



# Kenya

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## 1 Turkey - Greece:

Although Kenya’s foreign policy heavily focuses on its own nowhere near stable and sometimes even "war-torn" surroundings, the last few decades saw some interesting opportunities for the country and its economy. Close ties remain to the former colonial power Britain - the Royal Army even maintains training bases in the country to this day. Kenya is also still part of the Commonwealth of Nations with the British monarch as their official head of state, while it furthermore keeps good relationships with other UK partners such as the United States.

Interestingly, there have been attempts in the past to establish deepened trading relationships with Greece, although this seemingly never really took off. More successful on the other hand were Turkey’s efforts to expand its economic ties to Kenya and the African region in general. Late 2010 saw the first meeting of the Turkey – Kenya Joint Economic Commission, as Turkey sees Kenya as an entrance point to the planned large free trade zone in the east of Africa - the Grand Free Trade Area GFTA. Meanwhile, Kenya views Turkey as a key market, especially for commodities like tea and flowers. Therefore, unlike other African states, Kenya has managed to establish an even economic balance with Turkey, which enables it to withstand any economic pressure from the Mediterranean powerhouse.

The latest economic opportunity arising for Kenya are China’s efforts to tie the third and second world closer to them via the “One Road, One Belt” initiative. Mombasa, Kenya’s most important port, sees major development under Chinese leadership alongside Chinese built rail lines and roads from Mombasa to Nairobi and other emerging regions like Ethiopia and southern Sudan. In the long run all this will come to a heavy price although, as the State of Kenya is already now heavily indebted to Chinese state-owned companies and banks, which creates a critical economical dependence for the next years, or even decades.

## 2 Afghanistan:

Kenya’s position on US troops pulling out of Afghanistan hasn’t been made clear yet. As such, the delegation representing will have free reign on the stance they want to take on this issue.



Fig. 1: Kenyan Flag