

The Role of Economic Factors in Turkish Foreign Policy Towards Africa

مكانة المحدد الاقتصادي في السياسة الخارجية التركية اتجاه افريقيا

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Abstract:

The present research aims to shed light on the economic aspect of Turkish foreign policy regarding Africa, delineating the scope of its economic objectives, particularly given Africa's status as a significant market for Turkish goods and an appealing region for Turkish investments. It also examines the strategies employed to attain these economic aims, while addressing the obstacles confronting Turkey's role on the African continent.

Keywords:

Turkish foreign policy, Africa, Economic, Investments, Market

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Introduction

Turkish–African relations underwent an important decline following the fall of the Ottoman Empire as a result of several circumstances, the most significant of which is the fresh trajectory that modern Turkey took after 1923 under the leadership of Kemal Atatürk. He sought to bring Turkey closer to its European neighborhood and distance it from its cultural depth. The landscape shifted markedly after 2002 with the inauguration of the new Turkish government under the leadership of the Justice and Development Party (AKP). The AKP announced implementing a fresh foreign policy approach for Turkey that reconnected it with its historical roots in the Middle East and Africa.

Turkey employs economic means to attain its foreign policy objectives, thereby promoting the economic prosperity of its people. Turkish–African relations have experienced significant growth in the economic realm, with Turkey formulating an economic strategy to further its interests and bolster its regional standing. Consequently, this study examines the economic factor's influence on Turkish foreign policy towards Africa, focusing on the following aspects:

Deconstructing the motives for Turkish presence in Africa:

The reality of Turkish–African economic relations

Challenges of the Turkish presence on the African continent.

Firstly: The motives for the Turkish presence in Africa

The African continent is widely recognized as one of the continents grappling with high levels of poverty, widespread ignorance, conflicts, terrorism, and intense international and regional competition. In light of these challenges, Turkey initiated a policy of engagement with the African continent in 1998, which gained momentum following the rise of the Justice and Development Party to power in 2002. Turkey aimed to bolster its influence in Africa through various means, including grants, humanitarian aid, economic projects, and commercial exchanges.

During the African Union summit in 2008, Turkey declared a strategic partnership with the African continent, leading to the adoption of the Turkish–African Strategic Partnership document in 2010. Subsequently, in 2013, the African Partnership Policies replaced Turkey's previous approach of openness towards Africa. As part of the Joint Implementation Plan spanning from 2015 to 2019, Turkey devised a roadmap for

projects it plans to undertake on the African continent, with a focus on leveraging its soft power through religious, cultural, and educational initiatives, as well as aid and trade exchanges.¹

1– Historical motive

During the 15th and 16th centuries, the Ottoman Empire extended its influence into Africa, with certain regions becoming part of its territory. North Africa, in particular, formed an extension of the Turkish sphere, especially given the shared Islamic religion between the North African population and Turkish society. This historical connection has contributed to a sense of acceptance and integration of North African populations into Turkish society.² It also extended to parts of the Sahara, the Horn of Africa, and the Red Sea islands. It also sent imams to *Nigeria*, *South Africa*, and the Cape of Good Hope.³ Turkey established its first embassy in Ethiopia in 1926, but its engagement with Africa began to develop more significantly in the 1960s. This delay can be attributed to the colonization of many African countries during that period.⁴

Modern Turkish–African relations trace back to the post–Cold War era, particularly following Turkey's implementation of the 1998 Opening to Africa Action Plan⁵ additionally, the holding of the first Turkish–African Summit in Istanbul in 2008. The structural mechanism governing economic interaction and partnership with African countries during this era continues to shape Turkish policy, as Turkey seeks to leverage historical ties to establish partnerships with African nations. An example of this is Turkey's restoration of the Ketchawa Mosque in Algeria in 2013.⁶

2– location

Turkey, situated at the crossroads of Asia and Europe, shares proximity to the African continent via the Mediterranean Sea. It aspires not to be confined solely within Anatolia but to serve as a bridge connecting three continents. Turkey seeks to achieve this by leveraging its diplomatic initiatives and playing a more active and impactful role in its regional surroundings.

