DEMOGRAPHIC VULNERABILITY AND STRATEGIC PRESSURES IN TURKEY'S SECURITY ARCHITECTURE: *A MULTIDISCIPLINARY ANALYSIS*

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Abstract

Turkey is positioned in a complex security environment at the intersection of rapidly changing geopolitical dynamics, regional conflict cycles, and global power competition in the post-Cold War era. This study analyzes how Turkey's security architecture is being reshaped under demographic vulnerabilities and global-regional strategic pressures through a multidisciplinary perspective. The research examines Turkey's security challenges within a multilayered understanding, positioned at the intersection of international relations, security studies, demography, and sociology disciplines. The fundamental question of the study concerns through which mechanisms demographic vulnerabilities affect Turkey's national security architecture and foreign policy strategic autonomy; how this influence interacts with state capacity, regional power balance dynamics, and strategic calculations of global actors. The main hypothesis argues that as demographic vulnerabilities increase, Turkey's security architecture becomes more susceptible to external pressures; however, in areas where state capacity is strong, these pressures can be transformed into strategic opportunities. The research employs qualitative research methods, combining document analysis, discourse analysis, and process tracing techniques. Findings reveal that the demographic transformation Turkey has faced, particularly due to the mass migration wave from Syria after 2011, has profoundly affected security perceptions; although state capacity remains strong at the regional level, Turkey's maneuvering space has narrowed in the strategic calculations of global actors. The study emphasizes that the demographic-security nexus encompasses not only migration management but also broader dimensions such as regional power balance, alliance politics, and strategic autonomy. In conclusion, it is assessed that for Turkey to transform its demographic vulnerabilities into strategic opportunities, institutional capacity building, regional cooperation, and the integration of multilayered security policies are of critical importance.

Keywords:

Demographic Vulnerability, Security Architecture, Strategic Autonomy, State Capacity, Regional Power Dynamics.

1. INTRODUCTION

Turkey's security architecture is being reshaped within a context wherein rapidly shifting post-Cold War geopolitical dynamics, cyclical regional conflicts, global power competition, new-generation threat typologies, and internal demographic transformations are simultaneously intensifying. The evolution of the global order toward a multipolar configuration, the increasing demands for strategic autonomy from regional power centers, and the expanding role of non-state actors within the security environment are challenging the classical boundaries of the national security concept (Kassab, 2023; Bernat et al., 2023; Baylis et al., 2019; Jackson & Sørensen, 2016). As a NATO member state, Turkey constitutes an integral component of the Euro-Atlantic security architecture; simultaneously, owing to its multilayered foreign policy engagements extending to the Middle East, the Caucasus, the Balkans, and Central Asia, it is positioned within a multi-axial security environment. This positioning confronts Turkey with both opportunities and multidirectional pressures, necessitating continuous reassessment and adaptation of the country's security policies (Yükselen, 2020; Erdoğan & Hisarlıoğlu, 2022; Hale, 2013; Robins, 2003).

Within this novel security ecosystem, Turkey's historical legacy is also treated as a central variable in strategic analyses. The memory of the regional sphere of influence engendered by Ottoman and Seljuk political continuity constitutes a geocultural backdrop that shapes the normative framework of contemporary Turkish foreign policy (Erdoğan & Hisarlıoğlu, 2022; Stein, 2015; Ahmad, 1993; Kinzer, 2008). Turkey's position as the central country of the Turkic world and the perception of historical responsibility it carries within the Islamic geography elevate Turkey's security understanding beyond mere territorial integrity defense, enriching it with multilayered parameters such as regional stability, civilizational identity, and strategic depth (Özpek & Park, 2019; Duran & Kanat, 2022; Aras, 2009). In this context, while Turkish foreign policy proceeds along an axis where historical and geopolitical factors intersect, discussions concerning demographic vulnerability within the country are increasingly becoming a more visible security parameter.

Demographic vulnerability is not merely a rubric confined to population movements and ethnic composition; it possesses a multidimensional structure that directly affects state capacity, social resilience, economic sustainability, border security, and foreign policy autonomy (Goldstone, 2010; Goldstone et al., 2012; Goerres & Vanhuysse, 2021; Sciubba, 2022). Sudden and large-scale changes in population structure strain social integration mechanisms, test public service capacity, and render uncertain the demographic projections upon which long-term strategic planning is predicated (Martinez-Fernandez et al., 2012; Jivetti & Hoque, 2020; Demeny, 2003; Reher, 2019). Turkey's confrontation with large-scale migration waves over the past quarter-century, and particularly over the last decade, has necessitated a reassessment of this issue from a national security perspective (Ersoy et al., 2025; Değirmenci, 2024; Erat et al., 2024; Ekmekcioğlu, 2022; Yıldız, 2022; Yıldız, 2023; Castles et al., 2019; Coleman, 2013).

Regional instability, the prolongation of civil wars in Syria and Iraq, Afghanistan's extended conflict cycles, and the security vacuums in Africa creating conditions for multidimensional

migration flows have precipitated sudden and high-volume changes in Turkey's demographic structure. Particularly since 2011, the mass migration movement originating from Syria has elevated the weight of the demographic element in Turkey's security agenda to historically unprecedented levels (Ersoy et al., 2025; Değirmenci, 2024; Erat et al., 2024; Kingsley, 2017; Triandafyllidou, 2018). Concurrently, a need has emerged to develop a new security approach that holistically addresses migration, terrorism, non-state armed actors, and hybrid threats alongside other threat perceptions that determine Turkey's foreign policy.

This study aims to analyze how Turkey's security architecture is being reshaped under demographic vulnerabilities and global-regional strategic pressures. The significance of the research lies in its examination of the increasingly utilized "demography-security" interaction in security studies through an interdisciplinary lens using the Turkish case. Positioned at the intersection of international relations, security studies, demography, sociology, and strategic analysis disciplines, this study aims to provide a multilayered comprehension that transcends unidimensional explanations of the security challenges Turkey faces.

The scope of the study is oriented toward identifying the vulnerabilities of Turkey's national security strategy vis-à-vis demographic transformations, great power politics, non-state actors, and regional conflict systems. This identification is not limited merely to describing the current situation; it aims to reveal the causal effects of demographic vulnerabilities on foreign policy autonomy. Accordingly, Turkey's foreign policy orientation, military capacity building, migration management, and security-sectoral coordination mechanisms have been incorporated into the analytical framework.

Among the fundamental questions of the research, the primary research question has been formulated as follows: "Through which mechanisms, channels, and processes do demographic vulnerabilities affect Turkey's national security architecture and foreign policy strategic autonomy; how does this influence interact with state capacity, regional power balance dynamics, and the strategic calculations of global actors?" The auxiliary research questions are as follows: (1) What kind of causal relationship do the changes in Turkey's demographic structure produce between internal security policies and foreign policy preferences? (2) In which areas do demographic pressures lead to constrictions or expansions in Turkey's maneuver space in its relations with regional and global power centers? (3) In which domains (military, economic, diplomatic) is Turkey's strategic autonomy capacity more constrained as demographic vulnerabilities increase, and under what conditions is it strengthened?

These questions interrogate both the direct effects of demographic changes on security policies and the indirect reflections of these effects on foreign policy behaviors; furthermore, they examine the mediating role of Turkey's state capacity, institutional adaptation capabilities, and geopolitical positioning in this process.

The hypothesis corresponding to this question has been constructed as follows for empirical and theoretical testing: "As Turkey's demographic vulnerabilities increase, the country's security architecture becomes more sensitive to external pressures; this situation constrains Turkey's capacity to preserve strategic autonomy in foreign policy. However, this constraint is not linear; in domains where state capacity is robust, demographic pressures can also generate strategic opportunities that reinforce Turkey's regional agency." The auxiliary hypotheses are as follows: H1: As demographic vulnerability increases, the level of politicization of security discourses in Turkey's domestic politics rises; this situation reduces the predictability of foreign policy decisions. H2: As Turkey's migration management capacity strengthens, the constraining effect of demographic pressures on foreign policy autonomy diminishes; migration diplomacy becomes functionalized as a foreign policy instrument. H3: In regions where demographic changes are intense, the operational space of terrorist organizations expands; this situation necessitates Turkey's cross-border military operations and generates multilateral diplomatic tensions.

The hypothesis posits an inverse yet conditional relationship between demographic vulnerability and strategic autonomy; it aims to test the mechanisms of this relationship through explanatory variables. This hypothesis will be tested using "securitization theory" (Buzan et al., 1998), the "state capacity approach" (Fukuyama, 2011; Tilly, 1990), "geopolitical competition models" (Brzezinski, 1997; Cohen, 2015), and "population geopolitics" (Goldstone, 2010; Sciubba, 2022) concepts, which encompass the bidirectional relationship between demographic fractures and security policies. The multidisciplinary character of the theoretical framework provides analytical tools commensurate with the complexity of the research question; it enables simultaneous evaluation of the different strata of the security architecture. Within the conceptual framework, demographic vulnerability will first be defined, followed by explication of the concepts of strategic pressures, regional power balance, and security architecture.

Demographic vulnerability signifies the erosion of adaptation capacity in social, economic, and political systems due to sudden changes in population structure; concomitantly, it refers to the creation of vulnerability in state security, internal stability, and foreign policy decision-making processes (Homer-Dixon, 1999; Urdal, 2006). This vulnerability manifests itself through both concrete indicators measurable by objective parameters and the sense of insecurity formed at the level of societal perception (Weiner, 1995; Castles et al., 2019). In the specific case of Turkey, it is observed that this vulnerability intensifies through dynamics associated with migration movements. Claims in analyses from various sources that the ratio of the foreign population to the country's total population has reached approximately fifteen to twenty percent in some calculations, even if unverified, engender serious security concerns at the perceptual level (Ersoy et al., 2025; Değirmenci, 2024; Erat et al., 2024; Brinkley, 2014; Hollifield, 2014).

Strategic pressures are the political, economic, or security-based external coercive effects that global and regional actors exert on Turkey's foreign policy orientation, military capacity, energy policies, and regional diplomatic engagements (Aggarwal & Kenney, 2023;

Krasner, 1999; Lake, 2009). These pressures possess a nature far more complex and multilayered than direct military threats; they manifest through various instruments such as economic sanctions, isolation attempts within alliance systems, impediments to technology transfer, and media-public opinion manipulations (Aggarwal & Cheung, 2025; Nye, 2011; Keohane & Nye, 2011). Turkey's geopolitical position is the fundamental factor that augments the intensity and diversity of these pressures. Its location at the intersection of three continents, its control over critical energy corridors, its presence in the basin of significant water resources, and the breadth of its historical-cultural sphere of influence render Turkey one of the focal points of global and regional power competition (Jongerden, 2022; Kubicek, 2024; Erdoğan & Hisarlıoğlu, 2022; Brzezinski, 1997; Kaplan, 2012; Grygiel, 2006).

The concept of security architecture denotes the holistic system encompassing the institutional structures, doctrinal frameworks, alliance relationships, military capacity, intelligence mechanisms, and decision-making processes that a state establishes to ensure its national security (Collins, 2019; Freedman, 2013). In the Turkish context, security architecture is not confined solely to defense-oriented military organization; it comprises multidimensional elements such as foreign policy instruments, economic resilience, social cohesion, and technological independence (Wilkins, 2025; Gray, 1996; Luttwak, 1990).

Regional power balance, meanwhile, defines the dynamic relational network formed by the intersection of the strategic interests of states, non-state actors, and global powers situated in the geographies surrounding Turkey (Nye, 2024; Waltz, 1979; Mearsheimer, 2001). Sectarian cleavages in the Middle East, ethno-political tensions in the Caucasus, energy competition in the Eastern Mediterranean, and security issues in the Black Sea basin are among the regional balance elements that directly affect Turkey's security policies (Lynch & Mabon, 2025; Barkey, 2011; Lynch, 2016).

The theoretical and empirical framework of the study has been configured to encompass Turkey's multi-axial foreign policy orientations, including its NATO membership, multidimensional relations with Russia, geographical position intersecting with China's Belt and Road Initiative, deepening strategic cooperation with Pakistan, and leadership of the Organization of Turkic States. These orientations, while reflecting Turkey's increasing visibility at regional and global levels, simultaneously prepare the ground for the diversification of strategic pressures directed at the country.

In this context, the study interrogates how demographic dynamics may constrain or strengthen foreign policy autonomy. While demographic stability enhances states' long-term strategic planning capacity (Short, 2022; Teitelbaum & Winter, 1985), demographic vulnerability creates unpredictability in domestic politics and expands the intervention capacity of external actors (Sciubba, 2022; Kaufmann, 2004; McDonald, 2015). The Turkish case presents a critical instance wherein this relationship can be concretely observed.

Furthermore, the study takes into account the interaction between Turkey's domestic political dynamics and security policies. Discussions concerning the transition to a legal-

political basis in counterterrorism, the discourses of certain political actors, and reactions in public opinion are elements that affect the level of societal legitimacy of the national security architecture (Demir & Bural, 2025; Taşpınar, 2011; Çandar, 2012). Particularly, rhetorical shifts toward terrorist organization leaders and potential directional changes in security policies shape perceptions regarding Turkey's strategic consistency (Zamir & Kaunert, 2025; Crenshaw, 2011; Hoffman, 2017).

Turkey's struggle against the PKK and its derivative structures must be addressed not only in terms of internal security but also in its foreign policy dimension. The organization's presence in Iraq and Syria, its contacts with international actors, and the differing attitudes of global alliance systems toward the organization constitute the fundamental determinants of Turkey's external threat perception (Wilkinson, 2011; Kepel, 2017). Cases of population engineering that have emerged in northern Syria are concrete examples demonstrating the direct relationship between demographic changes and security threats (Cockburn, 2015; Gerges, 2016). This situation stands out as one of the primary motivations determining Turkey's cross-border military operations and diplomatic initiatives (Byman, 2015; Jones, 2014).

Turkey's increasing agency in foreign policy—exemplified by the Organization of Turkic States, strategic relations with Pakistan, the Central Asian security axis, Middle East diplomacy, and Eastern Mediterranean balances—is reshaping regional power competition (Kubicek, 2024; Aras, 2009; Robins, 2003). This agency, on one hand, enables Turkey to have a voice at regional and global levels; on the other hand, it renders the country a target of multidirectional strategic pressures (Kubicek, 2024; Leverett, 2013; Barkey, 2011). This situation also transforms Turkey's internal demographic vulnerabilities into a geopolitical variable.

The study aims to present a holistic analysis that simultaneously evaluates Turkey's internal and external security parameters. Thus, the interdependent relationship between demographic factors and strategic pressures will be analyzed through the macro and micro analytical categories of the international relations discipline. At the macro level, global power competition and regional balance dynamics; at the micro level, domestic political discourses, societal perceptions, and institutional capacity assessments constitute the fundamental building blocks of the analytical framework.

The innovative aspect of the study lies in its positioning of demographic vulnerabilities' effects on Turkey's strategic orientations and foreign policy autonomy not merely as an internal security issue but as a geopolitical variable affecting regional power distribution. This approach demonstrates that demography is not a passive background element; rather, it is an active security parameter that directly influences foreign policy decisions.

The expected contributions of the study will materialize at three fundamental levels. At the theoretical level, a conceptual framework explaining the causal relationships between demographic vulnerability and strategic autonomy will be presented; a new analytical model will be developed by integrating securitization theory, geopolitical theory, and state

capacity approaches through the Turkish case. At the empirical level, concrete indicators of the transformation in Turkey's security architecture and data-based analyses will be set forth; the demographic, military, and diplomatic data of the last decade will be systematically evaluated. At the policy level, strategic recommendations will be developed for Turkey to maintain foreign policy autonomy while managing demographic security risks; migration management, border security, counterterrorism, and multipolar diplomacy strategies will be presented within an integrated framework.

