



TÜRKİYE-KORE İLİŞKİLERİNDE İNSANI YARDIM ÖRNEĞİ: 6 ŞUBAT KAHRAMANMARAŞ DEPREMLERİ

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THE ROLE OF HUMANITARIAN AID IN TÜRKİYE-SOUTH KOREA RELATIONS: ANALYZING THE FEBRUARY 6 KAHRAMANMARAŞ EARTHQUAKES

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ÖZ Türk ve Kore milletinin ilişkileri tarihin en eski zamanlarına kadar uzanmaktadır. Bu ilişkiler sadece duygusal seviyede kalmamıştır. Her iki millet de zor ve kötü günlerde birbirlerine birçok alanda olduğu gibi diplomatik ve stratejik iş birlikleri çerçevesinde destek oldukları bilinmektedir. Özellikle her iki milletin de bozkır kültürünü benimsemesi ve benzer kültürel özellikleri sergilemesi yakınlaşmasını sağlamıştır. 2. Dünya Savaşı'nın bitmesi her iki ülkenin de jeopolitik konumunun önemini artmıştır. Özellikle Kore Savaşı sonrasında Kore Cumhuriyeti'nin kurulması ve 20.Yüzyılın sonlarında Sovyetler Birliği'nin dağılması sonucu değişen güç dengeleri ile yeni uluslararası düzende Kore ve Türkiye'nin Asya kıtasının doğu ve batı ucunda iki önemli güç dengesi unsuru olarak ortaya çıkmasına sebep olmuştur. Geçmişe dayanan Türk-Kore ilişkilerinde, Göktürkler ve Koreliler komşu devletlerdir. Altay kavimleri arasındaki huzur ve iş birliği Çin'deki Tang Hanedanı'nın ortaya çıkmasıyla dengeleri değiştirmiştir. Tang Hanedanı, Şilla Devleti ile iş birliği yapmış, Göktürk-Koguryeo ve Bekçe arasındaki ittifakı bozmuştur. Burada da görüldüğü üzere ülkeler arası etkileşim günümüze kadar devam etmiştir. Türkiye Cumhuriyeti'nin Kore Savaşı'na asker göndermesi ile iki ülke arasındaki ilişkiler kuvvetlenmiştir ve iki millet birbirine "kardeş ülke, kan kardeşi" demektedir. Kore Savaşı'nda savaşmış olan Türk şehitlerini ve gazilerini Kore milleti hiçbir zaman unutmamıştır ve kardeş ülkeler birbirlerini uluslararası arenada kalkınma, iş birliği, diplomasi, ekonomik, askeri alanlarda desteklemiştir. Ülkemizde yaşanan 6 Şubat Kahramanmaraş merkezli depremlerde ise Kore halkı ve Kore Cumhuriyeti Devleti kardeş ülkesini unutmamış ve yardıma ilk gelen ülkelerden birisi olmuştur. Burada yine Kore Cumhuriyeti'nden gelen STK kurum ve kuruluşlarının Türkiye Cumhuriyeti'nde bulunan STK'lar ile iş birliği içerisinde çalışarak deprem alanında da görev almış, sonrasında depremin yaralarını sarmak için çeşitli kurum ve kuruluşlar ile yardımlarını sürdürmeye devam etmiştir. Buradaki koordinasyon ekiplerimize stratejik konularda eğitimler vermişlerdir. Bu çalışma 6 Şubat Kahramanmaraş merkezli depremlerde Kore halkı, Kore Cumhuriyeti ve Kore'de bulunan STK'lar ile dünya çapında yaşayan Koreliler tarafından gönderilen yardımlar ve destekleri incelemeyi amaçlamaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kore, Türkiye, Kardeş ülke, Kore Savaşı, 6 Şubat Depremleri

