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IMPACT OF IRAQ WAR ON TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS*

Prof. Dr. Tayyar ARI

Res. Assist. Ferhat PIRINCCI

**Uludag University
Department of International Relations
BURSA / TURKEY**

ABSTRACT

Turkish-American relations are sometimes worsened due to the divergences in regional and global conjuncture; even though the general trend of relations was on a very favorable ground in the Cold War era. In the 1990s the relations were also executed in a cooperative manner on bilateral and multilateral basis. However, Iraq war has brought some negative impacts on the relationship. Beside the other dimensions of the Turkish-American relations, the paper focuses on the impacts derived from the Iraq war and analyzes its possible implications for the future of the relations in a prospective manner. The incidents started with the refusal of Turkish Parliament to allow American forces to locate on Turkish territories to open a northern front and the increase of terrorist attacks of the PKK stemming from northern Iraq caused grow of anti-American sentiments in Turkish public opinion and a disappointment for the both sides. Nevertheless the paper argues that, recently a recovery process has started for the relations and this process would overcome the resentment and open a new phase.

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