

# Turkey

-- Find out the why and how of Turkey's involvement in the Iraqi conflict... --

## **BACKGROUND:**

Originally inhabited by a variety of different peoples – Hittites, Urartians, Phrygians and Lydians – Turkey, or Asia Minor as it was called during much of the pre-modern period, was, for over 1000 years, the heartland of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire, with Constantinople as its capital. Founded by Constantine the Great in AD 330, Constantinople survived the collapse of the Western Empire in the fifth century. It was the capital from which the brilliant and enigmatic Emperor Justinian (527-565) launched his ambitious projects to reunite the old Roman Empire, the western provinces of which had been occupied by Germanic people from northern Europe. The Byzantine Empire, from the death of Justinian until its eventual fall in 1453, was engaged in a long retreat in the face of numerous enemies, mainly the forces of Islam. However, the Byzantines took advantage of the success of the First Crusade (1096-1100), whose armies re-took many Byzantine possessions in Asia Minor, Syria and Palestine.

By 1261, the empire had effectively lost control of most of its territories and, by the 14th century, Byzantine control of Asia Minor was little more than an empty theory. From the 11th century onwards, the Asiatic area of Turkey known as Anatolia had also been affected by upheavals and conquests from the east. Successive invasions from Central Asia led to the Islamic Turkification of the region, the real power fast becoming the Ottomans' – a name derived from their 14th-century leader, Osman Gazi, who scored a decisive victory against the Byzantines at the Battle of Baphaeon in 1301.

The Ottomans steadily expanded their territorial control from Turkey itself, constructing the Ottoman Empire, which at its zenith in the

mid-16th century – a period associated with the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent – covered southeast Europe (including the Balkans and Hungary), North Africa (as far as Morocco), the Crimea and Georgia, the Levant, Syria, Iraq and most of the Arabian peninsula. The most famous conquest, from a symbolic and strategic point of view, was that of Constantinople itself in 1453; with its fall, the Roman Empire, in a strictly legalistic sense, finally came to an end. The territorial ambitions of the Ottomans regarding control of the Mediterranean and Central Europe brought the empire into conflict with the major European powers of the day.

The Venetians and later the Russians were almost constant enemies of the Ottomans during the late-17th and 18th centuries, during which time the empire sank into decline. In the late-18th century, attempts were made by some rulers to reform the empire but too little effect. Turkish history can thereafter be characterized by a constant struggle between the forces of absolutism and reform. In 1914, the country became embroiled in World War I – on the side of Germany. The following year saw one of the most ignominious episodes in Turkish history, when over a million Armenians were driven into the desert and murdered by Turkish troops. Although it is fiercely denied by the Turkish authorities, there is compelling evidence that this was an officially sponsored and systematic policy of genocide. After the war, most of the Ottoman possessions came under British or French control, with the support of the newly formed League of Nations. In Turkey itself, the Ottoman Dynasty was overthrown in 1923, by a revolutionary movement led by Mustafa Kemal, better known as Atatürk ('father of the Turks'), who established a single-party republic with himself at the head.

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The period after the War of Independence saw sweeping social reforms and economic modernization, including the abolition of the Islamic social infrastructure and the development of a manufacturing industry. Atatürk's successor, İsmet İnönü, kept Turkey out of World War II (except for the last four months) and introduced multiparty politics. The first elections were held in 1950. There have since been two prolonged periods of military rule, the second ending with elections in 1983, won by Turgut Özal and the Motherland Party. Martial law, however, remained in force in many provinces until 1987. Turkey joined NATO in 1952 and, since the lifting of suspensions with the end of military rule, is once more a full and active member of the Council of Europe, as well as being an associate member of the EU. Turkey has been pursuing full EU membership since the early 1980s, with varying degrees of enthusiasm. The new government, elected in November 2002, is especially keen, although it faces serious obstacles in the form of a historically poor human rights record – especially with regard to the treatment of the country's Kurdish minority – and the failure of repeated efforts to reach a political settlement in Cyprus.