ABSTRACT The relationship between the Turkish and Korean nations, from the past to the present, has transcended mere emotional bonds. Both nations have provided support to each other not only on an emotional level but also at the diplomatic level during difficult and challenging times. In particular, the shared cultural characteristics, especially the embrace of the steppe culture, have brought these two nations closer. The aftermath of the Korean War, which began with the end of World War II, the establishment of the Republic of Korea, and the shifting power dynamics resulting from the dissolution of the Soviet Union towards the end of the 20th century, led to the emergence of Korea and Türkiye as two major power centers at the eastern and western ends of the Asian continent in the new international order. This situation has elevated the geopolitical significance of both countries. Looking back to earlier times, the harmony and cooperation among the Altaic tribes shifted with the emergence of the Tang Dynasty in China. The Tang Dynasty collaborated with the Silla Dynasty, disrupting the alliance between the Göktürks, Koguryeo, and



Baekje. This demonstrates the continued interaction between countries, with the Göktürks and Koreans being neighboring states. In contemporary times, the bonds between Türkiye and Korea have been strengthened through Türkiye's deployment of troops to the Korean War, and both nations refer to each other as "brother countries" and "blood brothers." The Korean people have never forgotten our martyrs and veterans who fought in the Korean War, and both countries have supported each other in international arenas, development, cooperation, and diplomatic fields. In the face of the earthquakes centered in Kahramanmaraş on February 6 that occurred in the Türkiye, the Korean people and the Republic of Korea have not forgotten their brotherly country and have provided assistance. Furthermore, South Korean NGO's have collaborated with NGO's in the Republic of Türkiye, working together in the earthquake-affected areas. They continued their support by working with various institutions and organizations to alleviate the wounds caused by the earthquake. This study aims to examine the aid and support sent by the Korean people, the Republic of Korea, and Korean NGO's living worldwide in response to the February 6 earthquakes centered in Kahramanmaraş.

Keywords: Korea, Türkiye, Brother countries, Korean War, February 6th Earthquakes.



HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIPS BASED ON THE PAST

The historical relations between the Turkish and Korean people can be traced back to the era of the Göktürk Empire, one of the most powerful empires of its time in Central Asia, as well as to the Korean ambassadors who appeared before Alp Er Tunga with their wall drawings between 648 and 651 CE. However Chinese researchers have investigated that Turks and Koreans were very close to each other, made constant alliances and maintained their kinship through marriage. In addition, there are Chinese records that Koreans and Turks attacked China in alliance during the Göktürk Empire. The Koguryeo–Tang War, which occurred from 645 to 668, was fought between Koguryeo and the Tang Dynasty. The Tang-Silla-Göktürk coalition achieved victory, leading to the fall of Koguryeo, its annexation by the Tang Dynasty. Because the Göktürk Empire was another powerful state other than China in the Central Asia (Turkestan) region and determined the balance of power in the steppe. Against China's expansionist and oppressive conquests, both the Göktürks and Koreans showed their reactions in alliance. Again, when Kül Tigin Khan died in the Orkhon Inscriptions, Koreans were one of the nations that offered condolences and mourned. In today's relations, the first interaction between Turks and Koreans was the Korean War. The Korean War, the first hot war of the Cold War, was an ideological and hot war that started on the Korean Peninsula with the end of 35 years of Japanese exploitation. As a result of the conflicts between South Korea, supported by the United States, and North Korea, supported by Russia and then China, the United States asked for help from the United Nations Military Troops and Türkiye was involved in the war as a result of sending troops for NATO membership. Soviet Russia, as a member of the UN Security Council, protested against the deployment of troops to the Korean Peninsula, but since it did not vote in the Security Council, its vote was abstained and the majority vote was accepted, however, the US called on the international arena to send troops to the Korean Peninsula, and the first country to respond to this call was Türkiye under Prime Minister Adnan Menderes (Jeong, 2016).

