



**HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS AS A POLITICAL
TOOL DURING COVID-19 ERA: THE CASE OF
TURKEY**

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ETHICAL DECLARATION

I hereby declare that I am the sole author of this thesis and that I have conducted my work in accordance with academic rules and ethical behaviour at every stage from the planning of the thesis to its defence. I confirm that I have cited all ideas, information and findings that are not specific to my study, as required by the code of ethical behaviour, and that all statements not cited are my own.

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ABSTRACT

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Master's Program in Business Administration

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Interactions between states have changed in various ways throughout history and reached their present form. In this context, in addition to coercive and destructive interactions, another instrument has emerged in international politics with the concept of interaction called soft power. Herein, the humanitarian operations of countries draw attention from the aspect of strengthening their soft power. This study aims to reveal whether humanitarian aid operations can be used as a strategic tool in international politics between 2019 and 2022, when the effects of Covid-19 are observed the most. Turkey has been examined as the case study in this research because the scale of its humanitarian operations is too large as its economic outlook is considered in recent years. By conducting case study via secondary data analysis, Turkey's various economic indicators and humanitarian operations were assessed. The findings show that Turkey has increased its ranking in the global soft power index. This could be attributed to its much more intensive humanitarian operations at the global scale than those of their counterparts (emerging countries) which indeed have similar (even

better economic performance) during previous years. This research allows policymakers and scholars to examine humanitarian operations from alternative perspectives

Keywords: Humanitarian Operations, Humanitarian Aid, International Politics, Logistics, Covid-19.



ÖZET

İNSANİ YARDIM OPERASYONLARININ COVID-19 SÜRECİNDE POLİTİK BİR ARAÇ OLARAK KULLANILMASI: TÜRKİYE ÖRNEĞİ

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Devletler arasındaki etkileşimler tarih boyunca çeşitli şekillerde değişerek bugünkü halini almıştır. Bu bağlamda zorlayıcı ve yıkıcı etkileşimlere ek olarak yumuşak güç olarak adlandırılan etkileşim kavramı ile uluslararası siyasette bir başka enstrüman ortaya çıkmıştır. Ülkelerin insani yardım operasyonları bu yumuşak gücü arttırabilmek bakımından dikkat çekmeye başlamıştır. Bu çalışma, Covid-19'un etkilerinin en fazla gözlemlendiği 2019 ve 2022 aralığında insani yardım operasyonlarının uluslararası siyasette stratejik bir araç olarak kullanılıp kullanılmadığını ortaya koymayı amaçlamaktadır. Bu çalışmada Türkiye vaka çalışması olarak incelenmiştir çünkü son yıllarda çizdiği ekonomik performansa göre yürüttüğü insani yardım operasyonlarının oldukça büyük ölçekte olduğu göze çarpmaktadır. Vaka analizi aracılığı ile ikincil veri analizleri yapılarak Türkiye'nin çeşitli ekonomik göstergeleri ve insani operasyonları değerlendirilmiştir. Bulgular, Türkiye'nin küresel yumuşak güç endeksinde sıralamasını yükselttiğini göstermektedir. Bu durum, Türkiye'nin

ekonomik görünüm olarak kendine benzer hatta daha iyi olan ülkelerin insani operasyonlarından çok daha yoğun bir şekilde bu operasyonları yapmasıyla açıklanabilme olasılığını ortaya çıkarmaktadır. Bu araştırma, politika yapıcılar ve lojistik ve uluslararası ilişkiler alanında çalışan araştırmacılar tarafından insani yardım operasyonlarının alternatif şekillerde incelenmesine olanak verecektir

Anahtar Kelimeler: İnsani Operasyonlar, İnsani Yardım, Uluslararası Politika, Lojistik, Covid-19.



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CPI: Consumer Price Index

CSCMP: Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals

EU: European Union

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

HDI: Humanitarian Development Index

ICRC: International Committee of Red Cross

IEFR: International Emergency Food Reserve

IHL: International Humanitarian Law

IMF: International Monetary Fund

MSF: Médecins Sans Frontières

NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

OECD: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

OSCE: Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

PPI: Producer Price Index

SARS-CoV-2 Virus: Covid-19

SCM: Supply Chain Management

UN: United Nations

UNCERF: United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNGA: United Nations General Assembly

UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Refund

UNOCHA: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

USSR: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

WB: World Bank

WFP: World Food Programme

WHO: World Health Organization

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Relations among states have maintained their importance throughout history, and have continued to develop. With the development in relations and interactions, new policy tools have emerged and have contributed to today's understanding of the modern state (Anderson, 1998). These policy tools are used to maintain the foreign policy of the states and are generally as follows; diplomacy, cooperation and association agreements, trade, economic sanctions, military force, and the use of foreign aid (Apodaca, 2017). The concept of Foreign Aid is examined under six headings, furthermore, one of them is Humanitarian Aid (Morgenthau, 1962). Humanitarian Operations, on the other hand, stand out as it exploits both international relations and logistics due to their definition and content.

The term *humanitarian operation* is one of the intersection sets of logistics and international relations, due to involving *humanitarian aid*. In the simplest terms, humanitarian operations refer to the operations to respond rapidly and accurately to lessen the impact of a disaster (Besiou, Stapleton and Wassenhove, 2011). These two terms can be assembled under the same roof of *humanitarian logistics* because humanitarian logistics appears when humanitarian operations are needed and those operations are conducted by *humanitarian aid*. Moreover, those terms will be analyzed within the framework of soft power. Soft power, elementarily, means having the ability of captivating others without using force, so that, they will start thinking that what you desire is their desire, either (Nye, 2004).

The research aims to contribute to the literature by attempting to evaluate the connection between humanitarian operations and their advantages in improving global position of a state. Furthermore, as a case study, the research will emphasize that Turkey's initiative of escalating its international influence by augmenting the number of humanitarian operations contains financial risks during the given period. Turkey has faced several economic issues, during the time period covered by the research and even before. In detail, the indicators (see GDP, inflation, unemployment) of the Turkish Economy, both on a country basis and a global basis, started to draw a negative outlook over the years (Eğilmez, 2020). Therefore, at the first glance, conducting humanitarian operations intensively at the global scale does not seem so rational for Turkey. In addition, the period that is covered by the research must be

examined. In the last quarter of 2019, a virus that is considered whose base is China started to spread to the whole globe. In a short time, cases began to be observed all over the world and countries, organizations and individuals began to take measures. In a short time, cases began to be observed all over the world and countries, organizations and individuals began to take measures, because the world was already globalized (Sforza and Steininger, 2020). In this respect, the SARS-CoV-2 Virus (Covid-19) has two important points in this research. The first of these was a shrinkage in the global economy (Jackson, 2021). Additionally, the number of humanitarian operations increased as the Covid-19 virus was a global disaster. Therefore, the research will attempt to demonstrate the oppositeness of the actions and facts that belong to Turkey.

When looking at the literature review on the subject on a global scale, definitions and general frameworks of humanitarian logistics are generally included (Overstreet et al, 2011; Van Wassenhove, 2009; Çelik et al, 2012). In addition, some studies evaluate human logistics standards (deprivation cost, inventory management, and so on) and try to increase success in these (Shao et al, 2020; Loree, Nick and Aros-Vera, 2018; Kovács and Sigala, 2021). Since this thesis is a multidisciplinary study, international economic policy literature has also been used. Studies in the literature primarily focus on the general definition and classification of the concept of humanitarian aid (Morgenthau, 1962; Riddell, 1987). Moreover, the effectiveness of humanitarian aid and thus foreign aid provided by humanitarian operations from a general perspective has also been investigated (Bearce and Tirone, 2010; Boone, 1996). Finally, the evaluation of Turkey as a country providing humanitarian aid and studies evaluating its humanitarian policy reflected Turkey as a subject in the literature review (Davutoğlu, 2013; Cevik, 2015; Gilley, 2015).

In light of all information, Turkey's humanitarian operations and the time frame covering these operations are open to discussion, especially considering economic indicators and global economic changes. Accordingly, the research objective of this thesis is as follows;

- In the international arena, how can humanitarian operations and thus humanitarian aid be used as a political tool, during Covid-19 Era?

Briefly, the methodologies used in the study are as follows; case study and secondary data analysis. Turkey has been chosen as a case study because it continued to carry out humanitarian operations as a country with negative economic indicators during the period and before. This case study is supported by statistics and information from organizations around the world.

Finally, the content flow of the research was chosen in accordance with the research objective. First of all, an introduction to International Politics has been made in Chapter 2. The aim here is to first introduce International Politics, from general to specific, and then to touch on the concept of Foreign Aid and its sub-branch, Humanitarian Aid, respectively. In the last part, Turkey's Humanitarian Aid perspectives are reported. Later, in Chapter 3, a flow that starts by explaining the concept of Logistics and goes from general to specific is utilized. In addition, there is a subsection that explains the philosophy and history of Humanitarian Operations. Finally, detailed information about Humanitarian Logistics is given. Chapter 4 and Chapter 5, respectively, give place to the research objective and methodology of the thesis. Chapter 6, on the other hand, highlights why Turkey was chosen as the case study. In this section, Turkey's economic comparison with the countries in its class and the humanitarian operations it carried out during the Covid-19 period are examined. In Chapter 7, the findings are reported and then the discussion and conclusion are presented in Chapter 8.

CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

2.1. *International Politics: Definition, Actors and Roles*

International politics has been the subject of research by many scholars from around the world over the years. The research of international politics is relevant for political, economic, social and other spheres. Until recently, we have always considered international politics within the boundaries of individual states, where individuals, social groups, parties and movements pursuing individual and group interests act as its actors. However, it should be noted that the independent states themselves do not develop separately; they interact with each other and act as actors in international politics.

At the beginning of the XX century, there were only 52 independent states in the world; by the middle of the century there were already 82, in 1989 this number escalated to 170, and today their number is close to 200. All these states and peoples interact with each other in various spheres of human life, forming a world political system. In the modern world, no state can pursue its policy without taking into account the interests of the world community, namely its actors (Naumova, 2010). In the entire history of mankind, states have never been as interconnected as they are today in terms of more developed politics and various ways of communication channels. All states and their policies influence each other, which requires the mandatory identification of global politics for the development of the world order. This order will help states to defend their national interests in a situation of constant complications of international relations, and the emergence of new threats and challenges (Beitz, 1979).

It follows that the states of the world are so interconnected with each other that not a single state is able to pursue its policy without taking into account the interests of the world community. At the same time, the realization of the interests of some states infringes on the interests of other states, and this, in turn, gives rise to international conflicts and wars (Naumova, 2010).

In this context, it should be noted that just a few decades ago, the interaction of sovereign states with each other carried the meaning of "foreign policy" (Hudson and Vore, 1995). However, in the modern period, other entities have appeared in the international arena, such as international organizations, and non-governmental organizations of a different nature. One of the most well-known international organizations of the modern world can be called the United Nations (UN). The

interaction of these subjects exceeds the interaction of sovereign states. Consequently, at present it is more correct to combine international relations and the international policy regulating them, and the foreign policy of a sovereign state.

Foreign policy may correspond to the interests of heterogeneous sections of society, deviate from them, or even contradict them. But in any case, it expresses the state's attitude to international problems and its position in international political processes (Hudson and Vore, 1995). That is why, for two years, states have been introducing the necessary measures to protect their people in view of the Covid-19 threat, but they also make decisions that will affect the citizens of other states. For example, the imposition of a state of emergency, the closure of borders and the ban on the exit of their citizens can be interpreted as not only caring for their citizens, but also for the citizens of those countries into which these people will enter (Alhammedi, 2022).

What is the difference between international politics and international relations? According to the Russian researcher Protasova, international relations are a system of economic, political, social, diplomatic, legal, military, cultural, and other ties and interactions that arise between the actors of the world community (Protasova, 2011; p. 80). International politics is the political activity of actors of international law (states, international organizations) related to resolving issues of war and peace, ensuring universal security, protecting the environment, and overcoming backwardness and poverty, hunger, and disease. (Protasova, 2011) Undoubtedly, International politics is an active factor shaping international relations. International relations, constantly changing under the influence of international politics, in turn, affect their content and nature.

The phenomenon of international politics is one of the most important for understanding contemporary relations in the global system. The essence of international politics is understood differently by modern political scientists. The concept of "world politics" appeared in political literature not so long ago - in the second half of the 20th - early 21st centuries, when international relations were undergoing major changes (Calvocoressi, 2013). The first studies and attempts to conceptualize world politics belong to representatives of Western international political science (Calvocoressi, 2013).

In the 1960s, an American specialist in the field of international relations, James Rosenau suggested that structural changes are taking place in the historical

development of mankind, entailing an unusually high degree of interdependence of peoples and societies, fundamental transformations in international relations (Rosenau, 1990; p.16). Their main actors, along with states, are numerous non-state actors entering into relations with each other, which are completely different than interstate relations. In his research, it is often noted that the relationship between new and traditional actors, and states, becomes contradictory (Rosenau, 1990).

One of the most important works that played a huge role in shaping international politics as a science is the book "Transnational Relations and International Politics" by J. Nye and R. Cohane, published in 1972 (Nye and Cohane, 1972). In this work, the relations of all participants in international politics, including multinational corporations, transnational social movements, non-governmental international organizations, and financial groups, were analyzed. The main conclusion reached by the authors is that all these connections and interactions were formed independently of the states and were beyond the control of their central bodies (Nye and Cohane, 1972). Then, this idea was taken up and formulated by Rosenau as the thesis of "two worlds in one international politics." (Rosenau, 1990). It was after these studies that international politics received widespread recognition and attention.

Representatives of Neo-Marxism, I. Wallerstein, R. Cox, and others argue that the main change in international relations is the formation of a global world system, namely the "world system" (Wallerstein, 2004). According to their opinion, this system consists of the center, large groups of states, and the periphery. The basis of their relationship is the global economic processes. In this situation, the states of the periphery are in a very unfavorable position, which leads to an increase in inequality between members of the international system. The underdeveloped states are not even capable of narrowing this gap, let alone eradicating it (Wallerstein,2004). All these three theories of international relations also have a common point of view, which is to fix the integrity of the political system of the modern world.

Supporters of the "power concept" -*Morgenthau can be shown as a representative-* reduce politics to a struggle for dominance, arising from the power-hungry nature of human psychology (Nobel, 1995). Other political scientists (*i.e G. Bouthoul*) consider international politics to be the embodiment of the biological traits of humanity (the innate aggressiveness of the individual) (Bouthoul, 1968). It is considered that the international authority of the state is measured by its ability to inflict damage (Bouthoul, 1968).

Moreover, there were others who still tend to see international politics as a social phenomenon conditioned by the influence of economic, social, cultural and other factors (Wendt, 1999). And here the same principle of objective-historical specificity operates: the goals of international politics are each time determined by the context of the international situation and the nature of interstate relations.

International politics is also widely studied in the countries of the post-Soviet space. International politics is the political activity of the subjects of international law, aimed at solving the issues of survival and progress of the human community, developing mechanisms for coordinating the interests of the subjects of world politics, preventing and resolving global and regional conflicts, and creating a fair order in the world (Kavalski, 2016). It is the core of international relations, is an important factor of peace and stability, development of equality in the system of international relations (Kavalski, 2016).

As stated above, independent states interacting with each other act as subjects of international politics. In addition to this, it is vital to take global incidents into consideration during the interaction of countries in international politics. Some of these factors can be demonstrated below;

- the potential of nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological weapons of mass destruction accumulated by the countries of the world;
- starvation problem
- the global fight against AIDS
- the struggle against international terrorism,
- the most contemporary and the main flow is the fight against Covid-19 (Hite and Seitz, 2021).

The last factor is one of the most important and biggest risks in international politics at the moment. The third chapter will analyze the decisions and actions of the actors of world politics taken to resolve the coronavirus crisis and its consequences. Particular attention will be given to humanitarian logistics and assistance to Turkey in this situation.

It should be noted that the basis of the content of the international policy of each state is the national interest. The national interest is the awareness of the needs of the nation-state and their reflection on the activities of its leaders (Nye Jr, 1999). According to G. Morgenthau, the state's foreign policy should be based on physical,

political, and cultural reality. Under the cultural reality, the author understands the nation and all nations of the world strive to satisfy their primary need - the need for physical survival (Morgenthau, 1951; p.27). In a world divided into mutually hostile blocs, all nations strive to protect their physical, political, and cultural identities from the threat of destructive external invasion. Morgenthau argues that national security is the protection of the vital interests of the individual, society, and the state from internal and external threats, the ability of the state to maintain its sovereignty and territorial integrity and act as a subject of international law (Morgenthau, 1951).

Thus, it can be concluded that today any state, in pursuing its national interest, must also respect and take into account the interests of other states; protecting their security - to refrain from infringing on the security of other states. To summarize, international politics is a process that begins with the development of decisions and ends with the implementation of these decisions. These urgent problems are global and affect the entire world community. Nevertheless, despite the commonality of problems, each state acts on the basis of its fundamental interests and goals. That is why world politics does not always mean peaceful politics. This is a line emerging as a result of both heterogeneous contradictory and concerted actions of states and other international actors on the world stage.

On the other hand, the global political process takes place not only in individual countries but also at the regional and global levels. Processes taking place in one country may affect certain regions of other countries, but not the whole country. This is the result of the globalization process. (Potrasova, 2011) However, one should not argue that these processes are uncontrollable since these relationships are almost completely controlled by states. The breadth and intensity of international political processes are steadily increasing. (Potrasova, 2011)

For a more complete understanding of the functioning of world politics, it is necessary to consider the differences between political processes in the world community and within societies -*states*-. First of all, there is no sovereign power in world politics like the one that decides the political problems in every society. Neither individual powers, even the most powerful ones, nor the world community as a whole has this power (Waltz, 1979). Based on the existence of international actors and the absence of any legislative act or body, it can be assumed that international problems constantly arise. The supreme principle of international relations is the principle of sovereignty and independence of the states - the main participants in these relations

(UN, 1970). That is why decisions in the international arena depend on the interests and will of the parties concerned, or on the strength of one of them, capable of imposing its will by various means, up to the use of armed force. The priority is to resolve problems through diplomacy, using treaties, agreements, and international documents, such as the United Nations Declaration of Principles on International Relations.

In this context, the essence of diplomacy should be noted, a meaning of implementing the foreign policy of states, which is a set of practical measures, techniques and methods applied to take into account specific conditions and the nature of the tasks being solved; official activities of the heads of states and governments, special bodies of external relations to implement the goals and objectives of the foreign policy of states, as well as to protect the interests of these states (Kissinger, 1995). The concept of "diplomacy" is associated with the art of negotiating to prevent or resolve conflicts, search for compromises and mutually acceptable solutions, and expand and deepen international cooperation (Kissinger, 1995).

Even though in world politics there is no supreme power and a body that would make decisions, there is international law, *a set of norms of relations between states developed by interested states*, fixed in international documents, which states adhere to in accordance with their interests (Kolosov and Kuznetsov, 2005). Only with the voluntary consent of the parties, international disputes can be considered by the International Arbitration and the International Court of Justice (Kolosov and Kuznetsov, 2005).

Even though it can be told about some international institutions, some disagreements may occur among states. Some problems are a consequence of the coincidence or divergence of interests of the two states - bilateral problems. Bilateralism outlines those individual countries carrying responsibility for detecting violations of agreements and for imposing sanctions (Caporaso, 1992). Many states are interested in others, these are multilateral problems. Multilateralism can be identified as the practice of coordinating national policies in groups of three or more states, through reaching a common goal through institutions and arrangements (Keohane, 1990). Some of them affect the interests of states, entire regions, parts of Europe, parts of Asia, or parts of Africa. They are regional issues. Other multilateral problems affect certain interests of countries in different regions - special problems.

For example, the problems of fisheries regulation, elimination of nuclear waste, etc. (UN Charter, 1945).

