



Türkiye

by *Levente Kardkovács*



Summary

Türkiye is located on the Southern coast of the Black Sea. It is further sandwiched between the Balkans, Caucasus, Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean. Due to its unique geographic location, the country has played a significant role in regional politics for centuries. Beyond its influence on trade routes, Türkiye has the second largest standing army in NATO after the United States, making it a key player in regional security.

Relations with Somalia

Modern Somalia-Türkiye relations started with the opening of the Turkish embassy in Mogadishu in the year 1979. Although the embassy was closed in 1991 due to the outbreak of the civil war in Somalia, the nation remained active in its efforts to support peace and security in the region. In 2011 president Erdogan visited the country, which was followed by the reopening of the embassy, which is now Türkiye's largest embassy. Somalia also hosts the largest Turkish overseas military academy. In 2021 the countries celebrated 10 years of "the rebirth of the bond of brotherhood and cooperation". Türkiye has also made significant investments in Somalia, with both the Mogadishu International Airport and Mogadishu Sea Port being run by Turkish companies. Since 2013 Türkiye has assumed a

facilitating role in talks between the Federal Government of Somalia (FSG) and the Somaliland Administration. The most recent agreement following the Ethiopia-Somaliland port deal in early 2024 was also signed in Turkey, and it has been dubbed as the "Ankara Declaration".

Involvement in Jubaland

The Ankara Declaration came under fire only two weeks after being signed due to Ethiopia's involvement with pro-Jubaland forces. While Türkiye has not directly intervened in the conflict between the FGS and the Jubaland State Cabinet, it has been involved in training the armed forces of the FGS who have clashed with Jubaland fighters near the town of Ras Kamboni in December of 2024.