Africa's geostrategic position is pivotal, as it is situated at the heart of the world's continents and overlooks crucial global sea lanes. It is bordered by significant maritime routes, including the Bab al–Mandab Strait, the Red Sea Rift, and the *Suez Canal*, which connect it to the Asian continent. Additionally, Africa is separated from Europe

by the Mediterranean Sea and the Strait of Gibraltar. To the west, it faces the Atlantic Ocean, which separates it from the Americas, while to the east, it borders the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, connecting it to Australia.⁷ As a result, African countries hold significant control over global trade routes, particularly those facilitating the transportation of oil from Gulf countries to Europe and the United States. Additionally, these routes serve as crucial corridors for military movements originating from Europe or the United States towards the Arabian Gulf region.⁸

3– Strategic Motive:

Primarily, European countries' delay in accepting Turkey's membership in the European Union led Turkey to reassess its options, turning back to its cultural heritage. Furthermore, Turkey perceives its national security as closely tied to its Arab–Islamic regional context, prompting it to enhance collaborations with African nations.⁹

In addition, Turkey aimed to facilitate trade and accomplish economic objectives by bolstering ties with African nations. It expanded its diplomatic presence in Africa, establishing 44 embassies across the continent. This figure surpasses influential nations in the region like the United States of America, which maintains 50 embassies, China with 53 embassies, and France with 46 embassies¹⁰. Furthermore, Turkey operates direct flights to 46 cities across Africa, expanding its market reach on the continent. It has particularly focused on tapping into new markets in Africa, notably in the Horn of Africa countries like Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia, to exert influence over oil trade routes in the Red Sea region.¹¹

4– Political motive:

Turkey's strategy primarily involves fostering political consensus and facilitating reciprocal visits, while leveraging Africa's significant voting power in the General Assembly. This was exemplified by the support of 51 out of 53 African countries for Turkey's non-permanent membership in the Security Council in 2008, a gesture reciprocated by Turkey through its backing of African continent issues.¹² Turkey's involvement in the African Union progressed significantly over time. It transitioned from being an observer member in 2003 to attaining the status of a strategic partner in 2008.¹³

5– Economic motive:

In recent years, Turkey's economic advancement has yielded positive outcomes domestically, enabling it to assume a regional role propelled by economic prowess. Turkey ranks among the G20 countries with the strongest economies globally, currently positioned 16th, just after South Korea.¹⁴

It can be summarized as follows:

- Searching for promising African markets: Turkey perceives Africa as a promising market for Turkish products.
- Searching for economic resources: Turkey seeks to secure its needs for raw materials, especially agricultural ones, on which Turkish industries greatly depend. It additionally aims to obtain the gas and oil that the continent abounds with. Africa is renowned as one of the wealthiest continents globally in terms of mineral resources, particularly in its southern region. Key resources include gold, diamonds, copper, phosphate, iron, and various other minerals. Additionally, significant reserves of oil and gas are found in the northern countries such as Gabon, Ghana, and Nigeria, as well as in the southern regions. Coal deposits are also abundant in the southern part of the continent. Furthermore, Africa boasts ample potential for renewable energy sources like hydropower and solar energy.¹⁵
- Turkey's endeavor to secure energy sources within Africa: The energy factor serves as a critical determinant in Turkish-African relations, as Turkey seeks to secure the necessary energy sources. Algeria stands out as the fourth-largest exporter of gas to Turkey and one of the initial African nations to provide this vital resource.¹⁶ Following the extension agreement signed between Ankara and Algeria in 2014 to supply Turkey with natural gas for a decade, Turkey is now expanding its influence in Mauritania and Senegal. Turkey's interest in these regions intensified after the discovery of natural gas fields. Senegal, in particular, holds substantial reserves estimated at around 15 trillion cubic feet, located between its northern and southern borders.¹⁷
- Searching for large investment opportunities in Africa: Turkish involvement in Africa extends notably to infrastructure projects and the production sector. Turkish interests align closely with those of African nations, particularly in attracting Turkish investments. Given the economic fragility and developmental challenges faced by many African countries, there is a shared goal to bolster trade volumes

with Turkey, often facilitated through free trade agreements. Additionally, Turkey has been proactive in offering humanitarian and economic support to African nations grappling with internal conflicts and natural disasters. Furthermore, Turkey's appeal as a destination for study, healthcare, tourism, and trade has gained traction among Africans.

Africa is considered a rich continent in terms of natural resources, minerals, water sources, and arable land, but it consists of several poor and marginalized countries that were exploited by imperial powers in the past, and are being crushed by tyrannical capitalism, debts, and international agreements at present. Leveraging its soft power could significantly boost Turkish foreign policy. This could involve securing the support of these nations in international organizations and forging partnerships to promote Turkish goods. This becomes especially pertinent amid the closure of ports to the Middle East and Europe. Additionally, Africa's abundant natural resources, including oil, uranium, and gold reserves, present opportunities for importing vital resources.

The Turkish role is generally well-received by African countries due to its lack of colonial history in the continent and absence of political or ideological sensitivities. Turkey's approach is based on mutually beneficial policies, fostering a sense of trust and cooperation. The readiness of African nations to embrace Turkey's role was further solidified when Turkey brokered an agreement to supply Ukrainian wheat to Africa during the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, thus averting potential famine in the region.¹⁸

Secondly : The reality of Turkish–African economic relations

Turkey has made considerable efforts to bolster its influence through economic projects and trade partnerships. The economic aspect remains paramount in the bilateral relations between Turkey and its partners, founded on the pursuit of mutual benefits and shared gains. This approach fosters enduring and sustainable relations between the two parties.

1– Turkish–African trade:

It has actively steered commercial enterprises toward Africa, a continent boasting a vast consumer market and a population exceeding 1.3 billion. Turkey initiated its efforts to strengthen trade ties with African nations in 2003, crafting a strategy aimed at fostering economic and trade relations with the continent. This initiative bore fruit, as

the trade volume between Turkey and Africa surged from a mere \$5 billion in 2003 to \$15 billion in 2009, and peaked at \$23.7 billion in 2018. By 2021, this volume had further risen to \$26 billion, with projections indicating that Turkish–African trade will soar to approximately \$50 billion by 2023.¹⁹

When examining Turkey's foreign trade with African countries, notable partners include Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, South Africa, Tunisia, Libya, and nations in the Horn of Africa. However, Turkey has the potential to expand its trade relations with other regions across the African continent. Currently, Turkey relies on imports to fulfill 90% of its oil and gas requirements, amounting to \$42 billion annually. In recent times, Turkey has been exploring avenues to secure gas at preferential rates from Africa, a region possessing 10% of the world's oil reserves. Notably, Nigerian oil accounts for 90% of the country's exports to Turkey, while Algeria stands as the fourth-largest source of liquefied gas for Ankara.

Additionally, Turkey imports a variety of goods including lubricants, pearls, precious stones, inorganic chemicals, cocoa, and cotton. These imports predominantly comprise natural resources, minerals, and food products. For instance, Turkish imports from Djibouti totaled approximately \$115,000, whereas Ankara's exports to Djibouti amounted to around \$100 million. On the other hand, Turkey exports a diverse array of products including machinery, iron and steel, automobiles, mineral fuels, precious metals, foodstuffs, and textiles. Overall, Turkish exports primarily stem from manufacturing industries.

While Turkey contributes over 3% to the total foreign trade volume of the continent, it has yet to achieve the desired level of success compared to major players like China, France, and England. For instance, China's foreign trade with Africa amounts to \$200 billion, constituting approximately 25% of the continent's total foreign trade.²⁰ Turkey is also classified as the second largest investor in Ethiopia after China, as trade exchange with it reached \$650 million in 2022²¹. Turkey aims to create an economic market, access new markets, and increase Turkish investment in Mogadishu through its presence in Somalia. With numerous agreements signed, the trade volume increased from roughly 80 million dollars in 2016 to approximately 115 million dollars at the end of 2018.

Yet, geographical distance, inadequate infrastructure, and transportation challenges hinder the growth of foreign trade between Turkey and Africa. Nonetheless,

the surge in Turkey's foreign trade volume with the continent from \$21.5 billion in 2018 to \$30 billion in 2021 suggests the presence of untapped potential to enhance this cooperation. Moreover, diplomatic initiatives have significant economic implications, evidenced by the increase in Turkey's foreign trade with Africa while Africa's trade with other countries declines.

It ought to be highlighted that Turkey approaches its relations with African nations from a win-win perspective, as demonstrated by the development initiatives and assistance offered,²² in addition to the pragmatic nature of Turkish-African relations. For example, despite the tension in relations between Turkey and Egypt following the coup against the Egyptian revolution, trade exchanges between them increased, which is what It indicates that trade relations are moving away from political differences, especially since the two countries have been linked by a free trade zone since 2007.²³

2- Turkish investments in Africa :

Turkey is actively expanding its influence across the African continent, particularly in strategically important regions abundant in energy resources. Viewing Africa as a promising market for Turkish presence, Turkey offers financial incentives in the form of aid or economic projects to bolster its African expansion. This strategy not only increases Turkey's footprint in Africa but also enables it to wield political influence in key strategic regions.