Important as relations with Europe are, Turkish foreign policy has major interests elsewhere. The collapse of the Soviet Union has given the country a key political and economic role in Central Asia, where Turkey has historic cultural and linguistic links with several countries. These have assumed much greater importance in Western strategic thinking since the events of September 11, 2001 and the war against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. At the beginning of 1990, political tension in the region was heightened by the onset of the Armenian/Azeri conflict. Turkey was the first country to recognize the independence of Azerbaijan and has provided consistent diplomatic support for the Azeris against Armenia. Turkey has also sought closer political and economic links with the 'Stans' – the five Central Asian ex-republics of the former Soviet Union, mainly populated by people

from Turkic ethnic groups. Several of these view Turkey as a suitable model to pursue in the course of their own development.

Moreover, Turkey has a key strategic position on the northern edge of the ever-turbulent Middle East; in particular, it has a shared border with Iraq and provided essential bases for the US-led campaign against Iraq during the 1991 Gulf war. Since then, these same bases have been essential to the UN's enforcement of economic sanctions and the 'no fly' zone. The government accrued benefits in the form of financial assistance and had a free hand in dealing with the insurgency of the Kurdish Workers Party – best known by its own acronym, PKK. The party was engaged in an armed struggle to secure civil and political rights for the Kurdish ethnic minority concentrated in the eastern part of the country. Turkey is once again playing its part. The government has major reservations, however, about the future complexion of a post-Saddam regime in the country and is concerned to limit any Kurdish influence.

### **STORY:**

KARNE, Iraq (Reuters) - Iraqi Kurdish officials on Friday accused Turkey of repeated shelling over the border into Iraq, a charge Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül denied. The charges came as the United States works to defuse tension and deep mistrust between Turkey and the Kurdish groups that run northern Iraq. Secretary of State Colin Powell visited Turkey on Wednesday and said U.S. forces in northern Iraq had stabilized the region, leaving no reason for Turkey to move in.

Turkey has stationed a large force of troops and armor near the border, poised for an incursion it says it would launch if Turkish interests were threatened by "terrorism" or by a large refugee wave.

More details have been emerging about convoys of military equipment which have been crossing from Turkey into Iraq in the past days,

destined for US forces in the region. During talks in Ankara on Wednesday, the US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, won Turkish agreement for the supply of food, fuel and medicine across Turkish soil to its troops in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq - but not for weapons.

They may not look like a significant contribution to the war effort, but the lines of Turkish-registered trucks driving through dusty border towns contain badly-needed vehicles for the 173rd Airborne Division of the US Army.

According to a statement issued by the Turkish general staff, 204 unarmed Humvee military jeeps are being redeployed to northern Iraq from US bases in Turkey.

### **SIGNIFICANCE:**

Fuel, food and medicine for US troops, as well as humanitarian supplies for the civilian population of northern Iraq, will now be allowed to cross through Turkey. Taken together, the supplies will make the opening of a northern front against Iraqi Government forces much more likely. The convoys also play a symbolic role - showing Turkish readiness to support the coalition war effort, albeit as a non-combatant.

Anti-war sentiment in Turkey is still strong and there's now little talk of trying to open a land corridor for troops and weapons. But Turkey, with its big ports, developed infrastructure and fleet of trucks, now looks set to help supply the northern front and the post-war reconstruction of Iraq.

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## *eBay's PayPal's Accused of Violating the Patriot Act*

### **BACKGROUND:**

Congress passed the Patriot Act one month after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on New York City and the Pentagon. The legislation broadened law

enforcement powers, especially to combat money laundering believed to help finance terror attacks.

PayPal, an online cash transfer service provider, agreed in August to restrict online gambling merchants from using its transaction system and paid a \$200,000 penalty to New York.

eBay bought PayPal for \$1.5 billion in October. In November, PayPal stopped processing payments for online gambling companies, an activity that accounted for about 6 percent of PayPal's 2002 revenues, eBay said.

### **STORY:**

PALO ALTO, Calif. (Reuters) - A federal prosecutor has alleged eBay Inc. unit PayPal violated a 2001 anti-terror law aimed at fighting money laundering when it provided payment services to online gambling companies, the Web auctioneer said in its annual report filed on Monday.

