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Türkiye's Energy Diplomacy and Regional Relations

Türkiye'nin Enerji Diplomasisi ve Bölgesel İlişkileri

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Abstract

In the intricate web of international relations, Türkiye's energy diplomacy stands out as a crucial determinant of regional dynamics. This article explores the profound impact of Türkiye's energy policies on regional relations, contending that strategic energy maneuvers have yielded positive outcomes. Through ongoing energy projects and collaborative agreements with neighboring countries, Türkiye strategically enhances its regional balance of power. Liberalism and soft power seamlessly integrate into Türkiye's energy diplomacy, framing the nation's approach. The synergy between these concepts and Türkiye's energy initiatives positions it as a key player in regional affairs. Looking ahead, sustainability and renewable energy gain prominence. Türkiye, aligning with global shifts towards eco-friendly solutions, is poised to play a pivotal role. Efforts to become a central energy hub not only reflect national aspirations but also forecast heightened regional influence. In essence, Türkiye's energy diplomacy fortifies regional relations, propelling the nation towards enhanced influence. As sustainable energy policies take center stage globally, Türkiye's adept navigation is expected to solidify its status as a formidable player in evolving international relations.

Keywords: Energy Diplomacy, Regional Relations, Regional Cooperation, Dependency

Öz

Türkiye'nin enerji diplomasisinin bölgesel ilişkilere olan etkisini ve gelecekteki rolünü incelemekte olan bu makale çalışması, Türkiye'nin enerji politikalarının ve enerji kaynaklarına erişim stratejilerinin, bölgesel ilişkilerini olumlu yönde etkilediğini savunmaktadır. Daha açık bir ifade ile

hem gerçekleştirilen enerji projeleri hem de komşu ülkelerle imzalanan enerji işbirliği anlaşmaları, Türkiye'nin bölgesel güç dengesine katkı sağlamaktadır. Liberalizm ve yumuşak güç kavramları, Türkiye'nin enerji diplomasisiyle ilişkilendirilmiştir ve bu diplomasiyi desteklemiştir. Gelecekte, sürdürülebilir enerji politikalarının ve yenilenebilir enerji kaynaklarının önem kazanması beklenmektedir. Türkiye'nin enerjide merkezi ülke olma çabaları, bölgesel etkisini de arttırabilecektir. Sonuç olarak, Türkiye'nin uygulamakta olduğu enerji diplomasisi bölgesel ilişkilerini güçlendirmektedir ve gelecekteki başarılı enerji politikaları ile daha da etkili bir ülke haline gelebilecektir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Enerji Diplomasisi, Bölgesel İlişkiler, Bölgesel İş Birliği, Bağımlılık

Introduction

Energy, which is at the center of international relations, has a strategic importance. Both access to energy resources between countries and energy policies and energy trade; are among the critical factors shaping international power dynamics and regional relations. Türkiye, which has an increasing importance in regional relations, plays an active role in the field of energy diplomacy. This article aims to provide an in-depth analysis of Türkiye's energy diplomacy.

At the center of the research are the issues of how Türkiye's energy diplomacy works and the impact of this diplomacy on Türkiye's energy resources access strategies, energy policies and regional relations. While doing this, the history and basic principles of Türkiye's energy diplomacy are examined, while important practices such as strategies for access to energy resources, renewable energy investments, energy extraction activities on territorial waters and large energy projects are discussed.

Dependency theory and regional cooperation theories constitute the theoretical framework of this article. Additionally, the concepts of liberalism and soft power are also examined in the article to understand the impact of Türkiye's energy diplomacy on regional relations. The article will conclude by offering predictions about the future of Türkiye's energy diplomacy and aims to draw a perspective on how this diplomacy can shape Türkiye's regional influence. This analysis of how Türkiye's energy policies can create a model in terms of energy security and regional stability aims to make sense of the contribution of energy diplomacy to international relations.