In recent years, there has been significant growth in Turkish investments in Africa, soaring from \$374 million in 2002 to \$6 billion in 2014. Particularly noteworthy is the concentration of Turkish investments in the countries of the Horn of Africa, Nigeria, and Cameroon. Moreover, North African nations have witnessed a substantial surge in Turkish investments over the past five years, notably in Algeria. Turkish companies are actively engaged in infrastructure projects in Algeria, including tunnels, ports, dams, and housing developments.²⁴

Turkey has placed significant emphasis on enhancing its ties with various nations, notably Ethiopia, which has emerged as a hub for international investment. Reports suggest that economic cooperation between Ankara and Addis Ababa has reached unprecedented levels. Ethiopia claims the largest portion of Turkish investments in Africa, amounting to \$3 billion out of a total of \$6 billion invested by Turkey on the

continent, surpassing both China and India. Furthermore, approximately 350 Turkish companies are operating in Ethiopia, with 120 of them entering the market in 2014 alone, providing employment opportunities for over 500,000 Ethiopians.²⁵

Accordingly, Turkish investments are considered the second largest foreign investment in Ethiopia, and this was helped by Ethiopia's closure of all schools and facilities related to the Fethullah Gulen group, which opposes Turkish policy.²⁶ Turkey also extended its influence to The states of Somalia and Djibouti, the latter of which have concluded many economic agreements to benefit from its strategic location located on the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea, as well as securing the Turkish military base in Somalia. It is the first Turkish military post on the African continent, located on the strategically important Gulf of Aden (the gateway to Bab al-Mandab and the Red Sea).²⁷ It aims to set up an African-Turkish export hub and establish an economic zone in Djibouti to bolster Turkish investment. Djibouti's strategic location, particularly its proximity to numerous African nations, makes it an attractive prospect for investment. Many African countries view Djibouti as their primary maritime gateway, especially for landlocked Ethiopia.

Regarding Somalia, Turkey has designated it as a pivotal entry point in its efforts to extend its influence across Africa. Turkey has prioritized injecting investments into this impoverished nation and providing humanitarian aid to Somalia, recognizing its strategic geographic position as a bridge between continents and a crucial energy corridor globally, alongside its abundant natural resources, including oil reserves.²⁸

The Turkish expansion into Sudan extends beyond mere economic advantages to include geopolitical aspirations, aiming to establish a Turkish foothold on the Red Sea via the Sudanese island of Suakin. The Turkish government expressed its intention to develop Suakin and harbored ambitions to expand its military and intelligence investments in the region. However, the agreement was subsequently revoked.

In recent years, Turkey has expanded its presence in the sub-Saharan region, particularly in countries like Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Erdogan's recent visit to Abidjan saw the signing of nine economic agreements aimed at boosting trade between the two nations, with a target of reaching one billion dollars by 2020. These agreements also focused on improving investment protection and taxation frameworks to facilitate business development between Turkish and Ivorian entities.

It ought to be mentioned that Turkish investments mostly target the building industry on the African continent. Infrastructure includes establishing government buildings, electricity plants and the supply lines that serve them, housing, ports, and land highways and railroads.²⁹ Enka is considered one of the most profitable Turkish construction companies on the African continent, and Turkish construction projects in Africa represent 17 % of the total Turkish construction projects abroad, especially in Algeria and Libya,³⁰ along with other industries including manufacturing, energy, and communications that Turkish businesses are attempting to get into, especially in light of the intense rivalry from China in these fields.³¹

The Turkish Cooperation and Development Foundation made significant strides in engaging with Africa by establishing offices in three African nations: Ethiopia, Sudan, and Senegal. Through these offices, it directly contributed to numerous development projects across 37 African countries, marking a notable breakthrough in its outreach efforts on the continent.³² It also expanded its headquarters for more than 11 African countries within the framework of the strategy of openness to Africa to provide aid and donations to the most needy and poorest countries, it has sponsored thousands of African students studying in Turkey, whether in universities or schools, within the framework of Ankara's school and mosque diplomacy in many African countries.³³