The Beginning of Historical Relationships Based on the Past

The relationship between Turks and Koreans goes back to ancient times, approximately 2 to 4 centuries BC, when the Hyung-nu (匈奴) and the Gök Türks (突厥) living in Mongolia had contact with the ancient Koreans living in Manchuria and the Korean Peninsula, namely the Kocosen (古朝鮮) and Koguryeo (高句麗). It is known that ancient Turks and Koreans were allies in their wars against China during the Han (漢), Sui (隋) and Tang (唐) dynasties. However, as the Turks moved westward from Mongolia into to the steppes of Central Asia, the Caucasus and Anatolia. The relations between Turks and Koreans, who share many common cultural elements, are gradually declined fundamentally, becoming more internal rather than formal and external. In 1928, Gustaf Ramstedt first argued that Turks and Koreans are the closest linguistically related people. Many scholars, such as Nicholas Poppe, Talat Tekin and Han Woo Choi, have strongly supported the Altaic theory that there is a genetic relationship between the Turkish, Mongolian, Manchu-Tungus and Korean languages. Indeed, apart from Turkish loanwords in Korean, there are many common elements between Turkish and Korean languages. When we compare the ancient myths of the two nations, many similarities can be found. For example, a wolf appears in the founding narrative of the Gok Turks and in the ancient Korean kingdom of Koguryeo (高句麗) in the first century BC. In the Koguryeo legend, the sky god Haemosu (解慕漱) transformed into a wolf to attack the enemies. Interestingly, the name of the Kogurye capital was Jolbon (卒本) "golden star", which is used in the same sense in Yakut



Turkic language. It is noteworthy that in pre-Islamic Turkic societies, both ancient Turks and Koreans believed in Gok Tengri (CHOI, 2014).

Turkish Military in the Korean War

The Korean War, the first hot war of the Cold War period that began after the Second World War, started on June 25, 1950, when the armies of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) crossed the 38th parallel and attacked the armies of the Republic of Korea (South Korea). Following this attack, the United States urgently called for a UN Security Council meeting and with the decision of the Security Council, all UN members were called upon to send troops to the war in Korea. Türkiye was one of the first countries to respond to this call. Soviet Russia, which had been in close relations with Türkiye against the West during and after the War of Independence, made territorial claims on Türkiye after the Second World War, which led to a serious strain in relations between the two countries. In the face of the increasing Soviet threat after the war, Türkiye turned to the West in order not to be left alone in the political and military arena. In the bipolar world order, the United States abandoned its policy of isolationism and implemented the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan, in order to ensure the military, economic and political development of European States, and Türkiye, thanks to these aids, both entered into close relations with the United States and strengthened its hand against the Soviet threat. However, these aids also led to an increase in Türkiye's security concerns due to the increasing Soviet demands over Anatolian territories. With the 1950 elections that brought the Democratic Party to power, an important period began in Türkiye in terms of domestic and foreign politics. At a time when the Menderes Government was trying to improve relations with European countries and the USA, the outbreak of the Korean War was seen as an opportunity by the Government to show that it was on the side of the West and announced that they were ready to send troops to Korea in line with the UN's call (CANBEK, 2022).

The Turkish Brigade was composed of officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men from various units of the army, preferably selected as volunteers. With this situation, a new unit willing to fight in Korea was formed. Brigadier General Tahsin Yazıcı was appointed as the commander of this unit and Colonel Celal Dora was appointed as the 241st Infantry Regiment Commander (Jeong, 2016).

As the First Brigade was transported by rail from Ankara to Iskenderun and there by ship to Korea, it was seen that the masses of people filling the stations and most of the Turkish press and intellectuals accepted the Turkish nation's decision to cooperate with the UN member states in the Far East for lasting peace in the region. The Turkish Government took a keen interest in the struggle of the Korean armed forces and was determined to respond to this unjustified aggression against the Republic of Korea by fighting within the framework of UN resolutions.

On October 19, 1950, the second batch of Turkish troops landed at the Busan docks. They were greeted by representatives of the U.S. garrison, the South Korean government and the municipality of Busan, dignitaries and the public themselves, including children carrying Turkish flags and a marching band playing the Turkish, Korean and U.S. national anthems. The disembarked troops were immediately transported by vehicles to the city of Daegu, about 95 kilometers northwest of the port of Busan, where they were placed in a barracks (Jeong, 2016). The Koreans gave each unit participating in the war a name. They called the Turkish Brigade the "Pole Star". The Ankara School was established by Turkish officers for children orphaned during the war.



