



GÜNEY ASYA STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ
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T.C. BAŞBAKANLIK
YURTDIŞI TÜRKLER
VE AKRABA TOPLULUKLAR BAŞKANLIĞI

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Hazırlayan: Ali Usmani

Travelling always inspires me. Meeting new people, listening to a language one don't understand, using a currency one doesn't comprehend, walking down the streets one never walk. Exploring the new things new experience its fascinating. As Paulo Coelho said in his novel Aleph ⁱ“There is someone much more interesting and adventurous and much open to the world and to new experience”. I was very lucky to visit turkey and to explore the cities.

This article is an effort to express my feelings and views about turkey. I stayed in turkey for almost one month and during that month what I observe about turkey is written in this article. During my stay in Turkey I visited so many places, meet new people, explore turkey particularly Istanbul, Ankara and konya. I am really thankful to our host GASSAM as they took us to different places. Under GASSAM we visited different universities, media agencies, diplomatic enclaves, parliament and president house, information centre and many other places. Along with this we also have the honour to visit rich history of Turkey. The details of visit shall be discussed later.

Rich history, wonderful climate, cooperative and beautiful people, beaches, mountains and a great blend of western and eastern culture this is all we know about turkey. A state governed through its secular constitution. Like any other young Pakistani nothing fascinates me more than touring turkey. Alhamdulillah, I am really great full to Allah almighty, Kubaib foundation and GASSAM for giving me invitation to visit turkey. It was a dream come true so I accepted the invitation with great eager. I was very excited. GASSAM and khubaib foundation has designed a cultural exchange program through which some students from Pakistan visit turkey and similarly Pakistan will host some Turkish students. The main purpose of this program is to understand the culture of each other's country and base on its finds do a research.

The friendship between Turkey and Pakistan is not new. They share history of more than 100 years. The relationship is not just about mere friendship it shares a deep history of love, affection, brotherhood, and harmony. Both friends stand in thick and thin of each country.

Before I went to turkey I have different opinion and views about turkey. I thought that turkey is a nice country but it is in the process of development. It's a developing economy. In Pakistan we consider turkey as our brother country. A nation who has rich history, a brave but friendly nation. My ancestors who visited turkey told so many things about turkey particularly about its



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history, people, climate and culture. These discussion just helped my imagination about Turkey.

On the fair side I haven't checked about turkey on internet as I believe sometimes technology can eliminate the element of imagination. I don't want that to happen with me. I want to explore the city of Istanbul and these 25 days really changed my perception towards this country.

In these 25 days we met lots of different people in different parts of Turkish society which made me realised that people in turkey are very nice. It's not just about people, the climate, atmosphere, shops, infrastructure, political parties everyone has played their role in establishing a better image of turkey inside me. A image of civilized nation and of a developed country.

The difference between my visit and my ancestors visit is the difference of time. Turkey in the past one decade has emerged as strong global power in the world map under the leadership of Tyaab Eurdgan. Just before our visit to turkey, Turkish people comes successful on the attempt of capturing turkey through military coup. They stand with their leader and democracy and set a new brave bench mark for the rest of the nations particularly those countries who are going through problem of dictatorship after every few years. Since then Turkey is evolving towards positive direction. A direction towards Khair. Let's analyse the situation of turkey at the time of failed military coup.

1. 15 July Failed Coup

When we arrived on Turkish land in Istanbul. At night our host took us to Baladiya house in Istanbul near faith mosque. This was the place at which one sniper was at the roof top targeting civilians at the time of military coup attempt. Different innocent people were martyred on that place.

When we visited that place I experienced something incredible many people were gathered around Baladiya building they were enjoying, chanting, and were praying for long life of turkey. Our host told that in whole turkey a celebration is going on. The aim of this full night celebration is to inform enemies of turkey that nation is awaking to face every threat. The atmosphere was amazing. After few minutes different people gathered around wearing red ottoman dress. They started playing ottoman song, the musical theme of that song was very catchy. It was my first experience to see people dressing in ottoman people. Like every Muslim



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I also have high respect for ottomans. Moreover, at the time of celebrations, transportation was free, water, tea was also free.

People of turkey along with their government believed failed military coup attempt was an international conspiracy. Fathullah Gulan and other countries where the key players to step down the powers of Tyaab Eurdan. I have to admire that at that night the heroism shown by the Turkish nation is truly admirable. It is rare to find such examples in history. Let's see the historical events of 15, 16 July:

22.00



15 Temmuz

Shots heard inside general staff complex in Ankara and helicopter fires at people on the ground. Soldier's takes control of states broadcast TRT and General staff headquarters in Ankara. At the same time when troops seize the Bosphorus and faith sultan

Bridges in Istanbul

24.00



Security sources tell Anadolu Agency the coup is been conducted by officers who are members of Fetullah Terrorist organization led by U.S- based preacher Fetullah Gulen.

00.01



President Erdogan leaves Marmari, in Turkey's southwest for Ataturk international airport Istanbul



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00.03



TRT news anchors forced to read a declaration from coup leaders claiming that they have taken control of the nation as they are "committee of peace at home"

00.26



Erdogan addresses the country via mobile telephone urging the people to "take to the streets" to resist the coup attempt and defend democracy. Ultimately this message change the whole scenario as everyone children, youth, families gone to streets and start protest against military.

01.01



Ankara police department attacked by fighter jets and helicopters

02.00



First pro-coup soldier arrested

Golbasi special forces department headquarters bombed by pro-coup aircraft, killing 17 police officers and two personnel from satellite operator TURKSAT

02.30



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13 soldiers including 3 senior army officers are held while attempting to take over the presidential palace in Ankara.

02.42



Turkish parliament is bombed injuring numbers of people

03.00



TRT resumes broadcasting



03.20



Erdogan lands in Istanbul

04.00



Ankara chief public prosecutor's office orders arrest of coup leaders



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06.30

Turkish air force shoots down military helicopter in Golbasi used by coup forces to bomb Turkish satellite facility



06.52

1st army commander Gen. umerit Dundar is appointed as acting chief of staff after Gen. Hulusi Akar's capture

07.10



07.35



Interior ministry confirms that more than 330 FETO members have been detained

08.17



More than 750 military personnel detained over coup allegations

08.32



Suspected plotter, Aegean chief of staff Maj. Gen. Menduh Hakbilen detained in Izmir



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08.36



Ankara rescued from pro-coup forces

09.40



Turkey's special operations police capture Gendarmerie General Command, pro-coup soldiers neutralized

09.40



200 soldiers surrender to police in Ankara

10.07



Treason charges laid against retired air force commander Gen. Akin Ozturk and Lt. Gen. Metin lyidill, commander of land forces training and doctrine command

10.15



700 soldiers surrender to police in Ankara



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10.59



Two brigade commanders, Gen yunus and Gen ismail detained

20.50



Interior minister Efkan Ala discharges coast Guard commander Rear Adm. Hakan Ustem

21.57



Gendarmerie commander Gen. Galip Mendi rescued at Akinci Airbase

Ankara chief public prosecutor's office orders arrest 2,745 suspended judges.ⁱⁱ

Apart from Turkey field coup there are many other things which we observe. Lets discuss some of the major elements in Turkish society:

2. Education:

With the revolution of Turkey, a huge change has been observed by Turkish society. In turkey education curriculum changes almost every year as per the change in requirements so for sometimes it becomes difficult for students to manage with change. In turkey focus on foreign language is quite rare and hence it is very rare to find a person who can speak English.

