

## **The Turks in the Land of Afghans: History, Politics, and Relationships**

*In Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies,*  
Volume 46 (3), Spring 2023

*Mohammed Alrmizan*

Turkish foreign policy in Afghanistan dates to the changing dynamics in the Ottoman Empire's foreign policy, particularly following the Russian Empire's wars and the support of the British Empire during the middle of the nineteenth century. The Ottoman Empire then began communicating with the Durrani and Barakzai dynasties in Afghanistan through different missions from Istanbul and Mumbai to Kabul. Ottoman foreign policy did not establish diplomatic relations, although it had previously had some positive communication with the rulers of Afghanistan. Due to increasing weaknesses in its colonies during the Great War and the rise of the İttihad ve Terakki Cemiyeti (Committee of Union and Progress, CUP), the Ottoman Empire ended in collapse. Then, Mustafa Kemal *Atatürk* rose to power and declared the Republic of Turkey in 1923. Turkish foreign policy toward Afghanistan developed through different periods: first, in the Kingdom of Afghanistan until the 1950s, then in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in the first two decades of the twenty-first century (2004-2021), and currently in the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan beginning from August 2021 when Taliban forces took over Kabul. In parallel, Turkish foreign policy toward Afghanistan, although starting with *Atatürk*, could not escape the impacts of the country's domestic politics and challenges in previous decades, for instance, the successful coups in 1960, 1971, 1980, and 1997.

*More information*

[10.1353/jsa.2023.0000](https://doi.org/10.1353/jsa.2023.0000)

*About the Author*

**Mohammed Alrmizan** is a doctoral researcher at the City, University of London and a non-resident research associate at the King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS).