

SOCIO-ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKIYE AND SOUTH AFRICA

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Türkiye ve Güney Afrika Arasındaki Sosyo-Ekonomik İlişkiler
Öz

Hem Güney Afrika hem de Türkiye, kıtada küresel ekonominin önemli oyuncularındandır. Güney Afrika'nın maden ve yeraltı kaynakları açısından zengin olması, ülkede madencilik önemli bir sektör haline getirmiş, Türkiye ise güçlü imalat ve hizmet sektörleriyle çeşitliliğe sahip bir ekonomiye sahip olmasıyla dikkat çekmiştir. Her iki ülke de uluslararası ticaretle uğraşiyor ve çeşitli ülkelerle diplomatik bağları vardır. Türkiye ve Güney Afrika siyasi, ekonomik ve kültürel boyutları kapsayan diplomatik ilişkiler sürdürmektedir. Her iki ülkenin de birbirlerinin başkentlerinde iletişim ve işbirliğini kolaylaştıran büyükelçilikleri bulunmaktadır. Türkiye ile Güney Afrika arasındaki ekonomik ilişkiler ticaret ve yatırımda önemli bir rol oynamaktadır. Türkiye ile Güney Afrika arasındaki ikili ticaret yıllar geçtikçe istikrarlı bir şekilde artmaktadır. İki ülke arasında makine, taşıt, tekstil ve tarım ürünleri dahil olmak üzere çeşitli malların alışverişi yapılmaktadır. Her iki ülke de ticaret anlaşmaları ve iş heyetleri aracılığıyla ekonomik işbirliğini geliştirmeye çalışmıştır. Son yıllarda ekonomik bağların daha da derinleştirilmesi yönünde tartışmalar yaşanıyor. Ticareti ve yatırımı artırma-ya yönelik çabalar arasında enerji, altyapı ve teknoloji gibi sektörlerdeki fırsatların araştırılması da yer alıyor. Daha yakın ekonomik işbirliğini teşvik etmek için ortak iş forumları ve ekonomik zirveler düzenlenmektedir. Kültürel alışverişler aynı zamanda Türkiye ile Güney Afrika arasındaki ilişkilerin güçlenmesine de katkıda bulunuyor. Turizmin yanı sıra eğitim ve kültür programları da insanlar arası etkileşimi ve karşılıklı anlayışı kolaylaştırıyor. Ancak tüm bunların yanında bütün diplomatik ilişkilerde olduğu gibi her iki ülkenin de üzerinde aşmaya çalıştığı zorluklar ve farklılıklar mevcuttur.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Türkiye, Güney Afrika, Ekonomik İlişkiler, Ticari ilişkiler, Afrika

Socio-Economic Relations Between Turkey And South Africa
Abstract

Both South Africa and Turkey are important players in the global economy. South Africa is rich in minerals and resources, making mining a significant sector, while Turkey has a diverse economy with strong manufacturing and services industries. Both countries engage in international trade and have diplomatic ties with various nations. Turkey and South Africa maintain diplomatic relations that encompass political, economic, and cultural aspects. Both countries have embassies in each other's capitals, facilitating communication and cooperation. Economic relations between Turkey and South Africa are notable, with trade and investment playing a significant role. Bilateral trade between Turkey and South Africa has been growing steadily over the years. The two countries engage in the exchange of various goods, including machinery, vehicles, textiles, and agricultural products. Both nations have sought to enhance economic cooperation through trade agreements and business delegations. In recent years, there have been discussions about further deepening economic ties. Efforts to boost trade and investment include exploring opportunities in sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and technology. Joint business forums and economic summits have been organized to foster closer economic collaboration. However, like any diplomatic relationships, there may also be challenges and differences that both countries work through.

Keywords: Turkey, South Africa, Economic Relations, Mercantile ties, Africa

Turkish Economic Ties with South Africa

Mercantile relations between nations are a driving force behind globalization, facilitating trade, investment, and collaboration. A compelling example of such economic partnership can be found in the growing relationship between Turkey and South Africa. These two nations, located in different corners of the world, have managed to forge robust economic ties that contribute to their mutual growth and prosperity. At the heart of the Turkish-South African economic relationship is trade and tourism. Both countries have recognized the potential for increased bilateral trade and have taken steps to foster this exchange. Over the years, trade agreements and initiatives have been established to create an enabling environment for economic cooperation. These agreements aim to reduce tariffs, simplify customs procedures, and provide preferential treatment for certain goods, promoting a conducive framework for cross-border commerce.¹