Theoretical Background For Energy Diplomacy

Immanuel Kant is one of the first and most influential thinkers who put forward the theory of Liberalism in international relations. Kant

put forward how international peace can be achieved and the theory of democratic peace in international relations. Immanuel Kant, in his work "Perpetual Peace", suggested that there are three basic principles for ensuring international peace. These can be expressed as: Peaceful Relationship of Republics with Each Other (Inter-Republican Peace Principle), Contract Principle (Contractual Peace Principle), National Self-Government Principle (National Freedom Principle). According to Kant, the combination of these principles can contribute to international peace. Kant's views formed the basis of democratic peace theory. According to Kant's theory of democratic peace, the probability of war between democratic countries is low. Because in these countries, governments have to meet the demands of their citizens. He argues that citizens also tend to live in prosperity and therefore do not want war. He also argues that negotiations among democratic governments will be more active, so that their desire to reach a solution will be more dominant. As an indispensable elements of liberalist theories, he argues that democratic countries will have more widespread economic relations among themselves and that the more economic relations they have, the more they will stay away from war (Kant, 1795, pp: 69-70).

Another of the most influential names in liberalist theories in international relations is Woodrow Wilson, one of the former US Presidents. He published his famous 14 principles to prevent new wars from breaking out in the period after the First World War. However, since he could not pass these principles through his own congress, he did not have the opportunity to implement them worldwide. Wilson put forward the 14 principles in a speech presented to the American Congress on January 8, 1918, with the aim of ensuring a just and lasting peace at the end of the war. Wilson's "Fourteen Points" include the principles that underpin open diplomacy, free trade, disarmament, and international peace. It also supports principles such as the right of nations to self-determination, autonomy, independence and international cooperation. These principles offer a vision for shaping the post-war world order (Wilson, 1918).

Nye argues that not only hard power (military and economic power) is important, but also other factors that create international influence and attractiveness. He argues that soft power is more effective when used together with hard power and helps create a more positive image around the world. It is stated that soft power supports a country's hard power and allows it to gain more cooperation and reputation in international relations. Soft power consists of three basic elements. First, cultural attractiveness, that is, a country's cultural and ideological values are

expressed in an attractive way throughout the world through its art, media and universities. This situation encourages other countries to adopt and take interest in these cultural elements. Secondly, it consists of political values and foreign policy elements. More clearly, a country's democratic values, respect for human rights, the rule of law and other political principles it adopts have a positive impact on other countries. A country's foreign policy shapes its reputation and appeal in the international community. Finally, it consists of the element of diplomacy and communication. What is meant here is that a country's diplomacy can be an impressive tool as a part of soft power. As a matter of fact, foreign policy communication can effectively convey the country's values and goals to the international community (Nye, 1990, p. 25).

Economic dependence constitutes a significant element of international relations, where economic factors play a crucial role. Dependent nations may find themselves compelled to align with the policy preferences of economically influential countries, resulting in constraints on both foreign and economic policies. While economic dependence presents opportunities for collaboration, it concurrently renders dependent countries susceptible to external interventions. Essentially, this theory aids our comprehension of the role of economic factors in international relations and scrutinizes the impacts of economic dependence by taking into account power Dynamics (Nye, 2004, pp.142-146).

Regional Cooperation Theory includes an approach that promotes international peace on the basis of functional cooperation. According to the theory, states come together to solve certain functions (for example, trade or security), and this cooperation forms regional organizations. Regional organizations are characterized by functional autonomy that does not extend beyond national sovereignty. This cooperation and autonomy can promote cooperation and peace rather than conflict (Mitrany, 1933). In the context of these theories, the main reasons behind the events in Türkiye's energy diplomacy practices will be examined. Thus, it can be understood how Türkiye manages the negotiation processes by using both its own energy needs and its geostrategic, geopolitical and geoeconomic position among energy supplying and energy demanding countries as an element of energy diplomacy.

Türkiye's Energy Diplomacy And Its History

Türkiye is an energy dependent country. Most energy resources are imported, which threatens economic stability and national security. Türkiye is trying to develop its energy policies through renewable energy,

nuclear energy, energy efficiency and diversification of energy sources. Significant investments have been made in renewable energy sources, nuclear energy projects have been developed and serious incentive policies have begun to be implemented to increase energy efficiency. Both diversification of energy resources and energy cooperation with neighboring countries have been achieved. Türkiye's future energy policies aim to reduce energy dependency and increase environmental sustainability. For this purpose, more investments are made in renewable energy, policies to increase energy efficiency are implemented, a policy of extracting and using local energy resources and reducing energy imports is implemented. In order to increase energy supply security, Türkiye is conducting an important energy diplomacy. Therefore, in order to understand future plans, it is necessary to carefully examine what has been done in the past and what is being done today.