Silicon Valley-based eBay said it received a letter on Friday in which the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri accused PayPal of violating a provision of the USA Patriot Act. The provision prohibits the transmission of funds that are known to have been derived from a criminal offense, or are intended to be used to promote or support unlawful activity.

The prosecutor also said the company could be forced to forfeit the money it received in connection with the alleged illegal activity and that it could also be criminally liable. eBay said in its annual report that PayPal acted in the good faith belief that its conduct was not in violation of the anti-terror law.

The prosecutor's letter offered a plan that would enable the company to settle all charges and claims, if PayPal turned over earnings, plus interest, from online gambling companies for the nine-month period ended July 31, 2002, eBay said.

eBay said earnings associated with the activities were smaller than the amount stated in the prosecutor's letter. It also said the related amount was not expected to have a material

impact on its financial position, results of operations, or cash flow.

### **SIGNIFICANCE:**

Online auctioneer **eBay** revealed in its 10-K filing that it received a letter from the Missouri attorney general three days ago claiming its PayPal unit violated the USA Patriot Act. Huh?

Quick background: PayPal stopped processing payments for online gambling merchants last November, giving up business that accounted for 6% of its revenue in 2002. Prior to that, it settled with the New York attorney general for \$200,000, presumably for facilitating some transactions involving illegal gambling.

Following custom, PayPal admitted no wrongdoing in that case; perhaps it was easier to settle in order to clear the way for the eBay buyout, and because eBay had made it clear PayPal would be exiting that line of business when the acquisition closed.

eBay is claiming no wrongdoing, and has not indicated it will settle. It is nearly impossible, after all, to completely sort legal and illegal transactions paid via PayPal.

While there's nothing wrong with prosecuting illegal transactions, too many legitimate, lawful gambling enterprises are being hurt by PayPal's exit and the decisions of banks, such as **Citibank**, to block all online gambling transactions. Chalk this up as another case of politicians trying to save us from ourselves.

The pressure thus far from the two attorney generals is ridiculous. Worse, pressing the case under the guise of a law designed to prevent money laundering and financing for terrorists only gives fuel to critics of the Patriot Act, who say it undermines the Constitution.

As for eBay, it says its business could see some harm in a worst-case litigation scenario. However, it also says, "the monetary amounts associated with this matter are not expected to have a material impact on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows."

*By Rex Moore, The Motley Fool is the #1 rated website for people who have complex financial problems.*

*For less anxiety and more confidence, <http://www.fool.com>.*

## New Moons for Jupiter

### **BACKGROUND:**

Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun and by far the largest. Jupiter is more than twice as massive as all the other planets combined (318 times Earth). Jupiter (a.k.a. Jove; Greek Zeus) was the King of the Gods, the ruler of Olympus and the patron of the Roman state. Zeus was the son of Cronus (Saturn).

Jupiter is the fourth brightest object in the sky (after the Sun, the Moon and Venus; at some times Mars is also brighter). It has been known since prehistoric times. Galileo's discovery, in 1610, of Jupiter's four large moons Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto (now known as the Galilean moons) was the first discovery of a center of motion not apparently centered on the Earth. It was a major point in favor of Copernicus's heliocentric theory of the motions of the planets; Galileo's outspoken support of the Copernican theory got him in trouble with the Inquisition.

### **STORY:**

Astronomers have announced the discovery of yet another new batch of moons in the Solar System - this time around Jupiter. The new satellites bring Jupiter's tally to 48.

Jupiter's new satellites were discovered in early February 2003 by Scott Sheppard and David Jewitt of the University of Hawaii, US, working with Jan Kleyna of Cambridge University, UK.

They were found using the world's two largest digital cameras at the Subaru Telescope (8.3-metre diameter) and the Canada-France-Hawaii (3.6-metre diameter) telescopes on Mauna Kea in Hawaii. The new moons are all small; two to four kilometres in size, and orbit Jupiter at great distances from the planet.



**THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:**

April 7, 1948

*The World Health Organization*

The World Health Organization, the United Nations specialized agency for health, was established on April 7, 1948. WHO's objective, as set out in its Constitution, is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. Health is defined in WHO's Constitution as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

WHO is governed by 192 Member States through the World Health Assembly. The Health Assembly is composed of representatives from WHO's Member States. The main tasks of the World Health Assembly are to approve the WHO program and the budget for the following biennium and to decide major policy questions.

The Secretariat is headed by the Director-General, who is nominated by the Executive Board and elected by Member States for a period of five years. Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland took office as Director-General of the World Health Organization on 21 July 1998.

WHO's Secretariat is staffed by health professionals, other experts and support staff working at headquarters in Geneva, in the six regional offices and in countries. WHO's regional offices are:

- Regional Office for Africa - located in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo
- Regional Office for Europe - located in Copenhagen, Denmark
- Regional Office for South-East Asia - located in New Delhi, India
- Regional Office for the Americas/Pan-American Health Organization - located in Washington D.C., USA
- Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean - located in Cairo, Egypt
- Regional Office for the Western Pacific - located in Manila, Philippines

**ENTERTAINMENT:****NBC Correspondent David Bloom Dies in Iraq**

WASHINGTON (Reuters)

- David Bloom, who traded his position as a co-anchor of NBC's "Today" show weekend editions to report from the battlefield on the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, died while covering the war NBC said.

Bloom, who was 39, became the sixth journalist to die in Iraq since the war began about two weeks ago, though his death was not combat-related. He died after suffering a pulmonary embolism, NBC said. Bloom was "embedded" with the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division, and had reported on the unit's advance toward Baghdad in recent days.

Bloom joined NBC in Chicago in 1993, and served as White House correspondent before taking over as co-anchor of the "Today" show weekend editions in March 2000. He is survived by his wife, Melanie, and three daughters.

Including Bloom, six journalists have died in Iraq and two others are missing.

Four were killed in the Gulf War 12 years ago.

Michael Kelly, a former editor-in-chief of The Atlantic Monthly, was killed in an accident involving a Humvee military vehicle on Thursday, making him the first American and first "embedded" journalist to die in Iraq.

Some 600 journalists are "embedded" with U.S. and British forces.



## WHO YOU NEED TO KNOW:

### President: Ahmet Necdet Sezer

When Ahmet Necdet Sezer was sworn in in May 2000 he became the first president in modern Turkish history who was neither an active politician nor a military commander.



Sezer, previously the chief justice of the constitutional court, is regarded as a secularist, a factor in his favor in the eyes of Turkey's

powerful military. The veteran civil servant caused a stir in 1999 when he made a speech criticising Turkey's constitution - introduced after a military coup in 1980 - as restricting democratic rights and freedoms. Some observers see his support for greater freedom of expression as a potential positive in Turkey's bid to convince the EU that it is making efforts to improve its record.

### Prime minister: Recep Tayyip Erdogan



Mr Erdogan, leader of the Islamist-based Justice and Development Party (AK), became prime minister several months after his party's landslide election victory in November 2002. Although his new AK party has Islamist

roots Mr Erdogan insists that it is committed to secularism, something which the military will watch closely.

He had been barred from standing in those elections because of a previous criminal conviction for reading an Islamist poem at a political rally, an action deemed to amount to Islamist sedition and for which he served several months in jail.

In Turkey the prime minister must also be a member of parliament. AK deputy leader Abdullah Gul took on the premiership in the months following the elections, but with Mr Erdogan playing a prominent role, particularly in foreign visits.

For many poor Turks, he is something of a working class hero although critics are dismissive of what they see as his populism. From a poor background, he worked as a street seller to help pay for an education. He attended Koranic school before studying economics at university.

As mayor of Istanbul in the mid 1990s he banned alcohol in official municipal buildings and won popularity for improving services. In 1997 the military became alarmed over what it saw as a threat to Turkey's secularism. Erbakan's Welfare Party was banned and he was forced to resign.

He has identified EU entry is a top priority and has promised reforms designed to bring Turkey more closely into line with entry requirements. He became prime minister at a sensitive time for Turkey following parliament's vote to reject the deployment of US troops in a possible war against Iraq.