The Turkish Brigade fought many battles in Korea, where they even taught bayonet fighting to Korean soldiers who had run out of bullets. The Turkish troops understood the situation of the Korean people as a nation that had just come out of the National Struggle, and the Turkish soldiers were experienced soldiers who knew the ethics and rules of war. Having recently fought many battles, the Turkish soldier also knew how to recognize his enemy. According to the South Korean Ministry of Defense, Türkiye participated in the war with 4 brigades with a total of 21,212 soldiers and ranked 4th among the 16 countries participating in the Korean War in terms of the number of soldiers.

With the battles of Kunuri and Kumyangjang-ni, they defeated the Red Chinese armies, which were considered invincible, and saved the UN forces from a great defeat and made the UN armies give up the idea of leaving Korea. With the defense of Seoul, they prevented the capital Seoul from falling into enemy hands, and later, with the Battle of Vegas, he ensured that an armistice agreement was reached. Just to mention a few of the battles fought by the Turkish Brigade in Korea.

The Battle of Kunuri: (November 26/30, 1950)

The Kunuri Battles were fought in Wawon, Sinnimni, Kaechon, and Kunuri Gorge. It was a battle between the Red Chinese Army and the Turkish Brigade, with a strategic Turkish victory leading to a successful retreat. The Turkish Brigade was given the task of ensuring the safe withdrawal of the UN troops; delaying the enemy's advance and thus gaining time. The Turkish army resisted the Red Chinese Army alone for 3 days in the retreat decision taken by the UN army, as a result of which the course of the war changed and the enemy's advance was significantly stopped. However, the losses of the Turkish Brigade were very heavy in this war. It is known that there were 94 casualties, 218 martyrs and 455 wounded (Korean War and Its Traces, 2019).

Battle of Kumyangjangni

The Red Chinese strengthened by reinforcements, continued its offensive and could not be stopped. This had a negative impact on the morale of the UN army, which had retreated about 400 kilometers and weakened its will to fight. The UN army was convinced that the war would be lost, and therefore plans were drawn up to leave Korea. A victory was needed to turn the tide of the war in favor of the United Nations. This victory would again be achieved by the Turkish soldier. The Turkish Brigade was assigned the task of forced reconnaissance to detect the enemy and reveal its situation. The Turkish Brigade started the offensive on January 25, 1951 (Korean War and Traces, 2019). The Turkish forces, which were left alone with the task of advancing on the right of the United Nations Army, which withdrew from the Kunuri battles which had continued for four days, faced unpredictable situations, in the middle of winter, in a country where they did not speak the language, with difficulty distinguishing between friend and foe. Although the enemy suffered more than a thousand casualties due to guerrilla raids and was very shaken, it continued to resist and defend, so much so that they defeated the enemy soldiers with bayonet warfare without any equipment. With these efforts, the Turkish Brigade, stopped the enemy for three days, preventing the destruction of the United Nations Army and saved the American 8th Army from being destroyed. After the Battle of Kunuri, the United Nations forces, who tried to leave Korea by boarding ships, but unloaded the ships with joy and joined the operation in amazement when the Turkish forces, described as invincible, defeated the enemy with their attacks on Kumyang-jangni, changing the course of the war for the second time (Denizli, Foreword, 2010). All enemy targets and the town of Kumyangjang-ni were captured by the

Turkish Brigade. Based on this offensive, the UN army also launched offensives and the Chinese army was defeated. The expected victory was won at Kumyang-jangni. The battle of Kumyang-jangni also showed that the Red Chinese armies could be defeated. The victory at Kumyang-jangni dissuaded the UN army, whose will to fight had been severely hampered by the Chinese attacks and who had planned to leave Korea, from doing so, and the war continued in favor of the UN. Seoul was liberated again. Upon this victory, the Turkish Brigade was awarded the "Distinguished Unit Medal" by the American Congress and the "Order of Unity" by the Korean Presidency (Korean War and Its Traces, 2019).

