

Turkey, Israel on collision course in Syria over incursions, Kurdish support

Ankara is concerned that Israel may seek to solidify its territorial gains in Syria, leveraging regional instability and pro-Israel US policies.

Ezgi Akin / Dec 21, 2024

ANKARA — Amid heightened tensions between Israel and Turkey over the Gaza Strip, Syria risks becoming a new flashpoint for the two Mediterranean nations due to conflicting interests and diverging positions.

Key points of contention include Israel's incursion in southern Syria and its support for Syrian Kurdish groups, which Ankara views as a top national security threat.

[...]

Gallia Lindenstrauss, a senior research fellow at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies, noted that for now, Israel appears to have no intention of directly challenging Turkey's influence in Syria. She believes the fall of the Syrian regime could even provide a window of opportunity for Turkey-Israel ties.

“Counterintuitively, this is actually a chance for greater communication between Turkey and Israel, as both would like to see Syria become a functioning state and not a failed entity that hosts terrorists,” she told Al-Monitor.

“It should be remembered that the golden years between Israel and Turkey were also because of cooperation at the time with regard to Syria,” she added.

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