The economic ties between Turkey and South Africa span a wide range of sectors. Machinery, textiles, chemicals, and agricultural products are among the goods that form the backbone of their trade relations. This diversified trade portfolio reflects the complementary nature of their economies and the ability to meet each other's demands and preferences. Beyond trade, investment opportunities have also been a driving force behind Turkish-South African economic ties. Both countries have recognized the potential for collaborative ventures that can contribute to economic growth and job creation. South Africa's rich mineral resources, well-developed infrastructure, and strategic location have attracted Turkish investors interested in sectors such as mining, energy, and construction.² Turkey and South Africa have engaged in joint economic initiatives aimed at deepening their economic bonds. Business delegations, trade missions, and investment forums have facilitated direct interactions between companies from both countries. These initiatives provide a platform for business leaders to explore opportunities, establish partnerships, and forge lasting economic relationships.³ While the Turkish-South African economic ties have shown positive trends, challenges such as trade imbalances and regulatory issues have also emerged. Addressing these challenges requires ongoing dialogue, collaboration, and the willingness to find mutually beneficial solutions. Such challenges, however, also present opportunities for both nations to work together and enhance their economic cooperation.

Economic ties are often strengthened by cultural, and people-to-people exchanges.

¹ Kahf M. & Sinno N. (2021). *Constructions of masculinity in the middle east and north Africa: literature film and national discourse*. p.98, American University in Cairo Press.

² Kahf M. & Sinno N. (2021). *Constructions of masculinity in the middle east and north Africa: literature film and national discourse*. p.98, American University in Cairo Press.

³ Bloom J. & Warner N. (2020). *Architecture of the Islamic west: north Africa and the Iberian Peninsula*

The interactions between Turkish and South African citizens, whether through tourism, education, or cultural events, contribute to fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other's cultures. These interactions create a solid foundation of goodwill that further supports economic collaboration. The economic ties between Turkey and South Africa exemplify the potential for nations to forge meaningful partnerships that extend beyond geographical boundaries. Through trade, investment, and joint initiatives, these two countries have managed to leverage their respective strengths for mutual benefit. As they continue to navigate the complexities of the global economy, their economic relationship serves as a testament to the power of collaboration and cooperation in fostering growth and prosperity.⁴

Ottoman Relations with Africa

The Ottoman Empire, one of the most significant and influential empires in history, left a historical legacy in Africa. From the 16th to the early 20th century, the Ottomans expanded their reach across the continent, leaving behind a rich cultural, architectural, and historical heritage that continues to shape various African countries today. The Ottoman Empire's presence in Africa was primarily concentrated in North Africa, particularly in regions such as Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya. These territories were under Ottoman rule for several centuries, and their influence can still be seen in the architecture, cuisine, language, and cultural practices of these countries. One of the most notable legacies of the Ottomans in Africa is their architectural contributions. Ottoman architecture, characterized by its grandeur, intricate designs, and use of domes and minarets, can be seen in numerous mosques, palaces, and public buildings across North Africa. The iconic mosques of Cairo, such as the Sultan Hassan Mosque and the Al-Rifa'i Mosque, showcase the Ottoman architectural style and serve as reminders of the empire's influence. Furthermore, the Ottoman Empire played a significant role in shaping the political landscape of North Africa. Ottoman governors, known as pashas, governed these territories, implementing administrative systems and policies that influenced local governance structures. The Ottoman legal system⁵, known as the Sharia, also had a profound impact on the legal frameworks of these regions⁶, with many aspects of Ottoman law still prevalent in contemporary legal systems. Trade and commerce were also vital aspects of the Ottoman legacy in Africa. The empire established trade routes and networks that connected Africa with the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. These trade routes facilitated the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultural practices, contributing to the economic development and cultural diversity of the region. Moreover, the Ottoman Empire's

⁴ Donelli F. (2021). *Turkey in Africa: turkey's strategic involvement in sub-Saharan Africa*. p. 83, I.B. Tauris

⁵ Isom-Verhaaren C. & Schull K. F. (2016). *Living in the ottoman realm: empire and identity 13th to 20th centuries*.p. 241, Indiana University Press.

