

Turkish Attitude on the Chechen Problem 1994-1999

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The Chechen issue has old national and religious motives and reasons, which resulted from the reality of the Russian occupation of this region, which imposed on it a new character and contrary to its cultural and cultural heritage, and Russian control and the abolition of the cultural identity of the Chechen people throughout the Russian and Soviet era, which collapsed in the year 1990 AD, resulted from the dissolution of the Soviet Union, which The most prominent hopes and aspirations of many people's for liberation and independence existed for the presence, but the Russian response was violent and strong. The Russian Federation rejected the independence of Chechnya and fought with it a military war between 1994-1999, which ended with the restoration of Russian control over Chechnya. Turkey had an important attitude on this war as a result of the Islamic religious connection with the Chechen people and the civilization and cultural heritage that Chechnya was associated with Turkey during the Ottoman period and the control of these areas and the transfer of religion and Islamic heritage to it. In the Turkish Republican era, Turkey, despite its western nationalist approach far from The Islamic pattern, as it dealt with the issue of Chechnya in two ways. The first is that it demonstrated sympathy and a tendency to support the cause of the Chechen people on the surface as a Muslim people to gain the trust of the Turkish Muslim people and other Islamic peoples, and the second from the point of view of the nature of Turkish interests It is linked to Western interests, its membership in NATO, its urgent desire to join the European Union, and thus rejected Russian policy in the areas that belonged to the Soviet Union.

Key words: *Turkey, Chechen problem, Russian occupation*



Introduction

In the aftermath of the rapid collapse that toppled the Soviet Union in 1991, many problems, crises and turmoil that were concealed under the banner of the Soviet state, and prevented the Soviet Union's international strength and international weight from provoking those problems or at least circulating them in international forums, so naturally after the collapse of the Union The disintegration of the socialist camp would highlight these problems.

By extrapolating events in the last decade of the twentieth century, it appears that among the most prominent problems of the former Soviet Union were the position of the multiple Islamic republic, of which some were federal republics within the Soviet Republic, such as the Central Asian Republic and the other part were autonomous republics such as the North Caucasus Republic such as the Chechen Republic It is the subject of our current research, in which we will try to shed light on this problem by tracing its historical roots since the Russian Cesarean era, passing through the Soviet Communist era, ending with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the declaration of Chechen independence, which led to the ill clash with Russia during the (1994 and 1999), which resulted in the return of the Russian military Starboard on the North Caucasus.

Because the Chechen problem is one of the biggest problems faced by Muslims in the Soviet Union, the position of Islamic countries seems important in dealing with the events of this problem, and since Turkey is one of the Islamic countries under the banner of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and at that time linked to Western European alliances, the study of its position on The events of Chechnya seem important to complete the image in clarifying the general causes and dimensions of the problem, especially if we know that the Turkish position falls within a contradiction in international positions on the problem, as each of them appears to them in terms of self-interest or the nature of the relationship with Russia or from the logic of Finding affiliation and goals.

The Root of the Problem: The Causes and Dimensions

The country of Chechnya is located in the confined area between the Turk River and Russia to the north and northwest, Georgia to the south, Ostia to the west and Dagestan to the east (Muhammad Ali, 1983) It is part of the Caucasus or Caucasus countries that extend over the land area to the south of Russia, and is sandwiched between the Azov Sea and the sea Black to the west and the Caspian Sea to the east, between latitudes 38 and 46, and longitudes 37 and 50 (Syaar, 1993). The area of the country of Chechnya is 19,300 km² and has a population of 1.2 million people (Babel Newspaper, 1999) and they are from the Caucasian people that inhabited the heart of the North Caucasus and at the mountain peaks and pastoral highlands or at the forests in the wide valleys where the rivers flow, and they are divided into

three large sections: Chechnya , Ingush and the Kneset (Yusef, 1933) and they condemn the Islamic religion, whose first pioneers arrived in 17 AH following the Arab-Islamic conquest of Iraq and Khorasan and since that time the Caucasian lands and the countries of Chechnya have become the focus of attention of the various powers to control them, they were invaded by the Mongols, Persians, Turks and Russians.

Because of the great economic importance of Chechnya, the Russians developed a future policy to control it and annex it to Tsarists Russia during the days of Peter the Great (1689-1725). On this basis, repeated Russian attempts to seize the country of Chechnya and the Caucasus in general began, but the great Ottoman expansion Which included this region and others has stood in the face of Russian ambitions, and for this Russia has entered multiple wars with Persia and the Ottoman Empire, which resulted in Russia's occupation of the entire Caucasus region in the first quarter of the nineteenth century (Esmat, 1999).

