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# Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings

8 in 10 Turkish adults see the U.S. negatively

BY Laura Clancy, Jacob Poushter and Sofia Hernandez Ramones

#### FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:

Jacob Poushter, Associate Director, Global Attitudes
Research

Gar Meng Leong, Communications Manager

202.419.4372

www.pewresearch.org

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### How we did this

This Pew Research Center analysis focuses on public opinion of domestic and international issues in Turkey. Views of the government leaders, institutions and other countries are examined in the context of long-term trend data.

The report draws on nationally representative surveys of 1,049 Turkish adults conducted from Jan. 29 to March 11, 2024. Surveys were conducted face-to-face and weighted to be representative of the Turkish adult population with the following variables: gender, age, education, region, urbanicity and probability of selection of respondent.

To compare educational groups across countries, we standardize education levels based on the UN's <u>International Standard Classification of Education</u> (ISCED).

Prior to 2024, combined totals were based on rounded topline figures. For all reports beginning in 2024, totals are based on unrounded topline figures, so combined totals might be different than in previous years. Refer to the 2024 topline to see our new rounding procedures applied to past years' data.

Here are the questions used for the report, along with responses, and the survey methodology.

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# Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings

8 in 10 Turkish adults see the U.S. negatively

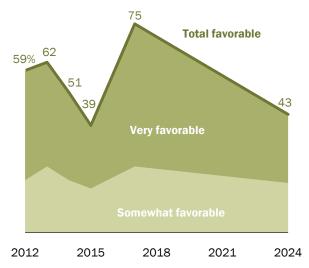
In May 2023, voters in Turkey elected Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to his third term as president. Less than a year later, Erdoğan's Justice and Development party (AKP) suffered its worstever electoral defeat in local elections.

In the time between these two elections, Pew Research Center surveyed 1,049 Turkish adults. The results show negative opinions of Erdoğan and mixed views of the national government he leads.

Overall, 55% of Turkish adults have an unfavorable opinion of Erdoğan, while 43% have a favorable opinion. This marks a 32 percentage point decrease in favorability from 2017, including a 27-point drop in the share of Turks with a *very* favorable opinion of their president. The 2017 survey was conducted eight months after Erdoğan and his government survived a <u>coup attempt</u> by a faction of the military.

# Turkish adults far less likely to see Erdoğan favorably today than in 2017

% of Turkish adults who have a \_\_\_ opinion of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan



Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024. "Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

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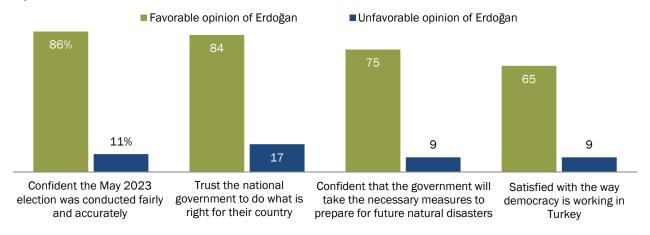
**Support for Erdoğan is a key factor in Turkish public opinion on domestic and international topics alike.** Compared with those who have an unfavorable opinion of the president, Turkish adults who see Erdoğan *favorably* are:

- More trusting in the national government to do the right thing for Turkey
- More confident that the May 2023 elections were conducted fairly and accurately
- More confident that the government will take the necessary measures to prepare for future natural disasters
- More satisfied with the way democracy currently works in Turkey
- More supportive of a form of government that relies on a strong leader

- More likely to see groups and institutions such as the military, religious leaders and the courts as having a good influence on the country
- More favorable toward China and Russia, and more confident in these countries' leaders

# Turks with a favorable view of Erdoğan are much more likely than those with an unfavorable opinion of him to see their government and democracy positively

% of Turkish adults who (are) ...



Note: All differences shown are statistically significant.
Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024.

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**Age is another key indicator of public opinion on several topics.** For example, adults ages 50 and older are more positive toward Erdoğan and the national government when compared with adults ages 18 to 34.

Frequency of prayer among the <u>98% of Turks</u> who are Muslim is also tied to views of multiple issues. Muslim adults who pray more frequently (one of the Center's <u>measures of religiosity</u>) have more confidence that the <u>2023</u> election was conducted fairly and accurately, for instance.

Below are some other key findings from the survey, which marks the first time since 2019 that Pew Research Center has polled in Turkey.

### Confidence in the government

# Overall, Turkish adults express **limited confidence in their national government.**

Roughly half (51%) say they do not trust the government to do what is right for the country. A similar share (53%) is not confident that the May 2023 presidential election was conducted fairly and accurately. And about a year after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Turkey – leaving more than 50,000 dead – 61% of Turks are not confident that the government will take the necessary steps to prepare for future natural disasters.

Jump to <u>Chapter 1</u> for more on how people in Turkey view their government.

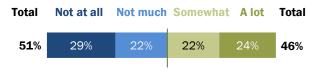
### Views of democracy

Two-thirds of Turks are dissatisfied with the way democracy is currently working in their country. But democracy itself – in both representative and direct form – is still a popular idea.

Majorities of Turks say representative and direct democracy would be good ways to govern Turkey (80% and 79%, respectively). And 59% say rule by experts, sometimes called technocracy, would be a good system of government.

# About half of Turks do not trust their government to serve national interests

% of Turkish adults who trust the national government to do what is right for their country ...



% of Turkish adults who are \_\_\_ confident that the May 2023 election was conducted fairly and accurately



% of Turkish adults who are \_\_\_ confident that the government will take the necessary measures to prepare for future natural disasters



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024.

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#### Is Turkey a democracy?

Turkey is a <u>parliamentary democracy</u>, according to its constitution. In practice, the government is classified as a "hybrid regime" by the <u>Economist Intelligence</u> <u>Unit</u>, an "electoral autocracy" by the <u>Varieties of Democracy</u> project, and "not free" by <u>Freedom House</u>.

Much smaller shares say rule by a strong leader (34%) or by the military (14%) are good options. However, Turks with a positive view of Erdoğan are significantly more likely than nonsupporters to say each of these nondemocratic systems would be a good way to govern Turkey.

Jump to <u>Chapter 2</u> for more on how people in Turkey view democracy.