So, mainly they have two/three main problems

Change in education curriculum

Lack of focus in foreign languages including English

Lack of strong madarsa education systems



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However, with the change in global world now turkey is also focusing on foreign languages particularly English and Arabic. There are different universities and educational institutes offering courses in foreign languages. For example Sultan waqf university offers a degree program in Arabic in their university.

We are thankful to GASSAM as because of them we visited three different universities Istanbul University, Sultan Waqf University and Zaim University. All the universities meet the international standards, their classrooms, faculty, hostels, infrastructure and etc.

Many universities in Turkey operates under WAQF model. The concept of WAQF system in whole Turkey is very old. Through Waqf institutions, general public make payment to these Waqf institutions. From these available funds, WAQF makes facilities for students at large in form of scholarships, faculty, libraries, buildings and etc. a student can feel themselves secure through these WAQF.

Although it is difficult to find a person who can properly speak English yet majority Turks are educated. There are different organisations who supports students in different form. There is an organisation YTB, they provide scholarships to both national and international students. Details of their program can be found on their official website <https://www.ytb.gov.tr/>

Ankara and Istanbul are main hubs of education in turkey. In recent years Turkey is becoming a centre for universities, institutes research centres etc.

- Religion

Majority of the population in Turkey are muslim. Almost 97%. At the time of Ottamans Turkey was the centre of Muslim religion for whole world. However, after the Turkish revolution Islam has been compromised. The constitution of Turkey is secular. Even few years back women was banned to wear hijab in Turkey. Owing to this situation Islamic values are not deeply rooted in the culture. However, it is important to note that in recent years Islam has regained its lost powers. Under the Ak party leadership Muslims and Islam in Turkey flourished.

The mosques, are the most beautiful in whole turkey. Designs are fabulous, the art work is also very good. Istanbul is also known as city of Mosques. We can find mosques everywhere in the country. These mosques adds the beauty of country. Additionally, in almost every university there is a Illahiyat Department which is Islamic department. Arabic Fiqah, Qurran, Sunnah,



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Islamic History are the main topics that being taught in İlahiyat Department. Turkey has a strong roots with Islam and with years turkey hopefully and inshAllah will gain its powers as the preachers of Islam. The good thing about religion is that they are moving towards right direction. A direction towards Khair (betterment).

4. Sense of Development

One thing that really inspired in my whole tour was the sense of Turkish people, they create beautiful mosques buildings with great taste. You found mosques, universities, shopping malls and other infrastructure items very beautiful, maintained and pleasing to eyes. Turkish people are very civilized, in hostel there were so many things which was quite amazing and helpful for students. It is important to note that in turkey people supports hostels very much for students.

In our hostel there was a beautiful big air-conditioned library in the hostel, and for each floor here was a small library for that floor. This library has a table for each students. Additionally, there is a playing area in the hostel for enjoyment purpose.

There is also a washing area with very good machinery. For drinking water there are Disposable glasses available. At the place where people wear their shoes there is a small foot adjuster. There is also a small viper to clean the water from the sides of wash basin. Although these things are really small but they are very helpful. This shows how civilised people of Turkish. Normally hostels and public places of any country determines or measures their civilization. Turkey is very good in these things and have great sense and taste.

5. Culture

Turkish culture is very different and unique from other Muslim countries. This country has deep roots with Islam but at the same time its constitution is secular and therefore people also live as per their wish. So turkey as a whole particularly Istanbul is the beautiful blend of western and eastern culture which is difficult to find in any other country. We visited three different cities in Turkey Istanbul, Konya and Ankara. The culture of Ankara is similar to Istanbul. As Ankara is not the old city therefore the culture of Ankara is not very unique. Konya is different from other parts of turkey. It has reach history and has the strong impact of teachings of Hazrat Maulana Romi (R.A). People in Konya mostly wear Islamic dresses and there are huge number of people wearing religious special Islamic dress with big turban on their heads particularly in

the areas of Tomb of Maulana Rumi and Sheikh Tibrizi (R.A). So overall Konya is different from Istanbul. Turkish have their own culture and values for their ceremonies like marriage, death and celebrations. These traditions are dominated by mostly Islamic beliefs and values however it has equal touch of western culture.

6. Food

Turkish food is very different with Pakistani food, for a Pakistani it is very difficult to eat such food at daily basis. The main difference is of spice in subcontinent spicy food is preferred however in Turkish cuisine a complete opposite of spice taste is preferred. There is huge variety of Turkish cuisine. It takes time to adjust with food but once when one person is into this delicious food it gets harder to stop. But for short trip tourist from subcontinent have limited options. There are uncountable dishes in Turkish food. Mainly their food be categorized in 4 categories

1. Ottoman and traditional food
2. Normal daily life food
3. Fast food
4. Regional or village food

Salad (especially tomato), sheep & chicken are the major elements of Turkish food.

As there are number of dishes in Turkish cuisine, there are some dishes which are similar to Pakistani dishes. The name of this dishes are described below:

Daal Moong-Bulgur Pilavı

Similar to this dish Bulgur Pilavı in Pakistan we have a dish of Daal Mong. It is also very delicious. It has more gravy in it. Pakistani people take this dish with roti or naan which can also found in Turkish cuisine too.



Pulao-Pilav

It pronounced the same way as Pilav in Turkey. But there is minor difference in writing. The overall appearance of both these dishes are quite same. But there is a little difference in terms of taste. Pilav in Turkey are mostly the boiled rice whereas in Pakistan Pulao is made through the process of bree. In Pakistan it is considered as ful fledged main course dish. However, the Turks takes this dish as a supporting dish.



Kofte- Köfte:

Both spells, pronounce, and shaped the same way. Interesting fact is that similarly to turkey Kofte in Pakistan are not only made from meat. Other ingredients are also mixed along with meat. Normally in Pakistani cuisine there is a concept of gravy in the dishes. Similarly in

Pakistan Oil in Kofte is on the higher side in comparison with Turkey



Kebab-Kebaps

This is also a one similar dish. And like in turkey kabab in Pakistan are also used as BBQ item. It taste, smells, look the same way. Even the word is also same. So if any tourist from Turkey or Pakistani wants to enjoy the same dish in other country they should try this dish and overcome their home sickness. In Pakistani the meat of Kabab consist of Beaf or Mutton mostly however, chicken kebab can also be found.



