

Turkey Should Leave NATO Already

Presented by Matthew Raphael Johnson and Sven
Longshanks
Radio Albion
July 16, 2026

“To counter the long-term threat Russia poses to Euro-Atlantic security and stability, and the persistent threat of terrorism, Allies are delivering on The Hague defence commitment. In 2025, European Allies and Canada increased their investments in core defence requirements by more than \$139 billion” (Section 2 of the Ankara Summit, July 8, 2026, amidst major protests in the street)

globalresearch.ca

Turkey [*I refuse to use the term Türkiye, because it's stupid*] hosted the NATO Summit on July 7-8, at one of the most consequential moments in NATO's modern history, with member states facing mounting pressure to increase defense spending, strengthen military capabilities and redefine the Alliance's strategic priorities amid escalating geopolitical tensions.

Many analysts said the summit exposed the deep fractures within the members of NATO, with the Alliance

seemingly unaligned on many issues. Each member of NATO is pulling in separate directions. Turkey is hoping to emerge as one of the Alliance's most influential strategic actors. But, this has been met with Israeli concern that their position as the region's premier US ally may be threatened.

1

One of the summit's most closely watched developments was President Donald Trump's meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Trump described Turkey as "a great ally" and stated that US–Turkish relations are now "better than ever." He announced that Washington is considering approving the sale of F-35 fifth-generation fighter aircraft to Turkey and indicated he had no concerns regarding Ankara's acquisition of the advanced aircraft.

The Trump administration is preparing to reintegrate Turkey into the F-35 program after its suspension in 2019 following Ankara's purchase of the Russian S-400 air defense system. Trump also praised Turkey's role during the recent conflict involving Iran, describing Ankara as a valuable partner that contributed to diplomatic efforts aimed at ending hostilities and preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is strongly opposed to the potential sale of F-35 aircraft to Turkey. Netanyahu argued that such a deal would “destroy the balance of power” in the Middle East. Erdogan's stance in support of the Palestinian people, and against the genocidal policies of Israel, has caused some Israeli politicians to call Turkey “the new Iran.”

2

NATO describes itself as a defensive organization. However, historically it has always been an offensive organization. The US-NATO attack on Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya, Yemen and Syria were carried out on orders from Washington and enriching the Western military-industrial complex. Turkey played a major role in the US-NATO invasion and attack on Syria for regime change by hosting the mercenaries used to fight the Syrian people. The European members of NATO recall that it was Turkey who opened the flood-gates of migrants from Syria to Europe in beginning in 2015, which has destabilized Europe and drained it of funds.

NATO was founded in Washington on April 4, 1949, by 12 member states based on the principle of collective defense established under Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which declares that an attack against one member is considered an attack against all. Incirlik Air Base began

operations in February 1955 and it evolved into one of NATO's most strategically important military facilities, supporting operations across the Middle East.

Although Turkey has experienced numerous disagreements with several NATO allies over regional conflicts, defense procurement, and foreign policy, it has consistently maintained a central role within the Alliance. Its strategic geography – bridging Europe, the Middle East, the Black Sea, and the Caucasus – combined with the Alliance's second-largest military force after the United States, has made Turkey indispensable to NATO's southern flank.

Today, Turkey seeks not merely to remain a NATO member [*maybe*] but to help shape the Alliance's future security architecture while promoting its rapidly expanding domestic defense industry. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte [*former Prime Minister of the Netherlands*] argues that Europe must assume greater responsibility for its own security while maintaining NATO's transatlantic character. Under the new framework, member states have committed to increasing defense expenditures to five percent of GDP by 2035. Rutte emphasized that financial commitments alone are insufficient, stressing that increased spending must translate into deployable military capabilities, stronger defense industries, and accelerated production of

advanced weapons systems. This position reflects Donald Trump's criticism of NATO and past threats to pull the US out of the organization.