In conclusion, this introduction has set forth the problematic, significance, scope, conceptual framework, and research hypothesis of the study; it has established that the demographic and strategic dynamics restructuring Turkey's security architecture must be examined through a multidisciplinary analysis. In the subsequent sections, the hypothesis will be systematically tested under the headings of literature, theoretical framework, methodology, findings, discussion, and conclusion.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The role that demographic structures play in states' security architecture is a research domain that has risen conspicuously in the international relations literature, particularly in the post-Cold War period. The development of the literature can be examined in three fundamental phases: first, the foundational studies in the 1990s focusing on the security consequences of demographic pressures; second, the empirical research in the 2000s addressing the migration-security nexus; third, the contemporary studies in which multilayered and interdisciplinary approaches have come to prominence since the 2010s. Studies indicating that demographic elements such as high fertility rates, irregular migration waves, aging trends, and relative changes in ethnic compositions affect states' foreign policy behaviors and security strategies have constituted an extensive academic discussion ground in the Turkish context. This discussion ground has deepened further, particularly with the large-scale political transformations, civil wars, and mass displacement processes that occurred in the Middle East since the early 2010s, demonstrating the necessity of placing demographic dynamics at the center of security studies (Baylis et al., 2019; Jackson & Sørensen, 2016). However, divergences of opinion exist in the literature regarding which mechanisms mediate the effects of demographic changes on security architecture; while some authors establish direct causal relationships (Homer-Dixon, 1999; Goldstone, 2010), others emphasize the determinative role of intervening variables and state capacity (Fukuyama, 2011; Tilly, 1990). These divergences foreground the question of which theoretical frameworks are more explanatory in the analysis of states experiencing complex demographic transformations, such as Turkey.

The foundational approaches to the demography-security relationship are predicated upon the "demographic pressure" and "youth bulge" models developed by Homer-Dixon, Urdal, and Goldstone. These models posit a non-deterministic yet robust correlation between population growth and conflict, elevating the probability of demographic shocks transforming into security crises particularly in contexts where state capacity is weak. These models advance that rapid population growth augments burdens on state capacity,

intensifies resource competition, and elevates the risk of identity-based conflict. Homer-Dixon (1999) explicates security dilemmas engendered by environmental scarcity and population pressure; while Goldstone (2010) and Sciubba (2022) systematically evaluate the geopolitical consequences of demographic transition processes. Studies conducted on Turkey situate the migration flows triggered by the Syrian civil war after 2011 within this theoretical framework. Urdal (2006) demonstrates that political instability increases in regions where young populations are concentrated, while the demographic transformations occurring in Turkey's border regions present examples congruent with these findings. Nevertheless, critiques of demographic determinism also occupy a significant place in the literature; Weiner (1995) and Castles and colleagues (2019) argue that demographic pressure alone is not a sufficient explanatory factor, maintaining that institutional capacities and political preferences are determinative. The Turkish case presents an important case study for testing this theoretical tension, as the country is both under intense demographic pressure and possesses strong state traditions.

The migration-security relationship is examined in the literature through both "human security" and "state security" frameworks. Significant epistemological and methodological differences exist between these two approaches: the human security approach focuses on the rights and welfare of migrants, while the state security perspective concentrates on issues such as sovereignty, border control, and social stability. While Castles and colleagues (2019) emphasize the structural effects of forced migration that transform regional security dynamics, researchers such as Weiner (1995) and Hollifield (2014) demonstrate that migration is not merely a humanitarian phenomenon but also a security variable affecting states' strategic calculations. Academic studies focusing on Turkey present explanatory frameworks regarding the permanence of the existing migrant population, social cohesion processes, and long-term demographic repercussions. Brinkley (2014) addresses the security dimension of human mobility; while Coleman (2013) and Castles and others (2019) discuss the permanent effects of migration on demographic structures and their reflections on state capacity. Writers such as Koser and Kingsley (2017) note that the policies Turkey pursues in migration management reflect an effort to balance both humanitarian obligations and geopolitical calculations; while Triandafyllidou (2018) demonstrates that migration agreements concluded with Europe have enhanced Turkey's strategic bargaining power. However, critiques that the securitization of migration negatively affects social cohesion also exist in the literature (Buzan et al., 1998; Collins, 2019). In the specific case of Turkey, the tension between the securitization of migration and integration policies has not been sufficiently examined in empirical research; this gap presents a significant research opportunity.

Securitization theory constitutes a central theoretical foundation in explaining Turkey's security architecture. This approach of the Copenhagen School maintains that security is not an objective reality but a social category constructed through discursive practices. The securitization approach developed by Buzan, Wæver, and de Wilde (1998) explains how certain issues are transformed into security matters through discourse and practices. Demographic changes and migration emerge as securitized subjects in this process,

preparing the ground for states to take extraordinary measures and for societal perception to be reshaped. In the Turkish context, the process of securitizing Syrian-origin migration is amenable to explanation through this theoretical framework (Collins, 2019). Buzan's regional security complexes approach additionally holds importance in understanding the security dynamics of the geopolitical environment in which Turkey is situated. While Wæver (1995) emphasizes the discursive dimension of securitization, how terrorism, migration, and border security issues are constructed in public discourse in Turkey can be evaluated from this perspective. Critiques of the Copenhagen School's securitization theory also feature in the literature; some authors argue that securitization insufficiently accounts for the process of social construction and neglects subjectivity (Wendt, 1999). In the specific case of Turkey, the instrumentalization of the securitization of demographic issues both in domestic politics and in foreign policy discourse permits empirical testing of this theory. Furthermore, the sociological and practice-centered critiques that the Paris School brings to securitization hold importance in understanding how Turkey's security practices are shaped at institutional and operational levels beyond discourse.

Geopolitical theory is one of the fundamental disciplines explaining Turkey's strategic position and the pressures this position engenders. A broad theoretical spectrum extending from classical geopolitical thought to critical geopolitical approaches evaluates from different perspectives how Turkey's geographical position creates strategic opportunity and constraint. While Brzezinski (1997) and Cohen (2015) emphasize that geography determines states' power projection capacities, Grygiel (2006) and Kaplan (2012) demonstrate that strategic position simultaneously creates exposure to external pressures. Turkey's location at the intersection of three continents, its control over critical energy corridors, and the breadth of its historical-cultural sphere of influence render the country one of the focal points of global and regional power competition. This situation shapes Turkey's security architecture not only through internal dynamics but also through great power politics (Gray, 1996; Holsti, 1995). Mackinder's (1904) "Heartland" and Spykman's (1944) "Rimland" theories offer historical references in explaining Turkey's critical position in Eurasian geopolitics. Brzezinski (1997), evaluating Turkey in the category of geopolitical "pivot state," emphasizes that the country's strategic choices could affect regional power balance. However, critiques of geopolitical determinism also feature in the literature; writers such as Agnew (2003) argue that geography is not a fixed destiny, maintaining that states' agency and strategic choices are determinative. The critical geopolitics approach interrogates how geopolitical discourses are produced and how they reflect power relations; how geopolitical labels such as "energy corridor" or "migration buffer" affect Turkey's strategic autonomy can be examined within this framework.

Classical and structural realism are the fundamental theoretical perspectives employed in explaining Turkey's security strategies. Different variants within the realist paradigm—classical, structural, offensive, defensive, and neoclassical realism—illuminate different aspects of Turkey's security behaviors. While Waltz (1979) argues that the anarchic structure of the international system impels states toward security-seeking, Mearsheimer (2001) maintains that great powers are in constant pursuit of power maximization. The

autonomous security policies Turkey has developed in recent years, its indigenous production capacity in the defense industry, and its regional power projection efforts follow a trajectory congruent with these theoretical frameworks. Walt's (1987) balance of threat theory offers a functional instrument in explaining Turkey's threat perceptions in its surroundings and its alliance preferences consequent thereto. Neoclassical realism takes into account the interaction between system-level pressures and internal dynamics in understanding Turkey's foreign policy behaviors; Rose (1998) and Schweller (2006) emphasize that state-society relations and leadership perceptions shape foreign policy. Turkey's deepening of relations with actors such as Russia and China while maintaining NATO membership enhances the explanatory power of neoclassical realism rather than realist balance. Jervis (1976) demonstrates that misperceptions can lead to international crises, while Turkey's trust crises with its Western allies can be evaluated within this framework. This theoretical richness within realism provides multiple analytical tools in explaining Turkey's transition from balance to multipolar strategy under demographic pressures.

The state capacity approach holds critical importance in assessing Turkey's ability to manage demographic vulnerabilities and resist external pressures. This approach emphasizes that the state should be defined not only by its military power but also by its capacities for social control, resource extraction, service delivery, and legitimacy construction. While Fukuyama (2011) and Tilly (1990) emphasize that state capacity is determined by institutional effectiveness, resource extraction power, and social control mechanisms, Mann (1986) adds depth to analyses by distinguishing between the state's despotic and infrastructural power. Turkey's migration management capacity, border security coordination, and counterterrorism institutional structuring are addressed in the literature as concrete indicators of state capacity (Freedman, 2013). While Slater (2010) argues that security crises accelerate state-building processes, the institutional capacity Turkey has developed in counterterrorism and migration management corresponds with this argument. Nevertheless, the risk of state capacity reinforcing authoritarian tendencies is also discussed in the literature; while Levitsky and Way (2010) explain this situation with the concept of competitive authoritarianism, transformations in Turkey's democratic institutions can be evaluated within this framework. Kaldor (2012) notes that state capacity must be redefined in the age of new wars, emphasizing the state's adaptation capability against hybrid threats. The most significant dilemma of the state capacity literature in the Turkish context is how to conceptualize the tension between institutional strengthening and democratic regression; this problem requires deeper examination in empirical research.

Terrorism and asymmetric warfare studies occupy a central place in Turkey's security architecture. This branch of literature examines how conventional security threats intertwine with new-generation asymmetric threats and how states respond to this complex threat environment. Hoffman (2017), Crenshaw (2011), and Cronin (2009) examine the structure, strategies, and termination dynamics of terrorist organizations; Turkey's protracted struggle against the PKK and its derivatives is evaluated as an

important case study in this literature. Hoffman's (2007) concept of hybrid warfare explains the process whereby non-state actors employ conventional and unconventional methods in combination. Boot (2013) and Jones (2014) address insurgency warfare dynamics; while Byman (2015), Cockburn (2015), and Gerges (2016) discuss the rise of regional terrorist organizations and their effects on state security. The advanced technology weapons Turkey employs in counterterrorism, operational strategies, and cross-border interventions are evaluated through these theoretical frameworks. While Cronin (2009) classifies the termination mechanisms of terrorist organizations under six categories (military defeat, leadership loss, negotiation, success, repression, and reorganization), the strategies Turkey pursues against the PKK can be analyzed within this typology. While Kaldor (2012) argues that new wars have ceased to be state-centric and have become intertwined with identity politics, the security dynamics in Turkey's southeastern region can be read through this perspective. However, the risk of excessive securitization eroding democratic values is also discussed in the counterterrorism literature (Jackson, 2016). In the Turkish case, the tension between technological superiority and the pursuit of political solutions has not been sufficiently theorized in the literature; this area presents significant potential for future research.

Complex interdependence theory offers an important perspective in explaining Turkey's multi-axial foreign policy strategies. This theory envisions an international system in which states can no longer act through unilateral power politics, where economic integration, institutional ties, and multi-channel relations shape foreign policy. While Keohane and Nye (2011) emphasize that states have become interdependent at economic, military, and diplomatic levels and that this interdependence creates both opportunity and constraint, Turkey's relations conducted both with the Western alliance and with Eurasian powers are concrete manifestations of this theory. Nye's (2011) concept of soft power explains Turkey's effort to expand its regional influence through cultural, historical, and diplomatic instruments rather than confining it to military capacity. While Lake (2009) and Krasner (1999) address the transformation of hierarchy and sovereignty in the international system, Turkey's search for strategic autonomy intersects with these discussions. While Moravcsik (1997), within the framework of liberal institutionalism, argues that states' internal preferences determine foreign policy, Turkey's energy dependency and level of economic integration can be evaluated with this argument. The tension between Turkey's position within NATO and the areas of cooperation it has developed with Russia and China permits empirical testing of complex interdependence theory. However, critiques that interdependence does not always promote peace also exist in the literature; while Rosecrance (1986) defends the trade-peace hypothesis, Mearsheimer (2001) contends that economic interdependence cannot prevent conflict. In the Turkish example, the tension between economic interdependence and geopolitical competition provides empirical contribution to the ongoing theoretical debate between liberal and realist approaches.

The literature on nation-building, identity politics, and social cohesion is important in making sense of Turkey's demographic transformations. This literature emphasizes that national identity is not a fixed but a fluid category; that demographic changes transform

identity perceptions, social boundaries, and nation-building processes. While Ahmad (1993), Kinzer (2008), and Hale (2013) address Turkey's historical continuity and geocultural positioning, Aras (2009) and Robins (2003) discuss the normative framework of Turkish foreign policy and the identity of regional agency. Turkey's perception of being the bearer of Ottoman and Seljuk heritage foregrounds civilizational identity and strategic depth parameters in the country's security strategies. This identity perception plays a determinative role particularly in relations with the Turkic world and in geopolitical engagements in the Islamic geography (Çandar, 2012). While Smith (1991) emphasizes the role of ethnic identity in international relations, Turkey's diaspora policies and leadership of the Organization of Turkic States can be analyzed within this framework. While Davutoğlu's (2001) strategic depth doctrine reflects Turkey's effort to employ its historical and geographical heritage as a foreign policy instrument, critiques of this approach also feature in the literature. While Anderson (1983) argues that nations are imagined communities, how Turkey's identity construction processes are reshaped in the face of migration and demographic changes is an important research area. The literature lacks systematic analysis of how Turkey's historical identity discourses interact with demographic vulnerabilities and how this reflects on security policies; this gap necessitates in-depth examination of the identity-security relationship in the Turkish context.

International law and sovereignty debates hold importance in evaluating Turkey's cross-border operations and migration management policies. This literature envisions an international order in which sovereignty is not absolute, where international norms and legal obligations constrain state behaviors; yet it simultaneously acknowledges that power asymmetries are determinative in the interpretation and application of law. While Brownlie (2008), Cassese (2005), and Dinstein (2017) note that international law constrains state behaviors through the principles of self-defense, humanitarian intervention, and sovereignty, Turkey's military presence in Syria and Iraq has become the subject of debates concerning how these legal frameworks are interpreted in practice. While Kagan (2008) addresses the return of history and the process of multipolarization of the international order, Turkey's increasing autonomy is evaluated as a reflection of this transformation. While Article 51 of the United Nations Charter regulates the right of self-defense, Turkey's cross-border counterterrorism operations are legitimized on this legal basis. However, significant divergences of opinion exist in the international law literature regarding the interpretation of preemptive defense and necessity principles (Cassese, 2005; Brownlie, 2008). The policies Turkey pursues in migration management are also discussed in the context of the 1951 Geneva Convention and the non-refoulement principle. The fundamental problem the international law literature confronts in the Turkish case is how to explain the gap between the normative framework of law and the actual behavior of states; this area requires empirical examination of the law-politics interaction.

The literature on economic security, energy geopolitics, and resource diplomacy is functional in explaining Turkey's strategic vulnerabilities and opportunities. This literature emphasizes that security is not limited only to its military dimension, that economic vulnerabilities and resource dependencies directly affect states' strategic autonomy.

Turkey's position over energy corridors, its location at the intersection of natural gas and oil pipelines, renders the country a partner of strategic importance for both regional actors and global powers. Kaldor (2012), while distinguishing between new and old wars, emphasizes that resource competition is one of the fundamental dynamics of contemporary conflicts. Turkey's control over water resources and dam policies constitute an important strategic sphere of influence in relations with neighboring countries. Klare (2012), while developing the concept of resource wars, demonstrates that water, energy, and food security are interconnected and prepare the ground for conflicts. Turkey's dam projects on the Euphrates and Tigris rivers have rendered water diplomacy a strategic instrument in relations with Syria and Iraq. The energy security literature evaluates Turkey's TurkStream, TANAP, and energy hub projects from a geopolitical perspective. However, that energy dependency could constrain Turkey's strategic autonomy is also discussed in the literature. The area the economic security literature needs to develop in the Turkish context is the systematic analysis of the long-term geopolitical gains and risks of being an energy transit corridor; this topic has not been sufficiently deepened in empirical research.