⁶ Isom-Verhaaren C. (2021). *The sultan's fleet: seafarers of the ottoman empire*. P. 54, I.B. Tauris.

influence extended beyond North Africa. Ottoman traders and explorers ventured further into sub-Saharan Africa, establishing commercial ties and diplomatic relations with various African kingdoms and empires. These interactions led to cultural exchanges, the introduction of new goods and technologies, and the spread of Islam in some regions.

The Ottoman legacy in Africa is not without its complexities and challenges. The empire's rule was not always welcomed by local populations, and resistance movements against Ottoman control emerged in some areas. Additionally, the decline of the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th century and the subsequent colonization of Africa by European powers marked the end of Ottoman influence in the continent. However, the Ottoman legacy in Africa remains an important part of the continent's history and cultural heritage. It serves as a reminder of the interconnectedness of different regions and civilizations throughout history. The architectural marvels, cultural practices, and historical narratives left behind by the Ottomans continue to be cherished and preserved, contributing to the diverse tapestry of African identity. In conclusion, the Ottoman Empire's legacy in Africa is a testament to its historical significance and influence. The empire's architectural contributions, political systems, trade networks, and cultural exchanges have left an indelible mark on the continent. Recognizing and appreciating this legacy helps us understand the complex history of Africa and its connections to the wider world.

Turkish relations with South Africa

The history of Turkish migration to South Africa can be traced back to the late 19th century. Many Turkish immigrants arrived in South Africa during the Ottoman Empire era, seeking better economic opportunities, and escaping political unrest. These early settlers primarily engaged in trade, establishing businesses, and contributing to the growth of the local economy. One notable figure in Turkish-South African history is Haim Galanti, who arrived in South Africa in the late 1800s. Galanti, originally from the Ottoman Empire, established himself as a successful businessman. He played a crucial role in the development of the textile and mine industry in South Africa and contributed significantly to the community in the country.⁷

The Ottoman Islamic impact in South Africa is a testament to the far-reaching influence of the Ottoman Empire and its cultural, religious, and economic ties with regions across the world. While geographically distant, the connection between the Ottoman Empire and South Africa left a lasting mark on the social, religious, and cultural fabric of the country. The Ottoman Empire's legacy is deeply rooted in Is-

⁷ Sadouni S. (2019). Muslims in southern Africa: Johannesburg's Somali diaspora. P. 43, Palgrave Macmillan.

lam, and this influence extended to South Africa through the spread of Islamic teachings and practices. Ottoman scholars like Abubakr Effendi and Mahmud Fakih Emin Effendi but also some Muslim traders played a role in introducing and promoting Islam, contributing to the growth of Muslim communities in South Africa. Ottoman architectural styles and design principles influenced the construction of mosques and religious buildings in South Africa. These structures often feature elements such as domes, minarets, and intricate tilework, reflecting the artistic and architectural heritage of the Ottoman Empire.⁸

The Ottoman Empire's engagement with South Africa facilitated cultural exchange and interaction. This led to the infusion of Ottoman cultural elements into local traditions, including music, clothing, and cuisine. The Ottoman impact contributed to the rich diversity of South African culture. Ottoman influence contributed to the establishment of Islamic educational and religious institutions in South Africa. These institutions played a crucial role in preserving and disseminating Islamic knowledge and practices among the Muslim community. Ottoman economic activities and trade networks indirectly influenced the economic landscape of South Africa. Trade relations facilitated the exchange of goods and ideas, contributing to economic growth and cultural cross-pollination.⁹

The Ottoman Empire's role as a protector of Islam resonated with Muslims in South Africa, fostering a sense of religious solidarity. News and developments from Ottoman lands often reached South Africa, influencing the community's perception of global events. The Ottoman Islamic impact contributed to the identity and awareness of Muslims in South Africa. The shared cultural and religious heritage fostered a sense of belonging to a broader global community. Awareness of the Ottoman Empire's political status and its eventual dissolution influenced political consciousness among Muslims in South Africa. The decline of the Ottoman Empire resonated with concerns about global political dynamics. The Ottoman Islamic impact in South Africa is a testament to the interconnectedness of history and the far-reaching influence of the Ottoman Empire. While the direct interactions between the Ottoman Empire and South Africa were limited, the cultural, religious, and economic ties left an indelible mark on the country's heritage. The Ottoman legacy is a reminder of the complex interplay of cultures and civilizations that have shaped South Africa's diverse and vibrant society.

