Turkey
President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
Biography: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

• Elected Mayor of Istanbul in 1994, winning the confidence of the People, through his political abilities.

• Established the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) in 2001.

• Became Prime Minister in 2003, implementing various reforms in the shortest time, with his ideal of a brighter Turkey.

• In 2014, became the first President of Turkey elected by popular vote.
Video: “As Turkey we have not received any direct financial aid”
Coup Against Erdogan’s Government

July 15, 2016, a military coup erupts, allegedly led by an exiled businessman and cleric, Fethullah Gulen and his followers.

Gulen is one of the most influential people in Turkey. He leads a movement that calls for a secular and democratic government.

Coup failed, when the people took to the streets in support of Erdogan and the government. Resulted with quick purges of Gulen’s alleged followers and political opponents.

As a result, several major challenges face Turkey today:
- Economic Crisis
- Refugee Crisis
- Political Instability
Refugees & Economy

• Frequent terrorist attacks by Islamist Extremist and PKK (Kurdish rebels), have created a state of anxiety resulting in a drop in foreign investment and tourism.

• The number of refugees in Turkey has reached over 3 million people.
  • Jan. 2017, Turkey estimated that it has spent over €11.4 billion, while EU providing €588 million.

• EU-Turkey Migrant Deal was meant to ease the nation.
  • EU is to speed up the allocation of €3 bn in aid.
  • Both sides agreed to “re-energize” Turkey’s bid to join EU.
Nov. 2016, EU voted to freeze talks on Turkey’s bid to join the EU.

Due to lack of support from the EU and NATO, economically & militaristically, the Turkish government has begun to support ideas of making new Non-Allies.

Erdogan has since then…
- Initiated Solo Military Operations into Syria.
- Increased military talks with Russia and Iran.
- Encouraged the idea of joining the Shanghai Five over EU.

A referendum could be held in 2017, to decide whether to continue membership discussions with EU.
Erdogan emphasizes that some internal opponents harm Turkey due to their hostility toward him.

He is pushing a referendum for a constitutional amendment that will switch Turkey to a presidential system (resulting with him gaining more power).

Since the failed coup, a State of Emergency has been in place allowing for the purges of the ‘enemies to the state’ (link)

- Purges include; political opponents, teachers, journalists, judges, military officials, etc.

Recently, purges primarily target Kurdish minority leaders, due to their alleged connections with terrorist acts from Kurdish rebels.