Finally, among the multilateral problems, the most important place belongs to those that in one way or another affect the interests of all countries and cannot be resolved without universal cooperation. These problems are called global incidents as stated above. In recent decades, the number and importance of such problems including terrorism, diseases, and natural disasters have increased. In Figure 1, the death toll caused by Covid-19 between the years 2019 and 2022 is shown.

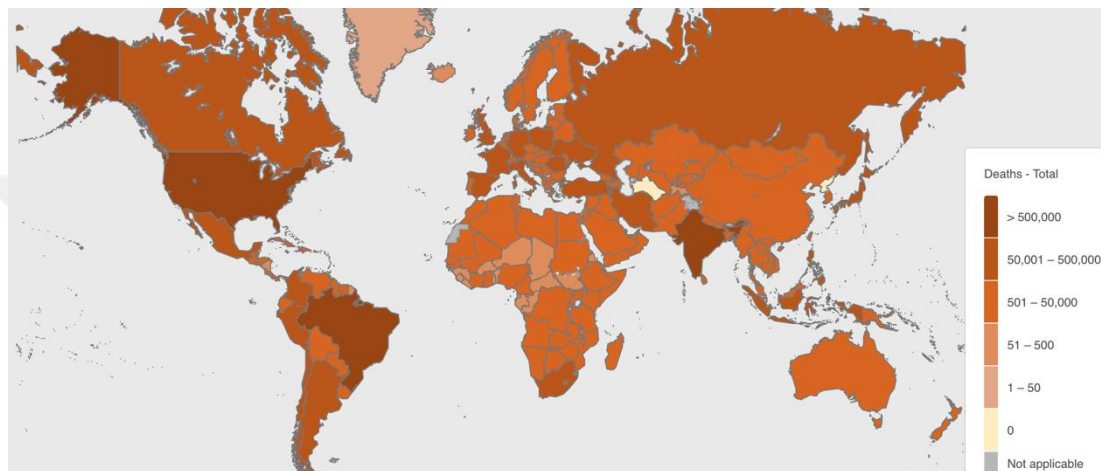


Figure 1. The Number of Deaths from Covid-19 Between 2019 and 2022 (Source: WHO, 2022)

Three years were of particular importance until 2020: preventing an impending ecological catastrophe, preventing a global armed conflict, a storm cloud of a new world war, and providing assistance to the peoples of the poorest countries. However, in 2020, a new threat appeared, for which the subjects of international politics were not ready. What is emphasized here is *the Covid-19*. All subjects of world politics were forced to cooperate and find a solution to this problem because due to globalization, this threat has become not only regional but global (Sforza and Steininger, 2020). Even though China has taken the necessary measures to prevent the spread of the virus outside the city of Wuhan, this threat has gone beyond the control of the state authorities. At this stage, this problem has become global, which required global solutions.

All international problems are solved on the basis of the correlation of forces of the states concerned, which also determine the course of international governmental organizations. Non-governmental organizations, guided by the interests of their members, sometimes exert a noticeable influence on the discussion and preparation of

decisions, but they are incapable of solving international problems (Teegen, Doh and Vachani, 2004). The achieved political solutions to international problems are expressed not in laws and decrees, but in treaties and agreements, declarations, and other international legal documents. Their effectiveness is ensured by the interest of the participating countries in their implementation.

2.2. Foreign and Humanitarian Aid

In the modern world, more attention is focused on the dangers of a military nature, but there are many other threats to human life. In recent years, the UN has been sounding the alarm more and more, claiming that the world is experiencing one of the largest humanitarian crises which refer to the Covid-19 since the end of World War II (UN News, 2020). However, there were still people who suffer from challenging incidents. According to publications of the UN, more than 20 million people in four countries - Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia, and Nigeria - are at risk of starvation, of which 1.4 million are children (BBC, 2017). Long droughts and armed conflicts led to famine. The lack of security and food is forcing people to flee to other countries, which only exacerbates the situation in the region (UN News, 2020). The UN has set itself the task of eliminating hunger by 2030, however, it cannot be said that it has succeeded. To prevent a catastrophe, a quick reaction and joint efforts of the entire world community are required. Among the states that have expressed a desire to help countries in need, there is Turkey. In early March 2017, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the social network Twitter called for assistance to the hungry in East Africa and Yemen, launching a large-scale humanitarian campaign "*Become the Hope of Humanity*" (Yeni Şafak, 2017).

More than 30 Turkish non-governmental organizations and key departments - the Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (Türk İşbirliği ve Koordinasyon Ajansı Başkanlığı, Türk İşbirliği ve Kalkınma Ajansı - TİKA), the Office of Emergency Situations and Natural Disasters - began to coordinate the provision of assistance to the hungry in the region (Yeni Şafak, 2017).

Thus, in modern conditions, humanitarian assistance is no longer considered only within the framework of one state, but more at the intergovernmental and international levels (Kanbur, 2006). Therefore, before proceeding to the study of humanitarian assistance, it is necessary to emphasize and analyze such concepts as *foreign aid*. This assistance is one of the important instruments of international politics. In recent decades, the increasing interdependence of countries has led to forced cooperation

between states for international development and social progress (Kanbur, 2006). Furthermore, currently, not only states but also private organizations are implementing official assistance programs on the territory of other states, mostly developing ones (Kanburg, 2006).

Foreign aid implies a voluntary transfer of funds from donor countries to recipient countries. Funds can be in the form of money, goods, ideas, etc. Foreign aid is divided into six types: *humanitarian foreign aid*, *subsistence foreign aid*, *military aid*, *prestige aid*, *bribery*, and *economic development aid* (Morgenthau, 1962). According to the sources of funding, foreign aid can be public and private (for instance; companies, charitable foundations, and non-governmental organizations). Government development assistance includes Official Development Assistance (*ODA*) and other official funding (Other Official Flows) (Kapitsa, 2010).

In addition to this classification, financial aid and technical aid will be utilized to diversify the content. Financial aid is more used in the implementation of projects for the development of the socio-economic level of the country in the long term (Rosenstein-Rodan, 1961). Such assistance is provided mainly by states, and organizations, for example, the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, material/direct assistance mainly helps to cope with more urgent problems. Compared to providing cash, direct assistance more often reaches the needy group of people (Bjørnskov, 2019). Technical aid is a type of aid that encompasses sending an expert to another country for sharing know-how. since the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak in 2020, many states such as Turkey have also sent their doctors along with medical equipment to help other countries (Güngör, 2021). Of course, this assistance is not used only in emergency cases, in peacetime, states also send teachers or researchers to countries in need of better development.

According to the Russian researcher Kapitsa, the goals of foreign aid can be (Kapitsa, 2010; p.71):

- an expression of appreciation, solidarity, or support;
- providing favorable conditions for the commercial activities of companies in the donor country (for example, access to the markets of the recipient country);
- influencing the behaviour of the recipient country both in domestic affairs and in the international arena;
- expansion of the zone of cultural influence;

- humanitarian considerations /altruism, etc.

When it comes to the subjects of foreign aid, it should be noted that they are, in general, the subjects of international relations, which we discussed in Chapter 1.1, therefore, it mainly contains states, international, non-governmental, and intergovernmental organizations, etc. However, the subjects of foreign aid are also central and local authorities' states, national organizations within one state, family and personal foundations, and individuals (Kapitsa, 2010). Therefore, we can conclude that foreign aid can also come from certain entities that do not provide assistance on behalf of any state.

Foreign aid is divided according to three criteria: purpose; source of financing; transmission channel and terms of provision (Kapitsa, 2010). The first type implies economic, technical, humanitarian and military assistance. Economic assistance is aimed at developing and raising the economic level of the country. Technical assistance is allocated for the development of technical and economic knowledge. Humanitarian assistance is aimed at the population of countries that have experienced natural, environmental, social and other disasters that threaten the health or life of people. Humanitarian aid is manifested in the form of food, goods, etc (Kapitsa, 2010).

Depending on the source of funding, foreign aid can be classified into three types: official aid, private aid, and mixed aid (Durberry et al, 1998). The last type of assistance, the criterion of which is the provision of assistance, is divided into gratuitous assistance (in the form of a grant/gift), bound assistance (by political or economic requirements), and unbound assistance, that is, assistance without any stipulations or conditions.

Thus, it can be understood that international/foreign assistance is aimed at solving long-term problems. However, international humanitarian assistance is urgent assistance to people in need in different countries or regions due to military actions, natural disasters, conflicts, etc. According to a report published by Development Initiatives, in 2019 the volume of international humanitarian assistance from public and private donors amounted to \$29.6 billion (Development Initiatives, 2020; p.41).

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Turkey has also actively provided other states with a variety of assistance that can be utilized in the fight against the new the Covid-19 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Turkey, 2020). Moreover, five countries contributed more than 0.1% of Gross National Income (*GNI*) to humanitarian assistance: Turkey (0.98%), Luxembourg (0.19%), Sweden (0.16%), Norway (0.16%)

and Denmark (0.15%). The majority of Turkey's contributions went to hosting Syrian refugees in Turkey (Development Initiatives, 2021). In Figure 2, the largest donors, according to International Government Funding, are demonstrated.



Figure 2. List of Largest Donors in 2020 (Source: Development Initiatives, 2021)

In Figure 2 above, you can see the five largest donors of humanitarian aid, where the first place belongs to the United States, followed by Turkey, Germany, EU institutions, Great Britain, and Sweden. It can be seen in Figure 2 that Turkey is included in the list of the five major donors, although its GDP and other economic indicators are considerably lower than the other countries.

Humanitarian aid is a set of humanitarian actions of one or more states, intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations, aimed at providing the necessary assistance to victims of humanitarian disasters, natural disasters, and armed conflicts (Gutjahr and Nolz, 2015). In the modern world, from the point of view of international law, the denial of assistance to victims of natural disasters is perceived as a violation of human rights, an infringement on human dignity and a threat to their lives (Rottensteiner, 1999).

Another definition of humanitarian aid was proposed by Morgenthau, in 1962, in his article *A Political Theory of Foreign Aid* (Morgenthau, 1962; p.301). According to his definition, humanitarian aid is per se nonpolitical, additively, the aid encompasses the operations that were provided by governments to those nations that are victims of natural disasters, for instance, famines, epidemics, and so on. In addition to governments, aid that is provided by churches and private companies to especially Latin America and South Africa can be shown as humanitarian aid, either (Morgenthau, 1962; p.301).