⁸ Kallander A. A. (2013). Women gender and the palace households in ottoman Tunisia p. 93, (1st ed.). University of Texas Press. For a controversial study see; Minawi M. (2016). The ottoman scramble for Africa: empire and diplomacy

⁹ Gençoğlu Halim. (2018). Ottoman traces in southern Africa: the impact of Turkish emissaries and Muslim theologians p. 172 ,(1. ed.). Libra Kitapçılık ve Yayıncılık.

The Story of Angora Goats in South Africa

Angora goats have a significant presence in South Africa, where they are primarily raised for their luxurious mohair fiber. Mohair, known for its softness, sheen, and durability, is highly valued in the textile industry for producing a range of products, including clothing, accessories, and upholstery. The history and impact of Angora goats in South Africa are noteworthy. The Angora goat breed originated in ancient Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) and was initially brought to South Africa in the early 1800s. They were later imported in larger numbers, with breeding programs established to improve the quality of mohair produced by the goats. South Africa's semi-arid and arid regions provide a suitable environment for raising Angora goats. The climate supports the goats' adaptability to thrive in areas with limited grazing and water resources. The primary economic value of Angora goats in South Africa lies in their mohair production. Mohair is sheared from the goats' fleece and is known for its luster, strength, and dye-absorption properties. The fiber is used in high-end fashion, textiles, and crafts. Angora goat farming contributes to rural employment and livelihoods, especially in regions where other agricultural activities may be limited. The industry provides jobs in shearing, sorting, processing, and trading of mohair. South Africa has invested in research and breeding programs to improve the quality of Angora goats and their mohair. Selective breeding aims to enhance desirable traits, such as fiber quality, growth rates, and reproductive performance. The Angora goat breed has faced challenges, including disease outbreaks and genetic issues. Conservation initiatives in South Africa work to preserve the genetic diversity of the breed and address health concerns. South Africa is a major global producer of mohair, with a significant portion of the country's production exported to international markets. The country's mohair is known for its high quality and is sought after by textile manufacturers worldwide.

The sustainable nature of Angora goat farming aligns with South Africa's focus on environmentally friendly and ethical practices. The goats' ability to graze on marginal lands and their low water requirements contribute to their sustainable farming. Angora goat farming has played a role in community development and empowerment, particularly in rural areas. It provides an avenue for income generation and skills development for local communities. Angora goat farming is intertwined with the cultural fabric of some South African communities. Traditional practices, knowledge, and skills associated with goat farming contribute to cultural preservation.

Indeed, Angora goats have become an integral part of South Africa's agricultural and textile industries. The country's expertise in breeding, producing, and trading mohair has positioned it as a global leader in the Angora goat industry, making a significant economic and cultural contribution to the nation.

Turkish Tobacco in South Africa

Turkish tobacco, also known as Oriental tobacco, has a notable history and presence in various parts of Africa. It is a unique type of tobacco known for its distinct flavour, aroma, and texture, and it has been cultivated and traded in different African countries. Turkish tobacco originated in the Ottoman Empire and is characterized by its small leaves, intense aroma, and rich flavour. In the 19th and 20th centuries, Turkish tobacco seeds were introduced to various regions, including Africa, as part of trade and colonial activities. Turkish tobacco cultivation spread to several African countries, particularly those with suitable climate and soil conditions. Egypt, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Tanzania are among the African nations where Turkish tobacco is grown. The tobacco is typically cultivated on small farms by local communities. Turkish tobacco is known for its unique flavour profile, which is often described as sweet, spicy, and aromatic. The distinctive taste of Turkish tobacco has contributed to its popularity and demand in the tobacco industry. Turkish tobacco is used in various tobacco products, including cigarettes, pipe tobacco, and hookah (shisha) tobacco. It is often blended with other types of tobacco to create a balanced and flavourful smoking experience. The cultivation and trade of Turkish tobacco have had economic implications for the African countries involved. The tobacco industry can provide income and livelihoods for local farmers and communities involved in its production. Like other forms of tobacco cultivation, Turkish tobacco farming has been associated with various challenges and controversies. These include concerns about environmental impact, health effects, and labour practices in the tobacco industry. The cultivation of Turkish tobacco in Africa reflects the interconnectedness of global trade and cultural exchange. It underscores the role of agriculture in shaping local economies and traditions. The global tobacco industry is subject to regulations and market dynamics that influence the production, trade, and consumption of tobacco products. Turkish tobacco's role in this industry is influenced by both local and international factors.