## SPORTS:

### NCAA TOURNEY

Teams competing in the NCAA championships:

Women		Men	
1	Tennessee	2	Kansas
1	Connecticut	3	Syracuse

With her offense down the stretch and her defense on the final play, Diana Taurasi brought Connecticut back from a 9 point deficit and into the women's national championship game.

Taurasi, bothered by a sore ankle and back, still managed to score 26 points and keep the Huskies on course for their third title in four years with a 71-69 victory over Texas Sunday night.

UConn (36-1) will meet Tennessee in the championship game, the third time the teams have met for the title. Earlier, the Lady Vols beat Duke 66-56 in the other semifinal to advance to Tuesday night's final. The men's championship game is 9:21pm ET Monday night.

**FEATURE:**

## World Health Organization

World Health Organization (WHO), specialized agency of the United Nations, with headquarters in Geneva. According to its constitution it is “the directing and coordinating authority on international health work” and is responsible for helping all peoples to attain “the highest possible levels of health.” The services of the agency may be either advisory or technical.

Advisory services include aid in training medical personnel and in disseminating knowledge of diseases such as influenza, malaria, smallpox, tuberculosis, venereal diseases, and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS); maternal and child health; nutrition; population planning; and environmental sanitation. The agency maintains health-demonstration areas for sustained application of modern techniques to improve general health conditions and to combat specific diseases interfering with agricultural productivity and overall economic development.

The technical services include biological standardization and unification of drugs, collection and dissemination of epidemiological information, special international research projects on parasitic and viral diseases, and publication of a series of technical and scientific works.

The central structure of WHO includes the policymaking body called the World Health Assembly, which consists of delegates of all member nations and meets yearly; an executive board of 31 individuals elected by the assembly; and a secretariat, consisting of a director-general and a technical and administrative staff.

### WHO Health Briefing on Iraq

**Civilian Casualties:** The World Health Organization is receiving reports of growing numbers of civilian casualties, in and around Baghdad, Basra and many other towns in southern and central Iraq. The International Committee of

the Red Cross reports a particularly disturbing situation in the town of Al Hillah, where some 280 people are reported to have been injured. The hospital there is overwhelmed with patients and is struggling to cope. In the South, Jumhuriyah Hospital in the centre of Basrah was partially damaged and an unknown number of people were injured. WHO is deeply concerned that injuries suffered as a direct result of this conflict are the number one public health problem in Iraq today. WHO again reminds all parties to the conflict of their obligations under humanitarian law to respect the neutrality of civilians and especially that of hospitals, health workers and the entire medical infrastructure.

**Access:** The issue of negotiated access for humanitarian work is increasingly urgent. Some humanitarian agencies are able to access parts of southern Iraq, but large areas are still completely off-limits for all humanitarian work. It is vitally important that all parties in the conflict recognize the right of civilians to have access to healthcare and other humanitarian assistance. Towns and Cities are increasingly being cut off. Shortages of medicines and medical supplies are threatened. Hospitals may no longer be able to cope. Public health will become an overwhelming concern.

**Water:** Overnight, the power supply to Baghdad was cut and that has disrupted the water pumping system. Many people therefore lack access to their regular supply of clean, safe drinking water. In southern Iraq, the International Committee of the Red Cross reports that as many as 1.5 million people lack access to a safe water supply. As temperatures rise across Iraq, a shortage of clean water will almost inevitably cause outbreaks of diarrhoeal disease and other health problems. The ICRC continued repairs to the water- and power-supply systems in 7 hospitals and provided 10,000 1-litre bags of drinking water to 2 hospitals. More than 80,000 people who have been without piped water since March 22 are now connected again, including people in Safwan.

*Quote of the Week:*

Honesty is the best policy.

-Benjamin Franklin

*Fact of the Week:*

In 1800, there were 1 billion people in the world; in 2000, there were 5 billion..

*Word of the Week:*

grimalkin (gri\*mal'kin) *n.* An old cat, especially a female cat.

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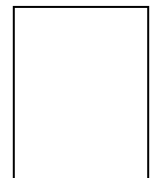
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