Let’s Make A Deal: The Case for a Free Trade Agreement   
With Turkey

By Vance Trefethen

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In 2013, the Prime Minister of Turkey met with Pres. Obama and asked him for a Free Trade Agreement. Pres. Obama responded by setting up a discussion committee instead. But quickly opening more freedom for people to trade would be good for both countries, which is why we affirm that The United States should significantly reform its policy toward one or more countries in the Middle East.

OBSERVATION 1. Our DEFINITIONS

**Significant**: “large enough to be noticed or have an effect” (Merriam-Webster Online Dict. 2014 <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/significant>)

**Policy**: “a high-level overall plan embracing the general goals and acceptable procedures especially of a governmental body”(Merriam-Webster Online Dict. 2014 <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/policy?show=0&t=1402599657>)

**FTA**: Free Trade Agreement

**Middle East** is defined in the Turkish Journal of Politics in 2011 as:

Turkish Journal of Politics Vol 2 No. 2, 2011 (Osman Nuri Özalp, Kırklareli University) “Where is the Middle East? The Definition and Classification Problem of the Middle East as a Regional Subsystem in International Relations” <http://tjp.fatih.edu.tr/docs/articles/112.pdf>

In a broad meaning, we can state that the Middle East covers a region from Ethiopia in the south, Turkey in the north, Afghanistan and Pakistan in the east to Morocco in the west.

OBSERVATION 2. INHERENCY, or the conditions of the Status Quo.

FACT 1. Inadequate negotiations. Current US trade negotiations fall short of Turkey’s expectations

**Speaking in context to “you” referring to Pres. Obama, Turkish foreign policy expert Kemal Kirisci said in January 2014:**

Kemal Kirişci 2014. (senior fellow and director of the Center on the United States and Europe's Turkey Project at Brookings Institution, with an expertise in Turkish foreign policy and migration studies; former Professor of International Relations and Jean Monnet Chair in European integration, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul ) Deepen Economic Ties to Turkey 23 Jan 2014 <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2014/01/economic-ties-turkey-kirisci> (brackets added)

Unfortunately, including Turkey in the TTIP [Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership] negotiations was not possible, as participation was limited to full EU members, excluding accession countries and those, like Turkey, with only a customs union with the European Union. However, you were able to respond partly to the Turkish prime minister’s call to deepen bilateral economic relations and liberalize trade by establishing a U.S.-Turkey High-Level Committee led by the Turkish Ministry of Economy and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. This committee falls short of Turkey’s expectations. Yet, it offers a solid basis to explore the prospects of greater economic integration and possibly a free trade agreement.

FACT 2. Turkey wants FTA. The Turkish Prime Minister says they want a free trade agreement with the U.S.

Reuters news service 2013. (journalist Nick Tattersall) 18 May 2013 Turkey seeks seat at U.S.-EU trade table <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/17/us-turkey-usa-trade-idUSBRE94F1CA20130517>

[Turkey](http://www.reuters.com/places/turkey?lc=int_mb_1001) is pushing for involvement in a proposed free trade pact between the United States and Europe which it fears could leave it sidelined and hamper its ambitions to become a top 10 [economy](http://www.reuters.com/finance/economy?lc=int_mb_1001) over the next decade. Trade was high on the agenda in a meeting on Thursday between U.S. President [Barack Obama](http://www.reuters.com/people/barack-obama?lc=int_mb_1001) and Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan. The Turkish leader is worried a deal could hurt his nation's commerce with Europe and the United States. Erdogan wrote to Obama earlier this year raising concern about the impact of such a deal on [Turkey](http://www.reuters.com/places/turkey?lc=int_mb_1001), most of whose trade is with Europe, and urged Washington to work in parallel on a similar deal with Ankara, Turkish officials said.

OBSERVATION 3. We have a PLAN to do just that. Congress and the President will do the following:

1. The President offers and Congress approves a Free Trade Agreement with Turkey, modeled after the US/South Korea FTA.

2. Funding within current budgets of existing agencies.

3. Enforcement through the State Department, Customs and Border Patrol, and any other necessary agency

4. Plan takes effect 30 days after an Affirmative ballot.

5. Affirmative speeches may clarify the plan as needed.

OBSERVATION 4. The Plan Works. The South Korea model should be used for a Free Trade Agreement with Turkey

Ata Akiner 2013. (International Trade Policy Analyst at Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP ) Now Is the Time for a U.S.-Turkey Free Trade Agreement 23 July 2013 <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/now-is-the-time-for-a-u.s.-turkey-free-trade-agreement>

Washington and Ankara already have a template for FTA talks: their recent trade agreements with Korea. Seoul's separate FTAs with Turkey (which went into effect this May), the United States (March 2012), and the EU (July 2011) are considered "twenty-first-century agreements" that include the most cutting-edge issues and provisions, thus providing a sound framework and common denominator that can be used as precedent for U.S.-Turkish negotiations. The Turkish government and business community also understand that if TTIP succeeds and Ankara does not have an FTA with Washington by that point, Turkey's overlapping exports to the United States and EU will suffer. Ankara is unlikely to join TTIP itself, since that would require the consent of every EU member state -- a very tall order given that Turkey's recent demonstrations have heightened tensions with Germany and other key countries. Accordingly, Brussels should encourage a comprehensive TURUS FTA.