For the purpose of obliterating the national and religious identity of the Chechen, the Russians practiced a long war of extermination in which thousands of people, who in turn launched in successive revolts, fell, and the Russian Caesars began to practice a policy of Russification of the Caucasus regions by bringing together peoples without cultural ties in one political entity dependent on the use of the Russian language as a single 07 kg Anyone who refers to a mention of his nationality, language or religion and coincides with this policy of Russification is punished with a widespread neglect of all areas of the population's life and all local cultural ideas are fought. The scholars of the Islamic world were considered traitors and spies that the Russians executed or isolated whenever they indicated The bad reality of the country, and the Russians forbade the population to talk about me as a side that contradicts the Russian political discourse and considered this a follower of (reactionary) (Abd al-Majid, 1992), but the unjust Russian policy would not have gone without resistance from the Caucasian peoples, especially the Chechen people who were the most authentic and powerful people in the Caucasus Resistance . The truth is that the religious trend and some mystical methods used to control the Chechen society, which was the movement of resistance and the demand for independence until the fall of Tsars on the Soviet Bolsheviks in 1917.

On the other hand, the policy of Russification left dangerous negative effects that still exist to this day through the emergence of several major problems such as the problem of the land that was distributed in an authoritarian manner and was given to non-owners and abandoned to those who do not belong to it, and the problems of nations and settlements that were created to disperse the indigenous peoples of the Caucasus population, and finally the cultural problem that It abolished or almost eliminated all the origins and roots of the Caucasian peoples (Salahuddin, 1989). In spite of the slogans carried by the Bolshevik revolution in 1917 AD, and its endeavor to establish a socialist society prevailing in justice and equality and its attempts to rid the population of ignorance and poverty and deliver the city and

civilization to them through the establishment of education, health, industry and agricultural projects in all regions, but the Soviet Communists were not better than their predecessors Caesars. The new authority began its reign by tearing the bonds of geographical, historical and intellectual unity and creating multiple republics with autonomy, and it merged some regions and separated others according to the political interest of the Communist regime, without taking into account the right of self-determination approved by The new Soviet Union law , and for every patch of the Caucasus land, a marvelous political entity in its organization has become (Salahuddin, 1989). As soon as the matter was settled by the Communists, they began to practice a policy that was not at all different from the policy of Russification, called the policy of (Soviet-Soviet), which included the assertion of the Russian language and culture on all residents, the crushing of national movements, the dissolution of religious societies, the settlement and displacement of large numbers to and from Islamic regions, and others As a result, the Chechen returned to declaring their resistance to the Soviet authorities, and took advantage of the turmoil of the internal situation as a result of the First World War and the new revolution, and on 11 March 1918 they announced the formation of the Republic of the North Caucasus Union, in union with the neighboring Caucasian tribes. They are recognized by both Germany and the Ottoman Empire, Austria, Bulgaria and Russia Bolshevik, but the recent 1922 invasion and occupation of the Republic of the Union of the North Caucasus in the previous step contrary to the recognition.

During the subsequent period until the outbreak of the Second World War, the Chechen made several attempts to resist the Communist regime, which responded in the same way to the bloody method that the Russians used to with Chechnya, and they increased this by broad applications of the policy of the Soviet and legislated Soviet laws for women and transformed mosques into political clubs and made some religious universities secular institutes, and forced ((Some scholars)) distort part of Islamic principles in order not to clash with communist ideas.

Abuse and persecution reached its climax on February 23, 1944 when the Soviet President Joseph Stalin issued orders to exile the entire Chechen people to Siberia and canceled the national borders of the countries of Chechnya, Ingushetia and Tatars, as well as canceled their representation in the Council of Soviet Nationalities and stripped them of every concession, and the exile decision remained in force for 13 years. Until 1957, when the Soviet President Khrushchev issued his orders to return the Chechen to their lands and restore the consideration of five exiled peoples and accused of high treason, and they added to Chechnya, In-gush, Bulgarians, Karachay and Kalmyk, and their national borders were restored, but the exile of the Chechen people was not easy. Tens of thousands of his sons were killed in the process of displacement and exile, and its energy and capabilities were disrupted for a decade and a half.



