

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Throughout the analysis, this thesis found four findings, including that the clarity of threats and current condition in the international realm indicates that the US should re-channel their support Turkey military intervention in Syria. In the meantime, this analysis also found that the change of US policy from supporting Turkey to condemning Turkey is influenced by numerous domestic factors, such as Trump's images as the leader of the US, state-society relations between the US government and their citizens, and the US strategic cultures. In regards to Trump's images as the main FPE of the United States, analysis in chapter three has found that Trump's high in-group bias, need of power, and Operational Code eventually led him to condemn the Turkish third military intervention in Syria. In line with this, the American citizens alongside with their Senators and several interest groups also has pushed Trump to adopt policies to safeguard the Kurdish militants which automatically cost the US their partnership with their NATO-ally, Turkey. Not to mention, analysed through the US strategic culture which include hub-and-spoke strategy and their liberal values, the best available foreign policy options that the US can adopt is to leave behind their cooperation with Turkey.

Based on these findings, it can be concluded that the change of US foreign policy toward Turkish military intervention in Syria was based on the contestation between the domestic and international factors in foreign policy. Whilst the international factor indicates that the best policy choice the US could adopt is to re-

channel their support to the Turkish government, the domestic factors suggested the contrary. In line with Trump's high desire for power, high in-bias group, and his Operational Code, the US should condemn the OPS. Not to mention, the US strategic cultures including their hub-and-spoke alliance strategy and their liberal values also indicate that Trump should stop assisting Erdoğan in carrying out his operations in Syria. The same policy option is also supported by the US citizens, Senates, and several US interest groups such as the Evangelicals and the Washington Kurdish Institute, who believed that the US government should not leave their Kurdish allies alone. The support given to US-Kurdish alignment in the Syrian Crisis further means that the US should abandon their relations with Turkey, taking in note the hostile relations between Turkey and Kurdish.

Taking in note that there is a contestation between what policy choice should the United States adopt based on the international and domestic factors, I argue that the US decided to adopt policy choices that is in line with both factors. On one side, the US still supports the Turkish military intervention in Syria by withdrawing their SOF from Syria, giving Turkey a bigger chance to succeed in OPS. On the other side, the US also decided to condemn the conduct of OPS, threaten Turkey for it, and even give economic sanctions to the Turkish government officials. With the current action, the United States then has successfully align their foreign policy to both the international factors, namely systemic stimuli, and the domestic factors, including the images of leaders, state-society relations, and their strategic cultures.

From the aforementioned findings, the author views that both US and Turkey have played a “double game” in Syria. Not wanting to lose their NATO-ally, US decided to give indirect support to Turkey. Whilst promising to mend their relations with Turkey, the US also do not want to let go of their Kurdish allies, taking in note that the militant group have helped them in defeating ISIS. Just like US, Turkey also repeatedly stated that they are willing to rebuild the US-Turkish cooperation. However, reality shows that Turkish foreign policies are leaning toward to the US’s enemy, Russia. Noting that the US-Turkish relation keeps on going to deterioration point, building back the trust between these two NATO-allies will take more than just mere promises. Both, Turkey and US will have to choose their sides. For US, aligning fully with the Kurds will cost them their relations with Turkey. Vice versa, if Turkey decided to depend on Russia, they will face the consequence of losing supports from the West.

Despite all the efforts that have been poured to this research, it has to be noted that this undergraduate thesis has its own limitation, especially in regards to the research scope. Noting the enormous number of actors involved in the Syrian Crisis and Turkish military interventions in Syria, exploring the role of other actors might result in different findings. Furthermore, there are also other possible factors that affect the change of US foreign policy to Turkey military intervention in Syria during 2016-2019. Moreover, since this thesis draws analysis only by using the neoclassical realism theory and focuses on the role of domestic and international factors in influencing foreign policy, other foreign policy analysis frameworks might be able to offer a new and different perspective.

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