In some African countries, Turkish tobacco cultivation has contributed to the diversification of agricultural activities. Farmers may choose to grow Turkish tobacco alongside other crops as part of their livelihood strategy. It's important to note that the tobacco industry, including Turkish tobacco cultivation, has faced criticism due to health concerns related to tobacco use. Efforts to reduce tobacco-related health risks have led to increased awareness campaigns, regulatory measures, and initiatives aimed at supporting tobacco farmers in transitioning to alternative crops. Turkish tobacco's presence in Africa illustrates the complex interactions between trade, culture, agriculture, and global industries, with implications for local economies and communities.

Political Relations Between Turkey and South Africa

Political relations between countries play a crucial role in shaping their interactions on the global stage. One such dynamic and evolving relationship is that between Turkey and South Africa. These two nations, geographically distant but connected by shared interests and values, have cultivated a strategic partnership characterized by diplomatic engagement, economic cooperation, and collaboration on international issues. Diplomatic relations between Turkey and South Africa were established on May 10, 1994, a pivotal time for South Africa as it transitioned to democracy. This marked the beginning of a new era of engagement between the two countries. Since then, both nations have sought to build and strengthen their political ties through high-level visits, diplomatic consultations, and joint initiatives. High-level visits have played a significant role in solidifying the political relationship between Turkey and South Africa. These visits provide opportunities for leaders to engage in discussions on a wide range of issues, from bilateral cooperation to regional and global challenges. Such interactions contribute to a deeper understanding of each other's perspectives and priorities.

Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation

Political relations often intersect with economic interests, and Turkey and South Africa are no exception. Both countries have recognized the potential for increased trade and economic collaboration. Bilateral trade agreements and joint economic initiatives have paved the way for enhanced economic relations, with sectors such as machinery, textiles, agriculture, and technology offering opportunities for growth. Collaboration on international and regional issues forms an integral part of the political relationship between Turkey and South Africa. Both nations are active participants in multilateral forums, including the United Nations, where they work together on matters such as climate change, peacekeeping, and human rights. Their alignment on various global challenges reflects a shared commitment to addressing pressing issues of our time. Political relations are often strengthened by cultural, and people-to-people exchanges. Cultural diplomacy initiatives, educational programs, and tourism exchanges contribute to fostering mutual understanding and friendship between Turkish and South African citizens. These interactions create a foundation of goodwill that supports broader political cooperation. The political relations between Turkey and South Africa have evolved into a strategic partnership that encompasses multiple dimensions. Both nations recognize the strategic importance of collaborating in areas such as energy, defence, technology, and infrastructure development. These partnerships are aimed at achieving mutual benefits and advancing the economic growth and development agendas of both countries. Like any politi-

cal relationship, the partnership between Turkey and South Africa is not without its challenges. Differing perspectives on certain issues may arise, requiring diplomatic negotiations and dialogue. However, these challenges are seen as opportunities for both countries to engage in constructive discussions and find common ground. The political relations between Turkey and South Africa exemplify the potential for collaboration and cooperation between nations that may be geographically distant but share common values and interests. Through diplomatic engagement, economic ties, and joint efforts on global challenges, Turkey and South Africa have laid the foundation for a lasting and dynamic partnership that holds promise for the future. As they navigate the complexities of an ever-changing world, their political relationship remains an important pillar of their international engagements. Diplomatic relations between Turkey and South Africa have evolved over the years, encompassing political, economic, cultural, and strategic cooperation. These two nations have engaged in diplomatic efforts to strengthen their bilateral ties and collaborate on various regional and international issues. Diplomatic relations between Turkey and South Africa continue to evolve, reflecting shared interests, regional dynamics, and global issues. As these two nations collaborate on various fronts, their diplomatic efforts contribute to mutual benefits, peace, stability, and the advancement of common goals on the international stage.