Initially, humanitarian aid was sent to deal with the consequences of natural disasters, but with the increase in intra-state as well as inter-state conflicts in the 1980s, it also assumed responsibility for taking action to prevent people from suffering in such situations, as well as to introduce mandatory measures in the international community to prevent such crises (United Nations General Assembly, 2014). According to international law, humanitarian assistance is provided to all without distinction, however, the consent of the state is necessary for the implementation of a humanitarian assistance policy, since this is required by the principle of non-intervention -*one of the international principles*- (UN, 1970).

When it is about humanitarian aid, it is significant to note the activities of such an organization as the *United Nations*. The UN began its activities after the Second World War, taking the place of the League of Nations (UN Charter, 1945). The League of Nations was perceived as a failed project, as it failed to ensure the achievement of its main goal - peace, and agreements between states, which led to another world war that refers to World War II (UN Charter, 1945). Therefore, the task of the UN now consisted not only in maintaining peace but also in correcting the consequences of the failure of the League of Nations, from which the policy of UN humanitarian assistance originates. That is why one of the purposes of the UN, as stated in its Charter, is "the implementation of international cooperation in resolving international problems of an economic, social, cultural and humanitarian nature" (UN Charter, 1945). The shattered European continent can be demonstrated as the first test for the United Nations to rebuild a favorable international order.

The 1994 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report defined human security as freedom from fear and freedom from want. Freedom from fear could be realized by providing protection from threats such as disease, armed violence, and repression (UNDP, 1994). Freedom from want is

defined as protection against the risks of poverty, food security, and low level of social protection (UNDP, 1994). The definition of human security proposed in the 1994 Report was broken down into seven components: the economy, food, health, the environment, the security of each individual, public safety, and freedom to participate in political activities (UNDP, 1994).

The UN has taken an important place in the international community, taking responsibility for coordinating operations to provide not only emergency but also long-term assistance (UN Charter, 1945). This assistance consists of housing, food supplies, housing, medical supplies and logistical support. The United Nations has four entities responsible for humanitarian assistance: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and World Food Programme (WFP). United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) operates at the national level, its task is to mitigate the consequences of natural disasters, as well as to ensure preparedness for them (Browne, 2012).

The main body responsible for humanitarian action is the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (*UNOCHA*), which is part of the United Nations Secretariat. The mandate of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is set out in General Assembly resolution 46/182 of December 1991 (UN, 2021). For emergency response and assistance to be provided immediately, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), managed by UNOCHA, was opened (UN, 2021). This fund receives voluntary contributions throughout the year. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) leads and coordinates international action to protect refugees and address refugee issues around the world. This unit began its activities in the early years of its existence, helping refugees after the Second World War (UN, 2021). Since then, over the years, the UN has kept trying to find solutions to the problem of refugees in many regions, especially 2 cases can be given as an example; the Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as 2016 migrant crisis in Europe in 2016.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) seeks to prevent and resolve threats to children's survival in humanitarian and other crises (UNICEF, 2007). The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) is responsible for mobilizing food and transporting it to millions of people affected by emergencies such as natural disasters. WFP is now the main international channel for emergency relief food (Shaw, 2001).

In addition to the main definition, WFP operates various significant tasks in emergencies such as providing emergency relief food aid from its regular resource and conducting the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR) (Shaw, 2001). Moreover, WFP helps to co-ordinate the food aid aspects of large-scale international relief operations and makes its unique transport and logistics services and expertise available to the international community (Shaw, 2001).

Apart from these four divisions, the World Health Organization (WHO) also conducts its health emergency relief activities (WHO, 2020). It is this department that is responsible for solving global health problems, which the whole world happened to see especially clearly in 2020, during the outbreak of coronavirus infection. The coronavirus outbreak is an international emergency that requires strict precautions. It was the World Health Organization (WHO) that declared the Covid-19 as a transnational threat and demanded the immediate quarantine of every country (Ducharme, 2020).

The Covid-19 spread very quickly around the world, which led to forced quarantine measures in every country (Solovyov, 2020). States have closed their borders for the entry of foreign citizens completely or allowed only a certain category of persons who have a good reason for being in their country (Solovyov, 2020). Despite all these measures, the states continued to cooperate in order to counteract and fight infections (Taylor et al, 2020). At the diplomatic and international level, this manifested itself in the form of humanitarian assistance from states to each other, for example, the supply of disinfectants, medical devices, and even the treatment of foreign citizens (Solovyov, 2020).

Another important actor in international politics, which has a huge impact on international assistance, is the European Union (EU). The EU annually allocates funds and material assistance to projects for regional development and humanitarian assistance (McCrudden, 2008). The values of the EU are based on respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality, and the rule of law (McCrudden, 2008). All these values cannot be achieved without the development. That is why, from now on, the EU extends its assistance not only to neighboring countries in the Neighbourhood Policy, as before, but also to developing countries around the world (Vasilescu, Morari and Kozachuk, 2021).

Another important actor of international humanitarian aid is the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which provides protection and assistance to

victims of armed conflicts and internal disorders (Forsythe et al, 2007). The ICRC is funded by voluntary donations from the member states of the Geneva Conventions - *governments*-, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, intergovernmental organizations (such as the European Commission), and public and private entities (Forsythe et al, 2007).

In recent decades, such a phenomenon as "humanitarian diplomacy" has appeared, which deserves special attention in this study. It should be noted that humanitarian diplomacy differs from international cooperation in the field of humanitarian assistance, since international cooperation is aimed at resolving certain problems, however, humanitarian diplomacy is considered a politicized version of international humanitarian assistance (Egeland, 2013). Humanitarian diplomacy can lead to an aggravation of international contradictions between the subjects of International Relations (Butler, 2006). This is due to humanitarian interventions and interventions, which we can observe today in the international arena (for example: United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, individual countries such as the US, Russia, the EU, etc.). It can be said that international humanitarian aid is no longer only aimed at helping states in need, but is an instrument of pressure and force.

Humanitarian diplomacy has been studied and analyzed by such researchers, for instance, K. Schmitt, H. Arendt, M. Foucault, D. Agamben, and D. Butler (Butler, 2006). Many Western researchers agree that the humanitarian diplomacy of modern states is determined by their national interests, which is a threat to real humanitarian challenges (Agamben, 1998). Here we can cite as an example the problem of Syrian Refugees in Turkey, since Turkey satisfies its national interests and its role in the international arena, and does not have the goal of resolving the global refugee problem, that is, eradicating the military conflict in Syria and ensuring a peaceful, safe and the flourishing development of the Syrian population in Syrian territory.

Humanitarian diplomacy in the foreign policy of the leading Western states has become a rather complex, multidimensional mechanism of influence on the process of global development (Gromoglasova, 2018). Secondly, alternative approaches to humanitarian action, which are put into practice by the new "centers of power", are largely subordinated to their strategic national interests and do not always have in mind such a priority as strengthening resilience at the micropolitical level of the global system (Gromoglasova, 2018). Thirdly, it is argued that to minimize modern humanitarian challenges in a more complicated international environment, the

contribution of not only states but also such actors of world politics as civil society organizations, businesses and multilateral institutions is necessary (Gromoglasova, 2018).

Along with non-governmental actors who do not profit from their activities and are classified as civil society, business actors can contribute to solving the problem of “extraordinary spaces” in modern world politics. Private companies might be involved in this process through charitable projects. In addition to charitable projects, private companies can provide consulting services on post-conflict recovery at various levels (Dare Consulting, Global Emergency Group, Development Initiatives, etc.) (Gromoglasova, 2018). For example, during the crisis in Syria, many private pharmaceutical companies donated medicines and funds to the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, International Health Partners, Project Hope, and other NGO (Nongovernmental Organizations)’s (Gromoglasova, 2018). IBM has developed missing-person tracking and logistics programs. And the three largest transport and logistics multinationals (Agility, TNT, and UPS) are sending their logistics specialists to support humanitarian response efforts (Gromoglasova, 2018). In addition to material assistance, private companies can also provide technological solutions.

To highlight, discuss and resolve global humanitarian and other challenges, international actors attempt to organize general meetings and summits. Due to the Coronavirus threat, many international summits that focus on precautions and common acts on humanitarian issues were being held, including in Turkey. One of the most recent major summits was the Stratcom Summit 2021, which was held on December 11, 2021, in Istanbul (AA Haber, 2021). This summit was attended by more than 30 states, which were represented not only by statesmen but also by well-known experts and scientists from the humanitarian field, heads of think tanks, representatives of international organizations (NATO, the European Union, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the UN, UNICEF, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Program) (AA Haber, 2021). The total number of participants was more than three thousand people. Among the Turkish representatives, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, head of the Turkish Red Crescent Society Kerem Kinik spoke about the country's experience in the field of humanitarian assistance and crisis communications, etc. (AA Haber, 2021)

2.3. Humanitarian Aid and Humanitarian Policy of Turkey

The humanitarian policy of Turkey began to be clearly expressed and attracted attention in the 21st century, but its roots go back to the 19th century when such an ideological Pro-Western trend as Pan-Turkism began to develop (Demirağ, 2005). Pan-Turkism is a secular nationalist doctrine that has spread among states inhabited by Turkic peoples. Pan-Turkism is based on the idea of the necessary political consolidation on the basis of ethnic, cultural and linguistic community (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2022).

