

Turkish experience in democratic reform

Causes and lessons

introduction

There is no doubt that Turkey has made during the last 15 years, a distinct model in the region, moved with it during this short period of the ranks of third world countries to be a regional power task and player on the international stage, despite a lot of obstacles, particularly scorching the region and the crises around. This experience, which we call "the Turkish experience" is an overall term, but for scientific accuracy it is only "the experience of the PJD .Justice and Development Party's experience in the leadership of Turkey, which has a lot of similarities factors but also some differences with the former Turkish experiences with ozal . mandris.Cabrakan....and others).

The distinguishing criteria of this young promising experiment that is still has its beginning are many include ; economic development, democratic reform and openness in foreign policy

View the limited time and to serve as the conference we will focus on the second part.

Turkey pre Justice and Development

Several important aspects of the realities of the Turkish experience modrne - as was already known - can not be understood or well analyzed to derive profits without sounding the depth of its Evolution in modern history Turkey. In the sense that the present Turkey does not understand except in accordance with historical objectivity and his circumstances, is what turkey faced before Justice and Development.

Turkey is the heir to the Ottoman Empire that began democratic reform attempts in the early nineteenth century. With the era of constitutional reforms and regulations that called "conditionality* .

Founding of the Republic during the War of Independence gave the Army a privileged position in the political life of Turkey made it as (Guard to its principles and interests) This was the reason for four coups , the most recent one was (the White coup) Or "post-modern" in 1997 on the government of Necmettin Erbakan.

These military coups, especially the latter, created weak governments And coalitions which have brought to state apolitical blockage resulted in economic crises which led Turkey to the brink of bankruptcy and borrowing from the International Monetary Fund, which impose conditions on them.

During the rule of the Justice and Development

Justice and Development Party was established on August 14 / August of 2001, and entered the elections on 3November 2002, and got on the relative majority of seats in parliament in which Enabled him to form a government alone, till today.but The party has inherited with ; Political blockage and economic crisis and the bankruptcy of dependence to the international monetary institutions In addition to social disruption . lost freedoms and permanent problems: The Conservatives and the Minority groups (Kurds. Alawites and others).

The party has built his vision almost entirely on the theories of Professor Ahmet Davutoglu - Currently the prime minister - Theories that put in his book **alalmajii** "strategic depth" in 2001, before the founding of the Justice and Development Party.the Theories spoke about the importance of Rediscover of Turkey for its place , position

and potential in the post-Cold War to become the "state center", They are also theories and theses were not confined to foreign policy as it may, but include also the philosophy and vision of the Justice and Development of Turkey's role in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

the ruling party diagnosed the country's problems accurately but did not enter the elections only when he had an Initial vision to resolve these issues, the most important of them are three-: identity, economy and freedoms, Raising fight three ones: poverty, corruption and prohibitions .

Vision and methodology of work

The Party build his vision based on this diagnosis, and adopted in his work on the foundations of a well-established and effective, the most important are:

1* Turkey's problems threaded organically, it can not achieve a strong economy with a chaotic identity, And it can not do any democratic reforms before the economic development.

2*a adversaries rallying and use the neutral speech: the experiences of Ebakane political activity banned parties and closed one after the other were a good example for the new Turkish leadership so they did everything to reassure the parties internal (the army) and external (united states and the European Union) for not mettere in confrontation with them and they presented their party as a democratic and conservative party that deals with everyone in Turkey.

3* Gradient at work - with a deep view- so that it solved severe economic problems firstly, leading to the satisfaction of the people and building a mass incubator, it can be relied upon in democratic reforms And outstanding issues later.

4* Strengthening the internal front through an atmosphere of freedom and correct the mistakes of the past in the rights of minorities - the

Kurds in particular - And regarded it as a strategic and sensitive file .which Turkey can not be accomplished her renaissance without it.

5* dismantling *the trusteeship system* in the media and the military and the deep state .

Through the use of internal popular incubator And hunker down under conditions for joining the European Union and its democratic reforms. Particularly military

6*Choosing the right model accomplished for Turkey being after reviewing the experiences of others, and should be noted here that youth of the Islamic movements in the seventies of the last century movement benefited from the active translator, which has served well informed about the different experiences along the swath of the Arab and Islamic worlds They worked within the privacy of their country in .the framework of time, place and circumstances of their own.

Democratic reforms

Justice and Development felt that the problem of Turkey is the lack of freedom and democracy, and that the economic crisis and political unrest is only a reflection of the crisis of the system that caused by the lack of freedoms and democracy , as well as social rupture and the weakness of the internal side, including opening door to foreign intervention and deepen crises the country

Based on this vision, the process of democratic development was a priority for the ruling party, but deferred because it is non-urgent , democratic development need introductions and factors helping to make it success so They focused on:

1* Gradient and not rush.

