

# **The Kurdish Factor in Turkey-Syria Relations (2012-2013)**

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**Abstract.** The current research investigates the influence of the Kurdish factor on Turkey-Syria relations, making an emphasis on the events taken place in 2012-2013. The research aims at investigating the background of the Kurdish factor on Turkey-Syria relations, evaluating the role that Kurdish factor played/plays in the formation of the Turkish stance on the Syrian conflict, as well as composing a scientific research that can serve as a primary source for the further researches concerning both Turkey-Syria relations and the Syrian conflict.

By comparative and analytical methods of scientific research the current article promotes the following thesis: the Kurdish factor has a serious influence on the interstate relations between Turkey and Syria and it can condition the content of those relations.

Analysing the military and political situation in the northern parts of Syria (mostly inhabited by Kurds) in the context of the Syrian crisis in 2012-2013, the author shows that since July of 2012, when the Syrian governmental troops were withdrawn from the above mentioned places, which then consequently passed under the control of the Syrian Kurdish PYD forces, Turkey is highly anxious about the self-activity of the Syrian Kurds and tries to prevent the creation of a statelike unit in the north of Syria by means of practicing the checks and balances mechanism on micro-, meso- and macro-levels.