One of the first scientific substantiations of Pan-Turkism was Yusuf Achkura's article "Three Types of Politics", which was published in 1904 (Landau, 1995). After that, Azerbaijani Researcher Ali Huseynadze supported the ideas of Yusuf Achkura and published the article "Turkization, Islamization, Modernization" in 1908 (Landau, 1995). Thus, during the period of Pan-Turkism, the Ottoman Government assisted the nationalist movements in Central Asia in the period 1918-1921 (Landau, 1995). In 1923, the book of the Turkish journalist Ziya Gökalp "The Basic Principles of Turkism" became the last contribution to the Pan-Turkism ideology, after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the coming to power of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the so-called Kemalist Revolution took place, after which the country headed for a Western Orientation (Murinson, 2006). Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was an all-round reformer and leader of Turkey. He carried out vital reforms in Turkey that helped the country develop and modernize into a modern civilization. The reforms carried out by Atatürk concerned the economic, social, and political life of the country. Laws on the rights of women and family relations are of particular importance (Kansu, 1997). The ideology of "Kemalism" was based on six points: republicanism, nationalism, populism, reformism, statism, and secularism. Important changes were: the separation of religion from state power, the proud nationalism of the Turks, educational reforms, and changes in family structure (Kansu, 1997).

“We cannot know whether something that happens far away from us will one day affect us. Therefore, all mankind should be considered as a single organism, and each nation should be considered a part of it. Pain at the tip of the finger affects all parts of one body” Mustafa Kemal Atatürk said in March 1937, calling on the future generation and leaders of other states to remember the peace and happiness not only of their nation but also of other peoples (Atatürk Araştırma Merkezi Başkanlığı, 2013). At that time, this appeal could still lay the foundations for the Turkish approach to helping foreign

states, especially since the first steps in this direction were taken in the 1930s, mainly in the field of education (Kansu, 1997).

After the passing of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Pan-Turkism partially returns to Turkish Society (Balcer, 2012). This was reflected in Turkey's accession to NATO after the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), as a tool to protect Central Asia and Azerbaijan (Balcer, 2012). It was after the collapse of the USSR that the modern humanitarian policy of Turkey began. In 1991, from now on, Turkey was not the only country with Turkish Roots, in addition, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan appeared after the collapse of the USSR (Bal, 2017). Pan-Turkism is gaining momentum, opening the Assembly of Turkic Peoples immediately in 1991 in Kazan, whose members are Turkish ethnic groups and subethnic. This Assembly is considered the first Pan-Turkish organization (Calis, 1995).

After the end of the Cold War, many experts and researchers predicted that Turkey's geopolitical role at this stage will significantly decrease, and Turkey will no longer be an important international actor (Kuniholm, 1990). However, despite these predictions, Turkey has become one of the most influential Muslim states in the 21st century (Kuniholm, 1990). After the closure of the Cold War, Turkey moved away from the US and the Western World, as it no longer needed their protection from the Soviet Threat (Suzdaleva, 2021). The economy and social life of Turkey suffered changes and decline, but the return of pan-Turkism and the oriental model allowed Turkey to take a place in the international arena (Suzdaleva, 2021).

In 1992, the Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (abridgment in Turkish - *TIKA*) was established under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an independent unit with the status of a legal entity and an autonomous budget in 1992 (Fidan and Nurdun, 2008). With the formation of TIKA, the institutionalization of Turkish construction and installation policy began (Aliyeva, 2017). Separate issues of providing technical and financial assistance remained within the competence of the State Planning Organization (in Turkish *Devlet Planlama Teşkilatı*). One of the foundations of Turkey's modern aid policy was laid: close interaction between official authorities and departments with non-governmental participants in the International Development Association (IDA) (Aliyeva, 2017).

Since the late 2000s, humanitarian diplomacy has become one of the main instruments of Turkish Foreign Policy. This was confirmed by Turkish Foreign

Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's speech at the 2013 Ambassadors' Conference, where he explained Turkey's foreign policy through humanitarian diplomacy (Ministry of Turkish Foreign Affairs, 2013). Ahmet Davutoglu highlighted that in the new world it is necessary to find a new language of diplomacy for the success of the state. In his opinion, humanitarian diplomacy is a critical balance between conscience and power. He positions Turkey as a country that uses power to protect justice and conscience (Ministry of Turkish Foreign Affairs, 2013). The modern government of Turkey, which includes the President of Turkey and the AKP (Justice and Development Party - *JDP*) often defines Turkey's humanitarian foreign policy as humanitarian diplomacy, which tells us that Turkey uses humanitarian aid in its national interests (Altunisik, 2019).

Contemporarily, Turkey has a global network of cooperation on a multilateral and bilateral basis and has close ties with the countries of the Balkans, the Middle East, and North Africa, the South Caucasus, South and Central Asia (Keyman and Sazak, 2014). In addition, Turkey is deepening partnerships with countries in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Turkey is considered an East European and West Asian country, which leads to mandatory cooperation with both the Western and Eastern worlds (Ministry of Turkish Foreign Affairs, 2021). For a long time, accession to the EU was considered a strategic priority for Turkey, but in recent years, one can see that Turkey is moving away from the Western model and returning to traditional Eastern ideas, however, despite this, it also maintains ties with the United States and remains a member of NATO (Ministry of Turkish Foreign Affairs, 2021). The modern government of Turkey is in favor of the idea that Turkey is responsible to the people who live in areas formerly controlled by the Ottoman Empire that also encompasses Turkic States (Ruma, 2010). The government aims to restore Turkey's global identity as a Muslim leader (Ruma, 2010).

Humanitarian policy which was articulated to Turkish Foreign Policy is built more on a bilateral rather than a multilateral basis (Binder et al, 2010). It is based at the state level but in close cooperation with various organizations. Turkish humanitarian policy contains three perspectives (Davutoğlu, 2013). The first dimension is related to the citizens of the Turkish Republic. The focal point is for Turkey to pay considerable attention to the issues of its citizens and to ease their lives (Davutoğlu, 2013). In addition to its citizens, the second aspect of humanitarian policy is a country's human-oriented attitude in crisis zones. No matter where one is located, the behavior which

is enhanced in crisis areas is very significant (Davutoğlu, 2013). The third element of humanitarian diplomacy deals with a comprehensive humanitarian perspective at the global level, especially vital in the United Nations (UN) system. This field of humanitarian diplomacy focuses on providing a comprehensive structure for the UN system to accurately display the willingness of actors (Davutoğlu, 2013). Since coming to power in 2002, the JDP's use of humanitarian diplomacy in the name of Turkey has changed Turkey's perspective as a donor, especially in terms of increased humanitarian action budget. (World Bank, 2021). The effectiveness of those organizations for aid is open to discussion.

Since humanitarian aid is also considered a subbranch of soft power, the term will be evaluated. Contemporarily, power remains a significant subject on agenda in international relations. Initially, the power concept that was interpreted differently by scholars from various approaches will be analyzed. Essentially, power means the capability of influencing the actions of others that would not have emerged another way (Rothman, 2011). The term soft power was proposed by Joseph Nye (Rothman, 2011). In the simplest form, soft power signifies the capability of alluring others, therefore, they want what you want (Nye, 2004). Joseph Nye defined soft power as follows (Nye, 2004; p.10);

the ability to get what you want through attraction rather than coercion or payments. It arises from the attractiveness of a country's culture, political ideals, and policies. When our policies are seen as legitimate in the eyes of others, our soft power is enhanced.

Aid as a soft power is considered under the title Economic Form of Power (Rothman, 2011). Economic resources have a moderately long history as a subbranch of power in international relations. Actors may suppress financial goods, which *refers to sanctions*, or assist financial resources as aid, *which refers to rewards*, to change the payoffs of the target (Rothman, 2011). In this context, it can be deduced that aid concept can also be considered a type of reward, therefore, it gives us that aid as soft power is a tool that can be utilized in international politics. In Figure 3, it can be seen that the distinction between hard power and soft power on an axis that expands on approaches.

Dichotomous	Hard power (command)		Soft power (co-opt)	
	Coercion	Inducement	Agenda-setting	Attraction
Continuous	Harder powers		Softer powers	
Resources	Military	Economic	Institutional	Rhetoric/success

Figure 3. Demonstration of Power Axis in International Politics (Source: Rothman, 2011)



CHAPTER 3: LOGISTICS AND HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS

3.1. Essentials of Logistics

Logistics is a field whose boundaries strategically influence a business' decision-making process, contemporary distribution channels and production systems, our daily lives, and directly or indirectly politics itself. In modern society, we generally witness cases of the excellent or reformed logistics system and only notice this system when a problem occurs (Murphy Jr. and Knemeyer, 2018). Therefore, it must be academically examined to underline its importance and fields of usage.

From the perspective of business, every store or every trader has to find a strategy to put its goods to flow. For instance, when you decide to order a book or an iPod from a website, it is not just delivered to your address via a courier company. At the same time, it completes a path that contains complicated demands, production systems, retail stores, and so on (Waters, 2008). Fundamentally, logistics is a branch that is responsible for movement and storage of goods from its suppliers to the final consumer (Waters, 2008). Moreover, logistics and logistics-related success require a great amount of consideration. China and its logistics system can be exemplified. After reform policies on opening up its economy in 1978, the Chinese Economy steadily kept growing year by year and in 2001, the country was called the factory of the world by the Japanese Minister of Trade, Economy and Industry (METI White Paper, 2001). Additionally, analysis of logistics data that encompasses 45 countries shows that, approximately, the logistics sector forms nearly 5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a country, within the range of 2 percent to 12 percent (Gani, 2017). Besides, by taking the escalating rates of international trade since the 2000s within the rapid expansion of liberalization and pro-outward approaches that have been utilized by states into consideration, it can be said that the contribution of logistics to international trade will be having a role that will not be neglected.

In addition to being the world's factory, China has become a remarkable aid donor in Africa and according to the Turkish Government's statements, Turkey aims to implement a similar economic system to China's (Deutshce-Welle, 2021). Contemporarily, the world's factory has started to export goods whose value of 100 billion USD in a month, while the European Union (EU)'s total annual export rate is

2 trillion Dollars (Waters, 2008). In Figure 4, China's Export Trade Rate over the years is demonstrated.