Defense of the Capital Seoul (May 13/18, 1951)

In the defense of Seoul, the Turkish Brigade was stationed at a reconnaissance base ahead of the main battle line in the Taegyeonni area, where the two enemy invasion routes converged and led to Seoul. In order for the enemy to attack the Seoul defense positions, the Turkish Brigade had to be eliminated first, and the Turkish Brigade was assigned such a critical task in the defense of Seoul. While the United Nations Forces were on the offensive north of the 38th parallel towards the Kumhwa-chorwon-Pyongyang triangle, they had to retreat due to the Chinese offensive that started on the night of April 22/23, 1951. Since the Turkish Brigade was assigned as a reconnaissance base in the defense of Seoul, it prepared to meet the enemy by taking up perimeter defense in the Taegyeonni area 5 km ahead of the front. On the night of May 18, the enemy's attacks with superior forces and equipment against the Turkish Brigade, which was driven ahead of the main battle line of the United Nations as a forward position and reconnaissance base, were completely fruitless. These attacks were repeated many times in waves until the morning. However, the enemy had prepared for months for these battles, which were called the first spring offensives and announced to the world. The enemy renewed the offensive six times, but could not enter the positions anywhere. Two enemy regiments attacked the Turkish Armed Forces and the enemy suffered 1500 casualties. The Turkish Brigade suffered 2 officers, 9 privates martyred, 4 officers, 2 non-commissioned officers and 18 privates wounded. The enemy's attack on Seoul was stopped only by the Turkish Brigade and this was the turning point of the battle. Because the Turkish Brigade inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy, blocked the road to Seoul, the idea was that it was now the United Nations Forces' turn to attack. Taegyeonni was soon named the "Turkish Fortress" (Denizli, Kunuri Heroes in the Korean War, 2010). The Turkish Brigade, deployed around the capital Seoul, prevented Seoul from falling into enemy hands for the third time with its successful defense (Korean War and Its Traces, 2019).

Battle of Vegas (May 28/29, 1953)

On the night of May 28/29, 1953, the Chinese army attacked Turkish troops serving as a combat outpost, defending the hills identified by the Americans as Karsan, Elko, Little and Big Vegas, East and West Berlin, and located 600 meters ahead of the main battle line defended by the brigade. The aim of the Red Chinese army in this attack was to gain an advantage at the negotiating table by gaining the upper hand in the ceasefire talks that would end the war. The Turkish troops at the combat outpost fought heroically and prevented the enemy's advance. Among these hills, Bloody Vegas which went down in history, was not surrendered to the enemy despite changing hands several times in one night. 151 Turkish soldiers were martyred in these battles. To commemorate this victory, the 3rd Turkish Brigade was awarded the Order of Merit by the U.S. President (Korean War and Its Traces, 2019). As a result, China did not have the advantage it desired in the armistice negotiations. This battle greatly contributed to the signing of the armistice agreement and the end of the war.



Thanks to the brave and successful struggles of the Turkish soldiers in Korea, the prestige of both Türkiye and the Turkish soldier has increased worldwide, with these successes being featured in prominent U.S. news sources (CANBEK, 2022). One of these newspapers, the Times Herald, wrote on the front page of its December 5, 1950 edition, under the title "In Korea, formidable Turks turn the tide against the Reds": "The mighty Turkish troops, who launched a lightning offensive in response to the rearguard action, drove back a vastly superior Red Chinese force and pinned the Chinese in place until the Second American Division withdrew to new defensive lines near Sunchon" (Yücel, 2005).

REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S AID TO TÜRKİYE DURING THE FEBRUARY 6 KAHRAMANMARAŞ EARTHQUAKES

The Korean people have not forgotten the heroism of the Turkish Brigade in the Korean War and have always been grateful. It was a sad coincidence that the Turkish Brigade, which set out from Iskenderun to Korea, and the Korean aid team came to Iskenderun during the February 6 Earthquakes, which unfortunately took thousands of lives in our country today. Korean people sent both humanitarian aid and shelter aid to the earthquake zone through many non-governmental organizations. These aid was delivered to our earthquake victims with the help of NGOs in Türkiye. In his statements, President of the Republic of Korea Yoon Suk-Yeol emphasized that 5 million liras of humanitarian aid would be provided in the first stage and that Türkiye was a sister country. It was decided to send a 140-strong Korean Disaster Relief Team (KDTR), consisting of the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the national fire brigade, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and members of the military, on a military transport plane. This made it the largest rescue team sent overseas by South Korea. On February 8, 2023, the 118-strong Korean Disaster Relief Team along with the four search and rescue dogs arrived at Gaziantep Airport. Working in coordination with Turkish NGO teams, the Republic of Korea Disaster Relief team was assigned to Antakya/Hatay and arrived there on Tuesday morning, February 9. The team saved eight lives and, unfortunately, reached the lifeless bodies of nineteen people. On February 16, 2023, the first team returned to Korea, but on the same day the second team arrived in Türkiye. It brought aid packages such as tents and medicines with it, and also visited the sites and held meetings with the relevant institutions in order to learn the needs of our earthquake-stricken citizens (Embassy of the Republic of Korea, 2023).

President of Korea Yoon Suk Yeol met with the Korean Disaster Relief Team, which had been conducting search and rescue operations in the earthquake zone of Türkiye, and congratulated them on their efforts, while the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Seoul welcomed the relief team at the airport and thanked them. President Yoon stated that the spirit of solidarity shown in the disaster area once again emphasized the fact that Korea and Türkiye are true friends who help each other in difficult times. The president also said that the government of the Republic of Korea would continue to support Türkiye's restoration and reconstruction of the earthquake zone and planned to actively support the creation and operation of temporary shelters for disaster victims by raising more than 10 million dollars together with the private sector. He expressed the hope that the various support projects carried out by the state and the private sector would become a symbol of friendship, demonstrating the true brotherhood of the two countries.

On March 16, 2023, the third Korean Disaster Relief team arrived in Türkiye to build a \$10 million container city in the earthquake zone. The Korea-Türkiye Friendship Association, consisting of businessmen, professors, celebrities and dignitaries who support the Türkiye, including Kim Hyung-o, former speaker of

the Korean parliament, organized a donation campaign for Türkiye for a month between February 7 and March 7, 5,899 people participated in this campaign and a total of 1 billion Won (approximately 15 million TL) was raised. Members of the association visited the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Seoul on March 14 to convey the love of Koreans and the amount raised (Embassy of the Republic of Korea, 2023). In addition, under the leadership of Koreans living in Türkiye, a container city called Koreatown was established in Iskenderun with the donations collected by the Korean Association, religious groups, companies and various non-governmental organizations living abroad. There are 360 containers in total, with kitchens and bathrooms, and air conditioners were added later. Various cultural activities and social services were also provided in the neighborhood. In the statement made by the South Korean Embassy, "In 1950, Turkish soldiers set off from Iskenderun Port to participate in the Korean War. It is even more meaningful that a neighborhood named Korea was established in Iskenderun, which has a very special meaning for Korea and Türkiye. The meaningful letter written by Ambassador Lee to the wives of those who took part in the earthquake shows the sincerity of Korea towards our earthquake victims. In this letter, "Korea and Türkiye are one of the first neighbors in history. As neighboring countries, we have older historical ties than any other nation in the world."

The container city, which was established in Kahramanmaraş under the coordination of South Korea Hope Bridge with the initiatives of Aksaray Mayor Dr. Evren Dinçer to contribute to meeting the need for shelter in the city after the earthquakes that struck Kahramanmaraş on February 6, inaugurated with a ceremony. The 200 container houses, whose installation and interior equipment were completed, were delivered to the disaster victims. The area where the container city is located was named the Türkiye-South Korea Aksaray Brotherhood Neighborhood. Again, after the earthquakes that struck Kahramanmaraş on February 6, a concert of friendship and unity between Korea and Türkiye was organized to support Türkiye's recovery process. This concert was organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Türkiye and the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Los Angeles in cooperation with the Consulate General of the Republic of Türkiye at the world-famous Disney Concert Hall (Embassy of the Republic of Korea, 2023).

