



April 2014

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### Foreign Policy

#### Advanced U.S. Weapons Flow to Syrian Rebels

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The U.S. and Saudi Arabia have supplied Syrian rebel groups with a small number of advanced American antitank missiles for the first time in a pilot program that could lead to larger flows of sophisticated weaponry, people briefed on the effort said.

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Officials familiar with the report have said that weapons are delivered through neighboring Turkey and Jordan, where they are then vetted to rebel outfits operating in Syria.

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Wall Street Journal, 18 April 2014, Advanced U.S. Weapons Flow to Syrian Rebels

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304626304579509401865454762?mg=reno64-wsj&url=http%3A%2F%2Fonline.wsj.com%2Farticle%2FSB10001424052702304626304579509401865454762.html>

#### Turkey condemns 'Armenian genocide' resolution in U.S. Senate

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Turkey condemned on Friday a U.S. Senate committee resolution branding the massacre of Armenians by Ottoman forces during World War One as genocide and warned Congress against taking steps that would harm Turkish-American ties.

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Reuters, 11 April 2014, Turkey condemns 'Armenian genocide' resolution in U.S. Senate

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/11/us-turkey-usa-armenia-idUSBREA3A10V20140411>

#### Turkey becomes a top 15 military spender

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Turkey has replaced Canada to become the world's 14th top military spender in 2013, according to figures released on April 14 by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

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The report said Turkey's military expenditure totaled \$19.1 billion last year, a share of 2.3 percent of GDP, which ranked it in 14th place in the list, up from 16th the previous year. Between 2004 and 2013, Turkey's military spending increased by 13 percent in real terms.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 14 April 2014, Turkey becomes a top 15 military spender

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-becomes-a-top-15-military-spender.aspx?PageID=238&NID=65007&NewsCatID=345>

### **Turkey's image hurt by graft claims: US envoy**

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Recent allegations of corruption about high-profile officials from the Turkish government have “really hurt the brand of Turkey,” U.S. Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone has told daily Hürriyet in an exclusive interview.

Hurriyet Daily News, 7 April 2014, Turkey's image hurt by graft claims: US envoy

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-image-hurt-by-graft-claims-us-envoy.aspx?pageID=238&nID=64627&NewsCatID=510>

### **Turkey, US dismiss Seymour Hersh report**

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The Turkish government has strictly ruled out Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Seymour Hersh's claims that Ankara was behind the August 21 chemical weapons attack in Syria, while particularly referring to an earlier statement of denial on the issue by the White House.

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Hurriyet Daily news, 7 April 2014, Turkey, US dismiss Seymour Hersh report

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-us-dismiss-seymour-hersh-report-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=64686&NewsCatID=359>

### **Erdogan takes battle with enemies beyond Turkish frontiers**

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Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's battle to root out the "terrorists" he says are embedded in the Turkish state is extending beyond its frontiers to Africa and Asia, further complicating foreign policy already hit by tensions with the Arab world and Western allies.

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Reuters, 4 April 2014, Erdogan takes battle with enemies beyond Turkish frontiers

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/03/turkey-gulen-idUSL5N0MV2GK20140403>

## **Domestic Politics**

### **Erdogan's Political Ally Signals Split in Turkey**

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President Abdullah Gul ruled out speculation that he would swap posts with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Turkey's August elections, signaling a growing split between the two old allies and injecting new uncertainty into the political process.



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Wall Street Journal, 18 April 2014, Erdogan's Political Ally Signals Split in Turkey

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304311204579509282837822734?KEYWORDS=turkey&mg=reno64-wsj>

### **Turkey increases spy agency's powers**

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Turkey's parliament on Thursday approved a bill that increases the powers and immunities of the country's spy agency. It's the latest in a string of moves that critics say is undermining the country's democracy.

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Washington Post, 17 April 2014, Turkey increases spy agency's powers

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/turkey-debates-controversial-spy-agency-bill/2014/04/17/8512eeca-c61c-11e3-b708-471bae3cb10c\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/turkey-debates-controversial-spy-agency-bill/2014/04/17/8512eeca-c61c-11e3-b708-471bae3cb10c_story.html)

### **Don't let politics get you down, President Gül tells TÜSİAD**

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Turkish President Abdullah Gül has called on Turkish business leaders to remain optimistic despite political tensions in the country, asking them to work together to move the Turkish economy forward in spite of recent challenges.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 17 April 2014, Don't let politics get you down, President Gül tells TÜSİAD

<http://www.hurriyetaidailynews.com/dont-let-politics-get-you-down-president-gul-tells-tusiad.aspx?pageID=238&nID=65176&NewsCatID=338>

### **Turkey says Twitter agrees to close some accounts, no tax deal yet**

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Twitter will close some accounts in Turkey but will not for now set up an office there as the government wants, a senior Turkish official said late on Monday after talks over a dispute which saw the government ban the site for two weeks.

