

Biden'in 'soykırım' adımı Çin ve Türkiye'yi aynı gemiye koyuyor



Cumhurbaşkanı Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (E) ve Çin Dışişleri Bakanı Wang Yi, 25 Mart 2021'de Ankara'da bir toplantı öncesi fotoğraf çekti. (AP Fotoğrafı)

BY GAL LUFT

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A ltmış yıl önce ABD, Küba'daki Fidel Castro Marksist rejimini zorla değiştirmek amacıyla Domuzlar Körfezi'ne çıktı. Takip eden yıllarda, Vietnam, Kamboçya, Granada, Panama, Lübnan, Irak, Afganistan, Libya ve diğerleri, sivil halk arasında anlatılmamış ölümlere neden olan ABD işgal ve bombardımanlarının sonunu alıyordu. Yine de cam evlerde yaşayanların taş atmakta hiçbir sorunu yok gibi görünüyor.

İkinci kez, 100 günlük görev süresi içinde, Biden yönetimi ABD'nin anlaşmazlık içinde olduğu ülkelere karşı soykırım ilan edilmesini silah haline getirmeye karar verdi.

The first was **last month's designation by the U.S. State Department of China's treatment of the Uyghurs in Xinjiang as genocide**, with the hope that other countries follow suit.

The United States also awakened the ghosts of the World War I this month, **recognizing as "genocide" the tragic**

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good policy.

Why is it a mistake?

First, the timing of the recognition is poor, and not only because it comes during **the holy month of Ramadan** when 85 million **Turks are confined to their homes due to the COVID-19 lockdown**.

Turkey is standing at a fork in the road, torn between its traditional allegiance to the West and the economic promise of the East. Its relations with Washington have been strained for quite some time, but by succumbing to the Armenian lobby pressure Biden missed what could be his last opportunity to lure Turkey back into the Euro-American orbit.

This folly comes at a time Turkey, a NATO member and the gateway to the Black Sea, is facing a strategic dilemma on how to position itself between Russia and Ukraine as **the conflict between the two intensifies**.

It is also important for the U.S. and NATO interests in the East Mediterranean, **Syria**, Libya, the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan. Biden chose to sacrifice all this for "historic justice." But what makes his "genocide" recognition most self-defeating is that it helps drive Turkey into the arms of America's number one strategic rival – China.

Ankara-Beijing line

For some time, Turkey has been working to strengthen its relations with China:

It was one of the first countries **to validate the Chinese coronavirus vaccine**

It supports China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

It refuses to adhere to U.S. pressure to ban Huawei from its telecommunication backbone

It has expanded the use of the Chinese yuan in its **economy**, helping China to internationalize its currency and challenge the U.S. dollar as reserve currency.

Most important, Turkey has been relatively restrained in its criticism of **China's treatment of the Uyghurs in Xinjiang**, considering it has the strongest ethnic affinity to them.

If Washington had any hope that Turkey would side with it on Xinjiang, this hope is now dashed. Ankara is certainly sensitive to the treatment of the Uyghurs; however, despite its clear stance on the issue, it cannot blame China for committing "genocide" while the U.S. has now baselessly targeted itself for the very same crime.

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A protestor from the Uyghur community living in Turkey waves a Turkish flag during a protest against China's treatment of Uyghurs, in Istanbul, Turkey, March 25, 2021. (AP Photo)

And by causing Turkey to reject Washington's narrative of a Uyghur genocide, Biden essentially gave the rest of the Muslim world, especially Turkic countries, a convenient excuse to sit on the fence. By conflating the historical event that happened 106 years ago with an ongoing one Biden created a new commonality between China and Turkey.

As **the two countries mark this year the 50th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations**, they now share a similar predicament: they are both targets of America's selective weaponization of human rights. Selective indeed because Washington has no problem turning a blind eye to mass murders committed by its friends.

The persecution and killing of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar under the leadership of Washington's darling and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi was never labeled as genocide.

Nor was **the starvation of millions in Yemen** courtesy of Saudi Arabia. And there was not even a whisper about the mass killing of millions of Chinese by Japanese occupiers in World War II or the million or so Indians killed by the British during the Indian mutiny of 1857.

Such inconsistency and selective memory in applying the term "genocide" based on geopolitical expediencies or – even worse – political contributions, undermine America's moral authority and international leadership.

Biden's latest action should indicate to Ankara what it should have realized by now: that its bromance with the U.S. is over. **Century of Biden, Turkey and China are now in the same boat. It's time to start seeing**

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