



ODAP
Dünyayı Okumak İçin...

ODAP CENTER GLOBAL

BULLETIN -

9



Erdoğan-Putin Meeting: From Akkuyu to Energy Security, A New Phase in Türkiye-Russia Relations



US-Iran Tension Is Rising Again: The Strait of Hormuz and Global Energy Security



Washington's Renewed Mediation Effort: Can the Ukraine War Still Be Negotiated?



An Analysis on the US-Venezuela Oil Agreement



Türkiye's Relationship with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation



Xi Jinping's Visit to Egypt: Is China Trying to Increase Its Influence in the Middle East?



China-Taiwan Tension: Beijing's Pressure Around Taiwan Is Increasing



Kosovo's Decision Regarding Serbian Judges Triggered a Problem Between Pristina and the European Union



ODAP
Dünyayı Okumak İçin...



Erdoğan-Putin Meeting: From Akkuyu to Energy Security, A New Phase in Türkiye-Russia Relations

The meeting between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Kazakhstan once again brought attention to the strategic level reached in Türkiye-Russia relations in the areas of energy, economy, and regional security. During the meeting, held on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit, Erdoğan stated that relations between Türkiye and Russia had reached a much more advanced level compared with previous periods. Putin, meanwhile, described Türkiye as an important and privileged partner of Russia. The focus of the meeting on the future of the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant showed the important role of energy cooperation in relations between the two countries. One of the main topics of the meeting was the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant. Erdoğan stated that the plant had entered its final stage and that they were looking forward to its opening together with Russia. Putin also said that Rosatom was continuing its plan to bring the

first reactor into operation in 2026. Akkuyu consists of four reactors and is strategically important as Türkiye's first major nuclear power project. The plant is being built by Russia's state-owned company Rosatom, meaning that Türkiye's nuclear energy capacity is developing largely through Russian technology, financing, and operational experience. This creates an opportunity for Ankara to strengthen energy security, but it also creates a long-term energy relationship with Moscow. The discussion of new nuclear power plants after Akkuyu shows that energy cooperation between Türkiye and Russia will not remain limited to existing natural gas and oil trade. Türkiye aims to increase its nuclear energy capacity in order to meet rising electricity demand, reduce dependence on imported energy, and strengthen energy security. Developing new projects with Russia could therefore lead to a long-term change in Türkiye's energy policy. However, from the perspective of energy diversification, avoiding excessive dependence on a single technology or supplier remains an important strategic issue. Another important dimension of Türkiye-Russia relations is the Russia-Ukraine war. Throughout the war, Ankara has kept diplomatic channels with Moscow open while also maintaining its relations with Ukraine and its NATO membership. This approach can be seen as part of Türkiye's multi-dimensional foreign policy, which seeks to develop relations with different centers of power



instead of making a clear choice between Russia and the West. The meeting between Erdoğan and Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit was also an important sign of Türkiye's increasing diplomatic engagement in Eurasia. Black Sea security also remains important for the future of Türkiye-Russia relations. Because of the war in Ukraine, risks to commercial shipping, energy infrastructure, and maritime transportation in the Black Sea have increased. Türkiye has a critical position in the regional security structure because of the Montreux Convention. Ankara's support for mechanisms aimed at protecting the safe passage of commercial ships shows that Türkiye seeks to remain an active actor not only in bilateral relations but also in regional security. At the same time, the closer relationship between Türkiye and Russia cannot be considered separately from Ankara's relations with the West. Türkiye continues to be a NATO member while expanding cooperation with Russia in areas such as energy, trade, tourism, and nuclear technology. This strengthens the multi-dimensional and balancing nature of Turkish foreign policy. Such a policy gives Türkiye more room for diplomatic maneuver between different power centers, while also requiring Ankara to carefully manage the risks created by energy and economic dependencies. The Erdoğan-Putin meeting shows that Türkiye-Russia relations are no longer based only on energy trade. Long-term strategic projects such as Akkuyu are creating a

deeper and more institutionalized partnership between the two countries. The launch of Akkuyu and discussions about new nuclear projects suggest that energy will become even more central to bilateral relations. For Ankara, the main challenge will be to maintain strategic cooperation with Russia while also protecting energy security, foreign policy independence, economic interests, and its position within NATO.