Other than these dishes Turkey is famous for its delights. Various types of delights are available in the markets. I personally have enjoyed these delights. Delights in turkey are very sweet so a best combination is to take delights with Turkish National tea. It develops a great taste.

Turkish Tea

Turkish tea can be classified as National Tea here. People love to take tea here. They like to take tea in every meal. It is served in small glass. The taste of tea is sweet however, one can mix some cubes of sugar to develop its taste. With cubes of sugar. Moreover, they prefer tea with deserts as deserts here are very sweet and with Tea it brings a good combinationⁱⁱⁱ. The

Turkish considered Tea as their national drink here. “Any place-Any time it’s time to have black tea”^{iv}

I take some donar, kebab, baklava and famous Turkish delight Okolomo as gift for my family and friends.



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7. Historical places

One of the remarkable achievement of Turkish governments is the preservation of their heritage. It is difficult or rare to find a building in poor condition. Local municipalities continuously maintain these buildings. Not only buildings they also preserve their graveyard with proper care and love. They use state of the art equipments for this purpose. There are number of famous historical places in turkey. We visited different famous places which include but are not limited to:

- a. Sataln faith
mosque
- b. Blue mosques
- c. Ayasofia museum
- d. Topkapi
museum
- e. Domabahçemus
eum
- f. Panorama
museum
- g. Minia Turk
- h. Attaturk
Musuem
- i. Tomb of Hazrat
Ayup Musuem
- j. Tomb of Hazrat
Maulana Romi

Are some of the examples, I am also thankful to my hosts GASAM that they arranged my tour for these places.

8. Meeting With Officials:

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We were very lucky to meet different high officials during our tour. For that purpose we are really thankful to GASAM for arranging our tour with these prestigious members. The details related to meetings are discussed below:

Meeting with Cafir-Baladieye Official: It was Wednesday morning when we reach Ankara from Istanbul. After the arrival, the delegation was asked to change and have rest for one hour and get themselves ready to meet an official of Ankara Baladieye named was Mr. Cafer.

Mr. Cafir graduated from Karachi University some 20 years ago in Islamic Studies. We were very delighted to see when we came to know that Mr. Cafir can speak Urdu. He was running a construction company named “BELKO”. The good thing about Mr. Cafir he understand our culture, he is pro Islami and Pakistani and admired role of Pakistani nation after 15 July coup.

He gives very inspiring message of friendship between two countries. We enjoy traditional breakfast in his office then he led us to visit AtaTurk Museum. The delegation visited different parts of Museum and graves of Mustafa Kamal and Ismet Inonu. ‘Road of Lines’, Pictures gallery, antiques, literature, remains of Canakale battle were the most fascinating things for the delegation.

After that Mr. Cafir took us to the old Ankara. There was a historical fort in old Ankara. At night we went to his house where he and His very nice family members served us with Traditional but very delicious Turkish coffe.

European Affairs Minister: Second day of Ankara’s visit was the busy one as the delegation visited two different ministries.

The delegation first had a meeting with **Ali Sahin**-Deputy Minister for European Affairs. He was Karachi University’ graduate and stayed in Pakistan from 1990 to 1997. Like Mr.



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Cafir Mr. Ali Sahin also know Urdu but he also has commendable command over English language too and he prefers to communicate us with English Language.

Owing to its position and overview over world politics. We observe that he has great command over international relations. We took this opportunity and Pakistani delegates asked different questions and he answered each question with wisdom.

There was a time where the direction of discussion went towards sensitive topic of idea of creation of Pakistan and there was difference of opinion between Mr. Ali Sahin and Pakistani delegates. However, it was happy to see that professionally both Pakistani delegates and Mr. Ali Sahin discuss this sensitive issue using broad mind.

The delegation was informed that GASAM was established by this man. I ask him about the reason of success of Turkish Economy and why Turkey still not able to join European Union. He said that in order to become member of European Union certain goals needs to achieve. Turkey was lacking behind on these goals. Since the empowerment of Ak party, They tried to take Turkey to achieve membership of European Union and eventually become successful in their goal. This overall effort brings good financial and economic stability in Turkish country. Further adding on EU-Turk relations, he blatantly said that Turks are much better (Economically Speaking) than many member states of the EU and Turks don't need them (EU).

He further added that Muslim countries, Turkey and Middle Eastern Countries must remove their borders as there were less disputes in Ottoman era when the whole area was controlled by a single caliph.

Talking about Gulen, he said that some of his believers say Gulen is "Mehdi", some say he is Imam and some say that he is the rightful person to be obeyed in these times. But he is a cancer; he could not be left over an attempt to topple democratically elected Parliament and the President. Talking about Syria, he said that Turkey is with the people of Syria and Asad must go as people of Syria do not like him to stay in power.



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In the end he also added that presidency system in Turkey will bring fruitful result for the nation. Overall it was an informative meeting with the Ministry of European Affairs.

Turkish Assembly & Meeting with Turkish Minister: After the lunch at the center of Ankara, the delegation moved to Turkish Grand National assembly and met with Minister Muhammet BALTA who is currently Chairman of Committee of Environment and also Heading Pak-Turk Friendship Committee.

He was a wonderful spokesman, a strong person and a good speaker. He was elected from Trabzon, his speech, body language and style made him a fantastic orator. He solely focused on 15 July Coup during his discussion. He told to delegation that Gulen is sharp person his movement inside Turkish department was very secret hence it become challenge for government to analyze the evil planning of Golan and take corrective measures. He said behind Gulen there is involvement of western countries. He added that Gulen is a danger for whole Muslim World as he is doing all his clandestine activities in disguise of Muslim cleric and on the name of Education.

He further added that Now Turkish government shall take effective legislative changes and from now onwards Chief of Army Staff will directly work under the President of the Republic and the rest of staff will be under the control of Interior Ministry. He admired the role of Pakistan after 15 July Coup and hope for better future relations in the coming era.

He also invited investors from Pakistan and said in Turkey there is a big potential for investment. Then the delegation visited Assembly Hall and the sites where 5people martyred on 15 July night when traitors dropped bomb on Assembly building.

Presidency of Turkish Abroad and Relevant Ministries: Next day early morning the delegation visited the office of above mentioned Presidency. They had very fruitful discussion with the head of that presidency. Interestingly it was told to delegation was told that this is the office that sponsored their visit to Turkey. The basic purpose of this ministry is to protect the interest of Turks and of other communities living in different countries and bridge the gap between the communities.



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The ministry also sponsor international scholarships and we were informed that they received more than 30,000 requests from foreign students for scholarships. Still many students are studding in turkey through scholarship. The director was pro Pakistani and wanted more cooperation and friendship with Pakistan. He also wished Pakistani students to apply for Turkish Scholarships as it is the most convenient way to get free education from Turkey. He also express his concerns for students studding in institutes run by Gullen Missionary explained. He believed that these students might be used for wrong purpose.