With its importance on the world stage since the beginning of the twentieth century, oil has become a fundamental factor shaping energy diplomacy and international relations. Following the opening of the first commercial oil well, the invention of internal combustion engines and the rapid development of the automobile industry made oil stand out as a strategic raw material. During this period, the number of vehicles increased rapidly in countries such as the USA, England, France and Germany, and oil was preferred due to its advantages such as cleanliness, storability and energy density. Oil has come to the fore as a factor supporting economic growth, which has increased the dependence of Western countries on oil. Since the beginning of the twentieth century, energy diplomacy has begun to take shape among major powers in order to ensure access and control of energy resources. The relationship between energy diplomacy and international relations has become especially evident with the rising importance of oil. Oil became the main determinant of international relations for the control of oil fields before the First World War. In the post-World War II period, access and control of energy resources has become a critical issue for world politics. After the 1950s, nationalization of energy resources and formations such as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) created new dimensions of energy diplomacy (Akbulut, 2001).

Türkiye's energy diplomacy is a critical factor shaping international relations and diplomacy and plays a vital role for economic development. Türkiye is an important country that affects regional energy balances due to its proximity to energy resources. It sees energy diplomacy as a profitable cooperation between the parties in order to support regional

stability and security. The Caucasus region is one of the regions where Türkiye conducts successful energy diplomacy, and these relations are based on historical ties. Türkiye contributes to regional energy supply security by increasing energy flow through projects such as the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline and TANAP. Türkiye cooperates with stakeholders in different geographies to ensure energy supply security. It undertakes various initiatives to develop projects for Asia and Africa and create sustainable business models. In addition, it actively participates in the work of regional and international organizations in order to play an active role in the international arena. Türkiye's energy diplomacy also includes improving relations with the European Union and complying with EU energy standards. In this context, significant efforts are being made in areas such as the management of EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) projects and the preparation of energy strategic documents. In addition, meetings and activities regarding major projects are organized for the coordination of foreign capital investments and guidance of investors (T.R. Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources).

The Iraq-Türkiye Crude Oil Pipeline (ITP), was built with the agreement dated 1973 to transport crude oil from Iraq's Kirkuk and other production fields to Türkiye's Ceyhan Marine Terminal. The first pipeline became operational in 1976 and the first oil loading took place in 1977. The second pipeline started to be built in 1985 and was completed in 1987, increasing the annual transport capacity to 70.9 million tons. The operation of this pipeline was extended with the agreement made between Türkiye and Iraq in 2010. The Turkish part of the pipeline is operated by Pipeline Petroleum Transportation Joint Stock Company (BOTAŞ) (T.R. Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources).

Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline (BTC), is an energy project developed as a result of the Intergovernmental Agreement signed between Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Türkiye in 1999. The aim of this project is to transport the oil produced in the Caspian Region with a safe, economical and environmentally suitable pipeline system, starting from Azerbaijan, via Georgia, to Türkiye's Ceyhan Port, and from there to the world markets. The construction of the Turkish section of the BTC pipeline was undertaken by BOTAŞ and its operation was carried out by BOTAŞ International Joint Stock Company (BİAŞ). This pipeline carries oil from Azerbaijan as well as Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan and became operational on June 4, 2006 (T.R. Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources). In short, the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) Crude Oil Pipeline is an energy project that has been in operation since 2006, enabling the transportation of

oil extracted from the Caspian Sea to world markets via Türkiye. This project is operated by BOTAŞ International (BIL) and has shipped a total of 4 billion 232 thousand 552 barrels of crude oil using 5,250 tankers to date. The BTC line has a capacity to transport 1 million barrels of oil per day and 50 million tons per year, is 1776 kilometers long and is operated through various stations in Türkiye. In addition, natural gas supply is provided through energy projects called the Southern Gas Corridor (BIL, 2023).

Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP), Türkiye has signed strategic energy projects with Azerbaijan in order to ensure energy supply and meet the increasing demand for natural gas. These projects include the 6 billion m³ Azeri gas supply agreement that started in 2011, the creation of infrastructure for the transit transportation of 10 billion m³ gas to Europe with the TANAP Project in 2012, the investment decision of Shah Deniz Phase II and other projects in 2013, and a total investment of 45 billion dollars. TPAO and BOTAŞ are involved in these projects with significant shares. The TANAP Project started to flow gas to Türkiye in 2018 and to Europe in 2020. These projects are of great importance in terms of increasing energy supply security and promoting regional cooperation (T.R. Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources).

TurkStream Natural Gas Pipeline (TÜRKAĞIM), is an energy project implemented with an Intergovernmental Agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of Türkiye and the Government of the Russian Federation on 10 October 2016. This project involves a gas pipeline system with two lines with an annual capacity of 15.75 billion m³, starting from Russia, extending across the Black Sea to the receiving terminal on the coast of Türkiye, which is then used to transport natural gas to Türkiye's neighboring countries. While the construction and operation of the lines in the sea section were carried out by Russia, one of the lines in the land section was built by BOTAŞ to provide natural gas to Türkiye. The other land section line was established by TurkAğım Gas Transport Joint Stock Company between the relevant companies of the two countries with a 50% partnership share, to transmit gas to Europe. This project prevented interruptions caused by third parties by ensuring the uninterrupted transportation of natural gas from the source country to Türkiye. TurkStream Gas Pipeline system was put into operation on January 1, 2020 (T.R. Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources).

Latest Developments In Türkiye's Energy Diplomacy Steps

The tripartite summit dated December 14, 2022, attended by the presidents of Türkiye, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, focused on energy issues. The talks covered the issues of effective trade of energy resources in the Caspian Sea region, strengthening international cooperation, development of electricity trade, energy security and resource diversification, large-scale energy transportation projects and transportation of Turkmen natural gas to Europe. This summit is considered an important platform to increase regional energy cooperation and support energy security goals (Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye). Another country where Türkiye has recently carried out energy diplomacy is Oman. The LNG agreement signed between Türkiye and Oman at an official ceremony held on January 30, 2023 is a reflection of Türkiye's energy security and resource diversification strategy. This agreement, which enables BOTAŞ to gain a solid position in the international arena, includes the annual supply of 1 million tons of LNG from Oman and will be valid for 10 years. This agreement will contribute to Türkiye's natural gas supply and price security and provide greater flexibility by diversifying its energy portfolio. Türkiye's collaborations in the field of energy represent an important step towards the country's leadership goal in the energy sector (BOTAŞ, 2023).

Putin's announcement of establishing a natural gas center in Türkiye is both a result of Türkiye's diplomatic steps and a process that will open the door to new beginnings. Türkiye's geographical location is seen as a central component of energy supply strategies for Europe, and in this context, Türkiye's energy infrastructure can be considered as a strategic main route to facilitate access to Europe's natural gas and fuel resources. In this context, the establishment of a natural gas distribution center in Türkiye can be considered an important step to support regional energy security and sustainability (Abay, 2022).

Regional Effects Of Energy Diplomacy

Türkiye's energy diplomacy is used effectively to achieve a number of important strategic goals. Within the framework of this diplomacy, agreements were made to diversify energy sources, and energy imports were provided from different sources, especially through natural gas and oil pipelines, and this increased the security of energy supply. Additionally, Türkiye has created regional cooperation opportunities through energy projects. In this way, it supports its claim to regional leadership and establishes closer relations with neighboring countries.

Türkiye has gained importance as a transit country thanks to its location at the crossroads of energy transportation routes, and the passage of energy transportation through Türkiye has made it the center of regional energy trade. These diplomatic initiatives also support regional stability through increasing energy supply security. Türkiye's energy projects have created economic cooperation opportunities, increased employment and supported economic growth. Diplomatic relations have been strengthened through energy projects, and these projects have created cooperation platforms by encouraging diplomatic dialogue. Finally, Türkiye has been accepted as a regional stakeholder in energy security and thus has the capacity to cooperate with regional countries on energy supply security. In this context, Türkiye's energy diplomacy stands out as a foreign policy tool with significant effects at the regional level (TASAM, 2016).