US–Iran Tension Is Rising Again: The Strait of Hormuz and Global Energy Security

The tension between the United States and Iran increased again this week. After the United States' attacks against Iran, Iran also carried out attacks on some points of the United States in the region. Because of this, the tension that was previously tried to be reduced through diplomatic ways has become military again. Especially, the developments around the Strait of Hormuz are very important for the international community. The Strait of Hormuz is a very important passage for global energy trade. If Iran makes



transportation more difficult here or if the attacks in the region continue, it can directly affect oil and natural gas trade. According to Reuters, Iran's oil exports have decreased seriously, while the conflicts in the region are causing problems in energy markets. AP also says that after these developments, oil prices increased significantly this week. This situation is not only a problem between the United States and Iran. Because rising energy prices can increase inflation in European and Asian countries. Especially countries that depend on oil and natural gas imports may face higher costs. Therefore, the conflicts in the region are also becoming a global economic problem. Also, the increase in the United States' military presence in the region may cause Iran to respond. This increases the possibility that the conflict could spread to other countries. For this reason, the Gulf countries are also being more careful about security. From Türkiye's point of view, these developments are very important. Since Türkiye depends on foreign countries for energy imports, increases in oil and natural gas prices can also affect the Turkish economy. Also, because of Türkiye's position in the Middle East, it may need to make more diplomatic efforts in the region. In conclusion, the United States–Iran tension is no longer only a conflict between two countries. Because of the Strait of Hormuz, energy prices and regional security, this crisis has become a situation that can affect global politics. Therefore, it will be important for diplomatic talks to start again in the coming period.



Washington's Renewed Mediation Effort: Can the Ukraine War Still Be Negotiated?

The United States is once again attempting to revive diplomatic efforts to end the war in Ukraine. US special envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner are expected to travel to Moscow and Kyiv this weekend as Washington seeks to restart negotiations between Russia and Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has confirmed that meetings with US negotiators are expected in the coming days, while the Kremlin has not officially confirmed the Moscow visit. The planned diplomacy comes at a time when the gap between the positions of Moscow and Kyiv remains significant. The most difficult issue continues to be territory. Russia is demanding that Ukraine withdraw from four regions that Moscow claims as part of Russia, while also insisting that Kyiv abandon its NATO ambitions. Ukraine has repeatedly rejected these conditions, arguing that accepting territorial concessions under military pressure would undermine its sovereignty and create a dangerous precedent for future conflicts. This fundamental disagreement means that the challenge facing



Washington is not simply bringing the two sides back to the negotiating table, but finding a formula that both parties can consider politically acceptable. The timing of the renewed diplomatic effort is also important. The war has now continued for more than four years, while neither side has achieved an outcome capable of decisively ending the conflict. Russia continues to possess significant military capabilities, but Ukraine has also demonstrated an ability to sustain long-range strikes and maintain its resistance. Meanwhile, the economic and military costs of the war continue to affect both countries and their international partners. This creates an incentive for negotiations, but it does not necessarily create the political conditions for compromise. For Washington, the problem is particularly complex. The Trump administration has repeatedly presented negotiations as the preferred alternative to a prolonged war. Yet US influence has limits. Washington can pressure Kyiv through military and financial assistance, but it cannot easily force Ukraine to accept territorial losses. At the same time, economic pressure and diplomatic engagement have so far failed to convince Moscow to abandon its core territorial demands. The Kremlin's latest statements that there are still no clear conditions for a settlement indicate that Russia is not yet approaching the negotiations from a position of major compromise. The renewed US effort therefore raises a broader question about the role of mediation in a war where the parties still believe that they can improve their position through continued pressure.

Diplomacy becomes effective when negotiation appears less costly than continued conflict. At present, that calculation has not fully emerged for either Moscow or Kyiv. The upcoming meetings in Moscow and Kyiv should therefore not be interpreted simply as evidence that peace is close. Their greater significance may lie in whether Washington can narrow the gap between the two sides enough to establish a realistic framework for further negotiations. If the United States cannot reconcile the territorial demands of Russia with Ukraine's insistence on sovereignty and security guarantees, another round of diplomacy could once again produce contact without producing a settlement. The real test for Washington is no longer whether it can bring the parties to the table, but whether it can make compromise more attractive than continuing the war.