# Erdoğan supporters are much more open to rule by a strong leader than nonsupporters are

% of Turkish adults who say rule by a strong leader would be a **good way** of governing Turkey



Note: Refer to topline for full question wording. Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March. 11, 2024. "Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

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### Views of institutions and societal conflicts

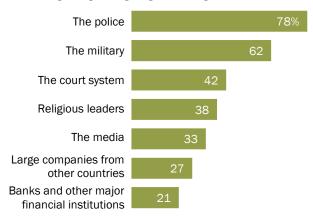
In Turkey, **majorities say the police and the military have a positive impact** on Turkish society (78% and 62%, respectively).

On the other hand, a third of adults or fewer say the media, large international companies, and banks and other financial institutions have a positive influence.

When it comes to tensions within their society, Turks see especially strong conflicts between people who support different political parties. Fewer Turks – though still a majority – say there are strong conflicts between people with different ethnic identities. Notably, in a country where a vast majority of people are Muslim, about half of adults (47%) say there are strong conflicts between Turks who practice different religions.

# Turks see the police and military as having a positive impact on the country

% who say each of the following has a **good influence** on the way things are going in Turkey



Note: Refer to topline for full question wording. Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024. "Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

Jump to <u>Chapter 3</u> for more on how people in Turkey view institutions and conflicts in their society.

### Views of international affairs

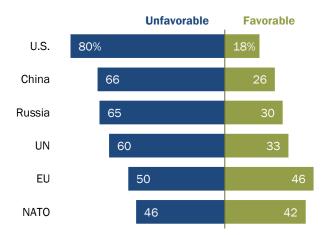
When it comes to foreign relations, **Turks give** mostly negative ratings to other countries and their leaders.

Majorities have unfavorable opinions of the United States, China and Russia, and most lack confidence in their respective presidents. Turks also report low trust in other international political leaders – including former U.S. President Donald Trump.

Turks have somewhat more positive opinions of NATO and the European Union. Since our last survey of Turkey in 2019, the share of adults with a positive view of NATO has doubled, though overall opinions of the alliance are still mixed. The share of Turks with a favorable view of the EU is up 12 points since 2019. And a majority of Turks (56%) favor their country becoming a member of the EU.

# 8 in 10 Turkish adults have an unfavorable opinion of the U.S.

% of Turkish adults with a(n) \_\_\_ opinion of ...



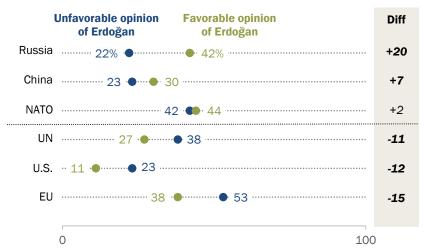
Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.
Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024.
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Views of several countries and international organizations are related to support for Erdoğan. For example, Turks with a favorable opinion of Erdoğan are more likely than those with an unfavorable opinion of him to see Russia and China positively. In turn, Turks with an unfavorable opinion of Erdoğan are more likely than those with a favorable opinion of him to see the EU, U.S. and United Nations positively.

Jump to <u>Chapter 4</u> for more on how people in Turkey view international affairs.

# Erdoğan supporters in Turkey are much more likely than nonsupporters to have a positive view of Russia

% of Turkish adults who have a **favorable** opinion of ...



Note: Statistically significant differences are in **bold**. Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March **11**, 2024.

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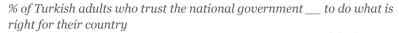
## 1. How people in Turkey view their government

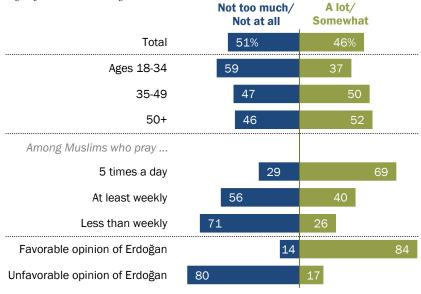
Turkish adults are divided when it comes to trust in their national government: 46% trust the government to do what is right for the country, while 51% do not.

Trust is especially high among those who have a favorable opinion of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The president's supporters are nearly five times as likely as nonsupporters to have trust in the national government (84% vs. 17%).

Age also plays a role in views of the government. Turkish adults under 35 are less likely than older adults to express trust in the government.

# Trust in Turkish government is highest among Erdoğan supporters, Muslims who pray 5 times a day





Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024.

"Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

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Trust in the government is significantly higher among Muslims who pray salah – the ritual prayers required of Muslims five times a day – when compared with those who pray less often. About seven-in-ten Muslims who pray five salah daily (69%) say that they trust the national government to do what is right. This compares with 40% of Muslims who pray at least weekly (but not five times daily) and 26% of those who pray less than weekly. (The Center uses frequency of prayer as a measure of religiosity.)

Education is another key factor. While 52% of Turkish adults with a secondary education trust the government, this falls to just 26% among those who have a postsecondary education or more.

### Preparedness for natural disasters

In this survey – conducted roughly one year after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Turkey and Syria, leaving more than 50,000 dead – we asked Turks how confident they are that the government will take the necessary measures to prepare for future natural disasters.

About six-in-ten Turks (61%) are not confident the government will do this, including 40% who say they are not confident at all.

Views on this question differ widely depending on how respondents see Erdoğan. Threequarters of Turks with a favorable opinion of Erdoğan have confidence that the government

will take steps to be prepared for a future natural disaster. Only 9% of those with an unfavorable opinion of Erdoğan agree.

### May 2023 election fairness

In a May 2023 national election, Erdoğan faced off against Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, then the leader of the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP). <u>Erdoğan won in a runoff</u> with 52% of the vote.

Beginning the following January, we asked Turkish adults if they believe the election was conducted fairly and accurately. Overall, 53% of Turks do *not* think the election was fair, but this opinion varies widely depending on how favorable they are toward each candidate. Among Turks with a favorable opinion of Erdoğan, 86% are confident the election was conducted fairly and accurately. Just 15% of those with a favorable view of Kılıçdaroğlu agree.

Confidence in the election is also higher among Turks ages 50 and older than those under 35. About half of the older group

# Most Turks aren't confident that the government is prepared to deal with future natural disasters

% of Turkish adults who are \_\_\_ confident that Turkey's government will take the necessary measures to prepare for future natural disasters



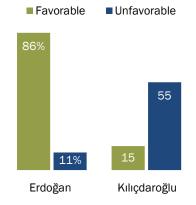
Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024. "Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

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### Supporters of Erdoğan, Kılıçdaroğlu differ over 2023 election fairness

% of Turkish adults who are **confident** the May 2023 elections were conducted fairly and accurately, among those with a \_\_\_ view of each leader



Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024.

"Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

(52%) are confident that the election was fair, compared with about a third of the younger group (34%).

Among Turkish Muslims, 70% of those who pray five salah daily are confident in the fairness of the election, including 46% who are very confident. Much smaller shares of those who pray less frequently agree.

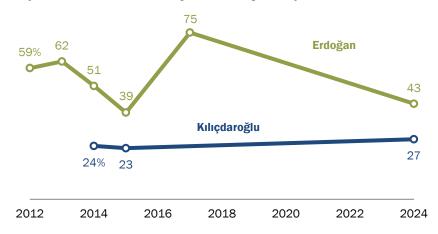
### Favorability of Erdoğan and Kılıçdaroğlu over time

In our surveys, Erdoğan has consistently received higher favorability ratings than Kılıçdaroğlu. Still, Erdoğan's favorability is down 32 points from 2017; that year's survey was conducted eight months after a coup attempt against his government. Today, 43% of Turks see Erdoğan favorably.

Kılıçdaroğlu's favorability, by comparison, is similar to where it was when we last asked about him in 2015. Today, 27% view him favorably, compared with 23% in 2015. (It's important to note that the most recent survey

# Turks see Erdoğan much less favorably than in 2017, but still more positively than Kılıçdaroğlu

% of Turkish adults who have a **favorable** opinion of ...



Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024. "Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

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was fielded after Kılıçdaroğlu was <u>replaced as leader</u> of the Republican People's Party.)

People ages 35 and older, adults with less education and Muslims who pray more frequently hold more favorable opinions of Erdoğan than their demographic counterparts. Kılıçdaroğlu, who is an Alevi Muslim, is seen more favorably by Turkish Muslims who pray less than once a week than by those who pray five salah daily.

About one-third of Turkish adults have a negative opinion of *both* Erdoğan and Kılıçdaroğlu. Similar to demographic patterns on trust in government, these people are more likely to be young (adults under 35), to have at least a college degree and to pray salah five times a day, if Muslim.

# 2. How people in Turkey view democracy and other forms of government

A third of Turkish adults are satisfied with the way democracy is working in their country, while the other two-thirds express dissatisfaction. More than a third (37%) say they are not satisfied *at all*.

Since we last asked this question in Turkey in 2019, satisfaction with democracy has dropped 14 points, from 47% to 33% today.

Turks who hold a favorable opinion of President Recp Tayyip Erdoğan are more likely than those who see him unfavorably to express satisfaction with democracy (65% vs. 9%). And Muslims who pray five salah daily are more likely than those who pray less frequently to have a positive outlook on their democracy.

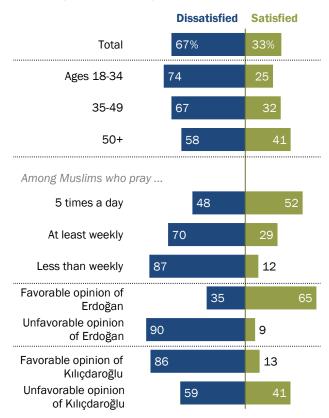
On the other hand, only 13% of those with a positive opinion of former opposition leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu – Erdoğan's opponent in the May 2023 presidential election – are satisfied with the way democracy is working.

### Views of different political systems

Turks greatly prefer democratic types of government to nondemocratic systems like rule by the military or by a strong leader.

# Satisfaction with democracy is low across most groups in Turkey

% of Turkish adults who are \_\_\_ with the way democracy is working in their country



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024. "Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

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Eight-in-ten Turkish adults say that a representative democracy (a system where representatives elected by citizens decide what becomes law) would be a good way to govern the country. An almost identical share (79%) says the same about a direct democracy (a system where citizens, not elected officials, vote directly on major national issues to decide what becomes law).

Only 14% in Turkey say that military rule would be a good way of governing, making it the least popular political system we asked about. However, support for this system has risen from 9% in 2017.

Turks' evaluations of various government

systems are generally comparable to the results of a <u>24-country survey we conducted in 2023</u>. Turks are within a few points of the <u>24-country medians</u> when it comes to their support for representative democracy, rule by experts and rule by the military. On direct democracy and rule by a strong leader, Turks express a slightly more positive view than the median respondent.

### Views of autocratic leadership

Views on autocracy vary across different groups in Turkey. Roughly half (49%) of those who hold a favorable opinion of Erdoğan think that rule by a strong leader would be a good way to govern the country, compared with 23% of those with an unfavorable view of the Turkish president.

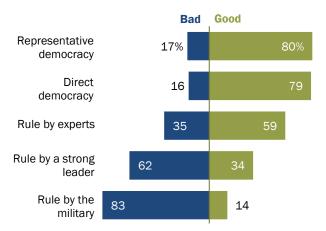
Adults with lower levels of education are more likely than their counterparts with more education (37% vs. 21%) to say autocracy would be a good way to govern the country. (The "less education" category refers to people who have a

Is Turkey a democracy?

Turkey is a <u>parliamentary democracy</u>, according to its constitution. In practice, the government is classified as a "hybrid regime" by the <u>Economist Intelligence</u> <u>Unit</u>, an "electoral autocracy" by the <u>Varieties of Democracy</u> project, and "not free" by <u>Freedom House</u>.

# Most Turks favor representative and direct democracy

% of Turkish adults who say each of the following would be a \_\_\_ way of governing their country



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. Refer to topline for full question wording.

Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024. "Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

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secondary education or less, while the "more education" category refers to those with a postsecondary education or more.)

In addition, Turkish adults ages 50 and older are 15 points more likely than adults under 35 to say that autocracy would be good for Turkey (43% vs. 28%).

# 3. How people in Turkey view societal conflicts and institutions in their country

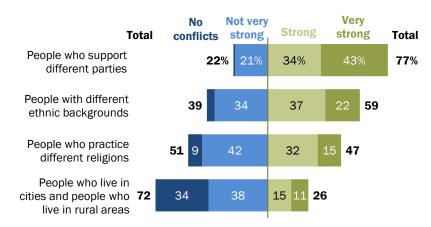
Turkish adults see various conflicts among different groups in their society. Majorities say there are conflicts between people who support different political parties (77%) and between people with different ethnic backgrounds (59%).

Opinions are more mixed in the majority-Muslim nation when it comes to conflicts between people who practice different religions, with 47% saying there are strong religious conflicts and 51% saying there are generally not. Notably, Turkish Muslims who pray less than weekly are somewhat more likely than those who pray five salah daily to say there *are* conflicts between people of different religions.

