

## **Turkish Islamic Fanaticism Desecrates Hagia Sofia**

**Is this the beginning of Erdogan’s hybrid Islamist Regional War?**

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*The best prophet of the future is the past.*

*Lord Byron*

And so, it finally came to pass.

Turkey’s maniacal Islamist neo-sultan couldn’t sleep nights for years thinking of the beauty and immense global significance of the Hagia Sofia basilica, built by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I in AD 537. Hagia Sofia is not just a magnificent world civilization monument, it is the spiritual heart of Global Christianity that left the invading, conquering, slaughtering, and rampaging Turks with their mouths hanging open when they massacred, burned, and pillaged their way into Constantinople in 1453.

Kemal Ataturk, the father of “modern” Turkey, politically astute and eager to pull his “new,” but still primitive, Turkey away from her Ottoman Empire’s blood-soaked genocidal sultanic Islamic past, sensed that Hagia Sofia was the perfect symbol of “New” Turkey’s supposed opening to the Civilized Western World. And, thus, he turned Hagia Sofia into a museum “open to all peoples and religions.”

Kemal could not have anticipated Erdogan as the “neo-sultan.” And he would have been hard pressed to visualize this “neo-sultan” harboring a *Hitlerite mental attitude* pointing him to striking suddenly and risking war, when his instinct tells him Europe and the rest are either napping or, simply, do not give a red farthing about what Turkey is doing to unhinge the world.

The announcement of Erdogan's sacrilege is whipping up a global (but, so far, largely verbal) backlash (see, for example, [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)). Words alone though won't raffle Erdogan's Muslim feathers. His strategy, put in place since the very day he came to power in 2002, is to undermine and, eventually, overthrow the Kemalist anti-theocratic state with its strong emphasis on secular values and the modernization of Turkish society—and [to reassert Turkey's role as a Muslim power on the global stage](#).

Yet, Erdogan's political future is wobbling.

Once the undisputed master of the political playfield, Erdogan is now assailed and pestered from all directions; several of his older comrades have cleverly defected (some creating their own political parties) and the realignment of political forces, especially after the loss of both [Istanbul](#) and [Ankara](#) in municipal elections, have led [recent polls to suggest that the AKP \(Erdogan's party\) and MHP \(AKP's ally\) would have difficulty winning a majority in a future presidential election](#).

Erdogan's political problems are further accentuated by Turkey's wobbly economy that continues on [a downward spiral that began at least two years ago](#) as the neo-sultan took it upon himself to redefine the laws of international banking and lending—something that triggered an immediate exodus of billions of investment funds from the once “sterling and growing” Turkish economy. Already, there are [ringing warnings](#) about how Turkey must control inflation as [major foreign investors pack up in a hurry and flee](#) hence furthering Ankara's economic isolation.

And to add insult to injury, [recent polling](#) found that 62.5% of young Turks supporting Erdogan, and his far-right MHP party, *would rather live in a different country than Turkey* (emphasis added). The poll concluded “...that all segments of youth in Turkey are struggling to find reasons to be cheerful with the country's economy struggling since 2018 and rights and freedoms severely crippled.”

With the neo-sultan increasingly cornered by both external and domestic pressures, his inclination to involve his country in yet another *shooting war*, as the means to unite a rapidly fracturing domestic following, increases dangerously and exponentially. A recent report, for example, titled “Turkey Is Now the Most Dangerous Player in the Middle East,” [highlighted rather bluntly](#) Erdogan's tendency to throw his military weight around with no concern for the consequences highlighting Turkey's rampant shooting and bombing in Syria, Libya, and Iraq.

The situation between Turkey and Greece-Cyprus, with Israel the next close-by Turkish target, also deteriorates steadily. Reports pull no punches: “[Europe has had a belly full of Turkey](#)” said one describing Greece's call for sanctions during an EU Foreign Ministerial meeting after the European Parliament condemned Turkey for touching Hagia Sofia. The window for negotiation between Athens and Ankara may be closing faster than we think, [another report](#) stressed, especially since Ankara threatens it will start drilling for natural gas in Cretan waters. a move that could, almost certainly, trigger Greek military countermeasures.

As a result, Turkey has been ratcheting up all across the spectrum of her threatening activities. [Having failed to push tens of thousands of illegal Syrian and Afghan migrants to crack the Greek land frontier](#) in order “to inundate” Europe with the unwanted throngs, Turkey has pivoted back to her time-tested gangster tactics:

- Almost daily illegal intrusions into Greek sovereign airspace with armed warplanes;
- routine harassment of Greek fishing boats working around Greek islands close to the Turkish coast, some of whom Ankara calls “her own;”
- deploying her Coast Guard fast craft as helpers to inflatable dinghies full of illegal immigrants by pushing them into Greek territorial waters; and
- sending the same craft to play dangerous close quarters attack games targeting the Greek Coast Guard’s fast patrol vessels.

In a long [interview](#), published in English in the daily Athens newspaper *Kathimerini*, Greece’s National Security Adviser Alexandros Diakopoulos said that “Greece has informed its partners and the international community of what its red lines are in the event of an attempted violation of its sovereign rights...” and stressed that any so-called “hot incident” in the Aegean between Greek and Turkish forces “would have negative repercussions for all sides.” Diakopoulos also alluded to a rumored “strategic agreement” in-the-making between Greece and France as [the latter remains at daggers drawn with the Erdogan regime](#).

Greece is right to fear the worst at this time. With Erdogan deeply involved in the [Libyan nightmare](#), there is no telling what Ankara might attempt next in a desperate effort to turn the tables in her favor. Turkey’s catastrophic involvement in Syria offers an example of how a Turkish-instigated *Eastern Med hybrid Islamist regional war* may erupt, with the potential of involving not only individual European powers but, also, NATO and, by way of that, the US and Russia. This is a true nightmare scenario at the time of the global Covid-19 pandemic shows no signs of slowing down and continues to unhinge the whole world. And Turkey, herself hit hard by the pandemic, but offering few credible details about its losses, should be considered doubly capable of igniting disastrous sudden hostilities as a counterbalance to her deteriorating domestic situation.

Ultimately, [a recent paper suggested](#), the West stands “to lose Turkey” one way or another. In the meantime, however, Europe, NATO, the United States, Russia, and a growing number of Arab states, seeing Turkey as *the* menace, need to coordinate (if that is at all possible) to make sure Erdogan’s aggression is checked and, eventually, reversed.

The alternative is too apocalyptic to contemplate.

*Further reading: [Turkish Islamist tyrant’s obscene bid to turn the Hagia Sophia into a mosque](#)*

