

The Gaza Crisis and Its Impact on the Interaction/ Conflict of the Structure and Agent (Turkey Case Study)

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Abstract

Purpose: The Al-Aqsa storm operation and the subsequent crimes of the Zionist regime against the people of Gaza, which have been ongoing since October 7, 2023 have provided the basis for changing attitudes and approaches in the functional nature of the structure and agency at the global level and raised the question that Will this issue cause confrontation or interaction of structure and agency in different countries, especially Islamic countries?

Method: In response to this question, in the form of “process tracing” method and based on the framework of structure and agency, while examining the general trend of this issue in the countries of the world, Turkey was selected as a case study and investigated.

Results: The finding of the research is that while the Gaza crisis has brought "increasing conflict between the structure and the agent" in different countries of the world; But this process in Islamic countries, especially Turkey, has been a two-way interaction/confrontation, and the continuation of the Gaza crisis in Turkey has made this process more confrontational.

Conclusion: The crisis in Gaza and the intensification of the Zionist regime's crimes in other countries of the region have intensified the wave of criticism and protests against the policies of the ruling Turkish government and made the process of communication between the structure and the agency even more confrontational. From the realm of necessity, to step into the realm of “what will be” or “what should be”; and basically, he wants to perform the role of “active activism” and “strategic activism” correctly and effectively.

Keywords: Al-Aqsa Storm Operation, Gaza Crisis, Process Tracing, Structure-Agent, Turkey.

Article type: Research

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Introduction

The Al-Aqsa storm operation and the subsequent insane and anti-human rights actions of the Zionist regime against the people of Gaza, which have been ongoing since October 7, 2023, have provided the basis for changing attitudes and approaches in the functional nature of the structure and agency at the global level, and this It has raised the main question whether this issue will cause confrontation or interaction between structure and agency in different countries, especially Turkey? Other sub-questions that have been tried to be answered in this article are as follows:

- What will be the effect of the interaction or confrontation between the structure and the agent on the policies of the ruling structure?
- Will we witness a change in the policies of the ruling party in regional issues after the Gaza crisis and the intensification of its global regional influence?
- If the Gaza crisis continues, will the approach of the Turkish government regarding the formation of two independent governments in Palestine change?

Methodology

Methodologically, the content of this article is compiled and presented based on documentary sources (library) and methodologically based on the "process tracing" method. "Tracing the process" performs two basic tasks in socio-political history research and historical sociology: 1. Statement of the causal mechanism 2. Hypothesis testing. In this research, "causal mechanism expression" is used. The statement of the causal mechanism clarifies three issues in research for political history and sociology researchers:

1. By opening the black box, the causal mechanism reveals the mediating and mediating causes for the researcher; 2. The causal mechanism specifies the direction of the relationship between the phenomena, which one is the cause and which is the effect; 3. The causal mechanism shows us whether the assumed relationship is a causal relationship or a false relationship. (Kafi, 2015: 152-155) In correlations, information about input and output is provided, along with an accurate estimate of the degree of co-variation of these two; but if they ask, "Why is there a change between input and output?" There is no information available. "Black box" refers to the ignorance of the process that connects the input to the output.

In relation to the topic of the present research, for example, if they ask: "Why in the government of the Justice and Development Party, the relationship between the Turkish government and the Israeli regime has many ups and downs?" the answer can be given that "because the governing model of this country has been different in different periods.

But this explanation has a black box: because one can again ask, "Why do government models affect this relationship?" This second reason, which refers to the black box between the input/independent variable (governance models) and

the output/dependent variable (the relationship between the government of Israel and Turkey), finds its answer from the "how" that is, the linking mechanism. The independent variable becomes dependent. In other words, the second question is "how and through what mechanism do governance models affect this relationship"; the answer is that the political structure (the Justice and Development Party) affects the type of relations between Turkey and the Israeli regime through the adoption of a "hybrid" type of governance.

Results

The finding of the present research is that the Gaza crisis, while in different countries of the world, brought "increasing confrontation and conflict between the structure and the agent"; So that it can be loudly claimed that contrary to the claims of some theorists and analysts that the western agent is trapped in the "iron cage" of the capitalist system and neoliberalism, the human subject as an agent and agency is still alive and can cover the role of "active activism" and "strategic activism" correctly and efficiently; But this trend in Islamic countries, especially Türkiye, has been a two-way interaction/confrontation; However, it seems that if the Gaza crisis continues, this process will be more confrontational in Turkey. Basically, the perspective of the ruling government's political ideology, Erdoğan's ambiguous vision, the weighting of various currents claiming power within the Justice and Development Party and the power and influence of religious groups-religious sects, the decision of political leaders "toward change and transformation in regional policies" The current situation, especially the Gaza crisis and the Palestinian issue, has caused problems, and this issue has greatly weakened the legitimacy of the ruling political system and affected the acceptability and credibility of the Islamism trend affiliated with the Justice and Development Party.

Regardless of the conflict between the structure and the agent, regarding the impact of this issue on the policies of the ruling party in Turkey in regional issues and the possible changes and developments regarding the approach of the Turkish government regarding the formation of two independent governments in Palestine, It seems that firstly due to the multi-structural and mixed nature of the ruling structure and secondly due to the unstable and floating personality and spirit of Recep Tayyip Erdogan and thirdly due to the relations and political and economic equations of Turkey with the Western world (and the Israeli regime) and the Sunni world (who are all in favor of the two-state approach), it is unlikely that there will be any change in the policies of the ruling structure, especially regarding the project of forming two states in Palestine. Especially after the change and transformation in the American government structure and its effect on the political equations in the region, the change in the political system in Syria and on the effectiveness of the government close to Turkey, and the change in the political balance of the Lebanese government, the political pressure against the resistance front in order to accept the formula There will be two more governments.

Conclusion

It seems that, except for some religious movements and sects, which are on the one hand caught by Erdogan's contradictory policies, and on the other hand, they are attracted by position, wealth and power; The pious Islamist part of Turkish society, along with a large part of freedom-loving groups and human rights supporters from various nationalist, republican and secular spectrums, are against the contradictory and populist policies of the Justice and Development Party led by Erdogan. As the crisis in Gaza and the intensification of the crimes of the Zionist regime have intensified the wave of criticism and protests against the policies of the ruling Turkish government and have pushed the communication process of the structure and agency more towards confrontation, it is not unlikely that, unlike previous years, the Turkish society (the agency), to move from the realm of necessity to the realm of "what will be" or "what should be"; And basically, he wants to perform the role of "active activism" and "strategic activism" correctly and efficiently. We saw the initial form of this kind of action in the March 31, 2024 municipal elections in Turkey; Especially in the Islamist and conservative regions of Turkey, the people defeated the Justice and Development Islamism Party with strategic and historical activism and a significant change in the election results, and it is not unlikely that with the continuation of the political process ruling Turkey, in the elections In 2028, another heavy defeat will be inflicted on this party and we will see further weakening of the process of Islamism in the political and governance arena of Turkey.

Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest in this article.

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