Germany accused turkey for promoting Islam in on their soil, on this issue of clash he believes that Europe is going towards a wrong direction. They are moving towards blame game. European economy is currently down and European country believes that Muslims are responsible for it. He said I believe this is a wrong approach and shall not bring any benefit to European countries in long run.

The Delegation also enjoyed very good hospitality from this ministry they took lunch in his office. At the end of meeting Pakistani delegation, presented a gift of waist coat to the Excellency. He admired the gift and accept it with joy.

Anadolu Agency: On the same day, the delegation visited Head Office of Turkish Premier News Agency-Anadolu Agency. We were welcomed by Mr. Mehmet Ozturk who is working there as Foreign Languages News Desk Chief, he was speaking very good Urdu because he served in different parts of Pakistan including Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi for a long time.

He shared detailed presentation of Anadolu Agency with the delegation and replied all the questions in Urdu. When asked he told that daily Zaman of Gulen group had the most viewership in Turkey but all of their news agencies and newspapers are banned now. Coup left a positive impression on AA as its viewership has increased due to closure of Gulen-linked media outlets, he added.



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Talking about Kurd issue, he said Kurds are neither minority nor they want independence from country as Turks and Kurds are living together from centuries and they never had any kind of ethnic clash, it is a terror organization (PKK) who is implanting terrorism on the name of Kurd Nationalism. Kurds and Turks are brothers, we were about to free Abdullah Ocalan but they (PKK) derailed the talks and Abdullah could face life danger if freed.

At the end on the request by delegation members, he led us to visit Desk Section of the agency. Gifts were distributed by him among the guests before the delegation left the office.

Press & Publication Office:

After visiting AA, the delegation reached in Press and Publication Office where they were briefed by Ismail Mansoor-Head of the department. He was very diplomatic personality and had very composed discussion.

He briefed the delegation about Turkish influence in the world. He also tried to change our narrative about Turkish aid. He tried to make us assure that Turkey is helping the countries for the sake of Humanity. He also talked about Pak-Turk relations and briefed the delegation that west is pursuing proxy wars in developing countries as they supported Gulen in Turkey and TTP in Pakistan. He also briefed the delegation about scholarship opportunities in Turkey. In the end, he thanked the delegation for visiting his office and his country as well.

Other than these meetings delegation also had the honor to meet the ak party president Istanbul and we were also honoured to visit Information centre of Baladya.

Conclusion

In short I will not forget this tour it was wonderful very informative and effective for students like us. Hopefully it will bring positive result for the friendship of both countries continue and I pray such events shall be continue in future. All the best wishes to GASSAM, ending with a hope that I will visit this country again.



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Hazırlayan: Hassan Usmani

There is no doubt that Turkey and Pakistan shares a history of love and brotherhood, both countries are close friends of each other. Over a period of 100 years both stood for each other in the time of their need. Growing under such environment of love and brotherhood I always pay respects to Turkish society But I have to except that looking at Turkey form Pakistan and visiting Turkey and seeing their culture, values, lifestyle etc is different. After staying for 25 days and meeting lots of people in different parts of Turkish society my point of views about Turkey are changed. Now is see Turkey as an evolving state at a positive direction. To understand more we must understand different aspects of Turkish society

1. Education

Since Turkish revolution of Turkey, Turkish society has been under a huge change in language, culture, values, lifestyle and religion. So impact of the change can be seen in their education. Although it is difficult to find a person who can properly speak English yet Turks are educated. In recent years Turkey especially Istanbul is becoming hub for universities, institutes and research etc.

2. Religion

After the Turkish revolution Islam has been compromised. Even few years back women was banned to wear hijab at work place. Although Turkey is a country of 99% Muslims yet Islam or Islamic values are not the dominating element of the society. But in recent years Islam is regaining its lost power. The society is going back towards Islam. But it is only a first step at the right direction.

3. Culture

The culture of Turkey combines a heavily diverse and heterogeneous set of elements that have been derived from the various cultures of the Eastern Mediterranean (West Asian) region and to a lesser degree, Southeastern European, Caucasian, and Central Asian traditions. Many of these traditions



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were initially brought together by the Ottoman Empire, a multi-ethnic and multi-religious state. The present-day Republic of Turkey, which was declared in 1923 after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, is still a transcontinental country that spans Europe and Asia.

During the early years of the republic, the government invested a large amount of resources into fine arts such as paintings, sculpture and architecture. This was done as both a process of modernization and of creating a cultural identity. Because of the different historical factors defining the Turkish identity, the culture of Turkey combines clear efforts of modernization and Westernization undertaken in varying degrees since the 1700s, with a simultaneous desire to maintain traditional religious and historical values.

In short this can be said that Turkish culture is very different and unique. It is a unique mixture historical and modernism. Turkish society had their own values regarding to celebration, marriage and death etc.

4. Food

Turkish food is very different with Pakistani food, for a Pakistani it is very difficult to eat such food at daily basis. So for Pakistanis there are two options try to find alternatives or develop taste as per Turkish food. There are uncountable dishes in Turkish food. Mainly their food be categorized in 4 categories

1. Ottoman and traditional food
2. Normal daily life food
3. Fast food
4. Regional or village food

Salad (especially tomato), sheep & chicken are the major elements of Turkish food.



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Different types of soups are very important part of food. Turkey is famous for its delights. Various types of delights are available in the markets. I personally have enjoyed these delights. I think this is a very good gift to bring to my family friends back home

5. Historical places

Turkish governments had preserved their heritage with love. It is difficult to find a building in poor condition. Local municipalities continuously maintain these buildings. They use state of the art equipment for this purpose.

- Sultan faith mosque
- Blue mosque
- Haya sofia museum
- Topkapi museum
- Domabachi museum
- Panorama museum
- Minia Turk

Are some of the examples, I am also thankful to my hosts GASAM that they arranged my tour for these places

6. Meetings with officials

Meeting with Cafir-Baladieye official: He was graduated from Karachi University some 20 years ago in Islamic Studies. He can speak Urdu, it was a good moment for all of us that we find an Urdu speaking person as a guide in this country. He was running a construction company named “BELKO”. He was pro Pakistani and admired role of Pakistani nation after 15 July coup. Then he led us to visit AtaTurk Museum. The delegation visited different parts of Museum and graves of Mustafa Kamal and Ismet Inonu. ‘Road of Lines’, Pictures gallery, antiques, literature, remains of Canakale battle were the most fascinating things for the delegation.