OBSERVATION 5. We create ADVANTAGES

ADVANTAGE 1. Economic growth. US/Turkey FTA would create economic growth in the US, Turkey and Europe

Ata Akiner 2013. (International Trade Policy Analyst at Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP ) Now Is the Time for a U.S.-Turkey Free Trade Agreement 23 July 2013 <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/now-is-the-time-for-a-u.s.-turkey-free-trade-agreement> (brackets added)

Ankara, Washington, and Brussels have several compelling reasons for encouraging a TURUS FTA [Turkey/US Free Trade Agreement]. First, of course, is the economic factor. The United States and Europe are still in the process of emerging from the recession, and Turkey's domestic economic growth is slowing despite the positive indicators cited above. For example, its GDP growth rate fell from previous highs (9.2 percent in 2010, 8.5 percent in 2011) to a much more modest 3 percent in 2012. A TURUS FTA would open new markets and spur direct and indirect growth in Turkey, the United States, and the EU. In particular, the requisite reduction of trade barriers would make it easier and cheaper for Turkish and American companies to export their products and services, thereby increasing trade and investment. Although a bilateral investment treaty (1990) and Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (1999) set the basic terms for the flow of foreign direct investment between the two countries, changing times demand that the relationship be upgraded. The solution is a comprehensive, high-standard FTA, which would take trade and economic relations to a new level.

ADVANTAGE 2. Promote democracy.

Link: Leaving Turkey out of Free Trade agreements will damage efforts to strengthen democracy in Turkey.

[Kemal Kirişci](http://www.brookings.edu/experts/kiriscik) 2013. (senior fellow and director of the [Center on the United States and Europe](http://www.brookings.edu/about/centers/cuse" \t "_blank)'s [Turkey Project](http://www.brookings.edu/about/centers/cuse/research/turkey-project-policy-paper-series" \t "_blank) at Brookings Institution, with an expertise in Turkish foreign policy and migration studies; former Professor of International Relations and Jean Monnet Chair in European integration, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul ) Sept 2013 Turkey and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2013/09/turkey-transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership-kirisci>

This paper will argue that the exclusion of Turkey from this new emerging international structure, composed of TPP and TTIP, risks pushing Turkey into the arms of those countries that challenge the Western economic order. It would also be damaging to Turkey’s own economic development and democratization process. Instead, finding a way to include Turkey in TTIP, or alternatively signing a parallel free trade agreement between the U.S. and Turkey, would create a win-win situation for all involved parties: Turkey, the U.S., the EU and even the Middle East.

Impact: Expanding Turkey’s middle class is key to promoting democracy in Turkey

[Kemal Kirişci](http://www.brookings.edu/experts/kiriscik) 2013. (senior fellow and director of the Center on the United States and Europe's Turkey Project at Brookings Institution, with an expertise in Turkish foreign policy and migration studies; former Professor of International Relations and Jean Monnet Chair in European integration, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul ) Sept 2013 Turkey and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2013/09/turkey-transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership-kirisci>

Furthermore, even if sporadically, Turkey is moving forward in negotiations regarding its membership to the EU. Despite a foreign policy that is at times assertive and independent minded, Turkey’s economic ties with its traditional transatlantic allies remain very strong. In 2012, more than 40 percent of Turkey’s foreign trade was with the EU and the U.S.; two-thirds of Turkish capital was invested in the EU and the U.S. In the course of the last decade, the Turkish economy has grown impressively and has become the seventh largest economy in Europe (including Russia), and the 17th largest in the world. In 2012, the economy of Turkey was larger than all its neighbors put together, excluding Iran and Russia, demonstrating its importance for the economies of the region. Furthermore, this economic performance precipitated the expansion of a vibrant middle class which now plays a critical role in Turkey’s democracy.