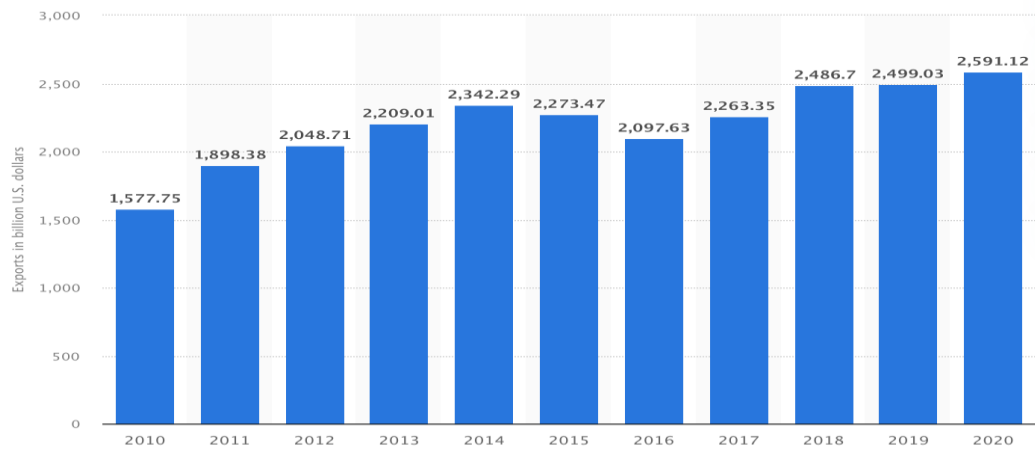


Figure 4. China's Export Trade Rate in billions of dollars by years between 2010-2020 (World Bank, 2021)

As for its managerial side, the definition of logistics commences encompassing more specific areas. This study will predicate on the definition of one of the most reputable logistics organizations in the world "The Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals" or shortly "CSCMP". According to the foundation, Logistics management is that part of supply chain management that focuses on plans and forecasts, puts into action, and controls the efficient, effective flow and storage of goods, services, and related information between the 2 points to be able to provide customers high-quality service and satisfaction (CSCMP Glossary, 2013). Besides, it typically includes sourcing and procurement, production planning and scheduling, packaging and assembly (CSCMP Glossary, 2013).

Before the 1950s, logistics was considered a military term, either. Its main responsibilities were procuring, maintaining or repairing, and providing transportation to military bases and military people. Even though some scholars proposed terms such as logistics costs, and inventory costs, they were in the minority, at that time (Ballou, 2007). After that time, it was thought considerably separated from its military duty. For instance, an article in 1956 demonstrated why airline transport was a more favored way compared to maritime transport or road transport, although these two transportations are substantially more affordable (Lewis et al, 1956). The research highlighted that it was significant and necessary to consider the shipping not only with transportation cost but also total cost perspective, thus, faster and more solid services that were presented by airlines led to diminished inventory costs. (Lewis et al, 1956).

Additively, first college course that has been launched at Michigan State University around the 1960s. The main approach was to analyze a company’s outbound good movements amidst the lectures on inventory control, warehousing, and facility location (Ballou, 2007). While researching the present of logistics, an essential term can be easily noticed; Supply Chain Management (SCM). SCM was quite unknown between the years 1950 – 1960. During the period, developments on new products were notably stagnant and it was all about the technological capacity of a firm (Mehmeti, 2016). In Table 1, Significant Milestones In the History of Logistics are denoted.

Table 1. Significant Historical Monuments on Revolution of Logistics Source: (Cuturela and Monole, 2013)

1500’s	<i>Advanced Postal Service in Europe</i> – The letters were delivered to Paris, Gent, Spain or Vienna Imperial Court
1800’s	<i>Invention of Modern Rail and Highway Transport</i> – With compounding of logistics technology and steam technology, new transports emerged.
1940’s	<i>Military Logistics during World Wars</i> – Business World began to have benefit of advanced techniques of military logistics.
1956	<i>Invention of Sea Container</i> – Development of International Trade notably expedited.
1970 - 1980	<i>KANBAN and JIT</i> – With new notions, supply chain was emphasized. These terms were developed by Taiichi Ohno in Toyota Company in Japan
1990	<i>QR and ECR Technologies</i> – These logistics concepts that focus on distribution were invented.
Present	Supply chain management - An overview of the entire logistics chain, from the vendor's supplier to the end customer.

After the 1950s, we started to observe a new era in logistics which is the disintegration of business logistics (Heskett et al, 1973). The transformation process of logistics from the military field to business logistics has led the branch to develop, acidly. In the 1950s, the first and the most significant conversion was witnessed with the evaluation of physical distribution separately from other steps of production

(Heskett et al, 1973). This independent assessment had escalated the profit in high numbers; therefore, the importance of business logistics was emphasized.

Subsequently, logistics kept deepening in terms of contents which it consisted of. Later, logistics scholars remark on the occurrence of the term “supply chain management” (Habib, 2011). According to most logistics scholars, the popularity of the term reached its pitch point at the beginning of the 2000s (Habib, 2011). Additively, at the Annual Conference of the Council of Logistics Management in 1995, %13.55 concurrent session titles consisted of the words “supply chain” (Habib, 2011). In the late 1980s and early 1990s, logistics transformed from an activity into supply chain management that mainly highlights some vital functions to integrate complex global networks such as design, procurement, production, distribution, and sales which are quite remarkable for a business process. In Figure 5, the partners of a Supply Chain are demonstrated.

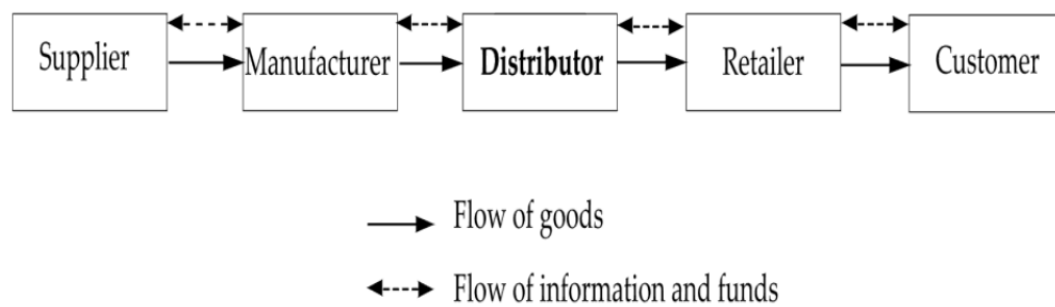


Figure 5. Members in A Typical Supply Chain (Source: Habib, 2011)

In the 1990s, pro-free trade approaches and the rise of globalization, directly and indirectly, positively affected SCM, thus, the name of the discipline had begun to be known more than ever (Koçak, 2020). Another development that contributed significantly to the emergence of the concept of a supply chain is the global dimension of production, especially in China. The definition of SCM;

“Supply chain management encompasses the planning and management of all activities involved in sourcing and procurement, conversion, and all logistics management activities. Importantly, it also includes coordination and collaboration with channel partners, which can be suppliers, intermediaries, third party service providers, and customers. In essence, supply chain management integrates supply and demand management within and across companies.” (CSCMP Glossary, 2013)

Although the concept was getting more advanced, scholars did not agree on SCM was substantially divergent from modern logistics management as stated by the

Council of Logistics Management -whose name will be changed to Council of Supply Chain Professionals by the Executive Committee in 2004- in 1986 (Lambert and Cooper, 2000). Besides, this proves that the reason for choosing the institution's definition as a primary source is not indiscriminate.

In a summary, logistics is a study that has historical roots that can be demonstrated starting with the building process of Egyptian Pyramids (Bamyaci, 2021). Despite its evolution, in modern society, we barely notice the existence of this complicated system except for the times it requires to be fixed. Moreover, logistics is completely and directly related to daily life, the process of production, marketing, and business. For example, when you order Christmas decorations online, logistics do not only cover the delivery process from the store to the receiver's address. It contains complicated processes with the flow of information, calculation, stock management, and so on (Frazelle, 2002). In addition to this, logistics is a field that brings profit if followed scientifically. China is an explanatory case for this statement. It is the country that is called the factory of the world and it is a fact that there is a significant positive correlation between the increasing volume of international trade and advancing logistics solutions (Lin, 2007). Additively, it is vital to underline the chronology of logistics to understand the transformation that starts with the ancient period. The process mainly demonstrates to us that although it was utilized for different purposes such as maximizing military success or recruiting the distribution channels, it was constantly used as a significant scientific instrument. Furthermore, by conceiving that CLM's name was changed to CSCMP, it can be said that logistics kept developing accumulatively without losing its core.

3.2. Humanism and Humanitarian Approaches

Humanitarian logistics is a subfield of the logistics concept that aims to alleviate human suffering by utilizing the systems that involved in mobilizing people, resources, skills and knowledge (Cozzolino, 2012). Furthermore, it can be said that just like other fields of logistics, it must be examined in depth to be able to comprehend the core. Therefore, humanitarianism will be one of the approaches that might enlighten us while evaluating humanitarian logistics.

Humanism, a philosophical and literary concept, originated in Italy (Kale, 2019). This movement, which emerged in the fourteenth century, spread to other cities in Europe as an extension of modern culture. Humanism is an approach that considers the value of human beings, sees human value as the basis of everything and deals with

human nature and abilities (Kale, 2019). The origin of this notion is the term *Humanitas*, which is used to signify the education of man in the Latin World, including Cicero and Varro. The Greek equivalent of this term is *paideia* (Davies, 2008). Therefore, it can be said that the main idea of the approach has roots that point to the archaic age and its philosophers.

Subsequently, the concept of humanitarian actions and their underlying structure must be assessed. Even though there are differences of opinion on humanitarian actions, three principles are acknowledged by extensive numbers of scholars; humanity, neutrality, and impartiality (Blecken, 2010). These three principles whose main targets were to protect soldiers' rights were proposed by Henry Dunant after the combat of Solferino in 1859. Moreover, it took part in Geneva Convention in 1864 (Shafiq and Soratana, 2019). After the termination of the Geneva Conference in 1863, the Swiss Federal Council invited some governments from Europe and some states from America to a diplomatic summit to consider amelioration for wounded people in war (Schindler and Toman, 1988). The conference was held between the 8th – 22nd of August of 1864. The draft convention that was prepared by Geneva Committee was accepted without dominant alterations (Schindler and Toman, 1988). The main principles and conditions that were adopted and maintained by the following conferences are (Schindler and Toman, 1988);

- Assistance to wounded people without distinction of nationality
- Neutrality and inviolability of medical staff
- Distinguishing mark of a red cross on a white ground

Afterward, the convention was kept to be held to clarify and enhance the conditions. The Convention of 1864 was reinstated by the Geneva Conventions in order of 1906, 1929, and 1949 for the same reasons (Roberts, 2019). Moreover, Red Cross Movement is one of the cornerstones of humanitarian activities in history. The movement was born in 1863 under the leadership of Henry Dunant whose motivation was to assist wounded people. Then, the movement turned into the International Committee of the Red Cross (Bugnion, 2012). Its badge was a red cross on a white background: contrary to the Swiss flag. In a year, 12 governments accepted the first Geneva Convention as a breakthrough in the history of humanity on the subjects of providing care for wounded people and neutral medical services on a battlefield (Roberts, 2019).