In addition to it him of the causes of development, learning for an entire generation of his sons, and despite Khrushchev's new presidency undertaking relevant social, cultural and religious reforms, this was nothing but a cover for him to continue the Soviet policy, which continued unintentionally to obliterate the nation's national, religious and cultural identity, and in return, Chechen Show adherence to their Islamic language, traditions, and tribal system that still exists today (Helen, 1979), also Sufi organizations and methods also spread deeply among the people, and the feeling of hatred and hatred toward the Russians began to increase, and the desire for independence grew rapidly. The 1970s and 1980s witnessed a new beginning for the political movement of Chechen towards independence, through armed action and striking Russian forces and members of the Communist Party, as well as holding meetings and meetings. The constant awareness of the masses and the demand for freedom and independence, and also by reviving the national and religious occasions of the Chechen people, such as celebrating the aforementioned deportation and exile, and many Chechen reactions were tolerated by The Soviet government headed by Gorbachev who called for a new era of reforms known as perestroika (Muhammad al-Sayyid, Et al. 1979), Which coincided with a major deterioration in the Soviet economic conditions and the spread of chaos and turmoil throughout the Soviet Union, which led to the result of the great collapse of this union in 1991, and thus gave the opportunity for each of the nationalist Republican Republics under his banner to declare their independence, and included the autonomous republics, including Chechnya, whose parliament approved the declaration of independence and the election of General Johar Dudayev as president of the republic and refused to sign the new Union Document with Russia in 1993, which led to Russia's military invasion of Chechnya, which began in December 1994 and ended In August 1996 by an agreement signed between the two parties, it stipulates that the end of 2001 will be determined as a last date for negotiations to reach the final status of the relationship between Russia and Chechnya. The agreed date for the final negotiations The Russians invaded Chechnya on August 14, 1999 under various pretexts, the most important of which was to blame the cause of Chechen fighters for the bombings and armed escalation in Moscow and Dagestan, as well as an attempt to support the authority of Boris Yeltsin in the parliamentary elections. In December 1999, in support of his candidate, Vladimir Putin, in the presidential elections in March 2000.

As a result of the new operations, Russian forces took control of Chechen cities and villages bordering Russia, Ingushetia and Dagestan, encircling control of the capital, Grozny, and isolating it from the strength of Chechen fighters who have separate pockets in the mountains. During these operations, Russian forces followed a strategy of intensive air bombing at an average rate (80 A daily count, and the scenario prepared to eliminate Chechen fighters and remove them from Grozny and important Chechen cities is completed after Putin takes power and pursues a strict military policy towards Chechen fighters.

Turkish Attitude

Based on the foregoing, it becomes clear to us that the Chechen problem had ancient roots, and it is part of a major crisis that has involved all Caucasus countries, as it is not an internal Russian problem as the Russians are trying to show to the world. This means that there are positions and international reactions that have direct and indirect effects on this problem, And it affects, negatively or positively, the reason for relations with Russia. The turmoil here concerns the Turkish position on this problem, whose mandate dates back to the era of the Ottoman Empire (1381-1923) and is the country that enjoyed wide influence and power over the world. The Caucasus and Chechnya were within this influence, and the Ottomans had a complementary role. Arab efforts to spread Wallace Or in large areas of the Caucasus through some Ottoman army officers and religious scholars (Muhammad al-Sayyid, Et al. 1979) and accordingly, the position of the Ottoman Turks was following the political power of the Ottoman state and the extent of its international influence and the possibility of extending a helping hand to Muslims in the Caucasus against external dangers, and with the beginning of the nineteenth century the role ended In influencing the Caucasus and its issues after the decline of the power of the Ottoman Empire and its defeat against Russia, the region and Chechnya were turned into lands under Russian control.

The truth is that the Turkish position is largely subject to relations with Tsarist Russia, whether Soviet, or federal, because the geopolitical reality imposed itself significantly in this relationship and clearly affects Turkey's position on Islamic republic's before and after independence, and therefore Turkey's position was required after the establishment of the Union The Soviet Union in 1917, and the Turkish Republic in 1923, as Turkey's geographical position and control over the straits connecting the Soviets to the warm waters in the Mediterranean Sea and from there to the world and the importance of the areas surrounding the Black Sea in economic, agricultural and human terms, as well as the general importance Sugary and commercial are all factors that push towards the existence of a mutual policy between Turkey and Russia, and on this basis Ataturk adopted the founder of the Turkish Republic based on a policy of rapprochement with the Soviet Union and establishing good relations with him and not raising any possible problems, within the approach called by Ataturk based on (Peace in the homeland and peace in the world) As a result of this trend, the two parties signed the Treaty of Friendship and Neutrality in 1925, and it was renewed in 1935 for a period of ten years to come, and stipulated refraining from any participation in alliances, hostilities or confrontations against either party (Sedky, 1998).

During the period between the Second World War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, relations between the two countries prevailed over suspicion and tension after the Soviet Union abolished the Treaty of Friendship and Neutrality on 19 March 1945, accompanied by a Turkish rapprochement with Western countries and the United States of America, after



Turkey entered NATO in 1952, and during this period a new conflict arose between the honorary and western camps, called the Cold War, which was a competition, a frantic context for armaments and increased influence in the strategic regions of the world (Hoda, 1999), and during this war the security interests of the West were intensively concentrated in The Central European region and other regions neglected under the banner of the Soviet Union, including the Islamic republic's and Chechnya, and because Turkey is part of the western camp, nothing worth mentioning of them toward the Chechen problem, as well as the strength of the Soviet Union's cohesion and its international influence and consequently the inability to raise its internal problems from Before external parties (Hoda, 1999).