2*make neutral adversaries and avoid early direct clashes .

3* Begin economic reforms that affect the daily lives of citizens.

4* The balance between potentials and objectives: that means The collection of winning cards (the economic development, external debt relief, and the construction of a host populaire pour support) and work on the process of democratic reform in parallel, a strong government and - stability and popularity – it is the ability to realize its reform programs

6* Carry out democratic reforms in the form of packages intermittently spaced in time to ease the shock on the various parties And also to build on each other after it has taken his share of practical application.

7* Dealing with people and projects put up for discussion in the public space, so that they become issues of public opinion, the government will appear in serve as the respondent of popular will and not impose his vision on the state and society.

in this context we can take three basic and important models in the understanding of the Turkish experience in democratic reform in the era of the Justice and Development, are as follows:

****Firstly the military tutelage :**

We have mentioned that the dominant military influence in Turkish political life has several reasons, the most important of the founding of the Republic after the war of independence, and the fact that the early presidents - especially Mustafa Kemal - they were military with inflating clear of their role, in addition to the old military Turkish history, and the positive image of the army among the people on the over the decades, as well as many of the powers given to him .constitutionally

Under article 35 of the Constitution, it was the institution functions of the military " maintain the principles of the Turkish Republic" and the protection of the state "from internal and external threats", as has been customary that the military apply their powers - in addition to the Council for National Security, which was most its members from the military and its decisions were as instructions due implementation to the government

Under this authority, the Constitution and traditions in the country, the Turkish army did four "interventions" in political life, two of them in the form of a bloody military coup (1960 and 1980), and two in the form of pressure on the government to stand down (1971 and 1997). The last coup against Prime Minister Erbakan in 1997 to submit a memorandum was included the demands of the military establishment and the threat - if indirectly rejected - by the coup, the president preferred to resign

there was not any Strong statements from political leaders to justice and development against the military in Turkey only in 2007 in nominate Abdullah Gul for the presidency , and the deployment of "e-memorandum" on the military establishment some bodies considered it as an ultimatum coup

,similar to what happened with Erbakan site

and then issued several statements ask the Army - sub-acute accent - that "cares about his work," and leave the politics to their respective owners The next step was to confirm the "advisory" National Security Council's decision not to compel the government, after most of its members has become. from civilians Later, approved the amendment of Article 35 of the Constitution of 2013 limited the powers of the , "army to protect "the country's borders from external threats

it has been raised issues on the group that staged a coup in 1980, military leaders that forced Erbakan to resign in 1997 As well as the

issue of "Orgnkon" The Hammer, "which Tria prominent military leaders on charges of" planning a coup against the elected government. These and other issues, in addition to the successive achievements in various fields, the government, led to illustrate the image of the military establishment, for the first time in a popular referendum the majority of Turks said that the most credible institution in the country is the government, not the army. You can add here the hard attitude Erdogan from the coup in Egypt, and focus " ..on the damage to the country's military coups

freedoms....Hijab model

There is no doubt that the issue of the headscarf ban caused a very big crisis after the 1997 coup against Erbakan, especially educational institution level, where the girls were between two choices: take off Hijab of learning or abandonment of science to hold on to the veil, and there was a number of them traveled abroad to complete their education –who were able to physically and morally

This sensitive issue was a very great pressure on the party leadership of the Islamist movement, because of their religious dimensions and social and legal sensitivity and her rights and its relation to the principle of personal freedoms and its threat to education and the future of the country. However, Erdogan said that the veil was "not a priority of the government," but we will address the economic crisis first. Over the first parliamentary period (2002 - In the second period 2007), the party did not address the veil is at all of the parliamentary party (2007 - 2011), they put the veil for discussion in the community, but has been limited debate on female college students in order to maintain their right to education and the party said it would not do any step without the approval of the rest of .- the parties

In 2011 elections, the party candidated a veiled woman in the constituency but wining was impossible , because of the presence of

the opposition party (the birth place of opposition leader Deniz Baykal), the nomination was symbolic, confirmed the eligibility of the nomination while not provokes a crisis because of the loss Later, with the support of the Nationalist Movement Party, the government allowed headscarf in universities, among other decisions to reform the education system a whole. Then in 2013 he allowed the veil in all state institutions, with the exception of the judiciary and the police, and army .he leave it to the leaders of these institutions