Fewer see conflicts between people who live in cities and people who live in rural areas. Only about a quarter of Turkish adults (26%) say there are strong conflicts of this nature.

# Most in Turkey see strong conflicts between people who support different political parties

% of Turkish adults who say there are \_\_\_ conflicts between the following groups in Turkey



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024.

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Turkish adults with lower incomes are more likely than those with higher incomes to say there are strong urban-rural conflicts in Turkey (+22 points, though higher-income adults were less likely to respond to the question). Those with lower incomes are also more likely to see strong religious conflicts (+18) and ethnic conflicts (+13).

Turkish adults who hold a favorable opinion of Erdoğan are less likely than Turks with an unfavorable view of the president to report strong religious (-12), political (-11) and ethnic (-9) conflicts in their society.

### Views of institutions

Majorities of Turkish adults say the police (78%) and the military (62%) have a good influence in the country, making these the only two institutions or organizations we asked about that at least half of the public sees positively.

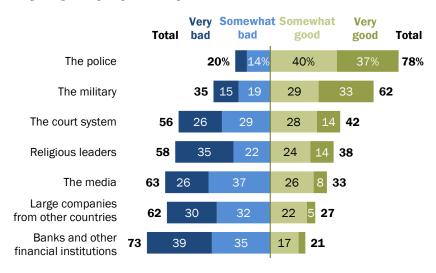
Most Turks say the court system, religious leaders and the media (including television, newspapers and magazines) have a bad influence in the country. About a quarter or more, in fact, say the influence of each of these is *very* bad.

Large companies from other countries, as well as banks and other financial institutions, get the most negative ratings. For example, around three-quarters of Turks (73%) say banks have a bad influence on the country.

Related: 83% of Turks say their country's current economic situation is bad

# Majorities of Turks say the police and military have a positive influence

% of Turkish adults who say each of the following has a \_\_\_ influence on the way things are going in Turkey



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. Refer to topline for full question wording. Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024.

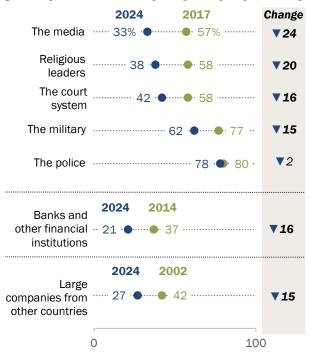
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#### Views over time

We last asked about many of these institutions in 2017. Compared with seven years ago, fewer Turks now believe the media (-24 points), religious leaders (-20), the court system (-16) and the military (-15) have a good influence in Turkey.

# Fewer Turks see several institutions as having a good influence today than in 2017

% of Turkish adults who say each of the following has a **good influence** on the way things are going in Turkey



Note: Statistically significant changes are in **bold**. Refer to topline for full question wording.

Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024. "Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

### Political and demographic differences

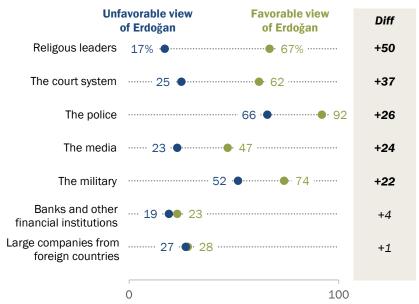
Turkish adults who have a positive view of Erdoğan are more likely than those with an unfavorable view of him to say various institutions have a good influence in the country. For example, those who think positively of Erdoğan are 50 points more likely than those with an unfavorable view of the president to say that religious leaders have a good influence in Turkey (67% vs. 17%).

Erdoğan supporters are also more likely than nonsupporters to have a positive view of the influence of the court system, the police, the media and the military.

On the other hand, Turks who have a favorable opinion of

# Turks with a favorable view of Erdoğan are more positive toward many national institutions

% of Turkish adults who say each of the following has a **good influence** on the way things are going in Turkey



Note: Statistically significant differences are in **bold**. Refer to topline for full question wording.

Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024. "Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

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former opposition leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu – Erdoğan's opponent in the May 2023 presidential election – see a number of institutions differently. For instance, Kilicdaroglu supporters are 31 points less likely than those who see him unfavorably to say that religious leaders have a good influence in the country. They are also less likely to have a positive view of the influence of the court system (-15 points) and the police (-9).

There are no significant differences between Erdoğan or Kılıçdaroğlu supporters when it comes to the influence of banks and foreign companies, but there are differences by age. Turkish adults under 35 are more likely than those ages 50 and older to say that large companies from other countries (35% vs. 23%) and banks and other financial institutions (26% vs. 17%) have a positive influence in Turkey.

## 4. How people in Turkey view international affairs

Adults in Turkey hold generally negative views of international powers and their respective leaders. But of the countries and organizations we asked about, Turks express the most positive attitudes toward the European Union – and a majority now support Turkey becoming an EU member, a change from 2017. As with many aspects of Turkish society, views are shaped by age, education, and opinions of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

### Views of the U.S., China and other world powers

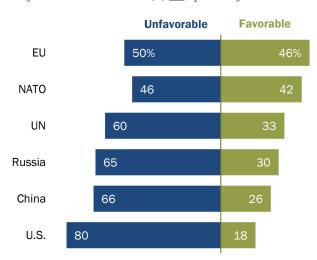
None of the six major world powers we asked about receive majority-positive ratings from the Turkish public.

The European Union (46% favorable) and NATO (42%) receive the most positive assessments. Still, more Turks have unfavorable than favorable opinions of both organizations.

Only a third of Turks have a positive view of the United Nations, and just three-in-ten see Russia favorably. Fewer still have a positive view of China (26%) and just 18% express a favorable opinion of the U.S.

# Turks see the EU and NATO more positively than other world powers

% of Turkish adults with a(n) \_\_\_ opinion of ...



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024. "Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

### **Demographic differences**

Younger Turks generally express more favorable views of several world powers than their older counterparts. For example, 29% of adults under 35 have a positive view of the U.S., compared with only 7% of those ages 50 and older.

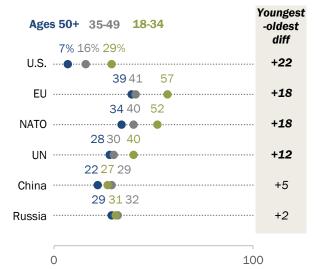
Age differences only appear when looking at Turks' views of the U.S., the EU, NATO and the UN. There are no significant age differences in attitudes toward China and Russia.