Türkiye continues its energy cooperation and relations with its regional neighbors in various dimensions. These cooperation and relations are developed for a number of important purposes such as the safe supply of energy resources, economic cooperation, strengthening diplomatic relations and supporting regional stability. In this context, Türkiye's energy cooperation and relations with its regional neighbors are used as an important foreign policy tool to ensure energy supply security, strengthen diplomatic relations, promote economic growth and support regional stability. These cooperation and relations contribute to Türkiye's strengthening of its regional leadership claim and its acceptance as an important stakeholder in the field of energy (Alodalı ve Usta, 2017, ss. 163-168).

Türkiye's energy diplomacy makes important contributions to the regional balance of power. These contributions consist of five main factors: Secure supply of energy resources, transit country location, regional energy projects, strengthening diplomatic relations and economic cooperation. Türkiye has strong relations with both energy supplier and energy importer countries in the safe supply of energy resources, which contributes to regional energy security. Its position as a transit country allows many energy pipelines to pass through Türkiye, thus assuming a central role in regional energy trade. Türkiye supports and implements regional energy projects together with neighboring countries, and these projects form an important part of regional energy cooperation. Energy diplomacy promotes the strengthening of diplomatic relations and contributes to regional cooperation platforms. Additionally, economic cooperation and dependency is another factor shaping Türkiye's influence on the regional

balance of power. Türkiye's economic growth can increase its regional power. Accordingly, Türkiye's energy diplomacy has a significant impact on the regional balance of power. Türkiye being a natural gas center in its region may also be an important factor that will increase Türkiye's regional power (Alodalı et al., 2020).

The Caspian Basin has become an important oil production center since the early 20th century. Especially the oil coming from Baku met a large part of the oil needs of Russia and the Soviet Union. However, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the increase in the number of coastal countries of the Caspian brought up the issues of the status of the region and the sharing of energy resources. For this reason, the five riparian states have not yet reached a common agreement on the status of the Caspian Sea and the sharing of energy resources, considering their national and international interests. The status of the Caspian Sea is the focus of international powers and energy projects. The European Union treats these resources with great importance in order to find alternative supply sources for energy resources in the region. Russia aims to protect its interests in the Caspian Sea in order to maintain its competitiveness in the energy sector, and also tries to limit the influence of Western energy companies in the region. The USA, on the other hand, is making efforts to limit Russia's sovereignty in the Caspian Basin. At this point, Türkiye comes to the fore. In this process, Türkiye aims to increase its influence in the region by using the advantage of accessing international energy markets through energy transmission lines (Taşkın, 2014, pp. 29-38).

When we look at the role and impact of Türkiye's energy diplomacy within the framework of regional cooperation theories, it is seen that Türkiye has a critical role in energy geopolitics as it is located at the intersection of the Middle East, Europe, Balkan, Black Sea, Mediterranean and Eurasia regions due to its geographical location. This geographical advantage has led Türkiye to realize energy projects with various countries in order to diversify its energy supply and reduce energy dependency. Especially energy pipeline projects have enabled Türkiye to become a central actor in energy geopolitics. Most northern and southern energy lines pass through Türkiye, making the country a critical transit point in energy transportation. Türkiye's strengthening of its relations with Central Asia and the Middle East has increased its potential to control the main routes in energy transportation. Especially the energy agreements made with Russia have further increased the importance of Türkiye in energy geopolitics. Türkiye's energy investments have become a key component of its economic growth. Additionally, the country's ability

to control energy transmission lines can make Türkiye an indispensable actor in the global energy market, while increasing its capacity to influence the international economy and geopolitical trends. Therefore, Türkiye's energy diplomacy and energy investments both contribute to its economic growth and support it in gaining a strategic position in international relations (Harunoğulları, 2020, pp. 177-211).

Türkiye's role in accessing and sharing energy resources in the Eastern Mediterranean has gained importance due to factors such as tensions with neighboring countries and natural gas reserves. In this context, Türkiye's energy diplomacy contributes to its own energy security and regional power dynamics. Furthermore, energy agreements bolster Türkiye's energy security and create opportunities for economic cooperation with neighboring nations. Türkiye's engagement in international forums reflects its efforts to influence regional and global power balances. Through these activities, Türkiye emerges as an active player in addressing energy issues in the Eastern Mediterranean (Güneş, 2022, pp. 375-376).