GÜNEY ASYA STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ

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European Affairs Minister: We had a meeting with **Ali Şahin**-Deputy Minister for European Affairs. He was Karachi University' graduate and stayed in Pakistan from 1990 to 1997. He knew how to speak both English and Urdu languages but he preferred to talk in English instead of Urdu. Astonishingly, he was Pro India and negating two nation theory and formation of Pakistan. According to him, Creation of Pakistan divided the Indian nation and it was a plan to weaken the strength of Pakistan. He said that Muslims should remove borders for each other. He continued that has no borders and all the Muslim countries should respect and love humanity leaving aside their mutual vendettas. Interestingly modern Turkey was created by Mustafa Kamal under the same principle which has been denied by him.

We were informed that GASAM was established by this man. He said that Turkey and Middle Eastern Countries must remove their borders as there were less disputes in Ottoman era when the whole area was controlled by a single caliph. Talking about EU-Turk relations, he blatantly said that Turks are much better (Economically Speaking) than many member states of the EU and Turks don't need them (EU). Talking about Gulen, he said that some of his believers say Gulen is "Mehdi", some say he is Imam and some say that he is the rightful person to be obeyed in these times. But he is a cancer; he could not be left over an attempt to topple democratically elected Parliament and the President. Talking about Syria, he said that Turkey is with the people of Syria and Asad must go as people of Syria do not like him to stay in power.

Turkish Assembly & Meeting with Turkish Minister: we have been honored to visit Turkish Grand National assembly and met with Minister Muhammet BALTA who is currently Chairman of Committee of Environment and also Heading Pak-Turk Friendship Committee. He was a wonderful spokesman and a good speaker. He was elected from Trabzon, his speech, body language and style made him a fantastic orator. He also focused on 15 July Coup during his discussion. He told the delegation that Gulen is running the movement so secretly that it has become a challenge for government to clean its ranks from these dirty germs. He added that Gulen is a danger for whole Muslim World as he is doing all his clandestine activities in disguise of Muslim cleric and on the name of Education. He was pro-Islamic leader and focused on making Islamic block to defend Muslims of the world against the tyrant behaviors of Non-



GÜNEY ASYA STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ

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Muslims. Talking about steps being taken by the government to stop any untoward incident in future, he said that Turkish deputies are going to make legislative changes and now Chief of Army Staff will directly work under the President of the Republic and the rest of staff will be under the control of Interior Ministry. He admired the role of Pakistan after 15 July Coup and hope for better future relations in the coming era. Then the delegation visited Assembly Hall and the sites where 5 people martyred on 15 July night when traitors dropped bomb on Assembly building.

Presidency of Turkish Abroad and Relevant Ministries: we have also visited the office of above mentioned Presidency and had fruitful discussions with the head of that presidency. The delegation was told that this is the office that sponsored their visit to Turkey. When asked about the progress of those Turks from China, Kashghar and Afghanistan living in Pakistan, he said, “We don’t want to bring Turks back to Turkey but we want to settle their problems in their relevant countries”. Talking about Gulen and the Coup, he said that timing of this delegation’s visit is very important and they witnessed historic moments of Turkey as the great Turkish nation defeated the rebels. He expressed his concerns about 13000 foreign students studying in different varsities of Turkey from across the world but they were brought Turkey by these Gulenists. Government don’t know exactly how many of them can be terrorists???? He explained. He was pro Pakistani and wanted more cooperation and friendship with Pakistan. He also wished Pakistani students to apply for Turkish Scholarships as it is the most convenient way to get free education from Turkey. The Delegation also had lunch in his office. On behalf of Pakistani delegation, we have presented a gift of waist coat to the Excellency.

Anadolu Agency: we have visited Head Office of Turkish Premier News Agency-Anadolu Agency. We were welcomed by Mr. Mehmet Ozturk who is working there as Foreign Languages News Desk Chief, he was speaking very good Urdu because he served in different parts of Pakistan including Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi for a long time.

He shared detailed presentation of Anadolu Agency with the delegation and replied all the questions in Urdu. When asked he told that daily Zaman of Gulen group had the most



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viewership in Turkey but all of their news agencies and newspapers are banned now. Coup left a positive impression on AA as its viewership has increased due to closure of Gulen-linked media outlets, he added. Talking about Kurd issue, he said Kurds are neither minority nor they want independence from country as Turks and Kurds are living together from centuries and they never had any kind of ethnic clash, it is a terror organization (PKK) who is implanting terrorism on the name of Kurd Nationalism. Kurds and Turks are brothers, we were about to free Abdullah Ocalan but they (PKK) derailed the talks and Abdullah could face life danger if freed. On the request by delegation members, he led us to visit Desk Section of the agency. Gifts were distributed by him among the guests before the delegation left the office.

Press & Publication Office: After visiting AA, we reached in Press and Publication Office where they were briefed by Ismail Mansoor-Head of the department. He was very diplomatic personality and had very composed discussion. He briefed the delegation about Turkish influence in the world. He also tried to change our narrative about Turkish aid. He tried to make us assure that Turkey is helping the countries for the sake of Humanity. He also talked about Pak-Turk relations and briefed the delegation that west is pursuing proxy wars in developing countries as they supported Gulen in Turkey and TTP in Pakistan. He also briefed the delegation about scholarship opportunities in Turkey. In the end, he thanked the delegation for visiting his office and his country as well.

Word of thanks

25 days in Turkey are one of the most memorable days of my life. I have really enjoyed Turkish hospitality and love. I personally loved Istanbul. It truly is one of the most beautiful cities of the world. I am very thankful to GASAM and especially Mr. Cemal for giving me this opportunity that could be a part of this Think Tank. Again am thankful to GASAM and especially Mr.Cemal for organizing meetings with respected people and arranging our visit to different cities and historical cities. I think that GASAM will play an important role in future.



GÜNEY ASYA STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ

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Hazırlayan: Khizar Manzoor

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The most knowledgeable and interesting tour was arranged for South Asians, visits of Museums, historical places and meeting with government and non government officials were the part of this tour.

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After reaching Ankara, stay of the delegation was arranged in a Musafirkhana of Ankara Buyuksheir Baladieye in the less populated area of the city.



GÜNEY ASYA STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ

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The minarets, building design, springs in lawn of mosque all the things were magnificent and looking very beautiful. The structure of the building was designed in Ottoman style and it was open for worshippers and visitors. Delegation offered Asar Prayer there and visited the main hall and all other parts of the mosque. Nobody was ready to leave the mosque because the mosque has a special attraction for all of us. Our guides told us that this Presidential palace was built by Erdogan, they also pointed towards the area where the old presidential palace is located.



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Presidency has appointed a photographer in the mosque whose only duty is to take photographs of those foreigners who visit the mosque and present these photographs before the President. Photograph of the delegation was also shot and later on copies of that photo were distributed among all the members.

Then the delegation went on the road that passes in front of Presidential palace and visited the holes in the road occurred due to the aerial bombing of the coup plotters who wanted to demolish Presidential Palace on 15 July.