This allowed came within the democratic reforms announced by Erdogan on September 30 / September 2013, which preceded the Eid al-Adha 4 days only, allowing four deputies from the ladies from the party that went back from the pilgrimage with hijab (they were not veiled) they entered Parliament without any clash . especially the opposition (Nationalism Movement), which participated in the expulsion of Merve Kavakçı MP in 1999 of parliament - [to nationality later](#) - the other parties could not resist a demand which .became a popular

Later, in June 2015, the Supreme Commission for judges and prosecutors in Turkey allowed affiliates of women wearing headscarves at work, and the ban still being in the police and army institution waiting for future steps

Kurdish issue :

No one disagrees on the sufferings of the Kurdish people, not only because of the lack of established nation-state after the First World War - the debate long in this respect - but because of deprivation of rights and neglect on for decades in the region, which is divided by, Iraq, Syria, Iran and Turkey

In Turkey, the Kurdish nationalist was ignored and denied its people to speak the original language or teaching or writing and publishing

them in their own, in addition to prevent them from political, cultural added to the deprivation in their regions - South and and other rights South-east of the country - from development equally with other regions

Before the Justice and Development, Erbakan tried to end the armed conflict waged by the PKK since 1984 against the Turkish state but he could not because of the coup, and then Turgut Ozal tried in the nineties of the last century but he died, and the case remained the same until the coming of the Justice and Development.

Justice and Development focus in solving the Kurdish issue on several bases including

1-Renaissance in Turkey is highly dependent on the solution of Kurdish problem which drain wealth and resources and their people (40 people dead and 500 billion dollars), and opened the door to foreign interference (United States, Germany, Iran and "Israel"), which is what might be called the theory of "eradication of the interior problems.

recognizing that Kurds are aggrieved in Turkey and in the region

3.Kurdish problem be regarded as an internal Turkish issue, and therefore the Turkish government used the term "solution" or "settlement" not "peace" to describe the ongoing political process

4. use the political solution to the Kurdish issue within integrated strategy, and not just security - military vision

5-The political process requires that the party disarms its weapons, in exchange for the state pledged to guarantee the political, social and cultural rights for the Kurds on the basis of full and equal citizenship

6.solution Be a gradual to bypass the chronic crisis and the many obstacles

The ruling party actually work on a simple and gradual steps in the field of cultural and social rights for the Kurds, then continued it after the start of political discussions, including:

- 1- .1allow the teaching of languages other than Turkish (Kurdish specifically) in 2003.
- 2- .2opening sections to teach those languages in Turkish universities.
- 3- .3Adoption of the copyright in the Kurdish language.
- 4- 6. opening the official- television channel in the Kurdish language (TRT 6) in 2009.
- 5- 7. allow the teaching of Kurdish as a non-compulsory in schools in 2012.
- 6- 8. allowing the use of mother tongue in the defenses of the defendants in court, in 2013.
- 7- democratic reform package in September / September 2013, allowed the opening of private schools and institutions teaching in languages other than Turkish (Kurdish especially)
- 8- .The adoption of political propaganda in other languages and dialects, and change some of the villages and towns names to back the old names, and increase punishment racist crimes and discrimination on the basis of language and ethnicity and nationalism, "Section student" has been changed*, which echoes in all Turkish schools it refers to "Turkish student." exclusively*
- 9- Adoption of the development policy of southeast of the country Which has a Kurdish majority Through dozens of economic and development projects, such as roads, hospitals, airports, universities and tourist facilities.
- .10Adoption of the law "to end terrorism and to strengthen community unity," which authorizes the government to take the necessary procedures for the political process, and leaves the criminal

responsibility to the participants , and allow the return of disarmed people and ensures their participation in community life.

State started negotiations with the PKK, through its leader, the detainee Abdullah Ocalan, who called in March 2013 called on the elements of his party to lay down their arms and leave the Turkish territory. Hundreds left the country and then later circumstances changed and the project stopped

Despite the appeal Ocalan refined two years later (March / March 2015) and the document of the ten principles announced by the government with the mediation delegation formed by the Democratic Peoples' Party, however, that the peace process has seen months ago stopped. The PKK has resumed its military operations, which prompted the President Erdogan to say that "now the peace process in the fridge," while more than a government official announced that the solution depends on the achievement of peace and security in the country and the party to throwing weapon.