An Analysis on the US-Venezuela Oil Agreement

The United States and Venezuela have reached a major oil deal that could change their relationship. According to Reuters on August 28, President Donald Trump announced that the US had reached an agreement with Venezuela on its



ODAP
Dünyayı Okumak İçin...

oil sector. The deal covers 17 oil fields and gives US-linked companies a bigger role in Venezuela's oil production. Venezuela currently produces around 1.25 million barrels of oil per day. The deal aims to increase production and bring more investment and technology to the country. Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodriguez said that the agreement would last for 25 years and could increase production to more than 1.5 million barrels per day. The deal is also important for the US because it can give Washington another source of oil. Trump has said that Venezuelan oil could also be used to refill the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve. At the same time, American companies are increasing their activities in Venezuela. According to Reuters on September 2, Chevron, a major US oil company, announced that it would invest more than \$7 billion in the country and try to double its oil production there over the next five years. Other companies, including Eni and GE Vernova, are also planning new projects. This means that the US is not only buying Venezuelan oil. American companies are also becoming more involved in Venezuela's energy sector. But this may not be easy because much of Venezuela's oil is heavy crude and is difficult and expensive to produce. According to Reuters Breakingviews on August 31, the country would need a large amount of money and new infrastructure to increase production. Reuters Breakingviews also questioned whether Venezuelan oil could be used to refill the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve because the current facilities cannot store this type of heavy oil.

The agreement could also reduce the role of China and Russia in Venezuela's oil industry. Reuters reported on August 31 that some oil fields previously operated by Chinese and Russian companies could be taken over by US-linked companies. This is important because China and Russia have had strong economic and political ties with Venezuela for many years. If US companies become more active in the country, Washington could have more influence over Venezuela. But the deal has also raised questions about Venezuela's control over its own oil resources. Some Venezuelan opposition figures have also questioned the transparency of the agreement and said that long-term investment needs a stable and democratic government. The deal is not only about oil. It also shows how energy can be used to increase economic and political influence. The agreement could bring new investment, while the US would get greater access to Venezuelan oil. Venezuela's closer economic ties with the US could bring more investment, but they could also make the country more dependent on the US. If the agreement continues, this could become an important part of Venezuela's political and economic future.