Similarly, Turkish adults with more education are more likely than those with less education to have a positive view of some world powers we asked about, including the U.S. and the EU.

Assessments of these powers also differ by views of Erdoğan. Turks who support the president are more likely than nonsupporters to express favorable views of Russia and China and less likely to have favorable views of the EU, U.S. and UN.

### Younger Turks are more likely than older people to see Western powers positively

% of Turkish adults with a **favorable** opinion of ...



Note: Statistically significant differences are in bold. Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024. "Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

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#### Views over time

Since 2002, the first year Pew Research Center surveyed Turkey, there have been large changes in Turks' attitudes toward some countries and multilateral organizations.

For example, Turks have become more positive in their views of NATO, which Turkey has been a member of since 1953. Attitudes toward NATO have especially improved since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Between 2011 and 2019, no more than a quarter of Turks had a favorable view of the defense alliance; today, 42% do.

Related: NATO Seen Favorably in Member States; Confidence in Zelenskyy Down in Europe, *U.S.* 

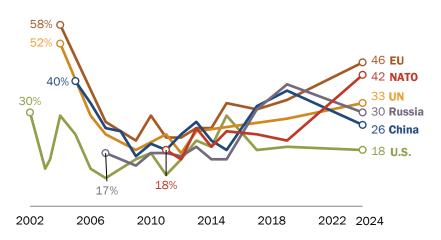
Views of Russia have also fluctuated, ranging from 15% favorable in 2015 – after Russia invaded Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula – to 39% favorable in 2019, before the ongoing invasion of Ukraine. Currently, three-in-ten Turks have a positive view of Russia.

Attitudes toward China have also seen some ups and downs, from 40% favorable in 2005 to as low as 16% in 2009. The share is now back up to 26%.

Attitudes toward the UN are more negative today than in 2004, when more than half of Turks held favorable views of

### Turkish views of major world powers, 2002-2024

% who have a **favorable** opinion of ...



Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024. "Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

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the international organization. Now, only a third do.

Turks have often given the EU the highest ratings of the world powers surveyed, but there have been significant downward and upward shifts in that sentiment. A 58% majority of Turks had a favorable view of the EU in 2004, shortly after the start of <u>formal EU accession discussions</u>. But attitudes had changed just a few years later and this year are about evenly split, with 46% favorable.

### Views on Turkey joining the EU

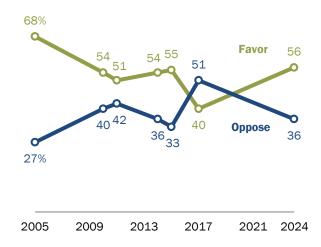
A majority of adults (56%) favor Turkey becoming a member of the EU, while 36% oppose membership.

This represents a big change from 2017, when only 40% of Turks supported joining the EU and 51% opposed. (It should be noted our 2017 survey in Turkey was conducted eight months after a <u>failed coup attempt</u>, which had a large influence on public opinion in the country.) Prior to 2017, half or more Turks routinely favored EU accession.

**Related:** How exactly do countries join the EU?

# A majority of Turkish adults favor EU membership – the first time since 2015

% of Turkish adults who \_\_\_ Turkey becoming a member of the European Union



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024. "Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

### **Demographic and political differences**

Younger Turks are especially supportive of joining the EU. Roughly two-thirds (66%) of adults under 35 support accession, while 28% oppose it. There is more tepid support for EU membership among older Turks.

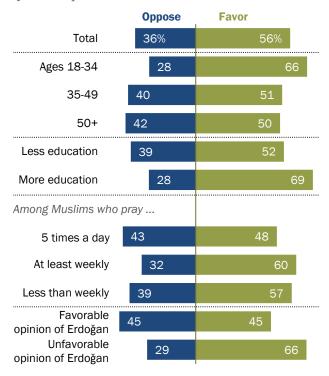
Turks with a postsecondary education or more are also far more likely than those with less education to want to join the EU.

Turkish Muslims who pray less than five times per day are more likely to support EU membership compared with those who pray salah time fives daily.

Turks who support Erdoğan, meanwhile, are far *less* likely than other Turks to support EU accession. Among those with a favorable opinion of the Turkish leader, views evenly split between supporting EU membership and not (45% vs. 45%). Among those who have an unfavorable view of Erdoğan, 66% support joining the EU.

# Younger and more educated Turks are more likely to support EU membership

% of Turkish adults who \_\_\_ Turkey becoming a member of the European Union



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11, 2024.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

### Views of international leaders

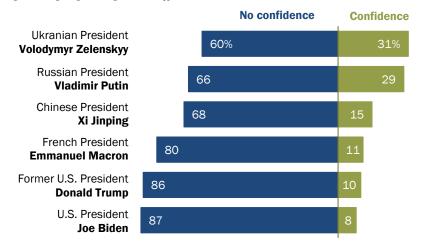
People in Turkey have little confidence in the six current and former foreign leaders we asked about in this survey. In fact, at least 60% of Turks have *little or no confidence* in each of these leaders.

Confidence is highest for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Still, only about threein ten Turks have confidence in each of these leaders.

Ratings of Chinese President Xi Jinping are even lower, with only 15% saying they have confidence in him.

#### Most Turks lack confidence in several world leaders

% of Turkish adults who have \_\_\_ in each of the following leaders to do the right thing regarding world affairs



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. Source: Survey of Turkish adults conducted Jan. 29-March 11. 2024.

"Turks Lean Negative on Erdoğan, Give National Government Mixed Ratings"

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#### **Related**: <u>Do people think China's economic influence is positive or negative?</u>

Turks also express negative opinions of French President Emmanuel Macron. There's been little change in Turks' overall confidence in Macron since we first asked about him in 2019.

People in Turkey have very negative views of both the U.S. leaders included in the survey: Only around one-in-ten Turks today express confidence in President Joe Biden or former President Donald Trump.

Of the four U.S. presidents we've asked about in Turkey in the last 20 years, Barack Obama received the best evaluations – 45% of Turks said they had confidence in him in 2015, the last year of his presidency. George W. Bush never saw his confidence rating in Turkey rise above 8%, while Trump had similar ratings in 2017 and 2019 as he does today.