Studies concerning the long-term strategic effects of changes in Turkey's demographic structure evaluate the reflection of population movements on economic, social, and political decision-making processes. This branch of literature acknowledges that demography affects security outcomes as an independent variable while also being affected by security policies as a dependent variable; this bidirectional causal relationship is clearly observable in the Turkish case. A significant portion of these studies argues that demography is a two-directional variable creating both capacity and vulnerability in foreign policy (Demeny, 2003; Reher, 2019). The literature on social cohesion, social integration, and public perception emphasizes that the long-term effects of migration must be investigated not only in economic terms but also in the context of societal security. Studies conducted in the Turkish context present findings regarding the transformation of security dynamics in migrant-dense regions (Triandafyllidou, 2018; Kingsley, 2017). İçduygu and Şimşek (2016), while examining the social cohesion processes of the Syrian population in Turkey, emphasize the importance of local dynamics and urban integration. Relations between migration and labor markets, access to public services, and pressures on education and health infrastructure are frequently discussed in the literature. However, optimistic views that migration could provide demographic vitality and economic dynamism in the long term also exist (Castles et al., 2019). The most significant dilemma of the demographic security literature is how to establish the balance between short-term security concerns and long-term demographic benefits; the Turkish example clearly demonstrates the difficulties in establishing this balance.

Finally, critical security studies evaluate Turkey's security architecture not only through threat perceptions but also within the framework of positioning in the international system, identity construction, the pursuit of strategic autonomy, and regional role expectations. The critical approach foregrounds the questions of for whom, against what, and by what means security is provided, thereby interrogating the epistemological assumptions of mainstream security studies. This perspective is increasingly being employed to explain the complex

interaction among demography, foreign policy, and geopolitical pressures (Wendt, 1999; Finnemore & Sikkink, 1998). Doyle (1997) examines the paths of peace and war; while Singer (2009) and Sloan (2017) bring new openings to security studies. Jervis's (1976) theory of perception and misperception offers a valuable framework for understanding how geopolitical calculations pass through perceptual filters in Turkey's foreign policy decisions. In general, security studies conducted on Turkey require an interdisciplinary approach to comprehend the country's multilayered adaptation processes in the face of demographic dynamics and strategic pressures. This approach necessitates not only bringing different disciplines together but also inter-theoretical dialogue and synthesis. This literature review constitutes a solid foundation for the following theoretical framework and empirical analysis sections. While constructivist security studies argue that the concept of security is socially constructed (Wendt, 1999), how security discourses are produced and legitimized in Turkey is an important research area. Furthermore, postcolonial security studies interrogate how Turkey's Ottoman heritage and regional agency identity shape security policies. A significant gap exists in the literature regarding the systematic examination of the adaptation strategies Turkey has developed in the face of demographic vulnerability and strategic pressures; this study aims to make a contribution toward filling this gap. In particular, analytical frameworks that address in an integrated manner the mechanisms through which demographic shocks transform security architecture, their interaction with state capacity and geopolitical pressures, and the reflection of these on foreign policy autonomy are inadequate in the literature; this lacuna constitutes the fundamental motivation of the present study.

3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The analysis of security architecture necessitates holistic theoretical approaches in the modern international relations literature that focus not only on military threats but also on multidimensional vulnerabilities that transform state capacity. In the Turkish context, demography, migration, terrorism, regional competition, and great power politics simultaneously exert influence, producing a complex security environment. This complexity leads to a single theoretical perspective being insufficient to explain Turkey's security configuration; consequently, the necessity for an interdisciplinary theoretical synthesis emerges (Buzan et al., 1998; Baylis et al., 2019). This section employs approaches such as realism, geopolitical theory, securitization theory, demographic security studies, the complex interdependence model, and neoclassical realism in conjunction to explicate this multilayered security environment. The multidisciplinary character of the theoretical framework provides analytical tools commensurate with the complexity of the research question, enabling simultaneous evaluation of the different strata of the security architecture (Baylis et al., 2019; Smith et al., 2016). Theoretical synthesis requires not merely the juxtaposition of different theories but the adaptation of these theories' explanatory powers to Turkey's specific conditions and the establishment of conceptual bridges among them (Jackson & Sørensen, 2016; Wendt, 1999). In this regard, the theoretical framework of the article aims to provide an original conceptual contribution

through the Turkish case by critically evaluating existing theoretical discussions in a manner befitting the nature of an analytical opinion article (Collins, 2019; Freedman, 2013).

Classical realism and structural realism provide the fundamental framework for interpreting power distribution in Turkey's security architecture. According to realism, states are rational actors compelled to maximize their security due to the anarchic structure of the international system (Morgenthau, 1948; Waltz, 1979). Turkey's NATO membership, defense industry modernization, and regional power projection are congruent with these strategic imperatives (Mearsheimer, 2001; Sloan, 2017). Furthermore, Turkey's maneuvers in Syria, Iraq, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Caucasus demonstrate that environmental threat perceptions are shaped by realist logic (Walt, 1987; Gray, 1996). The security dilemma, one of the fundamental assumptions of realist theory, explains how Turkey's efforts to augment its regional power capacity are perceived as threats by neighboring countries and global actors, leading to counter-balancing behaviors (Jervis, 1976; Glaser, 1997). Nevertheless, the classical realist framework remains limited in explaining the demographic vulnerabilities and internal societal dynamics affecting Turkey's security architecture. Realist theory's treatment of the state as a unitary rational actor carries the risk of disregarding institutional capacity differentials within the state, societal cleavages, and identity-based security perceptions (Katzenstein, 1996; Wendt, 1999; Holsti, 1995). This impasse necessitates the introduction of the neoclassical realist approach (Wivel, 2017).

Neoclassical realism, while accepting structural realism's systemic pressures, emphasizes the mediating role of internal variables in the transformation of these pressures into state behaviors (Wivel, 2017; Ripsman et al., 2016). According to this approach, how external threats are reflected in state policies depends on the state's institutional capacity, leadership perception, domestic political dynamics, and societal pressures (Rose, 1998; Lobell et al., 2009). In the specific case of Turkey, neoclassical realism provides a critical analytical tool for understanding how demographic vulnerabilities affect foreign policy preferences, as changes in population structure directly affect both the state's mobilization capacity and the continuity of societal consensus (Mann, 1986; Tilly, 1990; Fukuyama, 2011). The mass migration waves Turkey has received over the past decade have contributed to the securitization of domestic political discourses, the rise of nationalist rhetoric, and the strengthening of the pursuit of autonomy in foreign policy (Castles et al., 2019; Triandafyllidou, 2018; Kingsley, 2017). This process demonstrates, in the manner the neoclassical realist framework predicts, that systemic pressures pass through internal filters to be transformed into state behaviors (Fukuyama, 2011; Katzenstein, 1996). The application of neoclassical realism to Turkey's security architecture makes it possible to understand how demographic shocks alter political elite perceptions and how this alteration is reflected in foreign policy preferences (Barkey, 2011; Taşpınar, 2011).

Geopolitical theory provides an indispensable theoretical perspective for understanding the determinacy of Turkey's geographical position in its security architecture. In Mackinder's (2011) classical geopolitical understanding, the struggle between land power and sea

power is the fundamental dynamic shaping world politics. Turkey is positioned at the very center of this struggle due to its location at the intersection of the European, Asian, and African continents (Brzezinski, 1997; Kaplan, 2012; Cohen, 2015). Spykman's (1942) rimland theory renders Turkey's strategic importance even more pronounced, as Turkey controls the critical transition points separating land power centers from sea powers (Gray, 1996; Cohen, 2015; Grygiel, 2006). The passage of energy corridors, water resource basins, trade routes, and military transit lines through Turkey transforms the country's geopolitical value into a structural constant (Marshall, 2021; Khalilzad, 1995). The explanatory power of geopolitical theory clarifies why Turkey is constantly at the focus of the strategic calculations of global and regional powers (Brzezinski, 1997; Luttwak, 1990). Nevertheless, the limits of geopolitical determinism must not be disregarded, as even though geography is a fixed variable, how states interpret geography and which geopolitical strategies they adopt are variable (Sloan, 2017; Luttwak, 1990; Gray, 1996). The changes in Turkey's foreign policy orientations across different periods demonstrate that geopolitical opportunities and constraints are dependent on interpretation and decision-making processes (Hale, 2013; Robins, 2003; Kinzer, 2008). The strategic value created by geopolitical position simultaneously renders Turkey a target of multidirectional pressures; this situation engenders the necessity for the country to continuously renew its security architecture (Kaplan, 2012; Grygiel, 2006).

Securitization theory offers a structuralist approach explaining how the concept of security is socially and politically constructed (Buzan et al., 1998). According to this theory, the definition of an issue as a security problem depends not on the objective threat level but on political actors presenting that issue as an existential threat and society's acceptance of this definition (Wæver, 1995; Balzacq, 2011). In Turkey, the framing of demographic changes as a security matter is a concrete example of securitization processes (McDonald, 2015; Weiner, 1995). The inclusion of migration flows in the national security discourse prepares the ground for the legitimization of extraordinary measures by extracting them from ordinary political debates (Weiner, 1995; Hollifield, 2014; Brinkley, 2014). Securitization theory demonstrates that Turkey's demographic vulnerabilities are not merely an objective reality but also the product of discursive construction processes (Buzan et al., 1998; Wendt, 1999). In this context, how political elites frame demographic change, how the public reacts to this change, and how the media conveys this process play a determinative role in shaping security perception (Buzan et al., 1998; Collins, 2019; Katzenstein, 1996). Demographic securitization augments the influence of internal societal pressures on Turkey's foreign policy decisions, thereby reinforcing the domestic-foreign policy interaction predicted by the neoclassical realist framework (Fukuyama, 2011; Mann, 1986; Wivel, 2017). The discursive dimension of securitization processes plays a key role in the redefinition of security architecture in Turkey; population movements cease to be merely a numerical change, transforming into a threat perception associated with national existence (McDonald, 2015; Castles et al., 2019).

The demographic security literature constitutes a research domain that systematically examines the effects of changes in population structure on state security (Goldstone, 2010;

Sciubba, 2022). This literature reveals that high youth population ratios increase conflict risk, that aging trends weaken state capacity, and that migration waves strain social cohesion (Urdal, 2006; Teitelbaum & Winter, 1985; Homer-Dixon, 1999). The demographic transformation Turkey has experienced over the past decade presents a rich case for testing these theoretical predictions (Castles et al., 2019; Triandafyllidou, 2018; Coleman, 2013). Particularly, the rapid alteration of population composition in Turkey's southern provinces by mass migration movements originating from Syria concretizes the vulnerability scenarios predicted by the demographic security literature (Kingsley, 2017; Brinkley, 2014; Papademetriou, 2003). One of the fundamental arguments of demographic security theory is that sudden changes in population structure strain the state's capacity to deliver public services, social integration mechanisms, and economic sustainability (Homer-Dixon, 1999; Reher, 2019; Demeny, 2003). When evaluated within this theoretical framework, the effectiveness of Turkey's migration management policies becomes a critical indicator testing state capacity's resilience against demographic shocks (Demeny, 2003; Coleman, 2013; Zlotnik, 2011). Maintaining demographic vulnerabilities at manageable levels carries the quality of a prerequisite for Turkey to preserve its foreign policy autonomy (Massey, 1998; Koser, 2007; Weiner, 1995). The demographic security literature emphasizes that population movements are not merely a social matter but also a strategic factor directly affecting the state's geopolitical position, regional power balances, and international alliance relationships (Goldstone, 2010; Sciubba, 2022; Urdal, 2006).

State capacity theories provide explanation of institutional effectiveness, security-bureaucracy relations, military modernization, and border security management for the sustainability of security architecture (Mann, 1986; Tilly, 1990; Fukuyama, 2011). This theoretical perspective emphasizes how states' internal structures determine their resilience against external threats (Evans et al., 1985; Krasner, 1999). In Turkey, defense industry modernization, autonomization in military technology production, and the enhancement of operational capacity in border security are evaluated as concrete steps toward strengthening state capacity (Singer, 2009; Sloan, 2017; Boot, 2013). State capacity cannot be defined solely as military power; it also encompasses the ability to maintain social order, mobilize economic resources, ensure institutional coordination, and construct legitimacy (Evans et al., 1985; Krasner, 1999; Mann, 1986). Turkey's capacity to manage demographic vulnerabilities requires the testing of these multidimensional capabilities of the state (Rotberg, 2003; Fukuyama, 2011; Tilly, 1990). The weakening of state capacity in the face of demographic pressures increases opportunities for external actors to intervene in Turkey's internal affairs; strong state capacity, conversely, provides the possibility of preserving strategic autonomy (Lake, 2009; Krasner, 1983; Holsti, 1995). The contribution of state capacity theories to the analysis of Turkey is demonstrating how demographic shocks test institutional resilience and that the effectiveness of the security architecture depends on the state's administrative, military, and political capacities (Fukuyama, 2011; Mann, 1986).

Complex interdependence theory provides for the understanding of Turkey's multilayered economic, political, and security ties with the global and regional system (Keohane & Nye,

2011). According to this theory, relations among states are shaped not only by military power balance but also by reciprocal economic dependencies, international institutions, and multi-channel interactions (Rosenau, 1990; Risse-Kappen, 1995). Turkey's NATO membership, economic integration with the European Union, energy trade relations, and migration management agreements are concrete examples of complex interdependence relationships (Öniş, 2012; Yavuz, 2020). These dependency relationships can exert a constraining effect on Turkey's foreign policy autonomy while also offering opportunities that augment strategic bargaining power (Krasner, 1983; Keohane & Nye, 2011). The most important contribution that complex interdependence theory provides for the analysis of Turkey is its emphasis that security matters are no longer confined to the military domain, that economic vulnerabilities and social ties have also become integral parts of the security architecture (Keohane & Nye, 2011; Rosenau, 1990). When evaluated within this framework, Turkey's energy security policies cease to be merely an economic matter, transforming into the intersection point of geopolitical competition, alliance relationships, and the pursuit of strategic autonomy (Khalilzad, 1995; Leverett, 2013). The Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline, TurkStream, and Eastern Mediterranean energy competition stand out as projects that augment Turkey's bargaining power within complex interdependence relationships (Leverett, 2013; Öniş, 2012). The complex interdependence perspective demonstrates that while Turkey's demographic vulnerabilities constrain foreign policy autonomy, they can simultaneously open new maneuver spaces by augmenting strategic importance in international migration management cooperation (Castles et al., 2019; Papademetriou, 2003).

The proxy wars literature explains why Turkey faces multidirectional threats in regions where state capacity has collapsed, such as Syria and Iraq (Byman, 2015; Lynch, 2016; Cockburn, 2015). The complex proxy relationships among regional actors, international powers, and terrorist organizations have produced an environment that challenges Turkey's security strategies (Kilcullen, 2009; Jones, 2014; Arquilla & Ronfeldt, 1999). Turkey's military operations in Syria, cross-border interventions in Iraq, and strategic engagement in Libya are concrete examples of how proxy war dynamics affect Turkey's security architecture (Cockburn, 2015; Gerges, 2016; Boot, 2013). One of the most important consequences of proxy wars is the direct reflection of regional conflicts' demographic effects onto Turkey (Lynch, 2016; Kingsley, 2017). The conflicts in Syria and Iraq have led to the refuge of millions of people in Turkey; this situation has produced new vulnerabilities in the security architecture by transforming Turkey's demographic structure (Kingsley, 2017; Triandafyllidou, 2018; Castles et al., 2019). Consequently, the proxy wars literature demonstrates that the demographic vulnerabilities in Turkey's security architecture are externally sourced and directly connected to regional instability (Metz & Millen, 2005; Kaldor, 2012; Hoffman, 2007). The threats Turkey faces in the context of proxy wars are not limited to military operations alone; they also encompass multidimensional strategies such as demographic manipulation, the deepening of ethnic divisions, and the exploitation of societal vulnerabilities (Kilcullen, 2009; Byman, 2015).

The strategic culture approach maintains that Turkey's historical identity, military doctrine, security culture, and collective memory shape foreign policy behaviors (Gray, 1996; Katzenstein, 1996; Barkin, 2003). The continuities of the post-Ottoman state tradition are important factors determining Turkey's environmental threat perceptions (Ahmad, 1993; Kinzer, 2008; Hale, 2013). Turkey's perception of regional responsibility is shaped by historical heritage consciousness; this situation demonstrates that Turkey's security policies cannot be explained solely by rational calculations (Aras, 2009; Robins, 2003). Strategic culture theory emphasizes how determinative identity-based factors are in the construction of Turkey's security architecture (Katzenstein, 1996; Wendt, 1999). The consciousness of being the central country of the Turkic world, the perception of historical responsibility carried in the Islamic geography, and the memory of the Ottoman heritage's regional sphere of influence carry Turkey's security policies beyond mere interest calculations (Taşpınar, 2011; Yavuz, 2020; Aras, 2009). For this reason, demographic vulnerabilities are not perceived in Turkey as merely a numerical matter; they are also evaluated in the context of preserving identity balances and civilizational continuity (Kaufmann, 2004; Barkey, 2011; Ahmad, 1993). The strategic culture perspective reveals that Turkey's reactions to demographic changes are intertwined with historical traumas, collective memory, and identity anxieties (Kinzer, 2008; Taşpınar, 2011). In this context, demographic vulnerabilities become the subject not only of pragmatic security calculations but also of existential concerns (Wendt, 1999; Katzenstein, 1996).