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Reuters, 15 April 2014, Turkey says Twitter agrees to close some accounts, no tax deal yet

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/15/turkey-twitter-idUSL6N0N71GJ20140415>

### **Peace and Democracy Party launches autonomy practices in two provinces**

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The major force in the Kurdish region, the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) has launched practices preparing the ground for possible autonomy in the southeastern provinces of Hakkari and Şırnak.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 15 April 2014, Peace and Democracy Party launches autonomy practices in two



provinces

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/peace-and-democracy-party-launches-autonomy-practices-in-two-provinces.aspx?pageID=238&nID=65045&NewsCatID=338>

### **Turkey's humbled secular opposition seeks to shed elitist image**

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Chastened by its failure to dent Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's domination at the ballot box, Turkey's main opposition is looking to the conservative religious heartland it long shunned and trying to shed its image as bastion of an old secular elite.

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Chicago Tribune, 9 April 2014, Turkey's humbled secular opposition seeks to shed elitist image

[http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-04-09/news/sns-rt-us-turkey-opposition-20140409\\_1\\_chp-opposition-islamist-rooted-ak-party](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-04-09/news/sns-rt-us-turkey-opposition-20140409_1_chp-opposition-islamist-rooted-ak-party)

Wall Street Journal, 8 April 2014, Turkey Opposition Embattled After Big Election Loss

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304640104579489400225135362?mg=reno64-wsj>

### **Turkish Court Overturns Part of Law on Judiciary, Loosening Government's Grip**

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Turkey's highest court on Friday overturned the provision of a new law that gave the government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan greater control over the judiciary, a law that critics said harmed the country's separation of powers and was part of a broader effort on the part of Mr. Erdogan to push back against a corruption investigation.

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New York Times, 11 April 2014, Turkish Court Overturns Part of Law on Judiciary, Loosening Government's Grip

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/12/world/europe/turkish-court.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/12/world/europe/turkish-court.html?_r=0)

### **Turkey's Erdogan vows to 'liquidate' treachery at home and abroad**

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Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday local elections had given him a mandate to "liquidate" the enemies he sees as contriving a corruption scandal and would go after their international activities and sources of funding.

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Reuters, 8 April 2014, Turkey's Erdogan vows to 'liquidate' treachery at home and abroad

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/04/08/uk-turkey-erdogan-idUKBREA3712120140408>



### **Opposition parties may cooperate in the presidentials: CHP leader**

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Oppositional parties may cooperate in the upcoming presidential elections by agreeing on nominating a single candidate that would embrace all segments of the society and would represent Turkey abroad, the leader of the main opposition has said.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 2 April 2014, Opposition parties may cooperate in the presidentials: CHP leader

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/opposition-parties-may-cooperate-in-the-presidentials-chp-leader.aspx?pageID=238&nID=64474&NewsCatID=338>

### **Corruption claims had no effect on local polls: Research**

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Corruption and graft claims engulfing senior government figures had little effect on voters' choices in March 30's local polls, while Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was more important in swaying votes than the party, new research has shown.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 2 April 2014, Corruption claims had no effect on local polls: Research

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/corruption-claims-had-no-effect-on-local-polls-research.aspx?pageID=238&nID=64427&NewsCatID=338>

### **Turkey's opposition should rediscover its strengths**

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The destructive style of politics we have seen in recent months must end, writes Kemal Dervis

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Financial Times, 1 April 2014, Turkey's opposition should rediscover its strengths

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/9b65aa5c-b8fa-11e3-98c5-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=intl#axzz2xczw60yR>

### **Turkey lifts Twitter ban after court ruling**

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Turkey's telecoms authority lifted a two-week-old ban on Twitter on Thursday after the constitutional court ruled the block breached freedom of expression, an official in Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's office said.

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Reuters, 3 April 2014, Turkey lifts Twitter ban after court ruling

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/03/us-turkey-twitter-idUSBREA320E120140403>

### **Turkey's Kurdish peace process key to Erdogan's presidential hopes**

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Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan will be banking on Kurdish support if he bids for Turkey's presidency in an August election and is likely to use his party's strong showing in local polls as a mandate to advance peace talks with Kurdish militants.

