

# POLITICAL REFLECTION

April · May · June · 2019 · Issue 19

**Back to the Hardest:  
The U-turn of Turkish Foreign Policy**  
*by Dr Federico Donelli*

**The State and Society  
In Contemporary Turkey**  
*by Dr Görkem Altınörs*

**Why should Democratic Governance be a  
Matter of International Concern?**  
*by Anthony Ellington Wenton*

**Why did Turkey Crash the 'Western-  
promoted' Gains of PKK-led Kurds?**  
*by Associate Professor Ali Balci*

*Interview with*  
*Dr Sharifullah Dorani*  
**on**  
**American Foreign Policy**  
**under the Trump Presidency**  
*by Dr Rahman Dağ*







# Political Reflection Magazine

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## **Note:**

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“ADVANCING DIVERSITY”

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# World News

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*By Furkan Sahin*

## **US troops in Syrian Debacle: Settling or Leaving**



Presence of the US military power in Syria has been a controversial issue since Russia's military and political influence embedded into the Syrian conflict. It is the fact that post-ISIS Syria will face power struggle of these powers. Therefore, this issue seems to continue. Yet, still there is no certain policy preference in terms of the US troops in Syria.

In December, Trump ordered staff to execute the "full" and "rapid" withdrawal of US military from Syria, declaring that the US had defeated ISIS. In addition, Trump tweeted "We have defeated ISIS in Syria, my only reason for being there during the Trump Presidency."

This decision draws criticism from some lawmakers and surprises foreign allies. Some officials argued that American troop's withdrawal risks key areas in Syria and might cause the ISIS to return.

These reactions seem worked because the White House said that a small group of US troops would remain in Syria. Sanders defined the mission of such a small group as peacekeeping.

Whether or not remained troops is aiming to keep the peace, US still has its own agenda requiring military assistance.



### **“Terrorist Attack” in Christchurch, New Zealand**



During Friday Prayer on 15 March 2019, 50 people killed by the white supremacist terrorist in Christchurch, New Zealand. Two separate attacks simultaneously began at the Al Noor Mosque and at the Linwood Islamic Centre.

It is true that, including politicians and leaders, many people all around the world condemned the attacks. However, what makes this massacre different from the others is not being a horrific issue itself but how the issue is handled by New Zealandian officers from bottom to top.

Their reactions to the issue has become an exemplary for the entire world. Despite prevalent Islamophobic phenomenon in the world, Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern embraced the Muslim community and at the same time definitely considered the attack as a terrorism. Not only her but also all of the state officers showed their respects to the victims' families.





## Brexit withdrawal deal rejected 3rd time



On the day long set for Britain to leave the European Union, Parliament rejected Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal for a third time, leaving the country no closer to an exit plan after more than two years. The decision to reject a stripped-down version of May's divorce deal has left it very unclear how, when or even whether Britain will leave the EU.

May had told Parliament the vote was the last opportunity to ensure Brexit would take place.

"This government will continue to press the case for the orderly Brexit that the result of the referendum demands," May added.

Opponents fear that Brexit will make Britain economically vulnerable and divide the European alliance as it struggles with both the unconventional U.S. presidency of Donald Trump and growing potential problems from Russia and China.



## Trump to recognize Israeli control of Golan Heights



Following the Israel's air attacks in Gaza on 15 March, the U.S. President Trump said the U.S. should recognize disputed Golan Heights as Israeli territory. In this regard, "After 52 years it is time for the United States to fully recognize Israel's Sovereignty over the Golan Heights," Trump tweeted.

Israel captured the area from Syria in 1967 (Six-Day War), and then annexed the territory in 1981. That was not formally recognized by the U.S. and most of the other countries. They said status of the territory should be determined by the negotiations.

The Golan Heights has been a continuous problem between Israel and Syria. Israel considers this territory as a buffer zone to keep its security against Hezbollah. On the contrary, Syria views itself as a rightful owner of the area.

This can be evaluated as a political move for the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ahead of a tough election race. But also reminds that Israel see the Syrian crisis as an opportunity, while a possible territorial division of Syria is still on the table.

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