Turkey actively responded to humanitarian crises in several African countries. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, it extended aid to nations such as South Africa, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia, Rwanda, Zambia, Angola, and South Sudan. Additionally, Turkey constructed hospitals in Tripoli, Libya, and Darfur to support healthcare efforts in these regions.³⁴

This is in addition to its program for agricultural development in Africa, which began in August 2008 until 2010, intending to develop agriculture in 13 African countries: Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Senegal, Comoros, Madagascar, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and a Turkish-African Conference of Agriculture Ministers was held in 2017.³⁵

Turkey leverages its membership in the African Development Bank, facilitated by its capital contribution, to bolster its economic endeavors in Africa. Furthermore, the Turkish-African Forum, convened regularly, serves as a platform for fostering collaboration and dialogue between Turkey and African nations³⁶. Accordingly, the

African continent is considered the future frontier for global investment, and accordingly, Africa seeks to attract Turkish investments to it, especially after the number of Turkish investment projects on the continent reached 355 projects with a value of more than 400 billion dollars, according to estimates.³⁷

Thirdly: Challenges of the Turkish presence on the African continent

Turkey still confronts numerous obstacles that limit its overall ability to develop positive connections with Africa, even with all of its attempts to do so. The most significant of these obstacles are as follows:

1- The Turkish internal situation:

Turkey's strategic geography places it amidst a volatile regional environment, bordered by crises in the Caucasus to the north, Syria and Iraq to the south, and Cyprus to the west. The Turkish military is actively engaged on multiple fronts, including northern Syria, the eastern Mediterranean basin, Libya, Azerbaijan, and Somalia, alongside its participation in peacekeeping missions in the Central African Republic and Mali. However, sustaining military operations poses financial challenges, impacting the economic dimension.³⁸

The divergent philosophies of African nations and Turkish policy also conflict. Libyan politics, for instance, conflict with Egyptian policies. Furthermore, Turkish policy can be impacted by the inconsistencies throughout African nations.³⁹

The state of intense competition and regional and international polarization on the African continent :

Several major powers have vested interests in Africa's expansive consumer market and diverse natural resources. The United States, for instance, has focused on leveraging Africa's oil and natural gas reserves, along with fostering various trade relations. Additionally, it has established military bases in Djibouti and Uganda and formed the unified military base AFRICOM to oversee energy interests across the continent.

Europe maintains historical ties with Africa stemming from its colonial past and has embraced the European Union's strategy for the continent. Algeria, Nigeria, and South Africa stand out as vital energy suppliers to the European Union. However, this European presence often collides with African perceptions of Europeans as colonialists. Meanwhile, Africa serves as the second-largest foreign market for Chinese enterprises,

with significant investments in oil, manufacturing, minerals, electricity, and infrastructure. Notable beneficiaries of these Chinese investments include Nigeria, Angola, Algeria, Sudan, and Ethiopia.⁴⁰ China also controls the African market as it is one of the most important consumers of African raw materials and agricultural materials⁴¹.

Thus, Turkey emerged as a robust economic and political alternative to the global colonial powers that historically dominated the African continent, employing a win-win approach. Turkey's strategic initiatives encompassed pivotal projects, extending beyond natural resources and precious metals sectors to include construction, industry, and services sectors across the entire continent.⁴²

Consequently, the burgeoning Turkish engagement with African nations has garnered the interest of both regional and international stakeholders, prompting efforts to bolster their influence and counteract Turkey's. For instance, Britain convened two international conferences on Somalia in February 2012 and May 2013, signaling to Turkey that it maintains enduring interests that cannot be overlooked. Similarly, France has vehemently opposed Turkish activities in Africa, viewing them as a challenge to its colonial influence in the region, particularly as the expanding volume of Turkish trade in Africa encroaches upon France's economic interests.⁴³

Turkish firms encounter stiff competition from various counterparts. Chinese enterprises, for instance, have undertaken projects in Africa valued at \$500 billion, while English and French companies are vying for opportunities in sectors where Turkish firms are active. The longstanding, influential Western colonial powers are keen to maintain their sway over African nations, leveraging military, political, and economic means to uphold their influence on the continent.⁴⁴ For example, the volume of investments by the Netherlands in Africa (\$79 billion), England (\$67 billion), France (\$53 billion), and China (\$380 billion). These investments are concentrated in the Infrastructure, manufacturing, and construction sectors⁴⁵