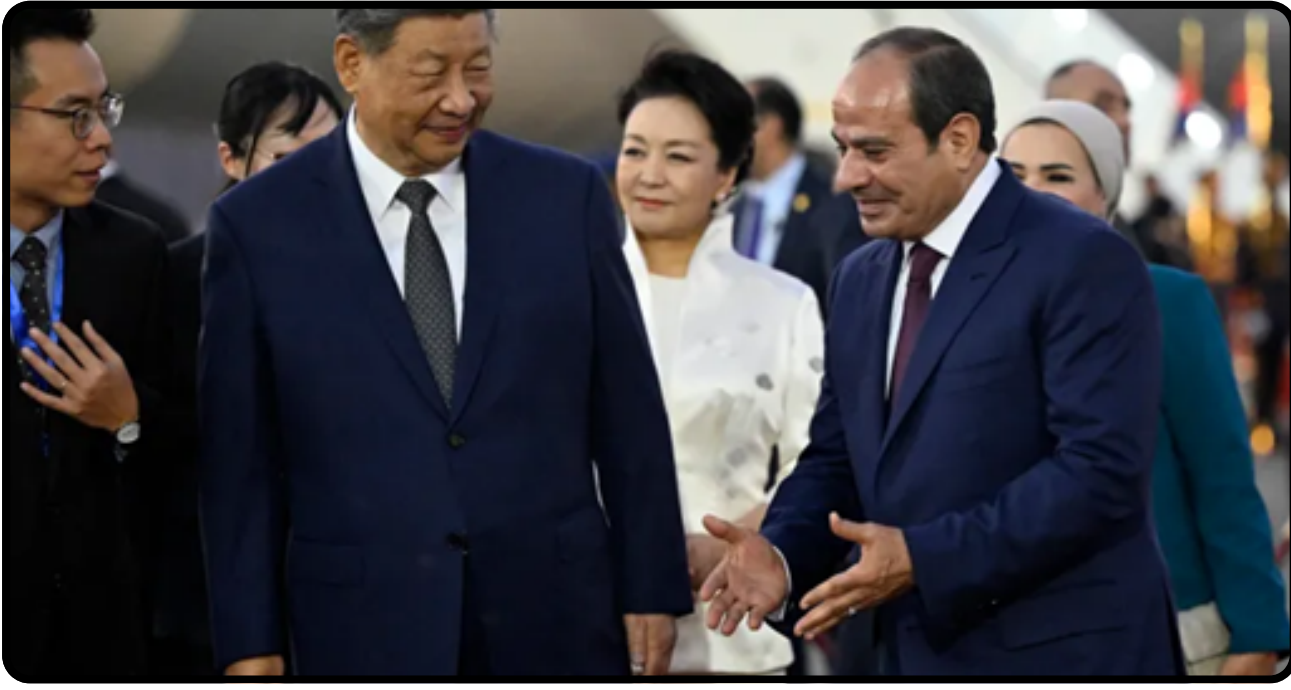


Türkiye's Changing Relationship with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Türkiye's relationship with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation-SCO has become more important as Ankara continues to strengthen its relations with countries outside the West. Türkiye has been a dialogue partner of the organisation since 2012, and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended the SCO summit in Tianjin in 2025 as a guest of honour. This showed that Türkiye's interest in the organisation had continued to grow before the latest discussions about full membership. The economic side of this relationship also became more important in 2026. In January, Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan mentioned Türkiye's relations with China and the importance of the Middle Corridor. It could be connected more closely with China's Belt and Road Initiative, which is a major Chinese infrastructure and trade project linking China with markets across Asia, Europe and other regions. This is also related to Türkiye's interest in developing transportation, trade and energy connections with SCO member countries. The issue became more visible at the SCO summit in Bishkek on September 1. According to Anadolu Agency, Erdoğan said that Türkiye would deepen its cooperation with the organisation, especially in areas like energy, transportation and regional connectivity. He also pointed out the Middle Corridor and its connection with the Belt and Road Initiative.

During the summit, Erdoğan met Russia's President Vladimir Putin and discussed bilateral relations and energy cooperation. These developments show that Türkiye's interest in the SCO is connected to both its economic interests and its relations with Russia and China.

According to Reuters on September 2, Erdoğan said that Türkiye could consider taking its relationship with the SCO to a higher level, including full membership. He also pointed out that this would not mean turning away from NATO or the West. This is important because Türkiye is trying to strengthen its relations with the SCO while keeping its existing Western alliances. Rather than choosing one side, Ankara appears to be trying to maintain relations with different powers and increase its options in foreign policy. This growing interest in the SCO shows how Türkiye's foreign policy is becoming more open to different directions. Closer cooperation with the organisation can provide Türkiye with new economic and political opportunities, especially through China, Russia and regional connectivity. But it can also create questions among its Western partners about the direction of Ankara's foreign policy. The main challenge for Türkiye will be to deepen its relationship with the SCO while maintaining its role within NATO.



Xi Jinping's Visit to Egypt: Is China Trying to Increase Its Influence in the Middle East?

Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Egypt this week. This visit is important because it was Xi's first visit to Egypt in about ten years. However, the importance of the visit is not limited to relations between China and Egypt. The visit is an important sign that China wants to increase its influence in the Middle East. China has been developing its economic relations with Middle Eastern countries for a long time. Egypt is especially important for China. One of the main reasons for this is the Suez Canal. The Suez Canal is an important transportation route for trade between Asia and Europe. China's economic investments there provide a strategic advantage for Beijing. AP and Al Jazeera point out that China's investments and economic relations in Egypt have increased significantly in recent years. Xi's visit also took place while the conflict between the United States and Iran is

continuing. For this reason, China wants to take a greater diplomatic role in the region. According to Reuters, Xi argued that Middle Eastern countries should oppose foreign intervention and create a new system for regional security. China's goal here may not be to completely replace the United States in the region. Instead, it is trying to create a stronger position for itself by increasing its economic and political relations with different countries. Egypt also does not want to completely end its relations with the United States while developing its relations with China. For this reason, Egypt's policy focuses on balancing between the two great powers.

This development is also important because of changes in the international system. The United States has been one of the most important foreign actors in the Middle East for many years. China's growing presence in the region through economic investments and diplomacy could change the balance of power in the region.