Antakya Friendship City is a project by the Republic of Korea to build a container city for earthquake victims in Türkiye. Established by the Korean Government, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and NGOs, Antakya: Korea-Türkiye Friendship City was inaugurated on August 10. The 500 containers have continued to provide various social and cultural support to improve the quality of life of the residents of this friendship city. In addition, as a thank you gift to the students of Antakya Selim Nevzat Şahin Anatolian High School who allowed the Korean Search and Rescue Teams from the Republic of Korea to stay at the high school between February 8-15, tables, chairs, the computer room, and the library in the school were renovated. A project to replace tables and chairs, renovate the music room, computer room and library was also organized (Embassy of the Republic of Korea, 2023).

Korea's Container City construction project for earthquake victims in Türkiye; Pazarçık, Friendship Village. The Korean Red Cross, together with the Turkish Red Crescent, built the "Korea-Türkiye Friendship Village" consisting of more than 1,000 containers in Pazarçık, Kahramanmaraş. A handover ceremony was held on October 7. 350,000 Korean citizens and many Korean companies donated money through the Korean Red Cross to build the Korea-Türkiye Friendship Village in Pazarçık, Kahramanmaraş. In addition, the Republic

of Korea's parliamentarians decided to donate three percent of their salaries to earthquake victims in Türkiye and Syria. Korean K-pop artists, K-drama actors and leading Korean entertainment companies donated money for the earthquake victims. SM (Entertainment Company) 200 million Won (2,973,082 TRY) Hybe Music 500 million Won (7,432,707 TRY) JYP Music 500 million Won (7,432,707 TRY). In 2011, Kim Yeon-koung, a national volleyball player who played for Fenerbahçe and later for Eczacıbaşı, donated 10 million won (148,654 TL).

Table1- K-pop Artists, K-drama Actors, and Support from the Korean Entertainment Industry in Korea

Table1- K-pop Artists, K-drama Actors, and Support from the Korean Entertainment Industry in Korea

Organization/Person Providing Aid	Amount of Aid	Aid Provided Institution
JYP Entertainment	500 Million Won (7milyon 444 bin TL)	World Vision
HYBE Entertainment	500 Million Won (7milyon 444 bin TL)	Save the Children
Jung Ho Seok	100 Million Won (1.481.003,52 TL)	UNICEF-Korea
Park Ji Min	100 Million Won (1.481.003,52 TL)	UNICEF- Korea
Hwang Hyun Jin	100 Million Won (1.481.003,52 TL)	
Seo Chang Bin	100 Million Won (1.481.003,52 TL)	
S. Coups	200 Million Won (297.699,04 TL)	Hope Bridge Korea Disaster Relief Association
Doyoung	100 Million Won (1.481.003,52 TL)	
Chung Ha	20 Million Won (460,000 TL)	Korean Red Cross
Park Seo Jun	100 Million Won (1.481.003,52 TL)	UNICEF- Korea
Kim Se Jeong	40 Million Won (595.398,09 TL)	Hope Bridge Korea Disaster Relief Association
Ji Chang Wook	100 Million Won (1.481.003,52 TL)	UNICEF- Korea
Kim Go Eun	30 Million Won (446.548,57 TL)	Good Neighbor International (Korea)
Twice	200 Million Won (297.699,04 TL)	Save the Children
Park Jin Young	30 Million Won (446.548,57 TL)	Save the Children
Han Ji Min	100 Million Won (1.481.003,52 TL)	UNICEF- Korea
Kim Cye Seo	100 Million Won (1.481.003,52 TL)	UNICEF- Korea
Lee Hye Ri	50 Million Won (744.444,04 TL)	UNICEF- Korea
NCT- Mark	150 Million Won (2.202.397,27 TL)	Hope Bridge Korea Disaster Relief Association
SM Entertainment	200 Million Won (297.699,04 TL)	Hope Bridge Korea Disaster Relief Association
Jay B	60 Million Won (885.983,59 TL)	Green Umbrella Children's Foundation
BTOB-Eunkwang	10 Million Won (147.663,93 TL)	
NCT- Haechan	100 Million Won (1.481.003,52 TL)	
Bae Suzy	100 Million Won (1.481.003,52 TL)	UNICEF- Korea
Kim Yu Na	100 Million Dollar (1.884.472,00 TL)	UNICEF- Korea
ITZY-Ryujin	50 Million Won (744.444,04 TL)	The Promise
Yoo Jae Seok	100 Million Won (1.481.003,52 TL)	
Kim Yeon Koung	10 Million Won (147.663,93 TL)	
Yoo In Na	30 Million Won (446.548,57 TL)	
Yim Si Wan	10 Million Won (147.663,93 TL)	
Park Bo Young	30 Million Won (446.548,57 TL)	
Shin Min Ah	50 Million Won (744.444,04 TL)	