The African region serves as a notable battleground for this rivalry, with Turkey emerging as a formidable contender against China and the United States, particularly in countries like Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya. The U.S. presence in the area, marked by economic investments and military deployments, including the American military base in Djibouti, aims to safeguard oil supplies from the Gulf, especially at Red Sea ports, which are crucial arteries for global maritime trade. In addition to the Israeli

role and its endeavor to extend its influence in the Horn of Africa region and increase its investments Especially in Ethiopia, in addition to the European presence, which still maintains its position in the region, and the Chinese presence, which is one of the most important trading partners for the countries of the Horn of Africa.

3– The No stability in the continent of Africa:

The potential for chaos stemming from worsening security situations, terrorism, violence, or ethnic conflicts poses significant constraints on Turkish foreign policy. The success of Turkey's development initiatives in Africa hinges on stability in the region. Among the key security challenges impeding Turkish engagement on the continent are:

– ***The emergence and spread of ethnic conflicts:*** Ethnic conflicts have resulted in political, social, and economic instability in numerous African nations. These conflicts have escalated alongside rising unemployment rates, poverty, illiteracy, and corruption. Nigeria, for instance, has experienced some of the most severe conflicts, impeding development efforts. Similarly, Congo and Mali have grappled with similar challenges. Sudan's division following a civil war with the South is another example, with South Sudan currently facing similar ethnic tensions.

– ***The emergence of terrorist movements:*** The Mujahideen Youth Movement in East Africa, Boko Haram on the coasts of West Africa, and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb are three terrorist groups that are spreading throughout Africa. Based on their operations, these groups are regarded as some of the most dangerous on the continent, as evidenced by the numerous civilian and military targets that Boko Haram targeted in Nigeria and the actions of the Mujahideen Youth Movement at the African Union mission headquarters in Somalia.

– ***The spread of border conflicts within the African continent:*** One of the notable features and phenomena characterizing African countries post-independence is the issue of territorial disputes, stemming from both the expansionist ambitions of certain nations and the legacy of colonial borders. These disputes have often caused tensions between neighboring countries, leading to interference in the affairs of independent African nations, fragmentation, and division. Furthermore, they have resulted in the depletion of resources within the affected countries, as well as the emergence of refugee crises and external interventions from regional and global

powers. A prominent example of this dynamic is the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea in the Horn of Africa region.

Conclusion

Turkey is actively working towards establishing itself as a significant and impactful player on both regional and international fronts. To achieve this goal, it is prioritizing the strengthening of relations across all domains with African nations. This effort aims to influence political and security dynamics while forming strategic alliances that align with and benefit its interests. Leveraging its economic resources and advantageous geographical position, Turkey seeks to bolster its regional standing on the African continent.

Turkey's foreign policy towards Africa is primarily driven by its economic interests, with a focus on leveraging economic opportunities to serve its strategic goals. This economic dimension has taken precedence over political objectives, particularly since the Justice and Development Party assumed power. The period following this transition has seen significant advancements in Turkey's economic influence, contributing to its growing interest in the African continent.

Hence, the economy has emerged as the primary force shaping foreign policy, where economic considerations now take precedence over political ones. Turkey's drive to expand its markets and secure energy sources has led to intensified engagement with African nations. This economic imperative underscores the importance of maintaining relations with Africa, as it helps avoid potential political sensitivities. Moreover, Turkey's expertise in managing development projects adds to its appeal in the region. Despite these efforts, Turkey encounters various challenges that hinder its relations with Africa overall.

Nevertheless, it is important to note that Turkey will continue to work to deepen its diplomatic, political, and economic ties with African nations since the continent remains a crucial component of Turkey's foreign policy. It will continue to prioritize the economic aspect over all other considerations as it works to protect its strategic interests in this area. The foundation of the mutual relationships between the two parties is the realization and achievement of shared benefits and advantages, which ensures the longevity of those relationships.

Yet there are other ways for Turkey to enter the continent than the economic one. Instead, there is the diplomatic, military, cultural, and humanitarian dimension, which has given Turkey new tools for its foreign policy with Africa. These are strong factors that positively impacted Ankara's ability to enter the African continent and build soft power. which attains the objectives and interests it pursues.

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