In the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the dissolution of the socialist camp in 1991, and the emergence of the group of independent states in the Caucasus and Central Asia, Turkey immediately recognized the independence of these countries as part of a new policy aimed at creating a foothold in this region of greatest importance for its national security, and Turkey's interest extended to include Autonomous countries of the Russian Federation, including Chechnya (Saad, 1999).

We can understand that there are several factors that force the Turkish rush, the most important of which is the old competition between Turkey and Russia over this rich region and affecting the national and economic security of the two countries, as well as Turkey's desire to find markets for its products after it witnessed a decline in its exports to European markets after the Turkish landing in Cyprus in year 1973, in addition to the Turkish desire to obtain oil and natural gases in the Caspian Sea, which amounts to thirty million tons of oil and twenty billion cubic meters of natural gas in one year, and there is an important reason that emerges in Turkey's attempt to transfer its secular experience to the republics Islamic in an attempt to counter the regional influences of neighboring Islamic countries, and this desire has received considerable support by the European Union and the United States. However, the desire for a Turkish rush was not parallel to ambition, as Turkey does not have the capabilities that would enable it to impose its control on the region despite its geopolitical importance, as well as its internal problems represented by the opposition and economic weakness, its preoccupation with security issues with the neighboring neighborhood countries and the distance between them and the North Caucasus, and its lack For the capital needed to do economic, investment and other projects, we also must not forget that Turkey is going in that Western and American policy that often requires it to contradict the statements of its politicians or their desires, such as those statements and decisions Launched by the Summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which Turkey hosted in Istanbul on 18-19 November 1999, and which came exactly against the concerns of the Chechen people, where the final statement emphasized respect for the territorial integrity of Russia, which includes Chechnya and the autonomous republics, and described fighters Chechnya

with terrorists and refused to raise the issue of independence on the basis of the right to self-determination (Ahmad, 1999).

But Turkey does not want to lose its influence in the Caucasian Islamic public for fear of entering other regional parties and in the region's economic potential. Therefore, we see that it is trying from time to time to appear as sympathetic and supportive of Islamic issues, especially the issue of Chechnya, because of its wide-ranging impact on Islamic countries. However, these attempts do not go beyond being statements or comments that do not provide anything for the Chechen cause and the desire of the Chechen people for independence, such as the joint statement made by the American President George Bush and Prime Minister Suleiman Delirium on the need to cooperate on dealing with the Caucasus Republic as well as the statement made by the Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem about the murder of the Russian army in Chechnya and urban said it is not working as an internal Russian issue as Moscow is trying to be photographed (Afaf, and Mustafa, 2007) Even these statements and calls were facing a clear Russian response, such as the concern expressed by the Russian government about the enrollment of some Turks of Chechen origin in the ranks of Chechen forces facing Russian forces (Khaled, et al. 2007) as well as accusing Russian intelligence of implicating Turkey with espionage activity in Chechnya, which Turkey has officially expedited ,And the lack of cooperation with Chechen fighters.

From all of the above, we note that Turkey did not have a position that gives the Chechen problem support to reach the demands of Chechen, despite the apparent desire in the statements of Turkish officials to solve the problem without prejudice to the rights of the Chechen people, and at the same time Turkey does not want to open a political confrontation with Russia in all Previous periods and even after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Conclusions

Through the information and events we have been exposed to in the research, we can summarize some important conclusions about the Chechen problem and Turkey's attitude on it:

1. The Chechen issue is an old issue and has national, religious and cultural causes and motives, which is the desire of a people that is completely different from the Russian people in their culture, traditions and affiliations to independence.
2. Since the Chechen people became a distinctive character in their Islamic and eastern affiliation after the decline of the Ottoman role, and they live under continuous foreign control starting from the Tsarist Russian state and passing through the Soviet Republic and belonging to the Russian Federation, and at all times these countries practiced a similar



policy in the face of the Chechen by integrating them With Russian society, imposing Russian traditions, customs and culture on them, and abolishing everything related to their national, religious and cultural affiliations.

3. As for Turkey, it had two different roles in looking at the Chechen problem

The first: Ottoman is based on the feeling of the Ottomans that they are the owners of the Islamic peoples and that they are the heirs of the Arab caliphate, so support is predominant on their policy towards the problem.

The second: Turkish - Republican is completely different from the Ottoman approach by adopting a Western approach to its internal and external policy and removing any religious or historical influence on this policy. Thus, secular Turkey has dealt with the Chechen issue out of the Turkish interest, which is based on the extent of its association with Western alliances and treaties, And to the level of its relationship with Russia or the neighboring countries.

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