Visit to Old Ankara-Haji Beyraam Area: After visiting mosque, our guide took us to visit old Ankara, It was an old mosque and mosulem. The mosque was built by Haji Beyraam-A Sufi saint of the area. It was told that Haji Beyraam had millions of followers and he was a pious personality of the area. His tenure is not known but it is believed by the people of the area that he was here in Pre-Ottoman period.

Then delegation offered prayer in the mosque adjacent to Haji Beyraam tomb. Temples of Augustus and Roma (400 A.D) were also visited by the delegation. The delegation had dinner in a nearby restaurant and then on the special invitation of our host Mr. Cafer, delegation went to his home for tea. His wife and sons welcomed the delegation very happily and offered Turkish tea, dates and local delights. They treated the delegation as family members. Then delegation moved to dormitory at 10:pm.

25/08/2016

Meeting with European Affairs Minister

Second day of Ankara's visit was the busy one as the delegation visited two different ministries. The delegation first had a meeting with **Ali Sahin**-Deputy Minister for European Affairs. He was Karachi University' graduate and stayed in Pakistan from 1990 to 1997. He knew how to speak both English and Urdu languages but he preferred to talk in English instead of Urdu. Astonishingly,



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he was Pro India and negating two nation theory and formation of Pakistan. According to him, Creation of Pakistan divided the Indian nation and it was a plan to weaken the strength of Pakistan. He said that Muslims should remove borders for each others. He continued that has no borders and all the Muslim countries should respect and love humanity leaving aside their mutual vendettas. The delegation was informed that GASAM was established by this man. He said that Turkey and Middle Eastern Countries must remove their borders as there were less disputes in Ottoman era when the whole area was controlled by a single caliph. Talking about EU-Turk relations, he blatantly said that Turks are much better (Economically Speaking) than many member states of the EU and Turks don't need them (EU). Talking about Gulen, he said that some of his believers say Gulen is "Mehdi", some say he is Imam and some say that he is the rightful person to be obeyed in these times. But he is a cancer; he could not be left over an attempt to topple democratically elected Parliament and the President. Talking about Syria, he said that Turkey is with the people of Syria and Asad must go as people of Syria do not like him to stay in power.

Lunch: After Meeting with Ali Shahin, The delegation visited Kizilay, there we had lunch and moved to Turkish Grand National Assembly.

Visit to Turkish Assembly & Meeting with Turkish Minister: After the lunch, the delegation moved to Turkish grand national assembly and met with Minister Muhammet BALTA who is currently Chairman of Committee of Environment and also Heading Pak-Turk Friendship Committee. He was a wonderful spokesman and a good speaker. He was elected from Trabzon, his speech, body language and style made him a fantastic orator. He also focused on 15 July Coup during his discussion. He told the delegation that Gulen is running the movement so secretly that it has become a challenge for government to clean its ranks from these dirty germs. He added that Gulen is a danger for whole Muslim World as he is doing all his clandestine activities in disguise of Muslim cleric and on the name of Education. He was pro Islamic leader and focused on making Islamic block to defend Muslims of the world against the tyrant behaviors of Non Muslims. Talking about steps being taken by the government to stop any untoward incident in future, he said that Turkish deputies are going to make legislative changes and now Chief of Army Staff will



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directly work under the President of the Republic and the rest of staff will be under the control of Interior Ministry. He admired the role of Pakistan after 15 July Coup and hope for better future relations in the coming era. Then the delegation visited Assembly Hall and the sites where 5 people martyred on 15 July night when traitors dropped bomb on Assembly building.

Dinner at Ayas:

After leaving the assembly, the delegation moved towards Ayas that was a countryside area almost 60 kilometers away from Ankara. The delegation offered Asar prayer in a historic mosque at Ayas, visited this small town and had dinner at a local hotel. Then the delegation moved back to its accommodation for night stay.

26/08/2016

Visit to Presidency of Turkish Abroad and Relevant Ministries: Early morning on August 26, The delegation visited the office of above mentioned Presidency and had fruitful discussions with the head of that presidency. The delegation was told that this is the office that sponsored their visit to Turkey. When asked about the progress of those Turks from China, Kashghar and Afghanistan living in Pakistan, he said, “We don’t want to bring Turks back to Turkey but we want to settle their problems in their relevant countries”.

Talking about Gulen and the Coup, he said that timing of this delegation’s visit is very important and they witnessed historic moments of Turkey as the great Turkish nation defeated the rebels. He expressed his concerns about 13000 foreign students studying in different varsities of Turkey from across the world but they were brought Turkey by these Gulenists. Government don’t know exactly how many of them can be terrorists???? He explained. He was pro Pakistani and wanted more cooperation and friendship with Pakistan. He also wished Pakistani students to apply for Turkish Scholarships as it is the most convenient way to get free education from Turkey. The Delegation also had lunch in his office. On behalf of Pakistani delegation, Khizar Manzoor presented a gift of waist coat to the Excellency.



GÜNEY ASYA STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ

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Visit of Anadolu Agency: On the same day, the delegation visited Head Office of Turkish Premier News Agency-Anadolu Agency. We were welcomed by Mr. Mehmet Ozturk who is working there as Foreign Languages News Desk Chief, he was speaking very good Urdu because he served in different parts of Pakistan including Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi for a long time.

He shared detailed presentation of Anadolu Agency with the delegation and replied all the questions in Urdu. When asked he told that daily Zaman of Gulen group had the most viewership in Turkey but all of their news agencies and newspapers are banned now. Coup left a positive impression on AA as its viewership has increased due to closure of Gulen-linked media outlets, he added.

Talking about Kurd issue, he said Kurds are neither minority nor they want independence from country as Turks and Kurds are living together from centuries and they never had any kind of ethnic clash, It is a terror organization (PKK) who is implanting terrorism on the name of Kurd Nationalism. Kurds and Turks are brothers, we were about to free Abdullah Ocalan but they (PKK) derailed the talks and Abdullah could face life danger if freed. On the request by delegation members, he led us to visit Desk Section of the agency. Gifts were distributed by him among the guests before the delegation left the office.

Press & Publication Office: After visiting AA, the delegation reached in Press and Publication Office where they were briefed by Ismail Mansoor-Head of the department. He was very diplomatic personality and had very composed discussion. He briefed the delegation about Turkish influence in the world. He also tried to change our narrative about Turkish aid. He tried to make us assure that Turkey is helping the countries for the sake of Humanity. He also talked about Pak-Turk relations and briefed the delegation that west is pursuing proxy wars in developing countries as they supported Gulen in Turkey and TTP in Pakistan. He also briefed the delegation about scholarship opportunities in Turkey. In the end, he thanked the delegation for visiting his office and his country as well.



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27/08/2016-KONYA

Rumi Tomb

It was the day when the delegation left Ankara and started its journey towards Konya at 5:45. We took train from Ankara and it took almost two hours to reach Konya. We were welcomed by a guide there who was deputed by Baldieye of Konya as delegations' Protocol officer.