In addition to the foreign breakthroughs in the PKK and the implications of the Syrian crisis and the events of the region clearly on the settlement process in Turkey , this does not mean that the Justice and Development has changed his vision or strategy, but that the process is waiting for ideal conditions to re-start again, but with new names and terms and conditions.

reasons of success

And possibilities of advantage

The reason of interesting in the Turkish experience is its success in Developing the situation in the economy, foreign policy and other areas, which raised many questions around it, and the most importantly is: how We benefit from her experience

In the sense, that asked this question repeatedly on the base "the quote" or even "reproduction" and not on the basis of "partial to take

advantage" or "the general approach" of the experience, depending on the common factors between Turkey and countries in the region and other Arab and Islamic countries, which have common factors, some of which true and others are unrealistic.

The most important reasons for the success of the Turkish experience is that it grew in the appropriate environment, in Turkey, (time, place and circumstances), even if it was in an other country .it would had taken its own attributes

We should care about the many differences existing between Turkey and the Arab world - especially - more than our attention with correct common points , as mentioned, so we have to put the fields where to take advantage and where we should stop.

The intelligence of the leaders of the Justice and Development has been manifested in their studies of their country's problems and make answers to these problems within three factors (time - Almkan- circumstance) As we have said previously, which is missing the the Arab world experiences - with the Muslim majority.

:from the differences

That the Turkish experience is (democratic - reform- experience), while the Arab world today lives in revolutions and counter-revolutions, the two cases are quite Different, if it is not a contradiction.

-also one of its features is the historical background of the democratic Turkish experience , which extends to the Ottoman era, and the adoption of the political process by large institutions, despite the disparity in performance

-The role of the military, which was limited to "protect the principles of the Republic" and then return after each coup to their barracks to make way for new politicians, without trying to nationalize political life for it, especially it is not fully indulging in economic life, as in some other countries.

-Turkey is characterized by relatively democracy represents in the fairness of the elections without counterfeiting, even after coups, this Situation made the political struggle useful, so all Islamists and conservatives efforts based to continue attempts and work and understand the dynamics of politics in the country,till they mastered the political game.

-the Islamic movement experience itself in Turkey. and its expertise .and its different views Compared with the political Islam movements in the Arab world, especially with regard to understanding the nature of the state and its functions and how to manage them.

Turkey's geographical location and its relationship with the historical political, economic and human capabilities and resources, with different geopolitical importance, all this reflected clearly on the roles and policies and their impact, and and therefore on the development

Nevertheless , we need to take advantage of any successful . experiences, - Turkish firstly-, because of its geographical proximity . religious, cultural and historical links with us, and opening up to the world. However, I think that the advantage is in the general approach and addresses not in the details that should be subjected to the :privacy of each individual country. we can mention the following

- 1- Appropriate experience of the country and the people, harmonious with the history, culture and political experiences, based on the time, place and circumstances.

-2 Long-term vision, harmonious with the identity of the people derived from its potential.

3 Determine the most important problems of each country, and the development of perceptions and plans to be resolved in accordance with the priorities and capabilities.

-4 Work to participate whole people in the process of development which can not be successful with only individuals or elite.

-5 Gradient and assembly of successes within the plan, with constant review and correction.

-6 Interest in the work of more than slogans.

-7 Adopt a scientific approach to study and solve problems, and rely on studies and statistics.

-8 Use speech accommodates all spectrums of people, not only from one class.

10- Economic and cultural openness to all parties, and building bridges with different countries and cultures.

Conclusion

Turkey under the leadership of the Justice and Development Achieved since 2002 in a large march of development, thus it achieved an economic renaissance and entered within the important regional countries in the international arena and we have seen how it hosted the Group of Twenty economic summit , it has Creditable and strong decision in foreign policy.

some considered it as "the last castle" for the peoples of the region, which has suffered from the predominance of the counter-revolution. It is obvious to say that the modern Turkish experience is a human experience in the sense that it has mistakes, such as the absence of ideological project in the long term Central Administration severe President - former prime minister - Erdogan differences streams within the ruling party .Add administrative problems that have affected the party contributed to the decline in the seventh of June last elections. But it gave it a chance to correct his experience with the first of November the current elections, The advantage of the the outline of of the Turkish experience, according to its methodology in the planning and performance, is a duty of all parties seeking for revival and development of their country and people

‘Especially in freedoms and democracy, which Turkey has succeeded Justice and Development * * This file is necessary for any country seeking to renaissance and progress. Without a coherent internal row no one can stands in the face of large and numerous internal and external challenges, especially in the blazing crises in which we live

The most important lesson from the Turkish experience is to facilitate the difficulties after a deep understanding of its reality and problems, good planning solutions by strategies, hard work, and bridging the social and political gaps. In the interior Turkish

which constitutes the largest danger to the future of the country and people. The experiment is still young and has a lot of obstacles ,stages , and stations that will teach them new dimensions.