Economic Relations between Turkey and South Africa

Economic and political relations between South Africa and Turkey have been steadily growing over the years, with both countries recognizing the potential for mutually beneficial cooperation. These relations have been built on a foundation of shared values, economic interests, and diplomatic ties. Economically, South Africa and Turkey have been exploring various avenues to enhance trade and investment between the two nations. Bilateral trade has been on the rise, with both countries experiencing an increase in exports and imports. In 2020, the total trade volume between South Africa and Turkey reached approximately \$1.2 billion, a significant increase from previous years. This growth can be attributed to the diversification of trade products, including machinery, vehicles, textiles, and agricultural products. Furthermore, both countries have recognized the importance of fostering investment opportunities. Turkey has shown interest in investing in South Africa's mining, energy, and infrastructure sectors, while South Africa has sought to attract Turkish investments in various industries, including manufacturing, tourism, and agriculture. To facilitate these investments, both countries have established bilateral agreements and joint economic commissions, providing a framework for cooperation and collaboration. In addition to economic ties, South Africa and Turkey have also developed strong political relations. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established

in 1994, following the end of apartheid in South Africa. Since then, both nations have engaged in regular high-level visits, exchanging delegations and strengthening diplomatic ties. These visits have served as a platform for discussing various political and economic issues of mutual interest. Furthermore, South Africa and Turkey have collaborated on various international platforms, such as the United Nations and the G20. Both countries have shared interests in promoting peace, stability, and development in their respective regions and globally. They have often aligned their positions on key international issues, including human rights, climate change, and global security. Moreover, cultural, and educational exchanges have played a significant role in strengthening the ties between South Africa and Turkey. The two countries have encouraged people-to-people interactions, fostering cultural understanding and promoting tourism. Educational scholarships and exchange programs have been established to facilitate academic cooperation and knowledge sharing. Despite the positive trajectory of economic and political relations, challenges remain. Both countries face domestic economic and political issues that can impact their bilateral cooperation. South Africa's economic inequality and high unemployment rates, as well as Turkey's political tensions and regional conflicts, can pose challenges to the growth of their relations. However, the commitment of both countries to overcome these challenges and build a stronger partnership remains evident. Indeed, the economic and political relations between South Africa and Turkey have witnessed significant growth in recent years. Both countries have recognized the potential for cooperation and have taken steps to enhance trade, investment, and diplomatic ties. While challenges persist, the commitment to strengthening the relationship remains strong. As both nations continue to explore new avenues for collaboration, the future looks promising for the economic and political partnership between South Africa and Turkey.

The Turkish community in South Africa has also made significant contributions to education. Turkish schools, known as "Maarif schools," have been established in various cities across the country. These schools provide quality education to both Turkish and South African students, promoting cultural exchange and fostering understanding between the two communities. The schools have gained recognition for their academic excellence and have become an integral part of the South African education system. Culturally, Turkish heritage is celebrated and cherished in South Africa. Turkish festivals, such as the Turkish Food Festival and Turkish Film Festival, are organized to showcase Turkish cuisine, art, music, and cinema. These events provide an opportunity for South Africans to experience Turkish culture firsthand and foster cultural exchange between the two communities. The Turkish community in South Africa has also played a vital role in promoting interfaith dialogue

and understanding. Turkish mosques, such as the Hamidia Mosque in Johannesburg, Masjid al-Aziz in Port Elizabeth and Masjid al-Osman in Cape Town have become iconic landmarks and centres for community engagement. These mosques not only serve as places of worship but also host cultural events, seminars, and educational programs that promote dialogue and tolerance among different religious and cultural groups. Furthermore, Turkish-South African business relations have flourished over the years. Turkish companies have invested in various sectors in South Africa, including construction, manufacturing, and tourism. These investments have contributed to job creation and economic growth in both countries, further strengthening the bilateral ties.

Despite the positive contributions of the Turkish community, challenges remain. Like any immigrant community, Turkish-South Africans face the task of preserving their cultural heritage while assimilating into the broader South African society. Language barriers, cultural differences, and the need to balance tradition with modernity can pose challenges for future generations. Turkish heritage in South Africa is a fascinating aspect of the country's multicultural tapestry. Over the years, Turkish immigrants have made significant contributions to South African society, leaving a lasting impact on various fields, including business, education, and culture. The Turkish community in South Africa has managed to preserve its rich heritage while integrating into the diverse fabric of the nation.

After 1994, both countries have sought to encourage investment and business collaborations. Turkish companies have shown an interest in various sectors in South Africa, including construction, infrastructure development, and textiles. On the other hand, South African companies have explored opportunities in Turkey, particularly in sectors like mining and tourism. The South African government has also aimed to attract foreign investment, including Turkish investment, to stimulate economic growth. Diplomatic efforts have played a role in strengthening economic relations. Turkey and South Africa have engaged in high-level diplomatic talks and visits to discuss economic cooperation.