We visited Constantinople era church there that was built by the mother of king Constantinople. It was an old church that was surrounded by mountains from all sides. The delegation also saw caves in that mountains but could not allowed to go their as those caves were inside the mountains and visiting that area could be harmful to anyone because it was not easy to climb over there.

Then the delegation had breakfast in a local hotel situated outside the church, then delegation was told that they are going to visit Mausoleum of great Sufi saint Maulana Jalal Ud Din Rumi. The delegation members took keen interest in visiting graves of Rumi and his disciples. Guide briefed the delegation about different parts of the tomb and teaching methods of Rumi. Delegation stayed there for more than an hour and offered Fateh there.

Shams Tibrez Shrine:

After visiting Rumi tomb, the delegation visited Shrine of Sufi Shams Tibrez who was considered as spiritual mentor of Maolana Rumi. It was a mosque where grave of Shams (R.A) situated and it was full of people who came there from different parts of the world to visit this shrine. The delegation had shortage of time as he has already bought train' tickets for Istanbul so they had to leave this spiritual center of Islamic world soon.

Madrassa of Karatay: It was an ancient madrassa that was also used as laboratory for experiments of Geometry and astronomy. The ruins of this madrassa were explored during the excavation in 20th century. Then the government renovated the building and it was opened for visitors in 1960s.



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After spending time and visiting different parts of the madrassa, the delegation left for hotel for lunch. After the lunch, the delegation rushed to station to catch the train for Istanbul.

Turkish Society

During the stay in Turkey, I had a chance to observe and study Turkish society closely, I observed many things that were new to me, some things were very strange and some were very interesting. Timing of my visit was very historic and interesting as I reached Istanbul on August 08; these were the days when the nation was commemorating against defeat of failed 15 July coup. Turkish is an educated nation with a literacy rate of almost 98.6 percent and it is difficult for anyone to negatively propagate against such a highly educated nation. Nowadays, when Turkish people receives anybody, they ask him that what are the differences you felt after reaching here because they know that western media is propagating their struggle for democracy negatively so they are busy in propagating their struggle positively.

People loyal to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan are playing a role of social diplomats as they openly discussed events and consequences of the failed coup with us during the visit and we also visited Istanbul Buyuksheir Baldiye and Eyup Sultan where people were shoot dead by the rebellions when they were resisting against the coup plotters.

The people managed to fail the coup just because a large number of protestors were those who had army training as it is mandatory for Turkish citizens to get enrolled in army and had training for a specific period of time. This was the power that forced the masses to resist against army. Turkish nation lives in a moderate Muslim way, they offer namaz but their culture allows them to openly engage in activities with the opposite sex, so there is no any discrimination in that society. Food is an important livelihood item and a nation can't be studied without having a valuable knowledge about their food. Corba is an important food item in Turkish society; they serve this soup every time before meal. They are very much hospitable but they don't have much interaction in the world.

Turkish don't know much about English, they like to speak Turkish and they are working to make it an international language. They are in close contact with Turkish-speaking people around the



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world as they have a ministry of Turkish national abroad that works for the betterment of those whom forefathers migrated from Turkey and settled in different parts of the world like Turkmanistan, Azerbaijan, Kashghar, Afghanistan etc.

Turks are very much nationalists, They do not bother anybody who have any thing bad against Turkey, their country, culture, history, government and religion is most important for them. They can not bear a single word against Turkey.

Turks are fond of hoteling; they like to visit markets and had dinner at hotels with family and friends. They take dinner before maghrib (6:00 to 8:00 pm). They try to use day time maximally as to spent night time at home of to visit places with family and friends.

Turks are trying to revive their Islamic history; hate against unislamic powers can be felt during the discussion with an ordinary citizen of Turkish nation. They also felt pain of debacle of Ottoman Empire as they know that once they were the rulers of all Muslims.

In the end, I would say that Turkey is great country and its people are its saviors who fought for their country, for their system, sacrificed their lives but saved the country from unwanted army rebels who tried to topple the government and to murder their democratically elected President.

Long Live Turkey!



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Qurat-ul Ain

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Middle Eastern Countries must remove their borders as there were less disputes in Ottoman era when the whole area was controlled by a single caliph. Talking about EU-Turk relations, he blatantly said that Turks are much better (Economically Speaking) than many member states of the EU and Turks don't need them (EU). Talking about Gulen, he said that some of his believers say Gulen is "Mehdi", some say he is Imam and some say that he is the rightful person to be obeyed in these times. But he is a cancer; he could not be left over an attempt to topple democratically elected Parliament and the President. Talking about Syria, he said that Turkey is with the people of Syria and Asad must go as people of Syria do not like him to stay in power.

Lunch: After Meeting with Ali Shahin, The delegation visited Kizilay, there we had lunch and moved to Turkish Grand National Assembly.

Visit to Turkish Assembly & Meeting with Turkish Minister: After the lunch, the delegation moved to Turkish grand national assembly and met with Minister Muhammet BALTA who is currently Chairman of Committee of Environment and also Heading Pak-Turk Friendship Committee. He was a wonderful spokesman and a good speaker. He was elected from Trabzon, his speech, body language and style made him a fantastic orator. He also focused on 15 July Coup during his discussion. He told the delegation that Gulen is running the movement so secretly that it has become a challenge for government to clean its ranks from these dirty germs. He added that Gulen is a danger for whole Muslim World as he is doing all his clandestine activities in disguise of Muslim cleric and on the name of Education. He was pro Islamic leader and focused on making Islamic block to defend Muslims of the world against the tyrant behaviors of Non Muslims. Talking about steps being taken by the government to stop any untoward incident in future, he said that Turkish deputies are going to make legislative changes and now Chief of Army Staff will directly work under the President of the Republic and the rest of staff will be under the control of Interior Ministry. He admired the role of Pakistan after 15 July Coup and hope for better future relations in the coming era. Then the delegation visited Assembly Hall and the sites where 5 people martyred on 15 July night when traitors dropped bomb on Assembly building.



GÜNEY ASYA STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ

SOUTH ASIA STRATEGIC RESEARCH CENTER

Dinner at Ayas:

After leaving the assembly, the delegation moved towards Ayas that was a countryside area almost 60 kilometers away from Ankara. The delegation offered Asar prayer in a historic mosque at Ayas, visited this small town and had dinner at a local hotel. Then the delegation moved back to its accommodation for night stay.

26/08/2016

Visit to Presidency of Turkish Abroad and Relevant Ministries: Early morning on August 26, The delegation visited the office of above mentioned Presidency and had fruitful discussions with the head of that presidency. The delegation was told that this is the office that sponsored their visit to Turkey. When asked about the progress of those Turks from China, Kashghar and Afghanistan living in Pakistan, he said, “We don’t want to bring Turks back to Turkey but we want to settle their problems in their relevant countries”.