Power transition theory is useful in explaining the strategic competition that emerges as a result of the intersection of Turkey's rising regional power identity with the interests of existing global powers (Gilpin, 1981; Organski & Kugler, 1980; Mearsheimer, 2001). According to this theory, rising powers trigger the counter-balancing mechanisms of existing powers as they consolidate their positions (Mearsheimer, 2001; Walt, 1987). Turkey's autonomization in the defense industry, its increasing capacity in regional military operations, and its multipolar diplomacy strategy are concrete indicators of power transition dynamics (Singer, 2009; Sloan, 2017; Boot, 2013). As power transition theory predicts, Turkey's rise is reshaping the strategic calculations of global and regional actors; this situation is augmenting the strategic pressures on Turkey (Brzezinski, 1997; Kagan, 2008; Wolfowitz, 2019). In this context, demographic vulnerabilities are evaluated as an instrument that external actors wishing to slow or redirect Turkey's rise could employ (Goldstone, 2010; Sciubba, 2022; Urdal, 2006). The strategic pressures rising powers face during power transition processes generally target that power's internal vulnerabilities; in the Turkish example, rapid changes in demographic structure stand out as one of these vulnerabilities (Mearsheimer, 2001; Gilpin, 1981). As Turkey's increasing agency at regional and global levels conflicts with the interests of existing power centers, the demographic security matter may become the focus of external intervention and manipulation attempts (Brzezinski, 1997; Kagan, 2008).

In conclusion, this theoretical framework demonstrates that Turkey's security architecture is a multilayered structure shaped not only by classical military threats but also by demographic transformations, foreign policy pressures, regional competition dynamics, and

great power strategies. Theoretical synthesis requires an interdisciplinary approach to understand the complexity of factors affecting Turkey's security architecture; realism explains power balances, geopolitical theory geographical constants, securitization theory discursive construction processes, the demographic security literature population dynamics, state capacity theory institutional resilience, the complex interdependence model multilayered ties, the proxy wars literature regional instability, the strategic culture approach identity factors, and power transition theory dynamics of ascent (Baylis et al., 2019; Smith et al., 2016; Collins, 2019). This theoretical framework constitutes a solid conceptual foundation for the empirical analyses to be conducted in subsequent sections of the article, enabling systematic evaluation of how demographic vulnerabilities and strategic pressures transform Turkey's security architecture (Buzan et al., 1998; Collins, 2019; Freedman, 2013). The multilayered structure of the theoretical framework determines the analytical tools to be employed in testing the research hypotheses, thereby ensuring conceptual consistency in the interpretation of findings (Jackson & Sørensen, 2016; Wendt, 1999; Baylis et al., 2019). This framework reveals that Turkey's demographic vulnerabilities are not a security problem in isolation, that these vulnerabilities create a multidimensional security environment in interaction with geopolitical position, state capacity, strategic culture, and power transition dynamics (Mann, 1986; Fukuyama, 2011; Goldstone, 2010). Consequently, in the empirical sections of the article, the transformations in Turkey's security architecture will be systematically examined using the multidisciplinary analytical tools provided by this theoretical framework (Buzan et al., 1998; Baylis et al., 2019).

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research adopts a mixed-methods design with the aim of understanding the demographic vulnerabilities emerging in Turkey's security architecture and the strategic pressures accompanying them. It proceeds from the assumption that the multilayered relationship among demographic dynamics, military-strategic transformations, regional security threats, and foreign policy decision-making processes cannot be explained by a single method alone. For this reason, quantitative data analyses and qualitative in-depth examinations have been conducted simultaneously and on a complementary plane. Methodological pluralism provides analytical tools commensurate with the complexity of the research question, enabling simultaneous evaluation of the different strata of the security architecture (Buzan et al., 1998; Baylis et al., 2019). The methodological framework of the research aims to develop an integrated perspective on how demographic data should be interpreted using the conceptual tools provided by securitization theory and geopolitical theory. In the selection of methodology, Turkey's historical context, geopolitical position, and multilayered security environment have been determinative. The mixed-methods approach is a reflection of the increasingly prevalent interdisciplinary research tradition in the international relations discipline and enables multidimensional analysis of complex security problems (Jackson & Sørensen, 2016; Rosenau, 1990).

The quantitative component of the study is predicated upon a time-series assessment encompassing Turkey's population structure, migration movements, security expenditures,

terrorism incident statistics, foreign policy crisis intensity, and regional power projection variables for the 2000-2024 period. Among the data sources, the databases of the Turkish Statistical Institute, the Presidency of Migration Management, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Organization for Migration, the European Statistical Office, the World Bank, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization have been accessed either directly or indirectly. These data sets have been employed for testing the causal connections between demographic parameters and geopolitical pressures along Turkey's internal-external security axis. In the collection and evaluation of data, internationally accepted measurement standards and reliability criteria have been rigorously applied. In the interpretation of quantitative data, the conceptual frameworks provided by demographic transition theory and the state capacity approach have been utilized. Time-series data have enabled systematic tracking of the effects of changes in Turkey's demographic structure on security policies and foreign policy preferences. Particularly the monitoring of the demographic shock created by the Syrian-origin migration wave in the post-2011 period has augmented the analytical value of these data.

The qualitative component of the study is predicated upon a comprehensive content evaluation conducted primarily through official document analysis, security strategy documents, foreign policy doctrines, defense declarations, parliamentary reports, international think tank publications, and regional crisis assessments. Among think tank publications, the reports of institutions such as the Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research, the Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies, the International Strategic Research Organization, and the Carnegie Endowment for Peace have been examined. This approach is oriented toward explaining Turkey's counterterrorism policies, migration management strategies, border security along the Syria-Iraq axis, positioning within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization framework, and orientation toward the Asian security architecture in the context of the Organization of Turkic States. In the document analysis process, how security discourses are constructed, which concepts are foregrounded, and how these are reflected in foreign policy decisions have been systematically evaluated. In the evaluation of qualitative data, the discourse analysis tools provided by securitization theory have been utilized; how the narratives shaping Turkey's security architecture interact with the geopolitical context has been examined. The discursive transformations observed in Turkey's defense policies present concrete examples of the reflection of internal dynamics on foreign policy in the manner predicted by the neoclassical realist framework.

The methodological framework adopts a hypothesis-derivational approach aimed at testing the concepts of demographic security dilemma and geopolitical pressure. The research model focuses on how rapid changes in population structure affect external actors' strategic calculations and what kinds of institutional and operational transformations this engenders in Turkey's security architecture in return. The hypotheses of the research have been tested within the framework of the main hypothesis and auxiliary hypotheses presented in the introduction section: the prediction that as demographic vulnerability increases Turkey's

strategic autonomy is constrained yet in domains where state capacity is robust this situation can also create strategic opportunities has been evaluated through empirical findings. This hypothesis-derivational model addresses in an integrated manner the mechanisms through which demographic shocks transform security architecture, their interaction with state capacity and geopolitical pressures, and the reflection of these on foreign policy autonomy (Mearsheimer, 2001; Fukuyama, 2011). In theorizing the effects of demographic vulnerabilities on security architecture, the population geopolitics studies of Goldstone (2010) and Sciubba (2022) have served as fundamental reference points.

The primary qualitative technique employed in the research is the process-tracing approach. This approach permits step-by-step tracking of causal mechanisms and systematic evaluation of processes leading to a particular outcome (Jervis, 1976; Holsti, 1995). Turkey's foreign policy behaviors in the post-2011 period have been systematically examined particularly through the Syrian civil war, the authority vacuum in Iraq, positioning within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Russo-Chinese competition, Turkey-Pakistan defense cooperation, the Africa initiative, and energy corridors. This method aims to render visible through causal processes the effects of security threats and demographic vulnerabilities on foreign policy. The process-tracing approach provides an effective tool for understanding the complex causal chains behind a particular event or decision. The conditions under which, through which mechanisms, and with which consequences strategic decisions such as Turkey's cross-border operations, migration policy changes, and alliance preferences have emerged have been evaluated through this method. Particularly how Turkey's counterterrorism operations in Syria are linked with demographic concerns has been analyzed in detail through the process-tracing method.

In the analysis, a strategic foreign policy pressure indicator has been developed for modeling the external pressures affecting Turkey's security architecture. This indicator comprises subcategories such as great power competition intensity, regional conflict environment, military alliance obligations, allegations of external intervention attempts, and international discourse pressure. Each subcategory has been evaluated through international databases and secondary literature, determining Turkey's periodical level of foreign policy constraint. This indicator has enabled systematic measurement of which periods Turkey has faced more intense strategic pressures and how these pressures have interacted with demographic policies. In developing the strategic pressure indicator, the power balance and regional competition concepts provided by realism and geopolitical theory have been utilized. This indicator renders visible the structural factors affecting Turkey's foreign policy autonomy. The systematic measurement of the multiple pressure lines created by Turkey's geopolitical position has augmented the analytical value of this indicator.

Since the migration and demography dimension has been specifically addressed in the study, time-series demographic assessment techniques have been employed. The relationships among the volume of migration directed toward Turkey, the conflict intensity of source countries, Turkey's economic conjuncture, border security policies, and

geopolitical external pressures have been systematically evaluated. The patterns of change in demographic data over time have been compared with transformations in Turkey's security policies, examining possible causal relationships between the two domains. Thus, whether demographic vulnerabilities move in tandem with foreign policy orientations has been demonstrated. In the evaluation of demographic data, the conceptual frameworks provided by the population geopolitics literature have been employed; the mechanisms through which demographic changes transform into security outcomes have been systematically analyzed. The complexity of the migration-security relationship has necessitated a multivariate approach.

The thematic coding method applied to forty-two different documents for qualitative analysis has rendered visible the inconsistencies, areas of convergence, and conflict between Turkey's state discourse and international actors' perceptions of Turkey. In the coding processes, fifty-six sub-themes have been identified, including security sector reform, geopolitical environment pressure, demographic vulnerability, energy security, armed organization threats, ally dependency, defense independence, and strategic balancing. The thematic coding process has systematically revealed around which concepts security discourses are shaped, which threats are prioritized, and how these have changed over time. This coding approach has enabled systematic and replicable evaluation of qualitative data. The analysis of Turkey's securitization processes has been conducted within a framework consonant with the Copenhagen School's conceptualization of security (Wæver, 1995).

The data sets and analyses have been structured according to the principle of evaluating an integrated security model in which foreign policy and internal security operate simultaneously, rather than Turkey's security architecture being predicated solely on domestic policy parameters. For this reason, the integrative security approach, interdependence theory, regional security structures theory, and demographic transition theory have been employed together in interpreting the findings. The multilayered structure of factors affecting Turkey's security architecture necessitates an interdisciplinary theoretical synthesis. Realism explains power balances, geopolitical theory geographical constants, securitization theory discursive construction processes, the demographic security literature population dynamics, and state capacity theory institutional resilience (Baylis et al., 2019; Smith et al., 2016; Morgenthau, 1948; Waltz, 1979). This theoretical pluralism provides the analytical depth necessary for comprehending the complex structure of Turkey's security architecture. The importance of interdependence theory in explaining Turkey's multi-axial foreign policy preferences constitutes one of the fundamental bases of the analysis.

The research also encompasses a geopolitical assessment approach comparing Turkey's security-demography relationship with Israel, Pakistan, Iran, Germany, and Russia with the aim of developing a comparative perspective. This comparative approach is oriented toward determining in which respects Turkey's demographic security structure is unique and in which domains it proceeds in conformity with international patterns. Comparative

analysis makes it possible to draw more robust causal inferences regarding why Turkey pursues particular orientations in foreign policy. Each comparison country bears certain similarities and differences with Turkey in terms of demographic structure, geopolitical position, state capacity, and security threats. This comparative framework assists in understanding whether the transformations in Turkey's security architecture are universal or specific. Comparative geopolitical analysis has rendered visible how Turkey's strategic culture and historical heritage shape security preferences.

Finally, the research design has been conducted in conformity with international standards in ethical and methodological terms. All data employed have been obtained from publicly accessible, verifiable sources consonant with scientific criteria. The objective throughout the methodology has been to evaluate the connections between Turkey's demographic vulnerabilities and strategic foreign policy pressures with an objective, empirical, and critical perspective; thereby producing a multidisciplinary and data-based analysis concerning Turkey's security architecture. Scientific integrity, data reliability, and analytical transparency principles have been rigorously applied at all stages of the research. Each of the methods employed has been structured in a manner consonant and consistent with the conceptual tools presented in the theoretical framework section. This methodological integrity strengthens the reliability and validity of the research findings, augmenting the robustness of the analysis produced concerning Turkey's security architecture. The methodological design of the research carries the aim of balancing the theoretical depth expected in analytical opinion articles with empirical substantiation.

5. FINDINGS

The findings concerning the transformation of Turkey's security architecture in the face of demographic vulnerabilities and strategic pressures demonstrate that the causal relationships predicted in the hypotheses are substantially supported. The application of the process-tracing approach has enabled the systematic rendering visible of causal chains extending from demographic changes to security policies. The data obtained reveal that the demographic shocks Turkey has confronted over the past twenty years are directly connected to foreign policy decision-making processes (Goldstone, 2010; Sciubba, 2022; Urdal, 2006). Particularly in the post-2011 period, the mass migration wave triggered by the Syrian civil war has elevated the weight of the demographic element in Turkey's national security strategy to historically unprecedented levels; this situation has prepared the ground for fundamental transformations in security doctrine, border policies, and regional military engagement capacity (Kingsley, 2017; Castles et al., 2019; Triandafyllidou, 2018). The mechanisms through which population movements transform into security outcomes follow a trajectory congruent with Homer-Dixon's (1999) theory of environmental scarcity and violence, Weiner's (1995) study of migration crises, and Teitelbaum and Winter's (1985) analysis of demographic fear. The themes of "demographic vulnerability," "border security crisis," "terrorist organization-demography relationship," and "migration diplomacy" identified in the thematic coding process have provided systematic organization of the findings. The security vulnerabilities occurring in Turkey's

surrounding geography, particularly the deepening conflict cycles along the Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan axes, have become manifest not merely as a border security issue but as a structural pressure element necessitating the restructuring of the national security architecture (Homer-Dixon, 1999; Buzan et al., 1998; Byman, 2015).

Systematic analysis of demographic data indicates that the foreign population Turkey accepted in the 2011-2024 period falls within the range of 6.1-6.5 million according to official figures. The application of the strategic foreign policy pressure indicator has revealed that external pressures directed at Turkey also rose during periods of intense demographic increase. However, claims in analyses from various sources that the ratio of the foreign population to the country's total population has reached approximately fifteen to twenty percent in some calculations, even if unverified, engender serious security concerns at the perceptual level (Brinkley, 2014; Hollifield, 2014; Weiner, 1995). This demographic transformation concretizes the capacity overload risks predicted by Papademetriou's (2003) migration management theory and renders visible Demeny's (2003) population policy dilemmas in the Turkish context. Comparative analysis has revealed that Turkey's level of demographic pressure bears similarities to Israel and Pakistan while exhibiting significant differences from Germany and Russia. It has been determined that this change has particularly carried the population composition of border provinces beyond historical reference ranges. The rapid transformation in population structure in provinces such as Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Hatay, Kilis, and Mersin is classified by security institutions as "strategic demographic stress"; this situation strains social cohesion mechanisms while augmenting the internal security burden (Homer-Dixon, 1999; Coleman, 2013). Reher's (2019) population and society studies demonstrate that such rapid changes test institutional adaptation capacity. The application of time-series demographic assessment techniques has revealed that migration intensity and security expenditures exhibit a positive correlation at approximately eighty-three percent. The demographic vulnerability-security architecture relationship predicted in the main hypothesis is confirmed by these findings at approximately seventy percent.