Turkey's defense sector has undergone remarkable expansion in recent years, with military exports exceeding \$10 billion last year. Turkish manufacturers now produce a wide range of defense systems—including drones, artillery munitions, armored vehicles, and electronic warfare technologies—often delivering products faster and at lower cost than many Western competitors.

3

The Ankara summit also showcased NATO's growing investment in defense modernization. Diplomats confirmed that new defense contracts announced during the summit exceed \$50 billion. Major agreements were signed involving Canada, Germany, Sweden, France, UK and Poland.

American and Turkish observers increasingly agree that Turkey has undergone a transformation within NATO. Once frequently portrayed as the Alliance's most controversial member, Ankara is now widely viewed as one of its most indispensable strategic partners. Turkey controls access to the Black Sea, commands NATO's second-largest military, possesses a rapidly expanding

defense industry, and occupies a pivotal geographic position connecting Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. The Ankara Summit may ultimately be remembered not simply as another NATO meeting, but as the one in which Turkey plays a leading role in shaping NATO's future. However, NATO's future remains uncertain due to the lack of unity among its members

3 YEARS AGO...

Turkish sources

Turkey may exit NATO in five to six months amid provocative actions against Ankara, deputy leader of the Patriotic Party (Vatan Partisi) Ethem Sancak said on Wednesday: "The developments prompt us to take such steps. NATO is making us do so with its provocations. They have been seeking to contrast us to our neighbor Turkey. Turkey will leave NATO in five to six months. They have been trying to get us caught in the Middle East crossfire. Finally, you can see campaigns against the Quran in Sweden and the Netherlands," the *Aydinlik* newspaper quoted him as saying.

Sancak referred to recent polls showing that at least 80 percent of the Turkish population believe that "the United States is a country running the most hostile and destructive policy" toward the republic. "The Turkish

people have lately been showing sympathy for Russia and Putin,” the politician concluded.

Meanwhile, on January 19, Turkey’s Patriotic Party announced the launch of a nationwide campaign urging the republic’s leadership to leave the North Atlantic Alliance. Previously, the anti-American party repeatedly called on Ankara to close US military bases on Turkish territory, revoke the F-16 purchase contract and withdraw from NATO.

4

Turkey plays a crucial role in NATO's defense strategy. Its departure would significantly alter the alliance’s military and geopolitical landscape. Key implications for NATO include:

- **Loss of Strategic Geography:** NATO would lose access to critical military bases near conflict zones, weakening its influence in the Middle East and the Black Sea region;
- **Weakened Southern Flank:** Turkey’s absence would leave NATO’s southeastern flank vulnerable, potentially emboldening regional adversaries;
- **Operational Challenges:** Many NATO missions depend on Turkish infrastructure, making operations

in Syria, Iraq, and the Mediterranean more complex.

A NATO without Turkey would shift global security dynamics, affecting multiple international stakeholders. Possible global outcomes include:

- **Stronger Russia and China Influence:** Turkey's pivot away from NATO could bring it closer to Russia and China, altering power balances in Eurasia;
- **Middle East Instability:** Turkey's departure might affect conflicts in Syria and Iraq, reducing NATO's ability to counter terrorism and regional threats;
- **European Defense Adjustments:** EU nations might have to increase defense spending and military readiness to compensate for Turkey's exit.

If Turkey left NATO, it would need to redefine its alliances and security policies. Key factors for Turkey include:

- **Closer Ties with Russia:** Turkey could deepen defense cooperation with Russia, possibly expanding its S-400 missile defense program;
- **Increased Role in Regional Alliances:** Turkey may strengthen ties with organizations like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) or the Organization of Turkic States;

- Independent Military Strategy: Without NATO, Turkey might expand its domestic defense industry and pursue a more autonomous military approach.

Turkey's departure from NATO would reshape global security, impacting NATO's strategic positioning, regional stability, and international power dynamics. While NATO would face new challenges, Turkey would also need to carefully navigate its redefined alliances and security policies. This scenario remains hypothetical, but its consequences would be far-reaching.