These discussions often result in bilateral agreements aimed at promoting trade and investment. Furthermore, both countries have participated in international forums and organizations, such as the G20, where they collaborate on economic and financial matters. Tourism and cultural exchange have also contributed to economic relations. South Africa's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty have attracted Turkish tourists, leading to increased flights and tourism-related investments. Similarly, Turkish culture, cuisine, and historical sites have become increasingly popular among South African tourists.

In conclusion, the economic relations between Turkey and South Africa have evolved significantly since 1994. Both countries have recognized the importance of collaboration and have taken steps to strengthen their economic ties in various sectors. Continued diplomatic efforts, trade promotion, and investment encouragement can further deepen and diversify these economic relations in the years to come.

Conclusion

Mercantile relations between Turkey and South Africa have evolved over the years, encompassing trade, investment, and economic cooperation. Both countries have recognized the potential for collaboration and have taken steps to strengthen their economic ties. Trade between Turkey and South Africa has grown steadily, with both countries seeking to diversify their trade portfolios. They have engaged in bilateral trade agreements and initiatives to promote economic cooperation. The trade relationship includes various sectors, such as machinery, automotive, textiles, chemicals, and agriculture. Turkey and South Africa have signed bilateral agreements to enhance their economic relations. These agreements aim to create a favourable environment for trade and investment by addressing issues such as customs procedures, tariffs, and market access. The Turkey-South Africa Joint Economic Commission (JEC) serves as a platform for discussions and cooperation on economic matters. It facilitates dialogue between the two countries to explore opportunities for collaboration, address challenges, and promote trade and investment.

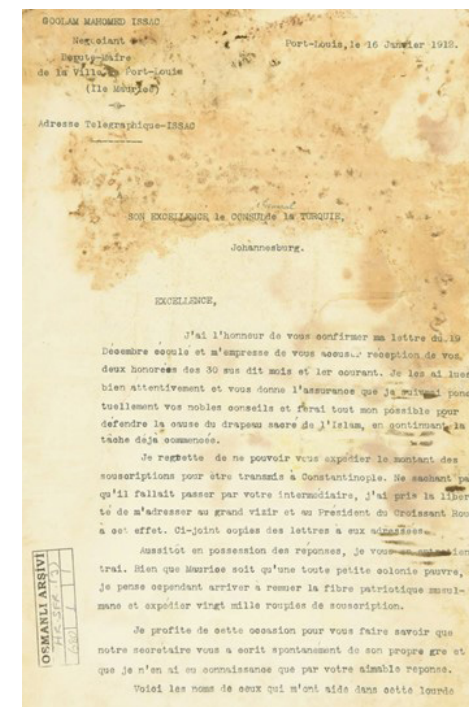
Both Turkey and South Africa have organized business delegations and trade missions to explore potential opportunities, forge partnerships, and expand their economic networks. These delegations often include representatives from various sectors looking to establish business ties. Turkey and South Africa have taken steps to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) from each other. They provide information and support to businesses interested in investing in sectors with growth potential. Agricultural products have been a significant component of the trade relationship between Turkey and South Africa. Both countries export and import various agricultural goods, contributing to food security and supply. Tourism exchanges between Turkey and South Africa have increased, with citizens of both countries showing interest in exploring each other's culture, history, and natural beauty. Tourism contributes to people-to-people ties and economic growth. While mercantile relations between Turkey and South Africa have shown positive trends, there are challenges to address, including trade imbalances and regulatory issues. Both countries continue to work on creating an enabling environment for trade and investment. Turkey and South Africa often cooperate in multilateral forums and organizations, such as the G20, where they collaborate on global economic issues and advocate for their mutual interests.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

Durban Shop Assistant's Committee



i. The first Ottoman Consul-General Ohannes Majakyan in South Africa, 1911



ii. Donations collected by Hilal-i Ahmer for the supply of aircraft to the Ottoman Army in South Africa were sent to Istanbul by the Ottoman consul Ohannes Majakyan in Johannesburg. In the same year, Goolam Mahomed Isaac, one of the prominent Muslims of Mauritius, in the letter he sent to consul general Ohannes Majakyan Effendi, regarding the donations collected for the children of the Turkish soldiers who became martyred in the Tripoli War, 1912.

iii. Summary of Main Trade Agreements between South Africa and Türkiye, See more, Southern African Development Community (SADC): Protocol on Trade in Services, <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/sectors-and-services-2/1-4-2-trade-and-export/market-access/trade-agreements/>, accessed 20.09.2023.

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