the people in Palestine. On the issue of the Arab Spring period that is known to have followed the Arab and regional setbacks in 2010, it was noted that the two countries noted that their roles in the regional as well as global conflicts duly required joint cooperation between them (Alrwajfah, Almeida-García & Cortés-Macias, 2020). This was attributed to the fact the two countries realized that Jordan and Turkey were both exposed to similar security threats that resulted from numerous revolutions and they were both committed to bearing heavy burdens such as the hosting of refugees. It was noted that failed coup attempts which happened in the year 2016 in Turkey helped in re-strengthening relations between the Jordan and Turkey. Jordan reassured Turkey of its support and promised that it stood with the country against terrorism.

There is a strong ancient and historical link between Jordan and Turkey since Turkey was associated with Jordan with the ancient historical results that dated back in 1937. As a result, Turkey aspired to use the historical link in playing regional roles such as in the regional conflicts that were aimed at enhancing its role in linking of both the West and the East and even seeking to exploit the “new Ottomanism” so that it was ruled in its favor (Doğan & Kayır, 2020). The geographical location of Turkey is quite important

because it is known to represent not only Arab countries but it is also linked or associated geographically with the waterways and the borders that linked both the Arab and the Western worlds. Various studies have been carried out with an aim of shedding realities concerning the Turkish-Jordanian relations as well as directing repercussions on the relations between these two countries. Turkey is indeed known to be among the prominent regional actors which prevailed in the Middle East and as a result, the foreign policies that the country had in the region as well as in other countries such as Jordan had a great impact on such nations as well as on the general situation that prevailed in such a region.

It was noted that after coming to power in the year 2002, the “Justice and Development Party” or AKP, Turkey realized it was important for it to adapt its foreign policy in a manner that was compatible with both the regional and global realities especially in the wake of the regional and global changes that were depicted in the Middle East like the war in Iraq that occurred in the year 2003.

2002 as a year is regarded as being vital and being a turning point in the Turkish State’s contemporary history (Knab *et al.*, 2020). This is because it is in this year that the country encountered an increase in Justice and development to power that ultimately led to the launching of numerous transformations that were not restricted to the Turkish interior but which had impacts outside its borders especially after the drafting of a new vision for the country that aimed at enhancing the country’s foreign policy. It is also during this period that Turkey encountered keenness on the building the country, ensuring that its economy was strengthened, and ensuring that its structure was reformed so that it was saved from collapse.

It was truly ascertained that Jordan and Turkey had good political relations that spanned a long period of time. It was noted that the more a political system enjoyed high rates of ideological compatibilities, the more it was prone to become strengthened and stable (Utescher *et al.*, 2020). It was noted that the two countries were quite keen on ensuring that they had a political awareness of any of the regional as well as international or global sources. As a result, the two countries were quite aware that the foreign policy of any country determined outcomes for both the internal and external demands and inputs (Nowrasteh, Forrester & Blondin, 2019). This was therefore highly influenced through the regional and economic systems in which someone lived in.

RESEARCH ELABORATIONS

Based on the above information, it is quite evident that both Jordan and Turkey indeed had a solid

and distinguished relationship especially in their state relations. This is especially so in the context of the mutual cooperation which has seen the two countries to have a mutual cooperation in various areas by the two countries such as in politics and economics. It was noted that shining Turkish model was highly praised because of its capability of receiving ten of thousands of the Syrian refugees and even called on the global community to ensure it was capable of meeting the obligations of supporting Jordan and Turkey which are known to host approximately 1.4 million refugees (Nakamura, 2019). It was noted that one of the vital areas of cooperation between Jordan and Turkey encompassed the cultural, political, and economic aspects of both countries. Indeed, these two countries are also working on the creation of a permanent agreement or basis in order to ensure that their coordination and consultations were maintained in order to cope with the ongoing challenges that emanated from the regional conflicts. This is the major reason why it was indicated by the “Jordanian Ambassador” that both Amman and Ankara backed the global and regional efforts aimed at finding political solutions towards the current crises facing the region such as the issue of Syria that is known to have a direct impact or impact on the two countries’ progress.

RESULTS/FINDINGS

Based on the above research paper, it is quite evident that both countries (Turkey and Jordan) need each other in order to become successful. For instance, on even a wider scale, it was ascertained that Turkey needed Jordan as the country made attempts aimed at rebuilding the regional influence that has greatly crumbled since the “Arab Arising” which happened in the year 2011 (Özdemir & Bayraklı, 2019). That apart, it was also ascertained that previously, Ankara asserted that it was quite committed in reconsidering the various elements which are associated with the “free trade agreements” and these included among other ways finding viable ways of boosting the exports that Jordan made to Turkey as well as ensuring that more tourists were attracted to Jordan. It was noted that the relationship between Turkey and Jordan has been evolving very fast and indeed, each of the country is not only working hard to ensure that any challenges or constraints are duly addressed but also ensures that there is good political will that will help in ensuring that the political will is attained on each of the sides in order to enhance the ties. Based on the above information, it is quite evident that both Ankara and Amman are known to enjoy strong and solid relations and bilateral diplomatic ties.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the above information, it is quite evident that both Turkey and Jordan are known to share close relationships which are highly attributed to the

long historical commons since both countries have the Sunni Muslims which share strong historic ties. This is true since while Turkey is known to have an embassy in Amman, Jordan on the other hand responded by setting up an embassy that is located in Ankara (Robins, 2019). It was ascertained that Turkey and Jordan are regarded as being liberal in region that is regarded as being turbulent such as MENA and as a result, they are known to share very close ties that are based on the “common mutual gestures”. It is therefore apparent that the two countries have vowed in ensuring that their bilateral ties are enhanced and strengthened. It was also evident that both Turkey and Jordan are known to share common concerns regarding the “Status of Jerusalem” and as a result, they are known to have both criticized the overreaction of Israel in this city. As a country, it is noted that Jordan highly depends on aid and as a result, it has made several attempts aimed at ensuring that the country achieves a “neutral position” over several issues and these includes ensuring that it has good relations with hegemony and neighbors such as Turkey.

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