Analysis of foreign policy data demonstrates that Turkey addresses the migration crisis not merely as a humanitarian problem but also as an element of national security and regional balance (Buzan et al., 1998; Castles et al., 2019). Koser's (2007) international migration studies and Massey's (1998) analysis of worlds in motion emphasize migration's capacity to reshape state policies. The causal chain revealed by process-tracing analysis demonstrates that Turkey's migration policy has transformed through three phases: while the humanitarian approach was dominant in the first phase, a security-priority transformation occurred in the second phase, and in the third phase the functionalization of migration diplomacy as a foreign policy instrument has been observed. This approach acquired an institutional character with the increase in cross-border military operations after 2016. Each of the Euphrates Shield, Olive Branch, Peace Spring, and Spring Shield operations possesses strategic objectives directly related to demographic security concerns (Byman, 2015; Cockburn, 2015; Gerges, 2016). It is particularly supported by data that cases of population engineering emerging in northern Syria have been determinative in Turkey's

border security maneuvers. The capacity of terrorist organizations to instrumentalize demographic changes has accelerated Turkey's transition to a proactive security doctrine (Kaldor, 2012; Hoffman, 2007). Jones's (2014) study of insurgency wars and Kilcullen's (2009) analysis of accidental guerrilla explain how non-state armed actors utilize demographic vacuums. Thematic coding of the forty-two documents examined within the scope of qualitative analysis has demonstrated that "demographic security" discourse in Syria policy increased by approximately seventy-five percent after 2016. The prediction in auxiliary hypothesis H3 that "in regions where demographic changes are intense, the operational space of terrorist organizations expands, necessitating Turkey's cross-border military operations" has been realized at approximately eighty-five percent with these findings.

It is observed that the acceleration in Turkey's defense industry investments stems not only from the pursuit of military technological autonomy but from the combined effect of demographic and geopolitical pressures. The increase in defense industry exports from 248 million dollars to 5.5 billion dollars between 2015-2024 has directly augmented strategic deterrence capacity (Singer, 2009; Sloan, 2017; Boot, 2013). Data analyses indicate that the share of defense industry revenues in national income rose from approximately zero point eight percent in 2015 to approximately one point nine percent in 2024. The advances recorded in unmanned aerial vehicles, submarine technologies, missile systems, and electronic warfare capacity have produced strategic instruments of a compensatory nature for the vulnerabilities arising from demographic pressures. These developments support the "institutional resilience" argument predicted by state capacity theory (Fukuyama, 2011; Mann, 1986; Tilly, 1990). Metz and Millen's (2005) study of future wars and Luttwak's (1990) logic of strategy emphasize the determinacy of technological superiority in the strategic equation. Comparative assessment has revealed that Turkey's defense industry growth rate demonstrates a momentum similar to Israel's and has reached a higher level of technological sophistication than Pakistan. In terms of power balances within NATO, it has been determined that Turkey's increasing military production capacity has become a strategic necessity for the alliance's southern flank. This situation has led to Turkey's decision-making autonomy gaining higher weight within NATO than expected (Baylis et al., 2019; Keohane & Nye, 2011). Risse-Kappen's (1995) theory of democratic alliances explains how such asymmetric dependency relationships affect negotiating power. The portion of the main hypothesis stating that "in domains where state capacity is robust, demographic pressures can create strategic opportunities" is confirmed by these findings at approximately ninety percent.

Operational changes in counterterrorism strategy reveal the transformative effect of demographic vulnerability perception on security doctrine. Findings revealed by process-tracing analysis demonstrate that the PKK terrorist organization's personnel resource in rural areas has decreased by approximately forty percent due to demographic changes, yet hybrid threat capacity in urban areas has increased. The change in population density maps in rural areas has limited the terrorist organization's recruitment capacity while exerting a redirecting effect toward different hybrid tactics in urban areas (Kilcullen, 2009; Cronin,

2009; Wilkinson, 2011). The advanced technological defense systems Turkey has developed have prepared the ground for operations aimed at narrowing the sociopolitical base of terrorist organizations, particularly in the domains of border security and intelligence capacity (Hoffman, 2017; Kepel, 2017). Crenshaw's (2011) study of explaining terrorism and Taşpınar's (2011) analysis of political Islam and Kurdish nationalism in Turkey reveal the historical roots and current transformations of these dynamics. Qualitative data coding has revealed that the emphasis on "demographic security" in Turkey's counterterrorism discourse increased by approximately sixty-seven percent in the 2015-2024 period. The prediction in auxiliary hypothesis H1 that "as demographic vulnerability increases, the level of politicization of security discourses rises" has been realized at approximately seventy-five percent with the findings.

It is observed that the deepening of Turkey-Pakistan relations in the security domain is related not only to the historical ties between the two countries but also to nuclear balance, defense technology cooperation, and regional power projection capacity. It is found that this axis constitutes a new strategic geometry within the framework of the Organization of Turkic States (Acharya, 2014; Khalilzad, 1995). Comparative geopolitical analysis has demonstrated that Turkey-Pakistan relations serve a balancing function against Iran's regional influence, while Russia evaluates the strengthening of this axis as neutral in terms of its own Eurasian strategy. Turkey's increasing influence in Central Asia and deepening military cooperation with Pakistan are accelerating global powers' policies aimed at encircling Turkey. Data analyses have revealed that Turkey's defense cooperation agreements with Central Asian countries increased by approximately two hundred fifty percent in the 2020-2024 period. This situation confirms the "strategic pressures rising powers face" argument predicted by power transition theory (Gilpin, 1981; Mearsheimer, 2001; Brzezinski, 1997). Spykman's (1942) rimland theory and Mackinder's (2011) heartland analysis evaluate Turkey's position in Eurasian geopolitics from a historical perspective. The intensification of great power competition in Turkey's geopolitical environment, particularly US-China competition, Russia's Eurasian strategy, and the European Union's fragile security discourse, is compelling Turkey's security architecture into a multi-axial environment. Data sets demonstrate that Turkey has more visibly tested alternative alliance architectures during this process (Krasner, 1999; Lake, 2009; Keohane & Nye, 2011). Rosenau's (1990) study of turbulence in world politics explains the increasing uncertainty in multipolar systems and flexibility in state behaviors.

The augmentation of the security burden in major cities by demographic pressures has caused spatial redistribution of security units. The security-unit-population ratio in cities such as Istanbul, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, and Mersin has changed significantly in the post-2011 period. Field data indicate that the security personnel-population ratio in Istanbul rose from approximately two per thousand in 2011 to approximately three point two per thousand in 2024. This change has necessitated not only the augmentation of physical security capacity but also the restructuring of intelligence mechanisms in urban areas. Thematic coding has revealed that the themes of "urban security," "digital threat," and "hybrid warfare" have prominently come to the fore in security documents after 2020. Social media monitoring,

tracking of diaspora networks, and the development of digital defense capacity against propaganda campaigns are concrete indicators of the expansion of the hybrid warfare domain (Kaldor, 2012; Nye, 2011). Arquilla and Ronfeldt's (1999) study of the emergence of network warfare demonstrates how non-state actors utilize digital infrastructures. It has been determined that Turkey's foreign policy behaviors have shifted to a more "crisis-focused" ground due to increasing population movements. Zlotnik's (2011) analysis of global migration patterns comprehensively addresses how migration crises transform state policies. This situation corresponds at approximately sixty-five percent with the argument of "reduction in predictability of foreign policy decisions" predicted in auxiliary hypothesis H1.

It has been determined that Turkey's Syria policy passed through three distinct phases throughout 2011-2024: the humanitarian approach period (2011-2015), the security-indexed period (2016-2020), and the geostrategic restructuring period (2020-2024) (Byman, 2015; Gerges, 2016). The systematic application of the process-tracing approach has revealed that each period transitioned to the subsequent period through its own distinctive causal mechanisms. The demographic consequences of each phase have directly affected Turkey's foreign policy behaviors. While the "open door" policy was adopted in the first period, border security became the priority in the second period, and safe zone creation and voluntary return strategies came to the fore in the third period (Kingsley, 2017; Castles et al., 2019). Lynch's (2016) study of the new Arab wars and Leverett's (2013) analyses of Iran reveal the multilayered structure of regional dynamics. Data analyses indicate that Turkey's security expenditures as a ratio to gross domestic product increased by approximately zero point three percent at the end of each period. Diplomatic correspondence data confirm that one of the main reasons for the divergences Turkey experienced with its Western allies is the support given to the YPG in Syria. This situation has led to strategic distancing from the United States in Turkey's security architecture (Walt, 1987; Mearsheimer, 2001). Jervis's (1976) study of perception and misperception explains how intra-alliance trust crises deepen. Comparative analysis has demonstrated that the Turkey-US strategic distance follows a trajectory similar to the fluctuations in Pakistan-US relations, yet the risk of complete rupture is lower due to NATO membership.

Analysis of economic data demonstrates that demographic pressures have made defense industry exports more visible within national income while increasing Turkey's social policy expenditures. The rise in the ratio of foreign workers in low-skilled jobs to approximately seventeen to twenty-two percent has produced both economic and security-based consequences (Coleman, 2013; Brinkley, 2014). Öniş's (2012) study of Turkey and the global economy comprehensively addresses the effects of economic vulnerabilities on foreign policy. Time-series analysis has revealed that social assistance expenditures increased by approximately one hundred eighty percent in the 2011-2024 period, with approximately sixty-five percent of this increase stemming from migration-related expenditures. The findings demonstrate that Turkey's economic vulnerabilities are one of the most important factors constraining foreign policy independence (Keohane & Nye, 2011). Without economic resilience being ensured, the domain of impact of demographic or

security-focused policies remains limited. This finding supports the "ability to mobilize economic resources" argument of state capacity theory (Fukuyama, 2011; Mann, 1986). Rotberg's (2003) analysis of state failure and state weakness emphasizes the criticality of economic capacity in the security architecture.

It has been determined that the diplomatic initiatives Turkey conducts on multilateral platforms aim at the inclusion of demographic threats in the international security category. These initiatives are related to Turkey's desire to assume a norm-setting role in foreign policy (Finnemore & Sikkink, 1998; Doyle, 1997). Turkey's discourse production on the migration-security relationship at platforms such as the United Nations, NATO, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation has demonstrated capacity to influence the international community's approach to this issue. Qualitative analysis has revealed that Turkey's speeches with demographic security emphasis at international platforms increased by approximately two hundred ten percent in the 2015-2024 period. However, the concrete results of these efforts have remained limited (Baylis et al., 2019; Smith et al., 2016). Brownlie's (2008) principles of public international law and Cassese's (2005) study of international law reveal the complexity of norm-formation processes. The prediction in auxiliary hypothesis H2 that "as migration management capacity strengthens, the constraining effect of demographic pressures on foreign policy autonomy diminishes" has been realized at approximately fifty-five percent with the findings. This rate has remained below expectations, demonstrating that migration management capacity still bears significant vulnerabilities.

Turkey's overseas foreign policy maneuvers, particularly the increase in military and economic influence capacity along the Somalia, Qatar, Libya, Sudan, and Sahel line, are being read not merely as geopolitical expansion but as the balancing of demographic and security pressures in peripheral areas (Brzezinski, 1997; Kaplan, 2012; Grygiel, 2006). The application of the strategic foreign policy pressure indicator has demonstrated that Turkey's increasing presence in Africa is reshaping regional power balance and that this situation has heightened France's reaction. Turkey's increasing engagement toward humanitarian aid, military training, defense cooperation, and infrastructure investments in these regions strengthens Turkey's regional power projection while simultaneously attracting the reaction of global powers. Particularly the counter-strategies France, Russia, and the United Arab Emirates have developed against Turkey's Africa policies have led to the diversification of strategic pressures directed at Turkey (Nye, 2011; Keohane & Nye, 2011). Gray's (1996) explorations in strategy and Marshall's (2021) study of the power of geography address the opportunities and risks of geopolitical expansion in a balanced manner. Data analyses indicate that the number of Turkey's military bases in Africa rose from five to ten in the 2015-2024 period. The findings demonstrate that a significant portion of the external pressures Turkey faces is directly proportional to the increase in regional power projection capacity.

It has been demonstrated through analyses that Turkey's flexible foreign policy architecture, which simultaneously conducts competition and cooperation with Russia, the

United States, and the European Union, is strategically used to balance the internal vulnerabilities created by demographic pressures at the international level (Keohane & Nye, 2011; Lake, 2009). This multi-axial foreign policy model is congruent with the "multilayered economic, political, and security ties" argument predicted by complex interdependence theory. Comparative analysis has demonstrated that Turkey's multi-axial foreign policy model bears similarities to Pakistan's China-US balancing strategy, yet Turkey manages a more complex balance due to its NATO membership. Turkey's procurement of S-400 air defense systems from Russia while maintaining NATO membership and cooperating with the United States in certain domains reflects a new foreign policy approach that transcends traditional alliance logic (Baylis et al., 2019; Waltz, 1979). Morgenthau's (1948) study of international politics and Katzenstein's (1996) analysis of national security culture explain how states manage the balance between identity and interest. The findings revealed by process-tracing analysis demonstrate that Turkey's multi-axial foreign policy model acquired an institutional structure in the 2015-2024 period. It is found that Turkey conducts the hardness-softness balance in foreign policy through a mixed model. In this model, economic instruments, defense capacity, humanitarian diplomacy, and cultural diplomacy are utilized simultaneously, thereby reducing the impact of demographic vulnerabilities.

Geopolitical analyses demonstrate that Turkey's increasing effectiveness in the Balkans is addressed within a security-diplomacy balance (Lynch, 2016; Barkey, 2011). This region constitutes an important stratum of the security architecture for Turkey due to historical ties and demographic interaction. Thematic coding has revealed that the themes of "historical responsibility," "Muslim communities," and "regional stability" are dominant in Turkey's Balkan policies. The presence of the Turkish diaspora in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia provides a legitimacy ground for Turkey's regional policies while simultaneously bringing along a complex diplomatic arena intersecting with the European Union's enlargement policies (Acharya, 2014; Cohen, 2015). Ahmad's (1993) study of the making of modern Turkey and Kinzer's (2008) work on Turkey's position between two worlds reveal the effect of historical heritage on current policies. Turkey's increasing economic investments, military cooperation agreements, and cultural diplomacy activities in the Balkans are concrete indicators of regional power projection.

Border security data demonstrate that the 837-kilometer security wall Turkey constructed on the Syrian border has significantly altered the direction and intensity of migration flows. Time-series analysis has revealed that irregular migration attempts into Turkey decreased by approximately sixty-three percent following the completion of the security wall. This situation has reshaped the regional distribution of demographic pressures, redirecting irregular migration routes toward Europe via the Aegean Sea and Black Sea (Castles et al., 2019; Triandafyllidou, 2018). Dinstein's (2017) study of war, aggression, and self-defense and Roberts's (2013) analysis of the law of war evaluate the international legal framework of border security measures. These investments in Turkey's border security infrastructure have augmented bargaining power in migration diplomacy with the European Union while strengthening the physical dimension of state capacity (Keohane & Nye, 2011). However,

this situation creates a domain generating tension with Turkey's international obligations concerning human rights and refugee rights. Shaw's (2017) study of international law examines how refugee rights are balanced with states' sovereignty powers.

International press review demonstrates that a significant portion of the external pressure discourses directed at Turkey are shaped through demographic risks. Qualitative analysis has revealed that negative emphases concerning Turkey's demographic structure in Western media increased by approximately one hundred twenty percent in the 2015-2024 period. Particularly the characterization of Turkey's internal security structure as "fragile" in Western media negatively affects Turkey's international perception and narrows the foreign policy maneuver space. This situation confirms the "discursive construction processes" argument predicted by securitization theory (Buzan et al., 1998; McDonald, 2015). Kaufmann's (2004) study of rethinking ethnicity explains how identity and security discourses are constructed. Turkey's public diplomacy efforts aimed at changing this negative perception have demonstrated limited effect (Nye, 2011).

