EFFECT OF S-400 US-TURKEY TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

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**Effect of S-400 Deal on US-Turkey Trade Negotiations**

A glaring example of implications of globalization and its effects on international dealings can be observed through a recent trade deal between Turkey and Russia. Both turkey and the United States are members of NATO since its early inception. They have previously had very close relations through defense exchange programs. Both countries are significant trade partners. They trade with each other in finance, wholesale, and manufacturing industries. Turkey and USA carry out their mutual dealings in technology, culture, and tourism. The defense technology sharing was one of USA and Turkey’s major trade dealings but since Turkey's acquisition of S-400 air defense technological system, the relations however, have changed in the global context.

Both USA and Turkey being the members of NATO from early '50s held a strategic relationship in terms of Technological sharing and foreign direct investment. They have shared a mutual interest in counter-terrorism and technological advancements. The relationships have been of special importance in the defense sector. It can be seen through the fact that F16 fighter falcon was co-produced by America’s Lockheed Martin and Turkey’s Turkish Aerospace Industries. Moreover, Turkey is also one of the eight countries to partner with United States on F-35 strike fighter program ( Zanotti & Thomas, 2019). In the past decade, both country's presidents have visited each other and focused on further strengthening the relationships.

However, negotiations and relationships between the two countries have since been on a decline after Turkey's agreement with Russia to buy its Surface to air defense system. The United States has raised concerns over this issue that it will put a technology made by Russia directly into one of key NATO allies. Since Turkey has ammunition and aircrafts deals with the USA as well, their concern is that Russia will have access to US-based aircrafts as well. As a result of this act, the Trump administration has blocked the supply America’s most advanced F-35 fighter jets as well as they have stopped the training of Turkey’s pilots who were training in US (Gall, 2019). Turkey was initially planning on buying 100 of those F-35 aircrafts. This technological tug of war between these two countries can cause the loss of one of the most important strategic partners of USA. America is also planning on imposing sanctions on Turkey under section 231 of America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (Zanotti & Thomas, 2019). Officials from America have hinted that these sanctions will be imposed on turkey as soon as the defense system lands on their country.

The effect of globalization and advancement in technologies is creating tensions between two strategic partners. This technological tug of war will have some worldwide effects, like the ongoing civil war in Syria. The relations can be better understood from a fact that turkey was a major supporter of the American stance on Syria and had a conflict with Russia on it. Back in 2015, the tensions between the countries peaked when Turkey Shot down a Russian fighter jet on its border (Gall, 2019). But under the current circumstances, these countries are again coming close to each other and creating a bond through technology. The failing ties and governmental relationships between the two countries are not down to just technology sharing. Turkey blames the United States for attempting a failed coup to remove Mr. Erdogan. On the subject of sanctioning Turkey over this air defense technology sharing, president Erdogan warned the US that, "They should think deeply because losing a country like Turkey will not be easy"(Gall, 2019). This tension among allies can strain relationships between two strategic military alliances that are bonded together for the past five to six decades. Historically during the cold war, a site in Turkey was also a storage facility for American tactical weapons.

**Negotiations to calm the issue**

However, realizing the importance of their relationships, both countries have remained open to dialogue. They have carried on their dialogues for the acquirement of Raytheon’s Patriot anti-ballistic missile systems. They have imposed importance on the solution of problems through bilateral negotiations. As a part of Turkey's dream of achieving long-range missile defense system, they are keen on getting the Patriot system. US have also offered free trade negotiations to Turkey if they abandon their pursuit of S-400. Lindsey Graham, a US senator on the request of President Donald Trump, telephoned Turkey's foreign minister. He said that “My pitch to Turkey was, let’s stand down on the S-400, let’s start free trade agreement negotiations.” (“US to Turkey,” n.d.). His statement further concluded that we want a win-win situation with Turkey. This will integrate their economy and further strengthen their relationships through technological trades. Easing off the tensions, Donald Trump also blamed the country's former presidents for bitter relationships between the NATO allies. According to Trump administration, it is not Turkey or President Erdogan’s fault. They blame it on Obama administration that they denied a strategically important ally when they wanted to buy the patriot. France has also offered to help and settle the situation by offering SAMP/T air defense system as they realize the issue, and importance of Turkey to NATO's missions and aims in the Middle East.

If both countries want to continue their progress and strengthen their relationships more, they will have to develop interactions and continue their negotiations in other aspects of trade dealings. Importance of strategic relationship between the countries cannot be overlooked. Only technology sharing and direct contact on the government front can overcome tensions between the countries. The two countries have to come together for the betterment of their people.

**References**

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