One of the three concepts of humanitarian actions is humanity (Nussbaum, 1998). Humanity refers to concatenating human suffering wherever it might be found. Author Martha C. Nussbaum cited a quote from Diogenes of Sinope from the book *The Lives and Teachings of Famous Philosophers* written by Diogenes Laertius (Nussbaum, 1998);

When anyone asked him, he said "I am a citizen of the world". – Diogenes of Sinope

Essentially, humanity is predicated on the idea of promoting people to stop discrimination under extreme circumstances such as war, therefore, the quotation given above can be shown as an example to identify one of the motivations of humanity (Rysaback-Smith, 2015). Furthermore, relieving human suffering is one of the main reasons of international organizations deploying that bring limited resources into the communities that experience a disaster or rapid and dramatic social changes which contain conflict in itself (Tomasini and Wassenhove, 2009). However, these organizations are quite open to face troubles in the process of identifying and accessing the aidless groups (Pringle and Hunt, 2015). For instance, the humanitarian actions of the United Nations High Committee of Refugees (UNHCR) in former Yugoslavia might be a case to examine. The operation of emergency alleviation in Bosnia-Herzegovina which occurred between 1992 and 1995 was one of the riskiest and most complicated international humanitarian actions ever conducted. One of the main reasons is that UNHCR was managing an open conflict, the institution was concentrating on both war-affected local populations and displaced people (Young, 2001). In the territory, ICRC was taking action with its own former experiences. Furthermore, UNHCR did not know the area, either. One of the challenges that had been faced during the humanitarian action was the breach of humanitarian space. As the war got intense, the humanitarian spaces were ignored and they began to disappear quickly. Thus, it was a huge issue for UNHCR to provide aid to the groups in need. Another incident that decelerated UNHCR's plans was the safety of humanitarian personnel. They were steadily exposed to assaults operated by snipers, landmines, and bombardment at a level of never seen in history (Young, 2001).

Subsequently, neutrality which is the second notion of three of the humanitarian action's principles must be examined. The term simply signifies that relief must be allocated without caring about the political connection of parties or bias. According to

Britannica, the definition of neutrality is -in terms of international relations- the legal status arising from the abstention of a state from all participation in a war between other states, the maintenance of an attitude of impartiality toward the belligerents, and the recognition by the belligerents of this abstention and impartiality (Britannica, 2020). As it is observed in the conditions of humanity concept, there were some challenges from the point of neutrality, either. The notion which refers to one of the fundamentals of the humanitarian movement was substantially ignored by most of the parties and actors in Afghanistan. A party of the conflict claimed that aid organizations of Western origin were agents of the Imperialist Western World. Besides, the deliberate murder of Ricardo Mungia during his trip from Kandahar to Tirin in 2003 who was a water engineer at ICRC was a stunning issue. His death jeopardized ICRC's reputation for neutrality and efficiency in the area (Terry, 2011). However, ICRC kept remaining its neutrality, despite many organizations and tried to stabilize one of the biggest challenges it has ever experienced. Neutrality is also one of the costliest circumstances that are faced by agencies (Terry, 2011). For instance, in the 2001/2002 farming season, Southern Africa confronted dramatic starvation. According to UN World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) statistics, about 14 million people were suffering from constant hunger in the region (WFP Annual Report, 2002). In Zambia, the UN WFP/FAO determined that approximately 3 million people were in danger of vital food shortages, thus, the necessary amount of food was equal to about 630 000 metric tons (WFP Annual Report, 2002). Furthermore, biotechnological modifications on food have always been open to discussion among states both internally and externally. WFP had proposed new models by using its local offices and creating a whole new system that contains distribution and procurement. This system was predicated on reusing treadmills to process genetically modified maize that turned into an obstacle for producing provender for farm animals (Van den Briel et al, 2007). However, the system led to complicated circumstances that were unpredicted. Then, WFP had to cease the framework and recall all genetically modified maize for removing them from Zambia's territories (WFP, 2002).

Thirdly, impartiality is the concept to be evaluated. It is one of the most talked about humanitarian principles, either, as humanity and neutrality. It is stated by Angelo Gnaedinger who was director-general of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 2007:

“Humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence have become household names in the humanitarian community Humanity and impartiality are principles that most, if not all, humanitarian actors adhere to” (Kraft, 2015).

Essentially, its meaning refers to providing humanitarian assistance ought not to seek discrimination and it shall be directed to those who urgently need care (Kraft, 2015). More specifically, it can be taken into consideration as not discriminating during the operations, equally sorting the groups in terms of their level of need, and defining the types of needs without concerning subjective opinions (Mackintosh, 2000). Although the principle has led the humanitarian operations of ICRC, other international actors or organizations had adopted it in the past century. However, this principle is also considered as a polemic. There is an implicit understanding of impartiality that aid operations might mistakenly form results that can break the local balance or make the context more fragile in the zone (Kraft, 2015). Thus, humanitarian principles must seek to be implemented as a reminder to aid providing parties that they ought to be impressionable to those potential power imbalances and create their frameworks in a considerably impartial way that concerns to commit saving life of communities in need without penetrating a change onto local dynamics.

The principle of impartiality is defined by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) as a comprehension that “humanitarian action must be carried out on the basis of need alone, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress and making no distinctions based on nationality, race, gender, religious belief, class or political opinions” Meanwhile, a sub-organization of UN, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) must be mentioned (Burns, 2012). In December 1991, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/182 and it was designed to strengthen the United Nations' response to complex emergencies and natural disasters while improving the overall effectiveness of humanitarian operations in the field (Burns, 2012). According to Ogata's Bosnian case study, the desire to keep up impartiality was the result of the suspension of assistance. It was a deficiency that prevented humanitarian operations; therefore, it signified that Muslim communities were neglected in the eastern minority zones that are under the control of Serbians in Bosnia (Ogata, 1998). In this case, the Serbians' refusal to authorize entry to Muslim communities which jeopardized UNHCR's approach of being impartial, therefore, it was confronted with the complications of

warping approaches of the parties in the war. In Figure 6, the steps of the Strategic Plan of UNOCHA are visualised.

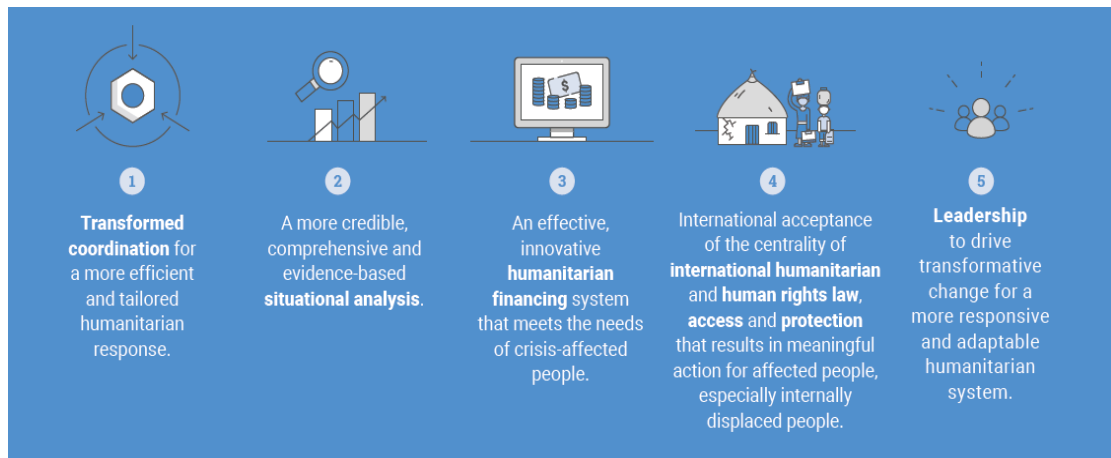


Figure 6. Strategic Plan of UNOCHA (Source: UNOCHA, 2021)

After the three disciplines discussed above, examination of the humanitarian approach would be a topic that can be specifically examined. The subsequent term will be classified as humanitarian space. Even though it is a term that is cited very often, its meaning might not be clear, all the time. The term which is frequently quoted belongs to Rony Brauman who is one of the former presidents of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) (Abild, 2010). The definition was proposed by him in the early 1990s and Brauman described humanitarian space as “space for humanitarian action”, additionally, he said that “where we are free to operate” (Abild, 2010). His words are compatible with the current meanings of “operating environment” and “agency space” (Echo, 2004). Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is a humanitarian organization that provides medical care and electoral surgical services during both contexts of conflict and non-conflict in more than 70 countries (Chu et al, 2015). In 2006, MSF surgeons took action on nearly 125 missions, and over 64,000 surgical interventions were carried out in some 20 countries worldwide (Chu et al, 2015). One of MSF’s pros is its supply chain system. They own a huge amount of pre-packaged surgical kits and mobilized operating rooms which can be easily loaded onto planes.

Conceptualizing the term humanitarian space is also a significant and effective framework in International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Initially, international humanitarian law must be discussed. International humanitarian law can be categorized as a subbranch of the law of nations or international law (Gasser, 1994). Its mission is essentially to supervise or govern relations among the members of the international community, in other words, states. International law has a supranational

structure which signifies that it involves more than one country (Melzer, 2019). Besides, it is an organization whose fundamental rules are binding over all of the states (Gasser, 1994). It aims to sustain peace, protect human beings equally, and to contribute social progress. Although there is an adherence issue for some states who ignore the bindingness of the IHL, it can be claimed that it contains customary law (Abild, 2010).

