Turkey. Anglo-American Security Interests 1945-1952, The First Enlargement of NATO. Ekavi Athanassopoulou. 1999. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge, 2012. h / bk 274 pp. ISBN 978-0-714-64855-2. Price $44.95.

The issues of confrontation and commitment of Turkey to the west has been controversial since Ottoman Empire. However, with the abolition of the caliphate and sultanate, and proclamation of the new way of governance; republic, Turkey felt the need of taking a side in one of the most chaotic battlefield for both itself and for European countries. Through the book, Ekavi Athanassopoulou's chronological way of Turkey's concern about its security diverts the reader from looking at the issue from one perspective to see both European and later on American perspectives. Another significance of this book stems from the fact that Athanassopoulou's interviews with active participants in Turkey's process of becoming the member of NATO gives the reader so many interesting points to be covered later on the book. Though Turkey had seen itself as a keystones of confrontation during the Cold War and commitment for western world had its most fruitful days in Turkey, for western world, Turkey was just a security corner in the Eastern Europe.

In the literature of American and Turkish History, there are countless studies concerning the American (forming a side itself) or Turkish standpoints during Cold War years. However, as Athanassopoulou fills, there is hardly any study dealing with the upcoming stages for Turkey. Keeping in mind what Stalin said in 1945 about taking control of Black Sea and straits turning Turkey into an easy toy, Turkey had not wait too much to ask for the support from western countries and finally but indirectly from America. This relation has mainly provided by British encounters as it was clear that they could not carry the burden of supporting Turkey against Soviet Union. At this point, it can well be said that the reason why British and Americans supported Turkey is just related to world's prospective balance. As a developing power, Soviet Union's possible annexation of Turkey would lead bigger problems for both British and Americans. In 1947, with the Truman Doctrine, Americans clearly showed that they could handle the economic cost of this support towards Turkey and Greece. Despite of the support given, Americans were reluctant to give Turkey - as it is on the borderline with Middle East - some specific

guarantee of security against Soviet Union. This reluctance had its time till the outbreak of Korean War in which the US needed a lot of foreign military support which was mainly provided by Turkey and Greece. That support enabled Turkey and Greece to be accepted to NATO. In a sense, it was a collective agreement by two sides: Turkey was going to send the military support if the US, the dominant decision-maker in NATO, accepted them into the organization.

The other main point that the author has made throughout the book concerns that even though Turkey was a small state of power in an era of great-power confrontations, it gradually became a state which could get a full membership of NATO organization without any concessions in terms of the problems around Middle East. With the full membership of NATO in addition to economical support with the Truman Doctrine and an improved security agreement, Turkey finally realized its long-reaching mission of getting of recognition by western communities which dates back to mid-nineteenth century. This had to do with the attempts of Kemal Atatürk who tried to westernize the whole country in a short time. Though getting a full membership of NATO seems fair enough for Turkey, it still pursues full membership for European Union, as well in which the European countries question how western Turkey is just as it was questioned in the process of Turkey's getting a full membership of NATO. This shows that the relationship of Turkey and western countries is as important as it was during the Cold War years.

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