This development is also important for Türkiye. Türkiye is trying to improve its relations with both China and Middle Eastern countries. China's growing influence over the Suez Canal and the Middle East could also affect Türkiye's regional and economic policies.

Overall, Xi's visit to Egypt is not just a diplomatic visit. It shows that China wants to become a more active actor in the Middle East.



China–Taiwan Tension: Beijing’s Pressure Around Taiwan Is Increasing

The tension between China and Taiwan continued this week. China carried out a sea research activity in the waters east of Taiwan, and the China Coast Guard also carried out patrol activities in the area. China said that these activities were aimed at understanding the sea resources and the areas in the region better. Taiwan saw these activities as pressure against its sovereignty. China sees Taiwan as a part of its own territory. Taiwan does not accept China’s claim. Because of this, the problem between the two sides is important not only politically, but also in terms of security and sea areas. One important part of this development is that the activities happened east of Taiwan. According to some sources, China has increased the activities of coast guard and research ships in this area in recent months. This shows that China is trying to create a more continuous presence in the sea

areas around Taiwan. China also continues to oppose Taiwan’s activities in the international area. According to AP, China reacted to Taiwan’s participation in the Pacific Islands Forum and warned that there could be consequences. This shows that China continues its political pressure on Taiwan not only through military ways but also through diplomatic ways. These developments do not mean that a war will start directly. However, China’s small but continuous increase of its presence around Taiwan could be important in the long term. These kinds of activities can also be called a “gray zone” policy. This means putting pressure on the other side without starting a war. The Taiwan issue is also important for the United States and Japan. If China gains more power in the region, it could affect the United States’ Asia-Pacific policy and Japan’s security policies. Therefore, the Taiwan issue is not only a problem between China and Taiwan, but also a part of a wider power competition. In conclusion, China’s activities around Taiwan are becoming more regular. Although this does not mean war in the short term, it makes the security environment in the Asia-Pacific more tense. For Türkiye, the China–Taiwan tension is especially important indirectly because of global trade and chip supply.



Kosovo's Decision Regarding Serbian Judges Triggered a Problem Between Pristina and the European Union

Kosovo's decision to reject the reinstatement of Serbian judges who had previously resigned has triggered new tension between Kosovo, Serbia and the European Union. Kosovo's Foreign Minister Donika Gërvalla criticized Brussels for pressuring Kosovo over the issue, arguing that the country cannot compromise its rule of law and legal procedures to satisfy the EU's expectations and demands. Although Kosovo is known rearranging their institutions in accordance with the legal and economic and political advice from the EU, involvement of ethnic Serbians in this problem led Kosovo to criticize the EU's role in shaping the Kosovar institutions. It is clear that the EU Commission views the ethnic clashes and the poor integration of the ethnic Serbians in Kosovo as one of the obstacles to reach regional political stability, which is essential to complete the accession process of Serbia into the EU. The problem here

is that despite the claims of the government of Kosovo, this incident alone proves that ethnic Serbian community is having some problems regarding their basic rights and their integration to Kosovo is still lacking to some degree. It is known that the collective withdrawal of the ethnic Serbians from the Kosovo's state institutions in the recent years has increased in numbers and momentum since the ethnic Serbians in Kosovo believe that they are being denied of their basic rights. This mass withdrawal includes police forces and the local services, but most importantly Serbian representatives in the judiciary ranks suffer from this institutional disengagement. Furthermore, ethnic Serbian citizens of Kosovo started to distance themselves from Kosovo and the Kosovar state institutions, therefore, their integration process to Kosovo becomes even more complicated further deepening their poor commitment to Kosovo. This difficulty not only raises complaints from the ethnic Serbian communities across the Balkans, but it also attracts the attention Belgrade, who could potentially use it as a political leverage to interfere with the domestic problems of Kosovo. This is particularly significant since one of the most important and long-standing problems of the Kosovo issue is the representation and the integration of ethnic Serbian community in Kosovo, which caused the political tension between Kosovo and Serbia escalate quickly further undermining the bilateral



ODAP
Dünyayı Okumak İçin...

relations and peace negotiations often. If the disagreement between Pristina and Brussels continues to deepen, Belgrade may gain further political leverage over the Kosovo issue, while the EU's ability to facilitate the normalization process between Kosovo and Serbia could be further weakened.