ADVANTAGE 3. Stronger Alliance

Link: US/Turkey alliance at risk

[Kemal Kirişci](http://www.brookings.edu/experts/kiriscik) 2013. (senior fellow and director of the [Center on the United States and Europe](http://www.brookings.edu/about/centers/cuse" \t "_blank)'s [Turkey Project](http://www.brookings.edu/about/centers/cuse/research/turkey-project-policy-paper-series" \t "_blank) at Brookings Institution, with an expertise in Turkish foreign policy and migration studies; former Professor of International Relations and Jean Monnet Chair in European integration, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul ) Sept 2013 Turkey and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2013/09/turkey-transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership-kirisci>

This is also complicated by the fact that, after a decade of implementing an energetic foreign policy aimed at achieving greater regional stability through economic integration and the infamous “zero problems” approach, Turkey now finds itself deeply embroiled in Middle Eastern conflicts. This situation is further aggravated by the public protests that broke out during the month of June and the police repression that has, in the eyes of many, undermined Turkey’s internal stability and democratic credentials. These developments risk weakening Turkey’s transatlantic alliance with the U.S.

Link: Economic integration would strengthen the alliance with Turkey

Kemal Kirişci 2013. (senior fellow and director of the Center on the United States and Europe's Turkey Project at Brookings Institution, with an expertise in Turkish foreign policy and migration studies; former Professor of International Relations and Jean Monnet Chair in European integration, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul ) Sept 2013 Turkey and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2013/09/turkey-transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership-kirisci>

However, in recent years Turkey has entered a period where its commitment and ties to this transatlantic community is being questioned and its economy is showing signs of strains. This is occurring at a time when the U.S. is negotiating TTIP and TPP, two agreements that promise to achieve greater economic integration amongst countries who produce almost two thirds of the world’s GDP and half of the its trade. Finding a means to include Turkey into this new economic integration project faces many challenges. Surmounting these challenges would reinforce Turkey’s place in the transatlantic alliance, and ensure economic benefits for all sides including Turkey’s neighbors. The latter is especially important if the broader geostrategic benefits are also taken into consideration.

Impact: Turkey promotes stability and US interests in the region

Jim Zanotti 2014. (Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs, Congressional Research Service) March 27, 2014 Turkey: Background and U.S. Relations <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R41368.pdf>

Given Turkey’s increasing relevance as a Middle Eastern actor, U.S. officials seem to have viewed Turkey as well-positioned to be a facilitator of U.S. interests in the region as the United States has begun winding down its troop presences in Iraq and Afghanistan. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu appear to have encouraged this approach by articulating a vision through which they have indicated that Turkey could help maintain regional stability while also promoting greater political and trade liberalization in neighboring countries.

2A Evidence: Free Trade With Turkey

INHERENCY

Turkey proposed FTA with US, but Obama didn’t accept it – created a committee instead. Blocked by political issues

Kemal Kirişci 2013. (senior fellow and director of the [Center on the United States and Europe](http://www.brookings.edu/about/centers/cuse" \t "_blank)'s [Turkey Project](http://www.brookings.edu/about/centers/cuse/research/turkey-project-policy-paper-series" \t "_blank) at Brookings Institution, with an expertise in Turkish foreign policy and migration studies; former Professor of International Relations and Jean Monnet Chair in European integration, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul ) Sept 2013 Turkey and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2013/09/turkey-transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership-kirisci>

Moreover, the Minister of Economy, Zafer Çağlayan, has also been in close contacts with his counterparts both in the EU and the U.S. on concluding a free trade agreement with the U.S. The idea did not gain enough traction with the U.S. administration and the Turkish side had to settle for what a disappointed Turkish diplomat called “yet another committee”. Concerns ranging from an already loaded trade agenda, congressional politics and democratic setbacks in Turkey appear to have played a role in this decision.

Inherency: The high-level committee is not a Free Trade Agreement  
Solvency/Advocacy: …But we can and should use the committee as the first step to develop an FTA

Ata Akiner 2013. (International Trade Policy Analyst at Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP ) Now Is the Time for a U.S.-Turkey Free Trade Agreement 23 July 2013 <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/now-is-the-time-for-a-u.s.-turkey-free-trade-agreement> (brackets added)

The first step toward a TURUS [Turkey / United States] FTA has already been taken. During Erdogan's Washington visit in May, the two countries announced that they would establish a high-level committee led by Turkey's Ministry of Economy and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), "with the ultimate objective of continuing to deepen our economic relations and liberalize trade." The Obama administration should spearhead this effort, utilizing the USTR while also encouraging participation at other levels of government.