## **Acknowledgments**

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Laura Clancy, Research Analyst

Jacob Poushter, Associate Director, Global Attitudes Research

Sofia Hernandez Ramones, Research Assistant

Dorene Asare-Marfo, Senior Panel Manager

Peter Bell, Associate Director, Design and Production

Janakee Chavda, Associate Digital Producer

Manolo Corichi, Research Analyst

Jonathan Evans, Senior Researcher

Moira Fagan, Research Associate

Janell Fetterolf, Senior Researcher

Shannon Greenwood, Digital Production Manager

Sneha Gubbala, Research Analyst

Christine Huang, Research Associate

Anna Jackson, Editorial Assistant

Gar Meng Leong, Communications Manager

Kirsten Lesage, Research Associate

Jordan Lippert, Research Analyst

Carolyn Lau, International Research Methodologist

John Carlo Mandapat, Information Graphics Designer

William Miner, Research Analyst

Patrick Moynihan, Associate Director, International Research Methods

Georgina Pizzolitto, Research Methodologist

Andrew Prozorovsky, Research Assistant

Dana Popky, Associate Panel Manager

Mithila Samak, Communications Associate

Laura Silver, Associate Director, Global Attitudes Research

Sofi Sinozich, International Research Methodologist

Maria Smerkovich, Research Associate

Kelsey Jo Starr, Research Analyst

Brianna Vetter, Administrative Associate

Richard Wike, Director, Global Attitudes Research

## Methodology

# About Pew Research Center's Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey

Pew Research Center's survey in Turkey was conducted as part of the Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Results for the survey are based on telephone, face-to-face and online interviews conducted under the direction of Gallup, Langer Research Associates, Social Research Centre and Verian. The results are based on national samples, unless otherwise noted. Here are more details about our international survey methodology and country-specific sample designs.

## **Topline questionnaire**

### Pew Research Center Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey October 16, 2024 Release

### Methodological notes:

- Survey results are based on national samples. For further details on sample designs, refer to the Methodology section and our <u>international survey methods database</u>.
- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%. The topline "total" columns show 100%, because they are based on unrounded numbers.
- Prior to 2024, combined totals were based on rounded topline figures. Going forward, totals will be based on unrounded topline figures, so combined totals might be different than in previous years.
- Since 2007, Pew Research Center has used an automated process to generate toplines for its Global Attitudes surveys. As a result, numbers may differ slightly from those published prior to 2007.
- Not all questions included in the Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey are presented in this
  topline. Omitted questions have either been previously released or will be released in
  future reports.

		Q3. How satis	sfied are you witl	h the way democ		n (survey countr at all satisfied?	y) – very satisfie	d, somewhat sat	isfied, not too		
TOTAL TOTAL Not Somewhat Not too Not at all Satisfied satisfied satisfied satisfied Satisfied TOTAL Not Not at all Satisfied S						Total					
Turkey	Turkey Spring, 2024 33 67 10 23 29 37 1 100							100			
	Spring, 2019	47									

		Q4a. Please tel	I me if you have a	a very favorable,		able, somewhat u	unfavorable, or v	ery unfavorable o	opinion of? a.
		TOTAL Favorable	TOTAL Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2024	18	80	4	14	25	55	2	100
	Spring, 2019	19	72	4	16	20	53	8	100
	Spring, 2017	18	79	4	14	21	58	4	100
	Spring, 2015	29	58	7	22	26	32	12	100
	Spring, 2014	19	73	4	15	14	59	8	100
	Spring, 2013	21	70	4	17	18	52	9	100
	Spring, 2012	15	72	4	11	12	60	14	100
	Spring, 2011	10	77	2	8	15	62	13	100
	Spring, 2010	17	74	2	15	15	59	9	100
	Spring, 2009	15	69	2	12	12	57	16	100
	Spring, 2008	12	77	4	8	7	70	11	100
	Spring, 2007	9	84	2	7	8	75	8	100
	Spring, 2006	12	76	2	10	9	67	12	100
	Spring, 2005	23	67	4	19	13	54	10	100
	Spring, 2004	29	64	6	24	18	45	7	100
	May, 2003	15	82	2	13	15	68	3	100
	March, 2003	12	83	3	9	17	67	5	100
	Summer, 2002	30	54	6	24	13	41	16	100

		Q4b. Please tel	I me if you have	a very favorable,		able, somewhat i	ınfavorable, or v	ery unfavorable	opinion of? b.
		TOTAL Favorable	TOTAL Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2024	26	66	5	21	26	41	8	100
	Spring, 2019	37	43	8	29	18	26	20	100
	Spring, 2017	32	54	7	26	23	31	14	100
	Spring, 2015	18	59	4	14	25	34	23	100
	Spring, 2014	21	68	4	17	15	53	11	100
	Spring, 2013	27	55	6	21	18	37	18	100
	Spring, 2012	23	58	5	17	14	45	19	100
	Spring, 2011	18	66	2	16	22	44	17	100
	Spring, 2010	20	60	3	17	16	45	19	100
	Spring, 2009	16	57	3	13	12	45	27	100
	Spring, 2008	24	50	6	18	11	39	26	100
	Spring, 2007	25	53	4	21	17	36	22	100
	Spring, 2006	33	43	7	26	12	32	24	100
	Spring, 2005	40	38	9	31	15	24	22	100

		Q4c. Please tel	I me if you have	a very favorable,		able, somewhat i	unfavorable, or v	ery unfavorable	opinion of? c.
		TOTAL Favorable	TOTAL Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2024	46	50	12	34	24	26	4	100
	Spring, 2019	34	55	7	27	19	37	11	100
	Spring, 2017	31	64	6	25	24	40	5	100
	Spring, 2015	33	48	8	25	21	28	18	100
	Spring, 2014	25	66	9	16	13	53	9	100
	Spring, 2013	25	60	4	22	23	37	15	100
	Spring, 2012	22	60	5	16	14	46	19	100
	Spring, 2011	22	64	5	18	19	45	14	100
	Spring, 2010	29	57	4	24	12	45	14	100
	Spring, 2009	21	59	4	18	9	50	20	100
	Spring, 2007	27	58	5	22	14	44	15	100
	Spring, 2004	58	35	22	36	15	20	7	100

		Q4d. Please tell	me if you have a	a very favorable,		able, somewhat i	unfavorable, or v	ery unfavorable	opinion of? d.
		TOTAL Favorable	TOTAL Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2024	33	60	6	27	26	34	7	100
	Spring, 2019	28	55	4	24	20	34	17	100
	Spring, 2013	24	56	4	20	23	33	20	100
	Spring, 2012	17	60	4	13	15	46	22	100
	Spring, 2011	23	61	5	18	21	40	16	100
	Spring, 2009	18	56	3	15	11	46	26	100
	Spring, 2007	23	57	3	20	18	39	20	100
	Spring, 2006	29	50	5	24	19	32	20	100
	Spring, 2004	52	35	13	38	16	19	14	100