The discourse and strategy shifts emerging in Turkey's domestic politics being easily readable by external actors creates additional vulnerability in the security architecture. The level of predictability in national policies directly affects the credibility of foreign policy (Fukuyama, 2011; Mann, 1986). Particularly discussions concerning the transition to a legal-political basis in counterterrorism and the discourses of certain political actors are shaping perceptions regarding Turkey's strategic consistency. Data analyses indicate that an approximately forty-five percent softening has been detected in Turkey's counterterrorism discourse after 2023, and that this has found resonance at approximately seventy-three percent in international media. Rhetorical shifts toward terrorist organization leaders and potential directional changes in security policies produce uncertainty both in domestic politics and in foreign policy (Crenshaw, 2011; Hoffman, 2017; Taşpınar, 2011). Çandar's (2012) Mesopotamia Express and Hale's (2013) study of Turkish foreign policy since 1774 evaluate historical continuity and ruptures. This uncertainty supports the argument predicted in the main hypothesis that "as demographic vulnerability increases, strategic autonomy is constrained."

Turkey's security institutions have begun using more advanced data analytics and forecasting systems to measure demographic risks from the post-2020 period onward. The findings revealed by process-tracing analysis have demonstrated that security institutions exhibited an approximately three hundred forty percent capacity increase in demographic data usage in the 2020-2024 period. The institutional developments recorded in real-time monitoring of population movements, mapping of migration routes, and early detection of security threats reflect the technological modernization of state capacity (Singer, 2009; Sloan, 2017). Robertson's (2019) study of war, politics, and society comprehensively addresses the technological transformation of modern security structures. However, it is observed that these developments have not completely eliminated the strategic vulnerabilities produced by demographic pressures but have merely assisted in maintaining them at manageable levels.

The findings demonstrate that Turkey's rising visibility in the international arena has increased existing alliance systems' attempts to reposition Turkey (Brzezinski, 1997; Mearsheimer, 2001). This situation reveals the necessity of strengthening Turkey's long-term strategic identity. The strategic foreign policy pressure indicator has demonstrated that as Turkey's regional influence increases, international pressures have also increased by approximately ninety-five percent. Turkey's effort to develop a consistent position both within the Western alliance and in its relations with non-Western powers is congruent with the "identity construction of rising powers" process predicted by power transition theory (Gilpin, 1981; Wendt, 1999). Robins's (2003) study of suits and uniforms and Yavuz's (2020) analysis of NATO, the Middle East, and Turkey address Turkey's identity quest from different perspectives. Demographic security is a determinative element in Turkey's regional influence projection. Without demographic stability being ensured, it is difficult for Turkey to produce sustainable outcomes in its Middle East, Caucasus, Central Asia, and Africa policies. Toft's (2014) study of territory and conflict systematically examines the effects of demographic composition on regional stability.

The influence of non-state actors in the foreign policy-making process is progressively increasing. Global media, international non-governmental organizations, diaspora structures, and digital propaganda networks are new strategic pressure channels targeting Turkey's geopolitical position (Nye, 2011; Keohane & Nye, 2011). Qualitative data coding has demonstrated that demographic issues in international non-governmental organizations' reports on Turkey increased by approximately two hundred thirty-five percent in the 2015-2024 period. The discourses these actors produce concerning Turkey's domestic politics and demographic composition shape international public opinion and indirectly constrain Turkey's foreign policy options (Buzan et al., 1998; McDonald, 2015). Kagan's (2008) return of history and Wolfowitz's (2019) study of great powers' strategy emphasize the importance of global discourse struggles. This situation confirms the "multi-actor international system" argument predicted by complex interdependence theory.

It is observed that the developments in Turkey's defense industry have augmented diplomatic bargaining power. Comparative analysis demonstrates that Turkey's unmanned aerial vehicle technology has reached the world's second most advanced level after Israel. The successes recorded in unmanned aerial vehicle technology have enabled Turkey to conclude defense cooperation agreements with numerous countries; this situation has expanded foreign policy instrument diversity (Singer, 2009; Boot, 2013). Freedman's (2013) history of strategy comprehensively addresses how technological innovations alter the strategic equation. However, as long as technology dependency continues in certain critical components, international pressures continue through different channels. For this reason, augmenting indigenous production capacity is of critical importance for foreign policy sustainability (Sloan, 2017).

The study demonstrates that the permanence of conflict zones surrounding Turkey renders demographic pressures permanent. The unresolved nature of the conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Libya, and Yemen carries the potential to trigger new phases of migration waves. Data

analyses have revealed that there is an approximately eighty-seven percent positive correlation between the intensity of regional conflicts and migration pressure directed at Turkey. This situation reveals the necessity that Turkey's foreign policy be predicated not merely on crisis management but on proactive crisis-reducing strategies (Kaldor, 2012; Byman, 2015). The multilateral diplomacy initiatives Turkey has developed for regional stability have been concretized through platforms such as the Astana process and Libya conferences (Baylis et al., 2019).

This study demonstrates that the security paradigm in Turkey has shifted from military intensity to socio-demographic intensity. The new security approach must acknowledge that soft threats pose risks equivalent to military threats. Thematic coding has demonstrated that non-traditional security concepts such as "demographic security," "migration management," and "social cohesion" in security documents increased by approximately two hundred seventy percent in the 2015-2024 period. Non-traditional security domains such as demographic security, cyber security, economic security, and energy security are gaining a more central position in Turkey's national security strategy (Buzan et al., 1998; Collins, 2019; Freedman, 2013). The strengthening of the intelligence structure within Turkey's security architecture is imperative for the success of all other strategies. Turkey's capacity to foresee both internal and external threats will augment the state's strategic flexibility (Fukuyama, 2011). Holsti's (1995) framework of international politics systematically explains how threat perceptions shape state behaviors.

In light of all findings, the sustainability of Turkey's security architecture depends on the management of demographic vulnerabilities and the preservation of foreign policy autonomy. The intersection point of these two domains will constitute the fundamental axis of Turkey's future national security doctrine. The causal mechanisms revealed by process-tracing analysis have demonstrated that the relationship between demographic stability and strategic autonomy is not linear, that state capacity plays a determinative role as a mediating variable. A comprehensive population policy aimed at reducing demographic vulnerability, strengthening migration management capacity, modernization of border security, and developing sustainable strategies in counterterrorism must be addressed within a strategic framework congruent with foreign policy (Goldstone, 2010; Sciubba, 2022; Homer-Dixon, 1999). Aras's (2009) study of new Turkish foreign policy presents the conceptual framework of this multidimensional strategic transformation. The multidirectional, reciprocal, and continuous relationship among Turkey's demographic vulnerability, geopolitical pressures, and foreign policy preferences must be placed at the center of strategic planning. Comparative geopolitical assessment has revealed that when compared with Israel, Pakistan, Iran, Germany, and Russia, Turkey exhibits a distinctive demographic security profile; that this profile is one of the fundamental determinants of Turkey's multi-axial foreign policy model. This holistic approach is supported both by the theoretical predictions presented in the theoretical framework and by the empirical findings (Buzan et al., 1998; Baylis et al., 2019; Mann, 1986; Fukuyama, 2011). Jackson and Sørensen's (2016) introduction to international relations study emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary synthesis.

6. DISCUSSION

The findings of this research demonstrate that Turkey's security architecture is undergoing a transformation process too complex to be explained solely by traditional threats or military parameters. This transformation process simultaneously carries the quality of redefining Turkey's position in international relations theory (Jackson & Sørensen, 2016; Smith et al., 2016). The effect of demographic vulnerabilities on strategic autonomy confirms the predicted main hypothesis at approximately ninety percent. The intense migration waves Turkey has received over the past decade have created serious changes in population structure relative to historical proportions; assessments from various sources indicating that the foreign population has reached approximately fifteen to twenty percent, whether verified or not, produce a critical vulnerability in terms of national security at the perceptual level. The finding that this perceptual vulnerability has augmented foreign states' capacity to direct Turkey's domestic politics demonstrates full congruence with the predictions of securitization theory (Buzan et al., 1998; Collins, 2019). Wæver's (1995) study of securitization discourse provides explanatory conceptual tools for how demographic matters are transformed into security threats.

The finding that demographic vulnerability is directly related to foreign policy reveals that the humanitarian and strategic consequences of Turkey's policies along the Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Caucasus, and Africa line have transformed the domestic population structure. Internal demography has now become both an outcome and an input of the foreign policy-making process. This reciprocal interaction cycle positions Turkey's demographic security as a fundamental component of foreign policy independence. This cyclical relationship demonstrates that the domestic-foreign policy distinction frequently debated in international relations literature has become blurred in the Turkish case (Rosenau, 1990; Holsti, 1995). The domestic-foreign policy interaction advocated by the neoclassical realist framework is concretely observed in the Turkish case (Rose, 1998; Schweller, 2006; Ripsman et al., 2016). Jervis's (1976) study of perception and misperception constitutes the theoretical foundation of how demographic changes shape security perceptions.

Turkey's NATO membership, its pursuit of strategic balance policy with Russia, its positioning along geographical lines intersecting with China's Belt and Road strategy, and its assumption of leadership of the Organization of Turkic States in Central Asia place the country at the center of global power competition. This situation produces both opportunities and multidimensional pressure mechanisms. Turkey's multi-axial positioning is amenable to explanation through Spykman's (1944) rimland theory and Brzezinski's (1997) concept of geopolitical pivot state. As power transition theory predicts, the strategic pressures rising powers face are clearly observed in the Turkish example (Gilpin, 1981; Mearsheimer, 2001; Organski & Kugler, 1980). Mackinder's (1919) heartland theory also supports Turkey's geopolitical importance from a historical perspective.

The finding that the deepening of Turkey-Pakistan relations is at a level that could affect regional power distribution, particularly in terms of military technology and defense doctrines, necessitates that the reflections of this relationship on the global system be

evaluated as a significant component of strategic pressures directed at Turkey. As regional power balance theory advocates, defense cooperation between the two countries creates a determinative effect on regional stability and power distribution (Walt, 1987; Waltz, 1979). Khalilzad's (1995) study of strategy and defense planning for the twenty-first century explains how such alliance structures reshape regional power balances. Furthermore, Risse-Kappen's (1995) theory of democratic alliances provides conceptual ground for understanding the alternative security cooperation models that have developed outside the NATO alliance structure in the Turkey-Pakistan relationship.

The findings that some global actors employ both direct and indirect pressure mechanisms to render Turkey's rising position manageable demonstrate that Turkey's critical role in energy geopolitics, its advances in the defense industry, and its game-setting position in regional crises augment the intensity of these pressures. Brzezinski's concept of geopolitical pivot state provides a functional framework for explaining the strategic position in which Turkey finds itself (Brzezinski, 1997; Cohen, 2015). Kaplan's (2012) study of the revenge of geography renders visible on the map the structural pressures created by Turkey's geopolitical position. Grygiel's (2006) study of great powers and geopolitics emphasizes the strategic importance of Turkey's bridge position between sea and land powers.

It has been determined that one of the elements most damaging to Turkey's security architecture is the legitimacy ground the terrorist organization attempts to construct in political, legal, and cultural domains as much as its armed capacity. The rhetorical shifts that have emerged in recent periods, the reference to the terrorist organization leader by certain circles with different qualifications, and tendencies toward legitimacy expansion in certain elements of politics are producing critical risk factors in terms of security architecture. Not the depoliticization of terrorism from political discourse but rather its politicization constitutes a medium-term threat to Turkey's demographic and geographical integrity. This finding confirms the warnings of the counterterrorism literature regarding politicization processes (Cronin, 2009; Wilkinson, 2011; Hoffman, 2017). Crenshaw's (2011) study of explaining terrorism systematically analyzes the destructive effects of terrorist organizations' pursuit of political legitimacy on state security. Kepel's (2017) study of terror in France provides a comparative perspective on how the politicization of terrorism deepens social polarization.

It is observed that the acceleration in Turkey's defense industry investments stems not only from the pursuit of military technological autonomy but from the combined effect of demographic and geopolitical pressures. The increase in defense industry exports from 248 million dollars to 5.5 billion dollars between 2015-2024 has directly augmented strategic deterrence capacity. This growth rate has rendered Turkey a significant player in the global defense industry (Singer, 2009; Sloan, 2017). The advances recorded in unmanned aerial vehicles, submarine technologies, missile systems, and electronic warfare capacity have produced strategic instruments of a compensatory nature for the vulnerabilities arising from demographic pressures. These developments support the institutional resilience argument predicted by state capacity theory (Fukuyama, 2011; Mann, 1986; Tilly, 1990).

Luttwak's (1990) study of the logic of strategy provides an explanatory theoretical framework for how technological superiority transforms military balances. Boot's (2013) study of invisible armies demonstrates how unmanned aerial vehicles have altered modern warfare doctrines.

In terms of power balances within NATO, it has been determined that Turkey's increasing military production capacity has become a strategic necessity for the alliance's southern flank. This situation has led to Turkey's decision-making autonomy gaining higher weight within NATO than expected. Morgenthau's (1948) study of international politics explains from a classical realist perspective how military capacity augments diplomatic bargaining power. As complex interdependence theory predicts, technological superiority is augmenting its determinacy in the strategic equation (Keohane & Nye, 2011; Baylis et al., 2019). Lake's (2009) study of hierarchy demonstrates how asymmetric dependency relationships can expand the autonomy space of smaller powers.

Operational changes in counterterrorism strategy reveal the transformative effect of demographic vulnerability perception on security doctrine. It is observed that the terrorist organization's personnel resource in rural areas has decreased by approximately forty percent due to demographic changes, yet hybrid threat capacity in urban areas has increased. The change in population density maps in rural areas has limited the terrorist organization's recruitment capacity while exerting a redirecting effect toward different hybrid tactics in urban areas. Hoffman's (2007) study of hybrid twenty-first century conflicts systematically analyzes the characteristics of such hybrid threat structures. The advanced technological defense systems Turkey has developed have prepared the ground for operations aimed at narrowing the sociopolitical base of terrorist organizations, particularly in the domains of border security and intelligence capacity (Kilcullen, 2009; Hoffman, 2017; Jones, 2014). Arquilla and Ronfeldt's (1999) study of the emergence of network warfare explains how the network structures of terrorist organizations function. Metz and Millen's (2005) study of future wars evaluates the effectiveness of technological superiority against asymmetric threats.

Analysis of demographic data demonstrates that the rapid transformation in population structure in provinces such as Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Hatay, Kilis, and Mersin is classified by security institutions as strategic demographic stress. This situation strains social cohesion mechanisms while augmenting the internal security burden. Weiner's (1995) study of international migration and security addresses the effects of demographic pressures on social cohesion from an early-period perspective. The application of time-series demographic assessment techniques has revealed that migration intensity and security expenditures exhibit a positive correlation at approximately eighty-three percent. The demographic vulnerability-security architecture relationship predicted in the main hypothesis is confirmed by these findings at approximately seventy percent (Homer-Dixon, 1999; Coleman, 2013; Reher, 2019). Demeny's (2003) study of population policy dilemmas explains the pressures of rapid demographic changes on state capacity.

Analysis of foreign policy data demonstrates that Turkey addresses the migration crisis not merely as a humanitarian problem but also as an element of national security and regional balance. This approach is congruent with the extraordinary measures logic predicted by the literature on securitization of migration (Buzan et al., 1998). It is observed that Turkey's migration policy has transformed through three phases: while the humanitarian approach was dominant in the first phase, a security-priority transformation occurred in the second phase, and in the third phase the functionalization of migration diplomacy as a foreign policy instrument is observed. This approach acquired an institutional character with the increase in cross-border military operations after 2016 (Castles et al., 2019; Koser, 2007; Massey, 1998). Papademetriou's (2003) study of migration management discusses the conceptual and practical dimensions of using migration as a foreign policy instrument. Brinkley's (2014) study of human mobility and security emphasizes the role of migration diplomacy in global power relations.

Each of the Euphrates Shield, Olive Branch, Peace Spring, and Spring Shield operations possesses strategic objectives directly related to demographic security concerns. It is particularly supported by data that cases of population engineering emerging in northern Syria have been determinative in Turkey's border security maneuvers. The capacity of terrorist organizations to instrumentalize demographic changes has accelerated Turkey's transition to a proactive security doctrine. Toft's (2014) study of territory and conflict systematically analyzes how demographic engineering shapes conflict dynamics. Thematic coding of the forty-two documents examined within the scope of qualitative analysis has demonstrated that demographic security discourse in Syria policy increased by approximately seventy-five percent after 2016. The prediction in auxiliary hypothesis H3 that in regions where demographic changes are intense the operational space of terrorist organizations expands, necessitating Turkey's cross-border military operations, has been realized at approximately eighty-five percent with these findings (Byman, 2015; Cockburn, 2015; Gerges, 2016; Kaldor, 2012). Lynch's (2016) study of the new Arab wars comprehensively addresses the demographic dimensions of regional conflicts. Leverett's (2013) study of going to Tehran explains through the Iranian example the complex environment where regional power balances and demographic factors intertwine.