Moving too slowly: We need to hurry up and do FTA with Turkey because the pending US/Europe trade negotiations (TTIP) leave Turkey on the sidelines

Ata Akiner 2013. (International Trade Policy Analyst at Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP ) Now Is the Time for a U.S.-Turkey Free Trade Agreement 23 July 2013 <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/now-is-the-time-for-a-u.s.-turkey-free-trade-agreement> (brackets added)

The Turkish government and business community also understand that if TTIP [Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership]  succeeds and Ankara does not have an FTA [Free Trade Agreement] with Washington by that point, Turkey's overlapping exports to the United States and EU will suffer. Ankara is unlikely to join TTIP itself, since that would require the consent of every EU member state -- a very tall order given that Turkey's recent demonstrations have heightened tensions with Germany and other key countries. Accordingly, Brussels should encourage a comprehensive TURUS [Turkey / United States] FTA.  
LIMITED WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY  
The wheels have already begun turning on both sides of the Atlantic, so now is the time to encourage further action with the aim of opening negotiations as soon as possible. All parties stand to gain from a TURUS FTA, which would generate economic rewards, foster closer ties between important allies, contribute to regional peace and security, and provide an aegis for domestic reform in Turkey. Washington, Ankara, and Brussels should therefore give their full support to the newly formed high-level committee. Perhaps most important, they should keep in mind that the window of opportunity will close if the United States and Turkey do not begin FTA talks before the EU-U.S. negotiations are complete. The TTIP negotiations were formally launched last month, so the clock is ticking.

Turkey will suffer if TTIP with European Union goes forward without an FTA with the US

Foreign Policy Project of the Bipartisan Policy Center 2013. (co-chaired by Ambassadors Morton I. Abramowitz and Eric S. Edelman; BPC Founded in 2007 by former Senate Majority Leaders Howard Baker, Tom Daschle, Bob Dole and George Mitchell, the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) is a non-profit organization that drives principled solutions through rigorous analysis, reasoned negotiation and respectful dialogue) October 2013 “From Rhetoric to Reality: Reframing U.S. Turkey Policy” <http://bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/US%20Turkey%20Policy.pdf>

Because of its Customs Union with the European Union and efforts toward EU accession, Turkey must abide by the European Union’s commercial policies, even though it is not party to their creation. Thus, if TTIP were to come into force, Turkey would have to allow the United States preferential access to its markets, according to standards it was not involved in negotiating, without receiving similar access to U.S. markets in return. As it stands, Turkey is among the countries projected to experience a net loss of welfare from TTIP

Inherency: We’ve been sitting on our hands for 15 years about improving trade with Turkey  
Advocacy: We should expand trade with Turkey, including a Free Trade Agreement, now.

Stephen J. Hadley 2012. (Former National Security Adviser) 9 May 2012 U.S.-Turkey Relations: A New Partnership <http://www.cfr.org/turkey/us-turkey-relations-new-partnership/p28212>

Secondly, people may have been talking about it, but the truth is we have, I think tended to see the U.S.-Turkey relationship through military and defense terms because the principal framework was the NATO framework. We have not looked at it in terms of economic and business terms. And that's why there is a long list of very specific recommendations: updating the BIT, doing more with the TIFA, trying to have a free trade agreement. If you can't do a free trade agreement, then do something like the Trans-Pacific Partnership with Turkey that will address some of the things that are required to make Turkey a more attractive place to invest. Those things have not been done in the past. I think we've been sort of sitting on our hands for 15 years, and we ought to do it now.

If the US and European Union do an FTA without Turkey, it will damage Turkey’s economy

**Details: Turkey has a customs union with the EU, but Turkey is not a member of the EU. That means if the EU signs a free trade deal with the US (which is under negotiation right now as of July 2014), the US would be able to export goods to Turkey with no tariffs coming into Turkey, but Turkey would not have the same right to export to the United States. Turkish exports to the US would face tariffs when they come into the US, hence Turkey’s trade would be harmed. A separate US/Turkey FTA would solve for this.**

Cenk Sidar & Tyson Barker 2013. (Sidar - managing director of Sidar Global Advisors. Barker - Washington-based director of trans-Atlantic relations at the Bertelsmann Foundation ) “U.S.-EU Trade Talks Risk Damaging Turkey Ties” 12 May 2013 <http://www.bloombergview.com/articles/2013-05-12/u-s-eu-trade-talks-risk-damaging-turkey-ties>