		Q4e. Please tel	me if you have a	a very favorable, NATO, t		able, somewhat i		ery unfavorable	opinion of? e.
		TOTAL Favorable	TOTAL Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2024	42	46	13	29	23	23	12	100
	Spring, 2019	21	55	3	18	21	34	24	100
	Spring, 2017	23	58	3	20	27	31	19	100
	Spring, 2015	24	50	5	18	21	29	26	100
	Spring, 2014	19	70	5	14	17	53	11	100
	Spring, 2013	25	53	5	20	21	32	22	100
	Spring, 2012	15	59	3	12	16	43	26	100
	Spring, 2011	18	65	2	16	21	43	17	100

		Q4f. Please tel	I me if you have	a very favorable,		able, somewhat i	ınfavorable, or v	ery unfavorable	opinion of?
		TOTAL Favorable	TOTAL Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2024	30	65	6	24	26	38	5	100
	Spring, 2019	39	48	10	29	19	28	13	100
	Spring, 2017	31	62	6	26	25	37	6	100
	Spring, 2015	15	65	2	13	28	36	20	100
	Spring, 2014	15	73	3	13	16	57	11	100
	Spring, 2013	19	66	1	18	23	43	15	100
	Spring, 2012	16	63	3	13	15	48	20	100
	Spring, 2011	17	67	3	15	23	44	16	100
	Spring, 2010	17	66	1	15	17	48	18	100
	Spring, 2009	13	63	2	11	14	49	24	100
	Spring, 2007	17	65	1	16	16	48	18	100

		Q5j. Please tel	5j. Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of? j. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan										
		TOTAL Favorable	Favorable Unfavorable Very favorable favorable unfavorable unfavorable DK/Refused Total										
Turkey	Spring, 2024	43	55	25	18	14	41	2	100				
	Spring, 2017	75	20	52	24	10	11	4	100				
	Spring, 2015	39	51	23	16	18	33	10	100				
	Spring, 2014	51	44	32	19	12	32	5	100				
	Spring, 2013	62	34	38	24	18	16	4	100				
	Spring, 2012	59	33	40	19	15	18	7	100				

		Q5k. Please tel	. Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of? k. Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu										
TOTAL TOTAL Somewhat Favorable Unfavorable Very favorable favorable unfavorable Unfavorable DK						DK/Refused	Total						
Turkey	Spring, 2024	27	71	7	19	22	48	2	100				
	Spring, 2015	23	62	7	16	25	38	15	100				
	Spring, 2014	24	71	12	12	20	51	5	100				

		Q8a. Tell me ho					egarding world a		onfidence, some			
		TOTAL Confidence	TOTAL No confidence	A lot of confidence	Some confidence	Not too much confidence	No confidence at all	DK/Refused	Total			
Turkey	Spring, 2024	8	8 87 1 7 23 65 5 100									

			Q8b. Tell me how much confidence you have in each leader to do the right thing regarding world affairs – a lot of confidence confidence, or no confidence at all. b. Former U.S. President Donald Trump									
	TOTAL TOTAL No A lot of Some Not too much Confidence confidence confidence confidence confidence confidence at all DK/Refused Total						Total					
Turkey	Spring, 2024	10	86	1	9	21	64	4	100			
	Spring, 2019	10	83	2	9	14	70	7	100			
	Spring, 2017	11	82	2	9	19	63	8	100			

		Q8c. Tell me ho					egarding world a		onfidence, some
		TOTAL Confidence	TOTAL No confidence	A lot of confidence	Some confidence	Not too much confidence	No confidence at all	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2024	15	68	2	14	24	44	17	100
	Spring, 2019	29	44	3	26	12	31	27	100
	Spring, 2014	11	58	3	7	15	44	31	100

		Q8d. Tell me ho					egarding world at Russian Presiden		onfidence, some
		TOTAL Confidence	TOTAL No confidence	A lot of confidence	Some confidence	Not too much confidence	No confidence at all	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2024	29	66	5	24	23	43	5	100
	Spring, 2019	35	53	7	28	15	38	11	100
	Spring, 2017	20	74	4	16	25	49	6	100
	Spring, 2015	29	60	6	23	33	27	12	100
	Spring, 2014	11	75	4	7	19	56	14	100
	Spring, 2012	15	70	3	11	15	55	15	100
	Spring, 2008	9	70	2	7	8	62	21	100
	Spring, 2007	9	71	1	9	11	60	20	100
	Spring, 2006	9	69	1	8	6	62	22	100

							egarding world a ench President E		
		TOTAL Confidence	TOTAL No confidence	A lot of confidence	Some confidence	Not too much confidence	No confidence at all	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2024	11	80	1	10	25	55	9	100
	Spring, 2019	14	68	2	12	18	50	19	100

							garding world af nian President V				
		TOTAL Confidence	TOTAL No confidence	A lot of confidence	Some confidence	Not too much confidence	No confidence at all	DK/Refused	Total		
Turkey	Spring, 2024	31	31 60 5 27 22 37 9 100								

		Q71a. In your					, not very strong, ent political part		conflicts at all
		TOTAL Yes conflicts exist	TOTAL No conflicts	Very strong conflicts	Strong conflicts	Not very strong conflicts	There are not conflicts	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2024	77	22	43	34	21	1	1	100

		Q71b. In your					, not very strong, ople who live in r		conflicts at all			
		TOTAL Yes conflicts exist	TOTAL No conflicts	Very strong conflicts	Strong conflicts	Not very strong conflicts	There are not conflicts	DK/Refused	Total			
Turkey	Spring, 2024	26	26 72 11 15 38 34 2 100									

		Q71c. In your			the conflicts ver				conflicts at all			
		TOTAL Yes conflicts exist	TOTAL No conflicts	Very strong conflicts	Strong conflicts	Not very strong conflicts	There are not conflicts	DK/Refused	Total			
Turkey	Spring, 2024	59	59 39 22 37 34 5 2 100									