In order to diversify its natural gas import sources, Türkiye has carried out energy diplomacy with potential energy suppliers such as Azerbaijan, Northern Iraq and Turkmenistan through the TANAP (Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline) project. This diplomacy enabled Türkiye to create a network of strategic energy relations surrounding Iran. However, these projects pose difficulties for Türkiye as they carry the risk of intervention by Iran and Russia. Therefore, there are two main strategic priorities for the future of Türkiye's energy diplomacy: developing a subsea pipeline from the Leviathan natural gas field to Türkiye in order to increase security of supply and diversify import routes, and encouraging Azerbaijan to sell its stake in TANAP to Iran to reduce the risk of Iranian intervention in Northern Iraq and Turkmenistan projects. Although both options involve difficulties for Türkiye, the strategic logic of successful energy diplomacy based on TANAP makes these options inevitable (Tanchum, 2015, pp. 55-64).

Such steps taken by Türkiye towards energy diplomacy are also effective in Türkiye's regional relations. Its geographical location between energy-supplying countries and energy-demand countries and recent infrastructure investments bring Türkiye closer to the goal of becoming an energy base in its region. In this context, what Türkiye does in this direction will determine what it will do in the future.

The Future Of Türkiye's Energy Diplomacy

In the light of the explanations in the above sections, considering that the future of Türkiye's energy diplomacy will be shaped by a number of factors and dynamics, in our opinion, some possible developments about the future of Türkiye's energy diplomacy can be listed as follows:

1. Energy Diversification: Türkiye's diversification of energy resources will increase energy supply security. In addition, steps such as investing in renewable energy sources and implementing nuclear energy projects can contribute to the diversification of energy supply. Having the ability to produce renewable energy resource technologies while investing in renewable energy resources will enable Türkiye to become an important actor in its region.

2. Strengthening the Transit Country Role: Türkiye can continue to strengthen its position as an important transit country for energy transportation. With the increase in regional energy projects, this role of Türkiye may gain more importance. As a matter of fact, according to the Minister of Energy, negotiations were held with at least 15 countries on this issue and agreements were signed not only for energy imports but also for energy exports. Continuing the steps taken in this direction could be an important factor increasing Türkiye's regional power.

3. Regional Cooperation and Diplomacy: Türkiye's energy diplomacy can continue its efforts to increase cooperation with neighboring countries. Joint energy projects can contribute to strengthening diplomatic relations. As a matter of fact, in addition to steps such as TANAP and Turkish Stream, energy diplomacy steps are being carried out with energy export agreements to neighboring countries.

4. Tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean: Tensions over access to energy resources in the Eastern Mediterranean may continue to affect Türkiye's regional diplomacy. Türkiye's policies and solution proposals on this issue can shape future relations. Among the suggestions for the management of tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean and positive developments for the possible future, the continuation of diplomatic negotiations, the use of international arbitration mechanisms, environmental cooperation and regional cooperation stand out as a priority. It is also important to reduce military tension and take anti-security measures. Future predictions include increased diplomatic efforts, increased regional cooperation, guidance from international arbitration decisions, continued focus on energy resources, continued mediation role of the EU and the USA, and

increased environmental protection measures. These recommendations and predictions represent important steps for the resolution of tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean and the stability of the region.

5. International Cooperation and Agreements: Türkiye can continue to play a more active role in international energy platforms. International energy agreements and cooperation platforms can shape Türkiye's energy diplomacy. In this context, IEA can provide cooperation among member countries on issues such as sharing energy resources, intervention in crisis situations and coordination of energy policies.

6. Geopolitical Developments: Among the factors affecting Türkiye's energy diplomacy, it can be said that instability and conflicts in the Middle East, especially civil wars in Syria and Iraq, may negatively affect access to energy resources and energy transit. In addition, it can be stated that fluctuations in global oil and natural gas prices affect Türkiye's energy import costs, and are therefore an important factor shaping energy diplomacy. Türkiye's relations with the EU and the USA can affect energy policies, and relations are of great importance, especially in terms of providing energy resources to the EU and access to energy markets. Türkiye's energy relations with Russia and energy agreements such as the Turkish Stream project have the potential to critically affect access to energy resources and energy transit. It should not be forgotten that regional energy projects, especially the use of Türkiye as an energy corridor, may affect the regional balance of power. Finally, it should be noted that the increase in global energy demand may increase Türkiye's dependence on energy imports and this factor is a factor shaping energy policies.