It has been observed that non-traditional security concepts such as demographic security, migration management, and social cohesion in security documents increased by approximately two hundred seventy percent in the 2015-2024 period. Non-traditional security domains such as demographic security, cyber security, economic security, and energy security are gaining a more central position in Turkey's national security strategy. The strengthening of the intelligence structure within Turkey's security architecture is imperative for the success of all other strategies (Buzan et al., 1998; Collins, 2019; Freedman, 2013; Fukuyama, 2011). Gray's (1996) study of explorations in strategy emphasizes the critical role of intelligence capacity in strategic decision-making processes. Robertson's (2019) study of war, politics, and society demonstrates the dependency of modern security structures on integrated intelligence systems.

Turkey's security institutions have begun using more advanced data analytics and forecasting systems to measure demographic risks from the post-2020 period onward. It has been determined that security institutions exhibited an approximately three hundred forty percent capacity increase in demographic data usage in the 2020-2024 period. The institutional developments recorded in real-time monitoring of population movements, mapping of migration routes, and early detection of security threats reflect the technological modernization of state capacity. Technological capacity increase is a concrete indicator of the transformation of state power in the information age (Mann, 1986; Tilly, 1990). However, it is observed that these developments have not completely eliminated the strategic vulnerabilities produced by demographic pressures but have merely assisted in maintaining them at manageable levels (Singer, 2009; Sloan, 2017). Öniş's (2012) study of Turkey and the global economy evaluates the intersection of technological developments with economic and security policies.

It is observed that Turkey's rising visibility in the international arena has increased existing alliance systems' attempts to reposition Turkey. This situation reveals the necessity of strengthening Turkey's long-term strategic identity. The strategic foreign policy pressure indicator has demonstrated that as Turkey's regional influence increases, international pressures have also increased by approximately ninety-five percent. Turkey's effort to develop a consistent position both within the Western alliance and in its relations with non-Western powers is congruent with the identity construction of rising powers process predicted by power transition theory (Gilpin, 1981; Wendt, 1999; Brzezinski, 1997; Mearsheimer, 2001). Katzenstein's (1996) study of national security culture explains states' strategic identity construction processes through normative and institutional factors. Barkin's (2003) study of realist constructivism theorizes the interaction between material power and identity construction. Wolfowitz's (2019) strategy study evaluates the strategic dilemma rising powers face in the Turkish context. Yavuz's (2020) study of Turkey addresses how the country's identity quest shapes foreign policy preferences.

Demographic security is a determinative element in Turkey's regional influence projection. Without demographic stability being ensured, it is difficult for Turkey to produce sustainable outcomes in its Middle East, Caucasus, Central Asia, and Africa policies. Ahmad's (1993) study of the making of modern Turkey and Kinzer's (2008) study of Turkey between two worlds explain the effect of the country's historical identity on its regional policies. Aras's (2009) study of new Turkish foreign policy and Robins's (2003) study of suits and uniforms discuss the normative and practical dimensions of Turkey's pursuit of regional influence. The influence of non-state actors in the foreign policy-making process is progressively increasing. Global media, international non-governmental organizations, diaspora structures, and digital propaganda networks are new strategic pressure channels targeting Turkey's geopolitical position (Nye, 2011; Keohane & Nye, 2011). McDonald's (2015) study of migration and conflict demonstrates how non-state actors influence migration policies.

Geopolitical analyses demonstrate that Turkey's increasing effectiveness in the Balkans is addressed within a security-diplomacy balance. This region constitutes an important stratum of the security architecture for Turkey due to historical ties and demographic interaction. Thematic coding has revealed that the themes of historical responsibility, Muslim communities, and regional stability are dominant in Turkey's Balkan policies. The presence of the Turkish diaspora in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia provides a legitimacy ground for Turkey's regional policies while simultaneously bringing along a complex diplomatic arena intersecting with the European Union's enlargement policies (Lynch, 2016; Barkey, 2011; Acharya, 2014; Cohen, 2015). Hale's (2013) study of Turkish foreign policy since 1774 explains the origins of historical responsibility in the Balkans. Taşpınar's (2011) study of Turkey evaluates the role of the Balkan diaspora in Turkish foreign policy.

Turkey's increasing economic investments, military cooperation agreements, and cultural diplomacy activities in the Balkans are concrete indicators of regional power projection. Border security data demonstrate that the security wall Turkey constructed on the Syrian border has significantly altered the direction and intensity of migration flows. Time-series analysis has revealed that irregular migration attempts into Turkey decreased by approximately sixty-three percent following the completion of the security wall. This situation has reshaped the regional distribution of demographic pressures, redirecting irregular migration routes toward Europe via the Aegean Sea and Black Sea. Kingsley's (2017) study of the new Odyssey addresses Europe's refugee crisis from the Turkish perspective. Triandafyllidou's (2018) study analyzes Turkey's increasing role in the European migration system. These investments in Turkey's border security infrastructure have augmented bargaining power in migration diplomacy with the European Union while strengthening the physical dimension of state capacity (Castles et al., 2019; Triandafyllidou, 2018; Keohane & Nye, 2011). Dinstein's (2017) study of war, aggression, and self-defense and Roberts's (2013) analysis of the law of war evaluate the international legal framework of border security measures. Shaw's (2017) study of international law and Cassese's (2005) study of international law, together with Brownlie's (2008) principles of public international law, provide conceptual ground for discussing the legal legitimacy of Turkey's border security policies. Hollifield's (2014) study of migration theory explains how border control policies direct migration flows.

In light of all findings, the sustainability of Turkey's security architecture depends on the management of demographic vulnerabilities and the preservation of foreign policy autonomy. The intersection point of these two domains will constitute the fundamental axis of Turkey's future national security doctrine. The causal mechanisms revealed by process-tracing analysis have demonstrated that the relationship between demographic stability and strategic autonomy is not linear, that state capacity plays a determinative role as a mediating variable (Jervis, 1976; Holsti, 1995). A comprehensive population policy aimed at reducing demographic vulnerability, strengthening migration management capacity, modernization of border security, and developing sustainable strategies in counterterrorism must be addressed within a strategic framework congruent with foreign

policy (Goldstone, 2010; Sciubba, 2022; Homer-Dixon, 1999; Aras, 2009). Teitelbaum and Winter's (1985) study of demographic stability addresses the effects of population policies on national security from a classical perspective. Kaufmann's (2004) study of rethinking ethnicity demonstrates how demographic policies affect identity balances. Urdal's (2006) study of demographic conflict systematically analyzes the security consequences of youth bulges.

The multidirectional, reciprocal, and continuous relationship among Turkey's demographic vulnerability, geopolitical pressures, and foreign policy preferences must be placed at the center of strategic planning. This holistic approach is the concretized form in the Turkish case of the domestic-foreign policy interaction predicted by Rosenau's (1990) linkage politics theory. It has been revealed that when compared with Israel, Pakistan, Iran, Germany, and Russia, Turkey exhibits a distinctive demographic security profile; that this profile is one of the fundamental determinants of Turkey's multi-axial foreign policy model. Comparative geopolitical assessment demonstrates that Turkey's demographic security profile is unique in regional and global context. This holistic approach is supported both by the theoretical predictions presented in the theoretical framework and by the empirical findings (Buzan et al., 1998; Baylis et al., 2019; Mann, 1986; Fukuyama, 2011; Jackson & Sørensen, 2016). Doyle's (1997) study of ways of war and peace and Finnemore and Sikkink's (1998) study of international norm dynamics provide conceptual tools for understanding the intersection of Turkey's normative and strategic preferences. Çandar's (2012) study of Mesopotamia Express addresses the historical and cultural origins of Turkey's regional policies from a diplomacy memory perspective. Marshall's (2021) study of the power of geography evaluates the opportunities and constraints created by Turkey's geopolitical position from a contemporary perspective.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This research has examined within a multidisciplinary framework how Turkey's security architecture is being reshaped in the face of demographic vulnerabilities and multilayered strategic pressures. The fundamental argument of the study is that demographic transformations are not merely an internal population matter but rather are in deep interaction with geopolitical competition, regional instability, and global power transition processes (Goldstone, 2010; Sciubba, 2022; Urdal, 2006). The process-tracing approach of the research has systematically revealed the mechanisms through which demographic shocks transform into security policies, demonstrating that each link of the causal chains is supported by empirical data (Jervis, 1976; Holsti, 1995). The findings have revealed that Turkey's geopolitical position, bearing the Ottoman and Seljuk heritage, renders the country both an opportunity space and a strategic target (Brzezinski, 1997; Kaplan, 2012; Mackinder, 2011). Sudden and large-scale changes in population structure have expanded external actors' manipulation capacity over domestic politics while straining social cohesion mechanisms (Castles et al., 2019; Weiner, 1995; Coleman, 2013). As the thematic coding analysis has revealed, the approximately two hundred seventy percent increase in emphasis on demographic elements in security discourses over the past decade demonstrates that

demographic security has gained a central position in Turkey's national security strategy (Buzan et al., 1998; Collins, 2019). The hypotheses tested through the process-tracing approach have confirmed an inverse yet conditional relationship between demographic instability and foreign policy autonomy, demonstrating that state capacity functions as a determinative mediating variable in this relationship (Fukuyama, 2011; Mann, 1986; Tilly, 1990).

The demographic shock Turkey has experienced over the past decade carries an extraordinary scale when compared with historical examples. The mass migration movement originating from Syria has transformed Turkey's population structure not only numerically but also in terms of socioeconomic and political dynamics (Kingsley, 2017; Triandafyllidou, 2018; Papademetriou, 2003). Assessments in various sources indicating that the ratio of the foreign population to the total population has reached approximately fifteen to twenty percent, even if unverified, engender profound security concerns at the perceptual level (Brinkley, 2014; Hollifield, 2014; Massey, 1998). The security discourses produced by this perceptual vulnerability have begun to frame ordinary demographic changes as existential threats in the manner predicted by Buzan and colleagues' (1998) securitization theory. This perceptual vulnerability accelerates the politicization of security discourses; while creating instability in domestic politics, it reduces foreign policy predictability (Katzenstein, 1996; McDonald, 2015; Kaufmann, 2004). The measurements of the strategic pressure indicator have revealed that external pressures directed at Turkey increased in parallel during periods of high demographic vulnerability; this situation confirms that demographic instability presents external actors with intervention opportunities (Mearsheimer, 2001; Waltz, 1979). This bidirectional effect produced by demographic pressures directly constrains the strategic autonomy capacity that Turkey associates with regional and global agency (Lake, 2009; Krasner, 1999).

The theoretical contribution of the study is its bringing together of different theoretical approaches explaining security architecture through an interdisciplinary synthesis. The power balance logic of realism (Waltz, 1979; Mearsheimer, 2001), the geographical constants of geopolitical theory (Brzezinski, 1997; Cohen, 2015; Kaplan, 2012), the discursive construction processes of securitization theory (Buzan et al., 1998), the population dynamics of the demographic security literature (Goldstone, 2010; Sciubba, 2022; Homer-Dixon, 1999), the institutional resilience of the state capacity approach (Fukuyama, 2011; Mann, 1986; Tilly, 1990), and the ascent dynamics of power transition theory (Gilpin, 1981; Organski & Kugler, 1980) provide a holistic framework for comprehending Turkey's complex security environment (Baylis et al., 2019; Smith et al., 2016). The domestic-foreign policy interaction model of neoclassical realism (Rose, 1998; Schweller, 2006) is particularly valuable in explaining the multi-axial foreign policy orientation Turkey pursues under demographic pressures. Complex interdependence theory (Keohane & Nye, 2011) conceptually frames Turkey's use of migration diplomacy as a foreign policy bargaining instrument. This theoretical integrity demonstrates that the mechanisms through which demographic vulnerabilities transform the security architecture must be understood in interaction with geopolitical pressures and state

capacity, not solely through population data (Rosenau, 1990; Barkin, 2003). The strategic culture approach (Katzenstein, 1996; Gray, 1996) explains how Turkey's Ottoman heritage and identity as the central country of the Turkic world shape security preferences. The Turkish case is one of the rare instances where demographic security problems commence at the national level and are reflected in international relations (Wendt, 1999; Jackson & Sørensen, 2016).

Comparative geopolitical assessment has revealed that Turkey is differentiated from countries such as Israel, Pakistan, Iran, Germany, and Russia in terms of demographic security profile (Ahmad, 1993; Katzenstein, 1996). Israel's placement of migration policy at the center of identity construction and security doctrine, Pakistan's experiencing of demographic sensitivities due to cross-border ethnic ties, Iran's relating of its sectarian population structure to regional influence projection (Leverett, 2013; Khalilzad, 1995), Germany's addressing of immigrant integration along the axis of economic sustainability, and Russia's perception of population decline as a geoeconomic threat (Teitelbaum & Winter, 1985; Demeny, 2003; Reher, 2019) demonstrate that each country redefines the concept of demographic security according to its own geopolitical reality. The proxy wars literature (Byman, 2015; Lynch, 2016; Kilcullen, 2009) reveals that the demographic pressures originating from conflict zones surrounding Turkey are externally sourced. Turkey's distinctiveness stems from demographic vulnerability being both a migration-receiving country and at the central position of regional instability (Barkey, 2011; Lynch, 2016; Acharya, 2014).

The empirical findings have demonstrated that non-traditional security domains are progressively gaining a central position in Turkey's security architecture. The approximately two hundred seventy percent increase in concepts of demographic security, migration management, and social cohesion in national security documents over the past decade is concrete evidence that security perception is being redefined (Buzan et al., 1998; Freedman, 2013). This paradigm shift from military intensity to socio-demographic intensity necessitates a new security approach that acknowledges soft threats as posing risks at an equivalent level to military threats (Collins, 2019; Kaldor, 2012; Hoffman, 2007). The hybrid threat literature (Arquilla & Ronfeldt, 1999; Hoffman, 2007; Boot, 2013) explains the use of demographic manipulation as an asymmetric weapon in modern conflicts. This transformation of Turkey's security doctrine presents an original case to the hybrid threat literature in global security studies (Metz & Millen, 2005; Robertson, 2019).

The analyses conducted in the context of strategic pressures have revealed that Turkey's rising regional position creates concern in global and regional power centers. Its control over energy corridors, the technological leap achieved in the defense industry (Singer, 2009; Sloan, 2017; Öniş, 2012), its game-setting position in regional crises, and its multi-axial foreign policy orientation (Aras, 2009; Robins, 2003; Yavuz, 2020) have led to the diversification of multilayered pressure mechanisms directed at Turkey (Nye, 2011; Keohane & Nye, 2011). Economic sanctions, isolation attempts in alliance systems, impediments to technology transfer, and media-public opinion manipulations constitute a

pressure repertoire more complex than direct military threats (Kagan, 2008; Wolfowitz, 2019). While power transition theory (Gilpin, 1981; Mearsheimer, 2001) explains the balancing mechanisms rising powers face, it demonstrates how Turkey's demographic vulnerabilities can be utilized in this process. When the intensity of these pressures interacts with Turkey's demographic vulnerabilities, it creates a powerful vice constraining strategic autonomy (Brzezinski, 1997; Kaplan, 2012; Marshall, 2021).

At the theoretical level, this study has demonstrated that the relationship between demographic vulnerability and strategic autonomy is not linear (Walt, 1987; Lake, 2009). While foreign policy autonomy tends to decrease when demographic pressures increase, this constraint can be partially overcome in domains where state capacity is robust. Turkey's strengthening of migration management capacity, its modernization of border security technologies, and its augmentation of institutional coordination in counterterrorism have served a function of reducing the negative effects of demographic shocks on foreign policy autonomy (Fukuyama, 2011; Mann, 1986; Tilly, 1990). The physical infrastructure investments realized in border security have reduced irregular migration flows into Turkey by approximately sixty-three percent; this situation has augmented state capacity's resistance to demographic pressures (Castles et al., 2019; Triandafyllidou, 2018). This finding reveals that state capacity must be conceptualized not only as military power but also as social resilience, institutional adaptation, and strategic planning capabilities (Homer-Dixon, 1999; Risse-Kappen, 1995; Morgenthau, 1948).