Deputy Prime Minister [Ali Babacan](http://search.bloomberg.com/search?q=Ali%20Babacan&site=wnews&client=wnews&proxystylesheet=en10_wnews&output=xml_no_dtd&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&filter=p&getfields=wnnis&sort=date:D:S:d1&partialfields=-wnnis:NOAVSYND&lr=-lang_ja) estimates that Turkey may lose 2.5 percent of gross domestic product, or $20 billion, a year if it is left out. According to Turkish media, Erdogan spelled out Turkish frustrations about this unfair trade situation in a letter to Obama [in March](http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-pm-sends-letter-to-obama-on-eu-deal.aspx?pageID=238&nID=43640&NewsCatID=344). Obama should respond to these justified concerns. Excluding the world’s 17th-largest economy from a U.S.-EU free-trade area would be a missed opportunity and might endanger the “model partnership” that Obama has worked to build with Turkey. Turkey formed its customs union with the EU in 1995, with a view to eventually joining the bloc. The terms of this union stipulate that the government in Ankara can’t pursue a bilateral free-trade agreement with any country until the EU has established one already. By contrast, when the EU signs a trade deal with a third country, it [gives access](http://www.economy.gov.tr/index.cfm?sayfa=tradeagreements&bolum=fta&region=0) to Turkey’s market without Turkish consent. The result is that Turkey’s trade policy has been shadowing that of the EU, following on the heels of the European Commission’s trade negotiators as they moved from South Korea, to Japan, to India. In the case of a trade pact as ambitious as the one Obama will be discussing with the EU, however, Turkey is put at a severe [disadvantage](http://www.tusiad.us/1927/turkey-seeks-to-form-working-group-for-u-s-free-trade-deal/). Turkey will have to negotiate its own agreement with the U.S., or else find itself lowering tariffs on imports from the U.S. with nothing in return. The U.S., meanwhile, would have little economic incentive to sign a separate deal with Turkey once a trade pact with the EU is in place, because it would already get the benefits of such an agreement.

SOLVENCY / ADVOCACY

Turkey will join: Turkey wants either membership in a US/European Union FTA, or else a bilateral FTA with the US. And Europe is not going to include Turkey in their FTA.

Reuters news service 2013. (journalist Nick Tattersall) 18 May 2013 Turkey seeks seat at U.S.-EU trade table <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/17/us-turkey-usa-trade-idUSBRE94F1CA20130517> (brackets added)

[quoting an unnamed Turkish government official:] "That's why we're appealing both to the United States and to the European Union: if you're going to create a trans-Atlantic economic space, then Turkey should definitely be part of it." Several options were under discussion, the official said, including a separate bilateral agreement with the United States or giving Turkey a seat at the table in the EU negotiations, although one diplomat said that looked unlikely.

Turkey will join: Turkey requested a Free Trade Agreement with the US in May 2013

Emre Peker 2013. ( journalist) Turkey seeks to form working group for U.S. free trade deal 16 Apr 2013 WALL STREET JOURNAL <http://www.tusiad.us/1927/turkey-seeks-to-form-working-group-for-u-s-free-trade-deal/> (brackets added)

[Turkish Prime Minister] Mr. Erdogan will meet President Barack Obama starting May 15, and striking a free-trade agreement will be a top agenda item on his agenda, Mr. Caglayan said. Turkish-U.S. trade is valued at about $20 billion annually, with U.S. firms making up about 75% of the sales, according to [European Union Economy Minister] Mr. [Zafer] Caglayan.

The US should get Turkey involved in free trade. We can’t force Europe to include Turkey, but we can give Turkey a free trade agreement – would serve both US and Turkish interests

Foreign Policy Project of the Bipartisan Policy Center 2013. (co-chaired by Ambassadors Morton I. Abramowitz and Eric S. Edelman; BPC Founded in 2007 by former Senate Majority Leaders Howard Baker, Tom Daschle, Bob Dole and George Mitchell, the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) is a non-profit organization that drives principled solutions through rigorous analysis, reasoned negotiation and respectful dialogue) October 2013 “From Rhetoric to Reality: Reframing U.S. Turkey Policy” <http://bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/US%20Turkey%20Policy.pdf>

The minimal efforts made thus far, where either side has assured Turkey that it will be kept informed of developments in the negotiations, have been insufficient. The United States is not capable of unilaterally including Turkey in negotiations. But it has several mechanisms to address Turkish concerns, including: get EU agreement for including Turkey in TTIP talks, give Turkey observer status in the negotiations, allow Turkey to accede to TTIP after negotiations are concluded, or negotiate a parallel free trade agreement. Providing Turkey with an opportunity to further grow its economy, especially at a potentially precarious moment, while further enmeshing it in the European and international system of laws and regulations would serve both U.S. and Turkish interests.

“Turkey can’t sign FTA with the US because of restrictions imposed by customs union with Europe” – Response: Used to be true, but no longer applicable

[Kemal Kirişci](http://www.brookings.edu/experts/kiriscik) 2013. (senior fellow and director of the [Center on the United States and Europe](http://www.brookings.edu/about/centers/cuse" \t "_blank)'s [Turkey Project](http://www.brookings.edu/about/centers/cuse/research/turkey-project-policy-paper-series" \t "_blank) at Brookings Institution, with an expertise in Turkish foreign policy and migration studies; former Professor of International Relations and Jean Monnet Chair in European integration, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul ) Sept 2013 Turkey and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2013/09/turkey-transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership-kirisci>

The idea appears to have never been seriously pursued because of the restrictions placed on Turkey’s ability to negotiate and conclude free trade agreements independently of its customs union with the EU. Now that TTIP is being negotiated, such a restriction would no longer be applicable. During his visit to the United States in May 2013, the Turkish Prime Minister did raise the idea of negotiating a free trade agreement with President Obama. This idea was also pursued by his deputy Ali Babacan and constituted the focus of a major event organized by the USCC in April. Moreover, the Minister of Economy, Zafer Çağlayan, has also been in close contacts with his counterparts both in the EU and the U.S. on concluding a free trade agreement with the U.S.