Source: By the author by compiling various sources.

South Korean volunteers who came to Osmaniye, which was affected by the earthquakes struck in Kahramanmaraş on February 6, spent a day with the families of the disaster victims and provided them moral support. They underlined that the brotherhood between Korea and Türkiye is sincere and genuine (Osmaniye Municipality, 2023). In addition, the proceeds from the K-POP Festival, jointly organized by the Korean Cultural Center and the Korea Tourism Organization Istanbul Office on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Türkiye, were donated to AFAD to meet the needs of



earthquake victims. The K-Music Festival with the theme 'Korea and Türkiye are eternal friends' was held at the Antalya Open Air Theater. The proceeds of 495 thousand TL from the K-Music Festival were donated to AFAD to meet the needs of earthquake victims (Korean Cultural Center, 2023). Special events for earthquake victims were organized in Iskenderun and Gaziantep in cooperation with the Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Korean Cultural Center on August 14-15 (Korean Cultural Center, 2023).

Finally, on November 28, 2023, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Interior, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, the Malatya Governorship, the Malatya Metropolitan Municipality, the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), the Union of South Korean Municipalities and the Turkish-Korean Cultural Communication Association, the Korepck Neighborhood, consisting of 210 containers in total, including 202 living containers and 8 administrative containers, was opened in Malatya (Embassy of the Republic of Korea, 2023).

CONCLUSION

The aim of the study was to examine the historical ties, diplomatic relations, and mutual assistance between the Turkish and Korean nations. The relations of both nations from the past to the present have exhibited strong support and cooperation not only on an emotional level but also in the diplomatic field. The Korean War, which emerged in the aftermath of World War II, further strengthened ties with Türkiye sending troops to Korea. In fact, for the first time in the history of the Republic, the Turkish Armed Forces fought an "enemy" outside the country that it had not fought before. He fought on the Korean Peninsula. Again, the Turkish soldier successfully fulfilled his duty in all the battles he participated in Korean Peninsula. The success of the Turkish soldier was so significant that it was enthusiastically covered in the international arena and news sources.

Despite all the difficulties experienced during the Korean War, both nations have established an emotional bond, often referring to each other as 'brother country' or 'blood brother'. Indeed, the geopolitical importance of both countries has increased with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the changing balance of power. Türkiye and Korea have become powerful actors at the eastern and western ends of the Asian continent.

Turkish soldiers and veterans who were martyred in the Korean War have never been forgotten by the Korean people. This sense of brotherhood has turned into continuous support in the international arena in the fields of development, cooperation, and diplomacy. Moreover, the solidarity shown by the Korean people and the Korean state during the natural disasters Türkiye has experienced. This relationship is not only a historical bond but also a current and effective cooperation. In particular, despite the fact that both countries are located in earthquake zones, there is a need to cooperate with the Republic of Türkiye on the technological developments and tactics that the Republic of Korea has developed in earthquake equipment and coordination, as well as to provide training for Turkish aid teams to ensure effective coordination.

In conclusion, Turkish-Korean relations have created a model that stands out with its historical depth, emotional ties, and strong diplomatic support. This long-term commitment of both nations to each other paves the way for stronger cooperation and solidarity in the future.

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