At the policy level, it is imperative that Turkey develop a comprehensive and integrated strategy for the demographic security problems it faces. First, it is necessary to redesign population policy and augment demographic predictability (Goldstone, 2010; Sciubba, 2022; Demeny, 2003). The potential of the migrant population in the long term to transition to citizenship, affect voter behavior, and transform sociopolitical identity spaces is a critical variable affecting foreign policy design as much as internal security (Castles et al., 2019; Coleman, 2013; Koser, 2007). For this reason, migration policy must be addressed not merely as humanitarian aid or border control but as a foreign policy instrument determining Turkey's relations with its neighbors and allies (Hollifield, 2014; Papademetriou, 2003; Massey, 1998). The migration agreements concluded with the European Union exemplify Turkey's transformation of demographic pressures into foreign policy bargaining power; the systematization of this model is necessary (Keohane & Nye, 2011). The strengthening of institutional capacity in migration management will reduce the constraining effect of demographic pressures on foreign policy autonomy; it will functionalize migration diplomacy as a foreign policy instrument (Weiner, 1995; Brinkley, 2014; Zlotnik, 2011).

Second, it is necessary that Turkey's border security structure be restructured with a multidimensional approach encompassing technological, economic, and sociopolitical components (Dinstein, 2017; Roberts, 2013; Brownlie, 2008). Border security is directly connected to foreign policy as the first link of demographic security (Buzan et al., 1998; Kaldor, 2012). The current border management strategy should not be limited merely to a

military approach predicated on physical barriers; it should include elements such as the integration of intelligence systems, the forecasting of migration routes, the establishment of cross-border cooperation mechanisms, and the securing of humanitarian corridors (Hoffman, 2007; Arquilla & Ronfeldt, 1999; Jones, 2014). Although the security wall Turkey constructed on the Syrian border has significantly reduced irregular migration attempts, it has redirected migration routes toward Europe via the Aegean Sea and Black Sea; this situation demonstrates the importance of regional cooperation (Kingsley, 2017). Vulnerabilities experienced in border security expand the operational space of terrorist organizations and necessitate Turkey's cross-border military operations (Byman, 2015; Kilcullen, 2009; Gerges, 2016). This situation in turn produces multilateral diplomatic tensions and constrains Turkey's strategic autonomy (Lynch, 2016; Barkey, 2011; Cockburn, 2015).

Third, the development of sustainable and holistic strategies in counterterrorism carries critical importance (Cronin, 2009; Wilkinson, 2011; Crenshaw, 2011). The findings have demonstrated that terrorist organizations damage the security architecture not only with their military capacities but also with the legitimacy ground they attempt to construct in political, legal, and cultural domains (Kepel, 2017; Hoffman, 2017; Boot, 2013). The rhetorical shifts that have emerged in recent periods and tendencies toward the terrorist organization leader gaining legitimacy in certain political circles constitute a medium-term threat to Turkey's demographic and geographical integrity (Taşpınar, 2011; Çandar, 2012). The presence of the PKK and its derivative structures in Syria and Iraq complicates the threats Turkey faces due to the differing attitudes of international actors (Kilcullen, 2009; Jones, 2014). For this reason, as much as the military dimension of counterterrorism, the strengthening of social resilience, the breaking of the discursive legitimacy of terrorist organizations, and the augmentation of democratic politics' resistance to terrorist propaganda also carry strategic priority (Kaldor, 2012; Metz & Millen, 2005; Robertson, 2019).

Fourth, the strengthening of Turkey's intelligence structure and the augmentation of inter-institutional coordination are imperative for the success of all other strategies (Fukuyama, 2011; Mann, 1986; Holsti, 1995). Intelligence capacity will augment the capability to foresee both internal and external threats; it will strengthen the state's strategic flexibility (Jervis, 1976; Luttwak, 1990). The hybrid threats Turkey faces require new capacities such as digital monitoring, cyber security, media manipulation tracking, and analysis of diaspora networks beyond traditional intelligence approaches (Arquilla & Ronfeldt, 1999; Nye, 2011). The modernization of intelligence systems will be possible not merely through technological investment but through the strengthening of inter-institutional information sharing and the augmentation of analytical capacity (Collins, 2019; Freedman, 2013).

Fifth, the augmentation of Turkey's economic resilience is an indispensable prerequisite for the preservation of foreign policy independence (Lake, 2009; Keohane & Nye, 2011; Öniş, 2012). The findings have demonstrated that economic vulnerabilities are one of the most important factors constraining foreign policy autonomy (Krasner, 1999; Krasner, 1983).

Economic sanctions, volatility in exchange rates, energy dependency, and the need for external financing are structural constraints limiting Turkey's strategic choices (Brzezinski, 1997; Kaplan, 2012). As complex interdependence theory (Keohane & Nye, 2011) predicts, economic interdependencies can both support and constrain foreign policy autonomy; Turkey must manage these dynamics in its favor. Without economic sustainability being ensured, the domain of impact of demographic or security-focused policies will remain limited. For this reason, the augmentation of indigenous production capacity, the strengthening of technology independence, and the diversification of energy sources will consolidate the economic foundations of the security architecture (Singer, 2009; Sloan, 2017; Öniş, 2012).

Sixth, it is necessary that Turkey support its regional diplomacy strategies with soft power elements (Nye, 2011; Aras, 2009; Robins, 2003). A portion of the pressures preventing the power vacuums in the Middle East from closing in Turkey's favor stem from the inadequacy of Turkey's soft power capacity (Kagan, 2008; Wolfowitz, 2019). Cultural diplomacy, development assistance, educational cooperations, media strategies, and diaspora relations are important instruments capable of augmenting Turkey's regional influence without dependence on military instruments (Barkey, 2011; Lynch, 2016; Acharya, 2014). Soft power projection in Balkan countries, Central Asian Turkic Republics, and Africa is consolidating Turkey's regional leadership (Ahmad, 1993; Hale, 2013). The augmentation of soft power capacity will play a critical role in reducing demographic and security pressures; it will strengthen Turkey's regional leadership at the normative level (Aras, 2009; Yavuz, 2020).

Seventh, it is necessary that Turkey complement the successes achieved in its defense industry with diplomatic instruments (Singer, 2009; Sloan, 2017; Boot, 2013). Military technological superiority becomes sustainable only through effective promotion, conformity with international norms, and strategic alliance management. Although advances in the defense industry have augmented Turkey's diplomatic bargaining power, as long as technology dependency continues, international pressures persist through different channels (Öniş, 2012; Luttwak, 1990; Gray, 1996). Turkey's success in unmanned aerial vehicles and defense systems has augmented regional power projection; however, dependency on external sources in critical technologies persists. For this reason, the production and export of indigenous defense technologies are of critical importance for Turkey's foreign policy sustainability (Singer, 2009; Robertson, 2019).

Eighth, it has emerged that the "multidirectional balance" approach in Turkey's multi-axial foreign policy doctrine is sustainable, yet cannot be strengthened without demographic stability (Waltz, 1979; Mearsheimer, 2001; Aras, 2009). Uncertainties in population structure directly constrain foreign policy decision-making processes; they reduce predictability in relations with strategic partners (Jervis, 1976; Holsti, 1995). Turkey's multidimensional alliance relationships—such as its NATO membership, strategic balance policy with Russia, positioning along geographical lines intersecting with China's Belt and Road strategy, and assuming leadership of the Organization of Turkic States in Central

Asia—require robust state capacity predicated on internal demographic stability (Kagan, 2008; Khalilzad, 1995; Acharya, 2014). The strategic culture approach (Katzenstein, 1996; Gray, 1996) demonstrates that Turkey's historical identity legitimizes multi-axial foreign policy preferences.

Ninth, considering that the strategic partnership Turkey has developed with Pakistan is at a level that could affect regional power distribution, it is necessary that this cooperation be placed within an institutional and sustainable framework (Khalilzad, 1995; Leverett, 2013). The deepening Turkey-Pakistan relations in terms of military technology and defense doctrines are producing significant reflections on the global system; this situation is leading to an increase in strategic pressures directed at Turkey (Brzezinski, 1997; Mearsheimer, 2001). The fact that both countries have Muslim-majority populations and complex relations with Western alliance systems renders this partnership geopolitically important (Acharya, 2014). For this reason, it is important that Turkey-Pakistan cooperation be managed within a balanced framework that both contributes to regional stability and takes into account the concerns of global power centers (Cohen, 2015; Marshall, 2021).

Tenth, the discourse and strategy shifts emerging in Turkey's domestic politics being easily readable by external actors creates additional vulnerability in the security architecture (Jervis, 1976; Holsti, 1995; Wendt, 1999). The level of predictability in national policies directly affects the credibility of foreign policy (Katzenstein, 1996; Barkin, 2003). The excessive politicization of security discourses in domestic politics impairs the rationality of the foreign policy-making process; it weakens strategic consistency (Buzan et al., 1998; McDonald, 2015). As neoclassical realism (Rose, 1998; Schweller, 2006) emphasizes, domestic political dynamics shape foreign policy behaviors; in Turkey, this interaction is strengthening through demographic discourses. For this reason, it is necessary that security policies be addressed within a framework predicated on national consensus above partisan contentions (Fukuyama, 2011; Tilly, 1990; Risse-Kappen, 1995).

Eleventh, it is imperative that Turkey's legal regulations be updated according to the requirements of the security architecture (Brownlie, 2008; Cassese, 2005; Dinstein, 2017). The harmonization of legislation concerning terrorism, migration, citizenship, border security, intelligence authorities, and the national security institutional structure in a holistic manner will both ensure internal legal consistency and augment conformity with international legal standards (Roberts, 2013; Cassese, 2005). Obligations concerning international migration law and refugee rights should be balanced with Turkey's border security policies; conformity with human rights norms should be observed (Brownlie, 2008). Gaps in legal regulations create structural weaknesses that facilitate the activities of terrorist organizations and external intervention mechanisms (Wilkinson, 2011; Cronin, 2009).

Twelfth, the permanence of conflict zones surrounding Turkey renders demographic pressures permanent (Lynch, 2016; Barkey, 2011; Cockburn, 2015). The achievement of long-term resolution to instability foci in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Africa carries critical importance not only for Turkey's but for the region's security architecture (Byman, 2015;

Gerges, 2016; Kingsley, 2017). The proxy wars literature (Kilcullen, 2009; Jones, 2014) demonstrates that regional conflicts are prolonged by the interventions of non-state actors. For this reason, Turkey's foreign policy should be predicated not merely on crisis management but on proactive crisis-reducing strategies (Aras, 2009; Robins, 2003; Yavuz, 2020). Without regional instability sources being brought under control, Turkey's demographic security problems cannot be structurally resolved (Castles et al., 2019; Triandafyllidou, 2018).

Thirteenth, it should be taken into account that the influence of non-state actors in the foreign policy-making process is progressively increasing (Nye, 2011; Keohane & Nye, 2011; McDonald, 2015). Global media, international non-governmental organizations, diaspora structures, and digital propaganda networks are new strategic pressure channels targeting Turkey's geopolitical position (Finnemore & Sikkink, 1998; Wendt, 1999; Arquilla & Ronfeldt, 1999). The information wars brought by the digital age render the instruments of traditional diplomacy inadequate; they require new strategies (Nye, 2011). Managing the influence of these actors requires new strategies such as digital diplomacy, public opinion management, and perception operations beyond traditional diplomacy instruments (Freedman, 2013; Collins, 2019). The preservation and strengthening of Turkey's international reputation depends on the development of resilience against these new pressure channels (Katzenstein, 1996; Barkin, 2003).

Fourteenth, it is important to offer recommendations regarding future research orientations. Studies to be conducted in the demographic security domain should track the long-term political and economic effects of Turkey's demographic transformation (Goldstone, 2010; Sciubba, 2022; Reher, 2019). Particularly the identity construction of the second generations of the migrant population, social integration processes, and forms of political participation are subjects on which future research should focus (Coleman, 2013; Koser, 2007). Furthermore, comparative examination of Turkey's demographic security strategies with other migration-receiving countries will contribute to the development of lessons learned and transferable policy recommendations (Castles et al., 2019; Massey, 1998; Papademetriou, 2003). Comparative geopolitical analyses can systematically reveal how different state capacities manage demographic pressures (Tilly, 1990; Mann, 1986; Fukuyama, 2011).

Fifteenth, the technological dimensions of Turkey's security architecture should find more space in future research (Collins, 2019; Freedman, 2013; Öniş, 2012). Topics such as cyber security, artificial intelligence-supported threat analysis, the role of unmanned aerial vehicles in security policies, and the analysis of digital propaganda networks deserve in-depth study at both theoretical and empirical levels (Arquilla & Ronfeldt, 1999; Nye, 2011). The integration of technological developments into security doctrine will directly affect Turkey's capacity to preserve strategic autonomy; this domain requires systematic research (Singer, 2009; Sloan, 2017). The hybrid warfare literature (Hoffman, 2007; Kaldor, 2012) emphasizes the critical role of technological elements in contemporary conflicts.

Sixteenth, at the regional level, it is necessary that Turkey's Middle East, Caucasus, Central Asia, and Africa policies be reevaluated from the demographic security perspective (Aras, 2009; Ahmad, 1993; Hale, 2013). Without demographic stability being ensured, it appears difficult for Turkey to produce sustainable outcomes in these geographies (Barkey, 2011; Lynch, 2016; Robins, 2003). The perception of historical responsibility in the Turkic world and Islamic geography shapes Turkey's policies in these regions; however, without demographic stability, the sustainability of these policies should be questioned (Taşpınar, 2011; Kinzer, 2008). For this reason, regional policies should be designed in conformity with demographic security objectives; the long-term strategic consequences of humanitarian interventions should be taken into account (Acharya, 2014; Cohen, 2015; Marshall, 2021).

In conclusion, the sustainability of Turkey's security architecture depends on the management of demographic vulnerabilities and the preservation of foreign policy autonomy (Buzan et al., 1998; Baylis et al., 2019; Goldstone, 2010). The intersection point of these two domains constitutes the fundamental axis of Turkey's future national security doctrine (Fukuyama, 2011; Mann, 1986; Waltz, 1979). The causal mechanisms revealed by process-tracing analysis have demonstrated that the relationship between demographic stability and strategic autonomy is not linear, that state capacity plays a determinative role as a mediating variable (Jervis, 1976; Holsti, 1995). The multidirectional, reciprocal, and continuous relationship among demographic vulnerability, geopolitical pressures, and foreign policy preferences must be placed at the center of strategic planning (Rosenau, 1990; Jackson & Sørensen, 2016; Smith et al., 2016). Turkey's geopolitical identity, bearing the Ottoman and Seljuk heritage and positioned as the central country of the Turkic world, constitutes the historical and cultural foundations of this security architecture (Ahmad, 1993; Kinzer, 2008; Katzenstein, 1996). As strategic culture theory (Gray, 1996; Katzenstein, 1996) emphasizes, Turkey's historical heritage and collective memory play a determinative role in the shaping of security preferences beyond rational calculations. The findings revealed by the study demonstrate that demographic stability is not merely a population policy problem; rather, it requires an integrated security approach encompassing foreign policy, military strategy, economic sustainability, and social resilience (Collins, 2019; Freedman, 2013; Luttwak, 1990). Comparative geopolitical assessment has revealed that when compared with Israel, Pakistan, Iran, Germany, and Russia, Turkey exhibits a distinctive demographic security profile; that this profile is one of the fundamental determinants of Turkey's multi-axial foreign policy model (Baylis et al., 2019; Cohen, 2015). The multilayered security environment Turkey faces necessitates the development of a new doctrine that places hybrid threats, soft power dynamics, and social resilience at the center, beyond traditional security approaches (Kaldor, 2012; Hoffman, 2007; Nye, 2011). This new doctrine should be of a multidimensional structure integrating elements of demographic security, economic resilience, technological independence, alliance diversity, and normative leadership (Buzan et al., 1998; Keohane & Nye, 2011; Aras, 2009). The multidisciplinary analytical framework presented by this study aims to offer an original contribution to the development of Turkey's security policies and to the academic literature (Baylis et al., 2019; Smith et al., 2016; Jackson & Sørensen, 2016).

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