

Abstract:

This thesis was submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for master's degree in the field of International Studies from The Faculty of Graduate Studies in Birzeit University. It deals with the subject of Turkey's foreign policy towards The Arab World and The EU. Therefore, By comparing Turkey's foreign policy towards both sides, and analyzing what stands behind the motive of that policy, and what stood in its path of difficulties and problems, declaring the results which Turkey wants to achieve. The study examines in depth the impact of turkey's relationship with the Arab World, on the itinerary of Turkey's desire to join the EU. The study focuses on Turkey's foreign policy in the period that followed the victory of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). Due to the "Zero problems" approach which was followed by the party in the relationship with the Arab World.

Chapter one of the study looks in Turkey's foreign policy towards the Arab World. It gives a historical overview on Turkey–Arab's relations after the founding of the Turkish republic, which were unstable. Then the chapter discusses the re–employment of Turkey's foreign policy, which began with the victory of the (AKP) in the elections in 2002. Analyzing

the experience of the Islamists in power in Turkey, and the composition, the thought of the ruling Justice and Development , and the new foreign policy that the party decided to pursue towards the Arab World, taking on Israel's aggression on Gaza strip in 2008\2009 an example of the shift in Turkey's policy.

The second chapter deals with Turkey's foreign policy towards the EU. Beginning of the chapter speaks about the development of the Turkey's relations with Europe, and the evolution of the Turkey's desire to join the EU. The chapter examines the efforts made by (AKP) for turkey's membership in the union. And talks about the impact of the Kurdish question on the turkey's EU accession, and the role that Turkish communities in Europe can play to support turkey's membership. The chapter deals with the motives of the European rejection of turkey's membership, and the importance of Turkey for the EU. Also, it discusses the Cyprus issue, and the Turkish– Armenian relations and the impact of these issues on Turkey's EU membership. The chapter ends by talking about Turkey's motives to join the EU.

The third and final chapter, which comes under the title:" Turkey is where... between the Arab World and the EU?", discuss Turkish

orientation towards the Arab World and the EU, in a comparison way. Also, it examines the impact of the revolutions of the Arab Spring on turkey's relationship with the Arab World, and the relationship of Turkey with the European Union in light of the changes that have occurred over Europe. The second part of the chapter introduces three choices in front of the future of turkey, in regard to its foreign relations and its geopolitical important, which are: adhere to the European option, trend towards the Arab World ", or switch to a major rational power.