7. Technological Advances: Advances in energy technologies can change Türkiye's energy production and consumption patterns. Renewable energy technologies can play an important role in the future of energy diplomacy. Renewable energy sources offer the opportunity to expand Türkiye's energy portfolio and focus more on green energy. This could reduce energy import dependence and increase energy security, while also opening new doors for regional cooperation. Smart grids and energy storage solutions can reduce energy costs by increasing energy efficiency and allow more efficient use of resources. Digitalization can promote greater transparency and data sharing in the energy sector, while technologies such as green hydrogen production and electrification can help Türkiye produce clean energy and gain a competitive position in international energy markets.

8. Discovery of Domestic Energy Resources: Possible energy resources to be discovered, especially in the Black Sea, Gabar and possibly in the Eastern Mediterranean, will strengthen Türkiye's hand in energy diplomacy. While the discovery of domestic energy resources, which will positively affect its regional power, increases Türkiye's energy supply security, it also carries the potential to make Türkiye have a say in the energy markets with the advantages it provides in energy diplomacy.

It is thought that the future of Türkiye's energy diplomacy will be shaped in line with the interaction of these factors and Türkiye's policy preferences. Since energy supply security has an important strategic importance in terms of economic growth and regional cooperation, Türkiye's energy diplomacy is expected to continue actively in the coming years.

Conclusion and Evaluation

Türkiye is seen as an actor that puts energy diplomacy at the center of international relations. Due to its geographical location, proximity to energy resources and potential as a transit country, it plays a role affecting regional energy balances. This diplomacy aims to ensure energy supply security and support regional stability. It contributes to regional energy supply security by increasing energy flow through major energy projects such as the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) Pipeline and Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP). Türkiye cooperates with stakeholders in different geographies to ensure energy supply security. In addition, it actively participates in the work of regional and international organizations in order to play an active role in the international arena. Türkiye's energy diplomacy also includes improving relations with the European Union and complying with EU energy standards.

Türkiye's energy diplomacy has been effective in establishing closer relations with neighboring countries, encouraging economic growth and increasing employment, especially by creating regional cooperation opportunities. Türkiye's transit country position allows many energy pipelines to pass through Türkiye, thus assuming a central role in regional energy trade.

It appears that Türkiye's energy diplomacy affects the regional balance of power. Factors such as the safe supply of energy resources, its location as a transit country, regional energy projects and strengthening diplomatic relations make Türkiye a regional power. Türkiye's energy projects have created economic cooperation opportunities, increased employment and supported economic growth.

The future of Türkiye's energy diplomacy will depend on energy diversification, strengthening its role as a transit country, regional cooperation and diplomatic efforts. In addition, geopolitical developments, international cooperation and technological advances are among the factors that will affect this diplomacy. Türkiye's energy diplomacy is expected to continue to have the potential to increase energy supply security, create economic cooperation opportunities and contribute to regional power dynamics.

It is stated that Türkiye will continue in important areas such as energy diplomacy, diversification of energy resources and increasing investments in renewable energy. As a matter of fact, these investments are of critical importance in increasing energy supply security and reducing energy dependency. Türkiye continues its efforts to diversify its energy imports and focuses on the balanced use of energy resources. In addition, Türkiye's goal of strengthening regional cooperation is expected to continue. Cooperating with neighboring countries through energy projects and infrastructures will be an important step to increase regional stability and create economic cooperation opportunities. It can be said that it will bring opportunities to combine energy, increase energy trade and contribute to regional peace.

Türkiye's diplomatic efforts will ensure that it continues to shape regional power dynamics and become an effective player in the international arena. It is stated that energy diplomacy will be used as an important tool in Türkiye's regional and global relations. It is expected to continue to seek more cooperation opportunities, especially in areas such as trading natural gas and oil, as well as electricity and renewable energy resources.

Declaration

In all processes of the article, TESAM's research and publication ethics principles were followed.

There is no potential conflict of interest in this study.

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