Talking about Gulen and the Coup, he said that timing of this delegation’s visit is very important and they witnessed historic moments of Turkey as the great Turkish nation defeated the rebels. He expressed his concerns about 13000 foreign students studying in different varsities of Turkey from across the world but they were brought Turkey by these Gulenists. Government don’t know exactly how many of them can be terrorists???? He explained. He was pro Pakistani and wanted more cooperation and friendship with Pakistan. He also wished Pakistani students to apply for Turkish Scholarships as it is the most convenient way to get free education from Turkey. The Delegation also had lunch in his office. On behalf of Pakistani delegation, Khizar Manzoor presented a gift of waist coat to the Excellency.

Visit ot Anadolu Agency: On the same day, the delegation visited Head Office of Turkish Premier News Agency-Anadolu Agency. We were welcomed by Mr. Mehmet Ozturk who is working there as Foreign Languages News Desk Chief, he was speaking very good Urdu because he served in different parts of Pakistan including Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi for a long time.



GÜNEY ASYA STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ

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He shared detailed presentation of Anadolu Agency with the delegation and replied all the questions in Urdu. When asked he told that daily Zaman of Gulen group had the most viewership in Turkey but all of their news agencies and newspapers are banned now. Coup left a positive impression on AA as its viewership has increased due to closure of Gulen-linked media outlets, he added.

Talking about Kurd issue, he said Kurds are neither minority nor they want independence from country as Turks and Kurds are living together from centuries and they never had any kind of ethnic clash, It is a terror organization (PKK) who is implanting terrorism on the name of Kurd Nationalism. Kurds and Turks are brothers, we were about to free Abdullah Ocalan but they (PKK) derailed the talks and Abdullah could face life danger if freed. On the request by delegation members, he led us to visit Desk Section of the agency. Gifts were distributed by him among the guests before the delegation left the office.

Press & Publication Office: After visiting AA, the delegation reached in Press and Publication Office where they were briefed by Ismail Mansoor-Head of the department. He was very diplomatic personality and had very composed discussion. He briefed the delegation about Turkish influence in the world. He also tried to change our narrative about Turkish aid. He tried to make us assure that Turkey is helping the countries for the sake of Humanity. He also talked about Pak-Turk relations and briefed the delegation that west is pursuing proxy wars in developing countries as they supported Gulen in Turkey and TTP in Pakistan. He also briefed the delegation about scholarship opportunities in Turkey. In the end, he thanked the delegation for visiting his office and his country as well.

27/08/2016 – Konya

Rumi Tomb

It was the day when the delegation left Ankara and started its journey towards Konya at 5:45. We took train from Ankara and it took almost two hours to reach Konya. We were welcomed by a guide there who was deputed by Baldieye of Konya as delegations' Protocol officer.



GÜNEY ASYA STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ

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We visited Constantinople era church there that was built by the mother of king Constantinople. It was an old church that was surrounded by mountains from all sides. The delegation also saw caves in that mountains but could not allowed to go their as those caves were inside the mountains and visiting that area could be harmful to anyone because it was not easy to climb over there.

Then the delegation had breakfast in a local hotel situated outside the church, then delegation was told that they are going to visit Mausoleum of great Sufi saint Maulana Jalal Ud Din Rumi. The delegation members took keen interest in visiting graves of Rumi and his disciples. Guide briefed the delegation about different parts of the tomb and teaching methods of Rumi. Delegation stayed there for more than an hour and offered Fatah there.

Shams Tibrez Shrine:

After visiting Rumi tomb, the delegation visited Shrine of Sufi Shams Tibrez who was considered as spiritual mentor of Maolana Rumi. It was a mosque where grave of Shams (R.A) situated and it was full of people who came there from different parts of the world to visit this shrine. The delegation had shortage of time as he has already bought train' tickets for Istanbul so they had to leave this spiritual center of Islamic world soon.

Madrassa of Karatay:

It was an ancient madrassa that was also used as laboratory for experiments of Geometry and astronomy. The ruins of this madrassa were explored during the excavation in 20th century. Then the government renovated the building and it was opened for visitors in 1960s. After spending time and visiting different parts of the madrassa, the delegation left for hotel for lunch. After the lunch, the delegation rushed to station to catch the train for Istanbul.



GÜNEY ASYA STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ

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Turkish Society

During the stay in Turkey, I had a chance to observe and study Turkish society closely, I observed many things that were new to me, some things were very strange and some were very interesting. Timing of my visit was very historic and interesting as I reached Istanbul on August 08; these were the days when the nation was commemorating against defeat of failed 15 July coup. Turkish is an educated nation with a literacy rate of almost 98.6 percent and it is difficult for anyone to negatively propagate against such a highly educated nation. Nowadays, when Turkish people receives anybody, they ask him that what are the differences you felt after reaching here because they know that western media is propagating their struggle for democracy negatively so they are busy in propagating their struggle positively.

People loyal to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan are playing a role of social diplomats as they openly discussed events and consequences of the failed coup with us during the visit and we also visited Istanbul Buyuksheir Baldiye and Eyup Sultan where people were shoot dead by the rebellions when they were resisting against the coup plotters.

The people managed to fail the coup just because a large number of protestors were those who had army training as it is mandatory for Turkish citizens to get enrolled in army and had training for a specific period of time. This was the power that forced the masses to resist against army.

Turkish nation lives in a moderate Muslim way, they offer namaz but their culture allows them to openly engage in activities with the opposite sex, so there is no any discrimination in that society.

Food is an important livelihood item and a nation can't be studied without having a valuable knowledge about their food. Corba is an important food item in Turkish society; they serve this soup every time before meal. They are very much hospitable but they don't have much interaction in the world.

Turkish don't know much about English, they like to speak Turkish and they are working to make it an international language. They are in close contact with Turkish-speaking people around the world as they have a ministry of Turkish national abroad that works for the betterment of those



GÜNEY ASYA STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ

SOUTH ASIA STRATEGIC RESEARCH CENTER

whom forefathers migrated from Turkey and settled in different parts of the world like Turkmanistan, Azerbaijan, Kashghar, Afghanistan etc.

Turks are very much nationalists, They do not bother anybody who have any thing bad against Turkey, their country, culture, history, government and religion is most important for them. They can not bear a single word against Turkey.

Turks are fond of hoteling; they like to visit markets and had dinner at hotels with family and friends. They take dinner before maghrib (6:00 to 8:00 pm). They try to use day time maximally as to spent night time at home of to visit places with family and friends.

Turks are trying to revive their Islamic history; hate against unislamic powers can be felt during the discussion with an ordinary citizen of Turkish nation. They also felt pain of debacle of Ottoman Empire as they know that once they were the rulers of all Muslims.

In the end, I would say that Turkey is great country and its people are its saviors who fought for their country, for their system, sacrificed their lives but saved the country from unwanted army rebels who tried to topple the government and to murder their democratically elected President.

Long Live Turkey!