

The Ottoman Phased Program



Following the overthrow of the Assad regime, the Turkish army has invaded Syria and is fighting the Kurds in the northeast of the country. This is not the first time Turkey has invaded Syria on the backdrop of the Syrian civil war, but this time, it is happening while a non-Assad regime is in power in Damascus: a radical Sunni Islamic government identified with the "Muslim Brotherhood" ideology. (The new Syrian leader, Ahmed al-Sharaa – formerly known as Abu Mohammad al-Jolani – has been saying lately that his regime will pose no threat to the West.) Turkey, which presents itself as a kind of patron of the new government, now sees a possibility that, at Syria's voluntary or forced "invitation," it could move its forces into other areas of the country. This could lead to a clash with Israel, which itself has moved to the northeast into the depths of Syria. As is well known, Hamas, along with Raad Salah's Islamic Movement in Israel, is the local branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, and benefits from extensive Turkish, and Qatari, aid and cooperation.

Turkey has been making threatening noises towards Israel. In May of this year, Turkish President Erdogan accused Israel of planning to invade Turkey and conquer its heartland, Anatolia. He said that it is only Hamas and its war in Gaza that is stopping Israel from doing so. Two months later, Erdogan threatened outright that he might invade Israel in order to "protect" the Palestinians. In September he repeated his ungrounded theory that Israel might invade Turkey.

Given these statements, it is important not to forget what Erdogan said back in 2021: "Jerusalem is our city!" Referring to Israel's capital city, no less, Erdogan wrote at the time: "We will follow both the Palestinian cause... and the Jerusalem case to the end."



Turkey's Modus Operandi:

- Many Turkish bodies and institutions currently operate in Jerusalem without municipal interference or supervision. These include the following:
1. TIKA, a Turkish foreign aid agency that is answerable directly to President Erdogan. With offices in Ramallah, it provides economic aid to Jerusalem's Arab residents and various institutions.
 2. The Yunus Amra Cultural Center, under the auspices of the Turkish General Consulate, and which has offices in Jerusalem.
 3. Morashteinu (Our Heritage), which acts to promote the Ottoman heritage in Jerusalem among the city's Arabs.
 4. Kandyl Foundation, which supports Arab economic and real estate activity in Jerusalem.
 5. Kathad, which acts to strengthen the Ottoman

identity of Jerusalem and disseminate Ottoman heritage.

6. Above all, the Turkish General Consulate in Jerusalem, which Turkey present as the "Turkish Embassy in Palestine." The Consul himself is similarly known as the Turkish Ambassador to Palestine. Its activities span a number of areas:

- Economic aid, aimed at creating dependency between Jerusalem's Arab residents and institutions and Turkey.
- Charitable activities.
- Education for the strengthening of the historic Ottoman bonds with Jerusalem. Classes for the study of Turkish are offered to the youth, including incentives in the form of laptop computers. In this context, "Palestine" is just a tool helping to actualize the true goal: Islamic Jerusalem, in the spirit of the historic Caliphate that does not recognize any nation-states, even if they are Arab or Muslim.

The Turkish aid goes on occasion directly to terrorists. For example, TIKA provided financial assistance to the Yavus Center in Jerusalem, which appears to be just a cultural center, but is actually affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terrorist organization.

Turkey-Hamas Ties

An important Hamas headquarters is located in Turkey, and especially now, with the weakening of Hamas bodies in Gaza and Qatar, its standing has been upgraded – especially as regards its ties with the Arabs of Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria. The Hamas-Turkey headquarters comprise chiefly terrorists who were released in the Gilad Shalit deal. They have official relations with the Turkish National Intelligence (MIT) agency, via one of the more prominent ex-Jerusalem terrorists, Jihad Ya'mour, who heads the above-mentioned Kathad body. Kathad appears to be a traditional heritage center, but it actually has ties with Najah Bahirat, a senior Jerusalem Waqf figure who is currently under a restraining order distancing him from Jerusalem because of his ties with Hamas.

Hamas-Turkey directly masterminded and directed a failed large-scale attack outside a Tel Aviv synagogue this past August. The terrorists involved were from Judea/Samaria and Jerusalem; the perpetrator lived in Beit Hanina, Jerusalem, birthplace of Ya'mour, the MIT contact man.

Turkey's support for Hamas is far from just local or random. Hamas is the immediate and realistic alternative to the current Palestinian Authority regime; Hamas took over from the PA in Gaza, and is liable to do so in Judea and Samaria as well. Turkey has supported Hamas in Gaza for many years in a most absolute manner, totally ignoring the PA and the "Palestinian nation" – who supposedly are Turkey's top interests. This is because Hamas represents the Muslim Brotherhood, which is the platform on which



A selection of Turkish signs & flags in various places under Turkish sponsorship in Jerusalem:

Erdogan seeks to build his new Islamic Caliphate, headed by himself of course. Hamas, when it rises to power in Erdogan's imaginative plan, will "invite" Turkey to protect it from Israel – and thus Erdogan will come much closer to actualizing his great dream so critical for his status as the new Sultan: Jerusalem. Hamas, as the ruler of the Palestinian Authority, will thus have a "legitimate" claim to Jerusalem, both religiously and politically, and Erdogan's Turkey, as protectors of Hamas, will be the very agents to actualize this claim.

In the meanwhile, as stated, Turkey is preparing the economic, public and educational infrastructures in Jerusalem for that purpose. The Turks are not necessarily preparing to physically invade Israel, and can suffice with a military presence close to Israel's border. This can then be expected to be accompanied in the future by an escalation in Erdogan's threats, which will then appear to be backed up by the potential to actually carry them out.

Therefore, the Turkish invasion of Syria must not be viewed only as an internal Turkish-Kurdish affair, but rather with global lenses: For Erdogan, Syria is just another stage on the road to his true destination – Jerusalem. Given that Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia were once Ottoman, but of course are no longer, Erdogan is seeking to make Jerusalem the new capital of his Caliphate, as a replacement and successor to the Ottoman Caliphate, often referred to as the "sick man of Europe" – the declining Ottoman Empire – before its dissolution around 100 years ago.