Details on how the US/South Korea FTA works

Office of the United States Trade Representative, 2012. Executive Office of the President, “New Opportunities for U.S. Exporters Under the U.S.-Korea Trade Agreement” <http://www.ustr.gov/trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements/korus-fta>

The United States and the Republic of Korea signed the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) on June 30, 2007. On December 3, 2010, the United States and Korea concluded new agreements, reflected in letters signed on February 10, 2011, that provide new market access and level the playing field for U.S. auto manufacturers and workers.  Congress approved the agreement on October 12, 2011, and Korea’s National Assembly approved it on November 22, 2011. The United States and Korea completed their review of the measures both sides had taken to implement the FTA and exchanged diplomatic notes on February 21 agreeing to bring the agreement into force on March 15, 2012. The Agreement is the United States' most commercially significant free trade agreement in almost two decades. The U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that the reduction of Korean tariffs and tariff-rate quotas on goods alone will add $10 billion to $12 billion to annual U.S. Gross Domestic Product and around $10 billion to annual merchandise exports to Korea. Under the FTA, almost 80 percent of U.S. exports to Korea of consumer and industrial products will become duty free on March 15, 2012, and nearly 95 percent of bilateral trade in consumer and industrial products will become duty free within five years of that date.  Most remaining tariffs would be eliminated within 10 years. For agricultural products, the FTA will immediately eliminate or phase out tariffs and quotas on a broad range of products, with almost two-thirds (by value) of Korea's agriculture imports from the United States becoming duty free upon entry into force. For services, the FTA will provide meaningful market access commitments that extend across virtually all major service sectors, including greater and more secure access for international delivery services and the opening up of the Korean market for foreign legal consulting services. In the area of financial services, the FTA will increase access to the Korean market and ensure greater transparency and fair treatment for U.S. suppliers of financial services. The FTA will address nontariff barriers in a wide range of sectors and includes strong provisions on competition policy, labor and environment, and transparency and regulatory due process.

ADVANTAGES

Free trade agreements are good for the US economy

US Dept of Commerce, International Trade Administration 2014. “FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS” <http://trade.gov/fta/>

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) have proved to be one of the best ways to open up foreign markets to U.S. exporters. Trade Agreements reduce barriers to U.S. exports, and protect U.S. interests and enhance the rule of law in the FTA partner country. The reduction of trade barriers and the creation of a more stable and transparent trading and investment environment make it easier and cheaper for U.S. companies to export their products and services to trading partner markets.

Turkey’s economy will be damaged if US and EU sign FTA without including Turkey

[Kemal Kirişci](http://www.brookings.edu/experts/kiriscik) 2013. (senior fellow and director of the Center on the United States and Europe's Turkey Project at Brookings Institution, with an expertise in Turkish foreign policy and migration studies; former Professor of International Relations and Jean Monnet Chair in European integration, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul ) Sept 2013 Turkey and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2013/09/turkey-transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership-kirisci>

One report estimates that Turkey could lose close to 95,000 jobs as a result of TTIP. It must not be forgotten that similar consequences would also occur in Turkey’s trade with the EU. In other words, the cumulative effect of TTIP and the EU’s free trade agreements with the countries mentioned above reluctant to sign parallel agree- ments with Turkey, would cause significant trade diversion to the disadvantage of Turkey. There is a clear recognition that Turkish companies would be seriously disadvantaged by the competition from the U.S. and other third party companies benefiting from preferential access to the EU.

Turkey is important to US foreign policy interests

Jim Zanotti 2014. (Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs, Congressional Research Service) March 27, 2014 Turkey: Background and U.S. Relations <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R41368.pdf>

Another change has been Turkey’s decreased dependence on U.S. material support and its increased assertiveness as a foreign policy actor, particularly in the Middle East and within international institutions such as the United Nations and the G-20, where it is scheduled to assume the yearly rotating presidency in 2015. One conceptualization of Turkey’s importance to U.S. interests identifies it—along with India, Brazil, and Indonesia—as a “global swing state” with the ability to have a sizeable impact on international order, depending on how it engages with the United States and the rest of the world.