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Reuters, 3 April 2014, Turkey's Kurdish peace process key to Erdogan's presidential hopes

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/03/us-turkey-election-kurds-idUSBREA3218L20140403>

### Economy & Energy

#### Turkish central bank optimistic on growth, looser policy seen

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Turkish economic growth will fall just short of the central bank's 4 percent target this year and inflation will peak in May, governor Erdem Basci said on Thursday, giving an upbeat view of the economy a week before a rate-setting meeting.

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Reuters, 16 April 2014, Turkish central bank optimistic on growth, looser policy seen

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/17/turkey-cenbank-idUSL6N0N934L20140417>

Hurriyet Daily News, 17 April 2014, Turkey's Central Bank sees inflation 'decently' above target at year-end

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-central-bank-sees-inflation-decently-above-target-at-year-end.aspx?pageID=238&nID=65210&NewsCatID=344>

#### Turkey will soon have to sell Northern Iraqi oil, says Energy Minister Yıldız

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Turkey will soon need to start exporting oil from the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) because its storage tanks at the Mediterranean port of Ceyhan are almost full, according to Energy Minister Taner Yıldız. "We will be in a position to send this oil to world markets once the tanks are full. We can't keep this in tanks," Yıldız said.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 21 April 2014, Turkey will soon have to sell Northern Iraqi oil, says Energy Minister Yıldız

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-will-soon-have-to-sell-northern-iraqi-oil-says-energy-minister-yildiz.aspx?pageID=238&nID=65328&NewsCatID=348>

#### Turkish women form 'only a quarter' of workforce

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Turkish women constitute only a quarter of the country's 27 million-strong working population, new figures have shown, prompting calls for a change in social attitudes.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 19 April 2014, Turkish women form 'only a quarter' of workforce.



<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-women-form-only-a-quarter-of-workforce.aspx?pageID=238&nID=65262&NewsCatID=347>

### **Moody's cuts Turkey's outlook, sending Turkish assets down**

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Turkish assets fell on Friday after Moody's cut its sovereign rating outlook to negative, citing political turbulence, external financing pressure and weaker growth prospects.

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Reuters, 11 April 2014, Moody's cuts Turkey's outlook, sending Turkish assets down

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/11/turkey-markets-idUSL6N0N335U20140411>

### **Israel in talks with Egypt, Turkey on major gas export deals**

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Israel's drive to export its new-found natural gas could help to rebuild strained ties with old regional allies Egypt and Turkey, but could deprive Europe of a precious alternative to Russian gas.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 14 April 2014, Israel in talks with Egypt, Turkey on major gas export deals

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/israel-in-talks-with-egypt-turkey-on-major-gas-export-deals.aspx?pageID=238&nID=65015&NewsCatID=348>

### **Fitch cuts Turkey growth forecasts for 2014, 2015**

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Ratings agency Fitch cut its growth forecasts for Turkey on Friday, citing slower domestic lending growth and signs that consumer and investor confidence are moderating. It now sees the economy expanding by 2.5 percent in 2014, compared with a previous estimate of 3.2 percent, and by 3.2 percent rather than 3.8 percent next year.

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Reuters, 4 April 2014, Fitch cuts Turkey growth forecasts for 2014, 2015

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/04/turkey-ratings-idUSL5N0MW0VB20140404>

Reuters, 4 April 2014, Fitch Affirms Turkey at 'BBB-'; Outlook Stable

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/04/fitch-affirms-turkey-at-bbb-outlook-stab-idUSFit69589220140404>

### **Banking share optimism boosts March foreign investor purchases in Borsa Istanbul**

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Attracted by banking shares, foreign investors made net purchases worth almost of \$680 million in Borsa Istanbul throughout March, and almost made up the total 2013 sales amount with total net purchases in just two months.



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Hurriyet Daily News, 7 April 2014, Banking share optimism boosts March foreign investor purchases in Borsa Istanbul

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/banking-share-optimism-boosts-march-foreign-investor-purchases-in-borsa-istanbul.aspx?pageID=238&nID=64641&NewsCatID=344>

**Turkish Central Bank will decide itself on any rate cuts: Governor**

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The Turkish Central Bank governor responded to the prime minister's call for an urgent interest rate cut, saying the bank would decide for itself on a possible cut that "should be reasonable, measured, and well-timed."

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Hurriyet Daily News, 7 April 2014, Turkish Central Bank will decide itself on any rate cuts: Governor

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-central-bank-will-decide-itself-on-any-rate-cuts-governor.aspx?pageID=238&nID=64647&NewsCatID=344>