		Q71d. In your	opinion, in (sur		the conflicts ver groups? d. Peopl				conflicts at all			
		TOTAL Yes conflicts exist	TOTAL No conflicts	Very strong conflicts	Strong conflicts	Not very strong conflicts	There are not conflicts	DK/Refused	Total			
Turkey	Spring, 2024	47	47 51 15 32 42 9 2 100									

						ewhat good, som officials, vote dir			
		TOTAL Good	TOTAL Bad	Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2024	79	16	50	29	12	5	4	100
	Spring, 2017	84	12	53	31	8	4	4	100

						ewhat good, som atives elected by			
		TOTAL Good	TOTAL Bad	Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2024	80	17	42	38	11	5	3	100
	Spring, 2017	80	16	43	37	9	7	4	100

						ewhat good, som			
		TOTAL Good	TOTAL Bad	Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2024	34	62	15	19	21	41	4	100
	Spring, 2017	40	53	20	20	19	35	6	100

						ewhat good, som			
		TOTAL Good	TOTAL Bad	Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2024	59	35	20	39	21	15	5	100
	Spring, 2017	52	38	21	31	20	18	10	100

		Q72e. For e	2e. For each political system, would it be a very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad way of governing this country? e. The military rules the country									
		TOTAL Good	TOTAL Bad	Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total			
Turkey	Spring, 2024	14	83	4	10	25	58	3	100			
	Spring, 2017	9	87	2	7	13	74	4	100			

		Q73a. Do each	a. Do each of the following groups or organizations have a very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or very bad influence in (survey country)? a. The military											
		TOTAL Good	TAL Good TOTAL Bad Very good Somewhat good Somewhat bad Very bad DK/Refused Total											
Turkey	Spring, 2024	62	35	33	29	19	15	4	100					
	Spring, 2017	77	20	43	35	15	5	3	100					
	Spring, 2015	52	37	22	30	18	19	10	100					
	Spring, 2014	55	41	28	27	13	28	4	100					
	Spring, 2010	72	23	30	42	13	9	6	100					
	Spring, 2007	85	85 10 57 28 5 5 5 100											
	Summer, 2002	80	16	43	36	7	8	5	100					

		Q73b. Do each	3b. Do each of the following groups or organizations have a very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or very bad influence in (survey country)? b. The media – such as television, radio, newspapers and magazines											
		TOTAL Good	. Good TOTAL Bad Very good Somewhat good Somewhat bad Very bad DK/Refused Total											
Turkey	Spring, 2024	33	63	8	26	37	26	4	100					
	Spring, 2017	57	40	21	36	26	15	3	100					
	Spring, 2015	38	50	14	24	27	24	11	100					
	Spring, 2014	31	64	13	19	26	39	4	100					
	Spring, 2010	29	63	5	25	29	34	7	100					
	Spring, 2007	26	68	6	20	30	38	6	100					
	Summer, 2002	47	49	15	32	18	31	4	100					

		Q73c. Do each	73c. Do each of the following groups or organizations have a very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or very bad influence in (survey country)? c. The court system										
		TOTAL Good	TAL Good TOTAL Bad Very good good Somewhat bad Very bad DK/Refused Total										
Turkey	Spring, 2024	42	56	14	28	29	26	2	100				
	Spring, 2017	58	37	23	34	19	18	5	100				
	Spring, 2015	41	48	18	23	23	25	11	100				
	Spring, 2014	38	58	14	23	22	36	5	100				

		Q73e. Do each	e. Do each of the following groups or organizations have a very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or very bad influence in (survey country)? e. Religious leaders											
		TOTAL Good	AL Good TOTAL Bad Very good Somewhat good Somewhat bad Very bad DK/Refused Total											
Turkey	Spring, 2024	38	58	14	24	22	35	4	100					
	Spring, 2017	58	35	29	29	18	18	7	100					
	Spring, 2015	41	41	19	22	18	23	18	100					
	Spring, 2014	37	57	15	22	21	37	6	100					
	Spring, 2010	40	40	8	33	16	25	19	100					
	Spring, 2007	61	1 29 18 43 15 14 10 100											
	Summer, 2002	32	53	7	25	22	32	15	100					

		Q73f. Do each	3f. Do each of the following groups or organizations have a very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or very bad influence in (survey country)? f. The police										
		TOTAL Good	TAL Good TOTAL Bad Very good Somewhat bad Very bad DK/Refused Total										
Turkey	Spring, 2024	78	20	37	40	14	7	2	100				
	Spring, 2017	80	18	46	34	11	7	2	100				
	Spring, 2015	46	43	16	30	18	26	10	100				
	Spring, 2014	54	41	27	28	15	27	4	100				
	Spring, 2010	68	27	21	47	13	14	5	100				

		Q73g. Do each	of the following			ery good, somewhompanies from ot		hat bad, or very l	oad influence in
		TOTAL Good	TOTAL Bad	Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2024	27	62	5	22	32	30	10	100
	Summer, 2002	42	40	16	25	16	24	18	100

		Q73h. Do each	of the following			ery good, somewhother major finar			bad influence in
TOTAL Good TOTAL Bad Very good Good Somewhat bad Very bad						Very bad	DK/Refused	Total	
Turkey	Spring, 2024	21	73	4	17	35	39	6	100
	Spring, 2014	37	56	15	23	21	35	6	100

		Q75. How much	n do you trust the	national govern		is right for (surv	rey country) – a l	ot, some, not too	much or not at			
		TOTAL A lot/Some	TOTAL Not too much/Not at all	A lot	Somewhat	Not much	Not at all	DK/Refused	Total			
Turkey	Spring, 2024	46	46 51 24 22 22 29 3 100									

		Q93. Thinkii		2023 elections i very confident,					ed fairly and			
		TOTAL Confident	TOTAL Not confident	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident	DK/Refused	Total			
Turkey	Spring, 2024	44										

		Q94. How conf		at Turkey's gover confident, somew					ıral disasters -		
		TOTAL Confident	TOTAL Not confident	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident	DK/Refused	Total		
Turkey	Spring, 2024	37									

		Q95. How do y	ou feel about Tu		member of the E ose our country b			hat favor, somew	hat oppose, or			
		TOTAL Favor	TOTAL Oppose	Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly oppose	DK/Refused	Total			
Turkey	Spring, 2024	56	36	22	34	22	14	8	100			
	Spring, 2017	40	51	9	31	25	26	9	100			
	Spring, 2015	55	33	15	40	23	9	12	100			
	Spring, 2014	54	36	24	29	13	24	10	100			
	Spring, 2011	51	42	23	29	26	16	6	100			
	Spring, 2010	54	54 40 16 38 18 22 7									
	Spring, 2005	68	27	31	37	12	15	5	100			