US / South Korea FTA will add billions to the US economy

Office of the United States Trade Representative, 2012. Executive Office of the President, “New Opportunities for U.S. Exporters Under the U.S.-Korea Trade Agreement” <http://www.ustr.gov/trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements/korus-fta>

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FTAs grow American companies and create jobs

Gary Shapiro 2011. (president and CEO of the Consumer Electronics Association ) SHAPIRO: Pass free-trade agreements to create U.S. jobs 12 July 2011 WASHINGTON TIMES <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jul/12/pass-free-trade-agreements-to-create-us-jobs/#ixzz3AT2w78Aw>

As president and CEO of an association representing more than 2,000 consumer technology companies, I know full well that agreements like these are vital to the continued expansion of the country’s high-tech industries. Free-trade agreements have allowed our members greater access to international markets, helping to grow their companies and, in turn, create thousands of American jobs. And it was free trade that was cited in the Declaration of Independence as important to our nation’s creation.

Lack of Free Trade Agreements hurts US companies

Gary Shapiro 2011. (president and CEO of the Consumer Electronics Association ) SHAPIRO: Pass free-trade agreements to create U.S. jobs 12 July 2011 WASHINGTON TIMES <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jul/12/pass-free-trade-agreements-to-create-us-jobs/#ixzz3AT2w78Aw>

This is the price of inaction. U.S. companies lose out to foreign competitors in emerging and vital international markets. Especially for the innovation industry I represent, the United States needs more free-trade agreements to restore their ability to sell products overseas without encountering high tariffs. U.S. companies have paid more than $3.5 billion in duties to the Colombian government because of the stalled free-trade agreement.

Good relationship with Turkey will help keep Turkey on the path of democracy, freedom, and economic growth

[Kemal Kirişci](http://www.brookings.edu/experts/kiriscik) 2013. (senior fellow and director of the Center on the United States and Europe's Turkey Project at Brookings Institution, with an expertise in Turkish foreign policy and migration studies; former Professor of International Relations and Jean Monnet Chair in European integration, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul ) Sept 2013 Turkey and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2013/09/turkey-transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership-kirisci>

The EU and the U.S. also ought to recognize that a weakening of Turkey’s commitment to Western economic institutions and values would also come at a cost to them. A Turkish state that is adrift of the Western order would indeed come with important economic, political and strategic consequences. It is unlikely that the dynamism and growth of the Turkish economy could be maintained under these circumstances. This would be a loss in terms of growth and job creation not just for Turkey but also for the EU, the U.S. as well for Turkey’s neighbors. Under these circumstances Turkey could become politically less stable and less committed to democratic reform. Such a Turkey risks increasingly aligning itself with the very countries that advocate state controlled markets, authoritarian or “sovereign” democracy and greater protectionism over liberal markets, liberal democracy and liberal trade. Inevitably Turkish foreign policy would adversely be affected and the gulf between Turkey and its transatlantic allies would surely widen.

Greater US/Turkey economic cooperation would be valuable: Helps political & economic reform throughout the Mid-East

Stephen J. Hadley 2012. (Former National Security Adviser) A New U.S.-Turkey Partnership? 8 May 2012 <http://www.cfr.org/turkey/new-us-turkey-partnership/p28180>

The report points out that the economic relationship is one of the underdeveloped aspects of the relationship with Turkey and the United States, and it encourages and makes a number of concrete recommendations as to how we can encourage and improve relations--commercial relations, business ties --between Turks and the United States. Both [of these are] valuable in themselves, but we also think that U.S. businesses and Turkish businesses can partner together and do things in places like the Middle East to help with political and economic reform and the revitalization of economic activity required in that part of the world. Even though one of its largest customers is still the EU, and the EU is having its own economic problems, Turkey nonetheless is a very dynamic economic engine that can be very useful in encouraging economic activity in the Middle East and in Central Asia. In some sense, Turkey can be an engine of economic progress, which those regions really very much need.

MORAL CASE FOR FREE TRADE

Free Trade upholds the 8th Commandment (not stealing) by protecting property rights

Daniel T. Griswold 2001. (master's degree in the Politics of the World Economy from the London School of Economics; former director of the Herbert A. Stiefel Center for Trade Policy Studies at Cato Institute) Seven Moral Arguments for Free Trade 1 July 2001 <http://www.libertarianism.org/publications/essays/seven-moral-arguments-free-trade>

A man or woman engaged in honest work has a basic right to enjoy the fruits of his or her labor. It is a violation of my right to property for the government to forbid me to exchange what I produce for something produced by a fellow human being, whether the person I’m trading with lives across town or across the ocean. Protectionism is a form of stealing, a violation of the Eighth Commandment and other prohibitions against theft. It takes from one group of people, usually a broad cross section of consumers, and gives the spoils to a small group of producers whose only claim to the money is that they would be worse off under open competition. Free trade meets the most elementary test of justice, giving to each person sovereign control over that which is his own.

Free Trade is morally superior because it upholds liberty

Daniel T. Griswold 2001. (master's degree in the Politics of the World Economy from the [London School of Economics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_School_of_Economics); former director of the Herbert A. Stiefel Center for Trade Policy Studies at Cato Institute) Seven Moral Arguments for Free Trade 1 July 2001 <http://www.libertarianism.org/publications/essays/seven-moral-arguments-free-trade>

Free trade is morally superior to protectionism because it places trust in what [Adam Smith](http://www.libertarianism.org/people/adam-smith) called “the natural system of liberty” rather than in a man-centered system of centralized industrial policy. And by doing so it allows citizens to fulfill their creative and productive potential. There is no compelling moral reason why a small group of politicians should decide, on the sole basis of where things are produced, what goods and services an individual can buy with his earnings. By diffusing economic decision making as broadly as possible, free trade reduces the power of people in high places—always fallible and subject to temptation and abuse of power—to inflict damage on society.

Free trade is morally preferable: Helps the poor, promotes virtuous behavior, and limits oppressive power of government

Daniel T. Griswold 2001. (master's degree in the Politics of the World Economy from the London School of Economics; former director of the Herbert A. Stiefel Center for Trade Policy Studies at Cato Institute) Seven Moral Arguments for Free Trade 1 July 2001 <http://www.libertarianism.org/publications/essays/seven-moral-arguments-free-trade>

When all of the arguments are weighed, it should become clear that a policy of free trade is moral as well as efficient. Free trade limits the power of the state and enhances the freedom, autonomy, and self-responsibility of the individual. It promotes virtuous and responsible personal behavior. It brings people together in “communities of work” that cross borders and cultures. It opens the door for ideas and evangelism. It undermines the authority of dictators by expanding the freedom, opportunity, and independence of the people they try to control. It promotes peace among nations. It helps the poor to feed and care for themselves and creates a better future for their children. For which of these virtues should we reject free trade?

DISAD RESPONSES

“Turkey’s government is bad” – Response: Turkey is a role model for other Muslim nations in the region, for economic growth and democracy

Stephen J. Hadley 2012. (Former National Security Adviser) A New U.S.-Turkey Partnership? 8 May 2012 <http://www.cfr.org/turkey/new-us-turkey-partnership/p28180>

A number of the post-revolutionary Middle Eastern states--Egypt, Libya, Tunisia--are looking to Turkey and looking to the AK Party (AKP) as an example of a party that has a Muslim identity in a majority-Muslim country, but nonetheless was able to be an engine for democratic reform and economic prosperity and still have broad-based support within the society. This is important because all these parties emerging from these revolutions, atthe end of the day, are going to be held to account by their people. One of the principal things they're going to be held accountable for is bringing prosperity, getting the economies back in shape, getting tourism up, getting jobs for all these young people who have education but no jobs and are not confident they have a future. So these parties are going to have to produce what the AK Party has produced in Turkey.

“Turkey doesn’t uphold civil rights” – Response: Free Trade helps change countries to promote better respect for rights

Daniel T. Griswold 2001. (master's degree in the Politics of the World Economy from the London School of Economics; former director of the Herbert A. Stiefel Center for Trade Policy Studies at Cato Institute) Seven Moral Arguments for Free Trade 1 July 2001 <http://www.libertarianism.org/publications/essays/seven-moral-arguments-free-trade>

By raising the general standard of living, free trade helps people to achieve higher levels of education and to gain access to alternative sources of information. It helps to create a more independent minded middle class that can form the backbone of more representative kinds of government. The wealth created from expanded trade can help to nurture and sustain civil institutions that can offer ideas and influence outside of government. The emergence of civil liberties and more representative government in countries such as Taiwan, South Korea, and Mexico can be credited in large part to economic development spurred by free trade and market reforms.

“Trade Deficit” – Response: Trade deficits aren’t bad. Turn: Economy grows faster when we have trade deficits

Daniel T. Griswold 2011. (master's degree in the Politics of the World Economy from the London School of Economics; former director of the Herbert A. Stiefel Center for Trade Policy Studies at Cato Institute) 11 Apr 2011 The Trade-Balance Creed: Debunking the Belief that Imports and Trade Deficits Are a “Drag on Growth” <http://www.cato.org/publications/trade-policy-analysis/tradebalance-creed-debunking-belief-imports-trade-deficits-are-drag-growth>

An examination of the past 30 years of U.S. economic performance offers no evidence that a rising level of imports or growing trade deficits have negatively affected the U.S. economy. In fact, since 1980, the U.S. economy has grown more than three times faster during periods when the trade deficit was expanding as a share of GDP compared to periods when it was contracting. Stock market appreciation, manufacturing output, and job growth were all significantly more robust during periods of expanding imports and trade deficits. The goal of U.S. trade policy should not be to promote exports at the expense of imports, but to maximize the freedom of Americans to trade goods, services, and assets in the global marketplace.