It is a challenging mission to create and preserve a humanitarian space and it can be verified by taking the case of Bosnia-Herzegovina (Yamashita, 2017). The difficulty is caused due to unstable conditions, such as weather conditions or a zone that could be limited by security, which might be unique in every single case. In addition to this, non-humanitarian actors such as governments, rivals, and militaries (Tomasini and Wassenhove, 2009). Those actors always might not be motivated by humanitarian principles (Yamashita, 2017). Humanitarian spaces exist both physically and metaphorically (Hilhorst and Jansen, 2010). As of physical humanitarian spaces, it is emphasized with refugee camps, humanitarian corridors that are used during ceasefire, safe havens where humanitarian aid is provided, and manoeuvre rooms for humanitarian aid agencies to work without fear (Hilhorst and Jansen, 2010). Additionally, in terms of political debates and the physical existence of humanitarian space, the lack of an appropriate government is a negative issue for composing humanitarian space. In a metaphorical sense, humanitarian spaces can be demonstrated with interactions among the separate members of the humanitarian ecosystem (Maspero and Ittmann, 2008). During natural disasters, humanitarian space takes a significant role, and taking that role is considerably more facile compared to political issues or war conditions. In these conditions, government and different parties might share the same values easier, either. In Figure 7, three essential notions of a Humanitarian Space are illustrated.

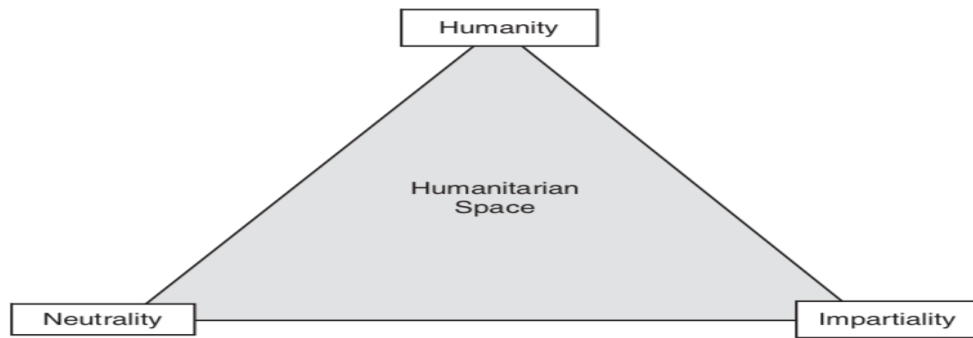


Figure 7. Illustration of Humanitarian Space (Source: Tomasini and Wassenhove, 2009)

What agencies try to provide about humanitarian space is to equalize three principles; humanity, neutrality, and impartiality (Dufour et al, 2004). In Figure 7, humanitarian space is illustrated as a triangle. What is to focus on the triangle is that any loss of one of the principles may cause the shape and size of the space.

3.3. Humanitarian Logistics

In this sub-heading, functions of humanitarian logistics will be examined and the significance of disaster management will be emphasized. There are different forms of disasters; tsunamis, terrorist attacks, pandemics, hurricanes, or earthquakes between the years 1999 and 2008, approximately more than 7.000 disasters occurred, according to the report of the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC, 2009). Besides, all of these disasters' bills cost nearly 1 trillion Dollars and there was a death toll that was 1.2 million people worldwide (IFRC, 2009). By taking only these statistics which nearly cover 9 years into consideration, it can be highlighted the importance of humanitarian logistics. In addition to this, in research on disasters that emerged in the last four decades, scholars emphasized that humanitarian operations kept coming into prominence and 80% of those operations were logistics (Hall et al, 2011).

Humanitarian logistics comprises various types of operations at different periods. The term humanitarian logistics embodies a wide range of operations including the distribution of medical supplies for routine disease prevention, food supplies to fight hunger, and critical supplies in the aftermath of a disaster (Holguín-Veras et al, 2012). All of the common targets of those operations are to assist needy people in surviving. Despite that, aid that supports the development of a territory, famine aid and the running of refugee camps are extensively different from the type of required aid after a natural disaster (Holguín-Veras et al, 2012). Therefore, two main notions of

humanitarian logistics can be classified as continuous aid work and disaster relief (Kovacs and Spens, 2009). Even though famine aid is confused with disaster relief, it is technically separate. Famines do not emerge due to the scantness of food in the world. The food does not have an efficient flow to where it is needed (Wood et al, 1995). Effective logistics is the key to famine relief because the most significant part of the operation is to procure aid to the true location where needy people are. Thus, the logistics of famine relief is unique for three reasons (Wood et al, 1995);

- Locations where famines occur
- Types of final consumers
- Political environment of the relief

In terms of locations, famine relief differs from other relief. Natural disasters may occur at any location in the world, but famines are mostly observed in less developed countries with unimproved infrastructures (Pelling, 2001). Moreover, those countries are usually the ones that are away from mainstream lanes. In addition to this, consumers of final products or final consumers are customers of a carrier or supplier (Cuny and Hill, 1999). Thirdly, the political environment of the famine aid plays a huge role (Devereux, 2000). For instance, famine relief has the capability of unbalancing the local production of food by providing an uncalculated amount of relief that might dissuade local producers. Finally yet importantly, it is vital to emphasize that famine relief is an enormous business whose value was approximately 3 billion dollars in 1991 (Wood et al, 1995). There are more than 100 leading relief agencies worldwide and each of them has over 1 million dollars in annual budget (Wood et al, 1995). Moreover, nearly every government is playing a role as a donor, recipient, or participant.

Subsequently, the basic differences between commercial logistics and humanitarian logistics will be discussed. Commercial logistics initially focuses on the optimization of different phases of manufacturing, distribution, and waste retrieval (Rutner et al, 2012). It comprises a large spectrum of activities that require definitive analytical models. Essentially, commercial logistics highlights minimizing both the costs of logistics and transport, knowing the nature and flow of the cargo, and analyzing the destination and demand of the cargo (Rutner et al, 2012). Besides, all those complicated systems take place in circumstances that support other systems to be stable such as transportation. On the contrary, humanitarian logistics comprises a

framework of activities that might emerge at any one of the phases of emergency management, such as mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery (Holguin-Veras et al, 2012).

While examining the whole phases of humanitarian logistics, another term disaster management comes to the forefront. Disasters, throughout history, did always exist. To evaluate them as a disaster, they ought to have a chance of affecting or jeopardizing human being's life (Coppola, 2006). Until humans appeared in the world, both the probability and the results of disasters were unpredictable and unobservable, therefore their existence was not debated (Coppola, 2006). In other words, the history of disasters comes along with the history of human beings. Archaeological discovery has demonstrated that our prehistoric ancestors confronted many of the same risks that exist today; starvation, inhospitable elements, dangerous wildlife, violence at the hands of other humans, disease, accidental injuries, and more (Coppola, 2006). Moreover, our ancestors, instead of resigning to their fate, essayed to bring solutions against those disasters, i.e., moving and starting to live in caves (Carter, 2008).

Although disaster management was being developed since the beginning of human beings' appearance, there is no global approach to generalize evaluation (Carter, 2008). During modern times, disaster management has been commenced to be emphasized by institutions, as well.

Historically first proofs of disaster management were observed in 3200 BC in the territory of today's Iraq (Jha, 2010). The society that was a pioneer or one of the first examples of disaster management is called "Asipu" (Jha, 2010). When there was a vital situation or an issue that involves a high amount of risk, they used to consult "Asipu" for conceiving the options. The Asipu simply meant utilizing a process to measure the vast of a hazard (Jha, 2010). The way that is preferred for preventing a disaster was to analyze the problem, then, deliver a solution and as the last step, implement one of the alternatives and review the outcomes (Jha, 2010). Today this methodology was predicated on the term "decision analysis" which is elementarily used to support the efficiency of humanitarian actions and disaster management. In Table 2, some of the most disruptive natural disasters in history are demonstrated.

Table 2. Significant Disasters in the History of World History (Sources: JHA, 2019; Statista, 2022)

Disaster	Country	Year	Number of Persons died
Mediterranean Earthquake	Egypt and Syria	1201	1.100.000
Shaanzi Earthquake	China	1556	830.000
Calcutta Typhoon	India	1737	300.000
Bengal Famine	India	1770	15.000.000
Caribbean Hurricane	Martinique and Barbados	1780	22.000
Influenza Epidemic	World	1917	20.000.000
Bengal Famine	India	1943	3.000.000
Tangshan Earthquake	China	1976	655.000
Golcuk Earthquake	Turkey	1999	17.480
Covid-19 Epidemic	World	2019	6.800.000

Another demonstration from history is about organized emergency response. Before evaluating it, the definition of the approach must be mentioned. It simply signifies that emergency response is the phase of the disaster-management cycle that often attracts the most attention and resources (WHO, 2002). However, it must be emphasized that at the beginning of the common era, it was not the same as its contemporary approach. When a volcano called “Vesuvius” exploded in 79, it turned two towns “Pompeii and Herculaneum” into ashes (Coppola, 2006). The people and buildings of Herculaneum, which was the closest settlement to the volcano, disappeared in ashes, however, the majority of Pompeii Mass survived because of early warnings and mass evacuations that were organized by city leaders (Coppola, 2006). Even though it is difficult to frankly say that the history of disaster management proposes how countries exactly developed their capacity and their systems, it is sure

that disaster management system is common that almost all of the nations and societies attempted to utilize professionally or not.

Another dimension that might help us to examine the notion better is the “*Disaster Management Approach with 4 Phases*”. Contemporarily, disaster management is based on 4 phases that are a combination of mitigation, preparation, response, recovery (Coppola, 2006).

Mitigation. Diminishing the effects of a disaster on a specific event might be achieved by mitigation efforts whose goal is of preventing the threat by utilizing preparedness measures that are efficient to escalate the capability of response and recovery phases against intuited problems beforehand of an actual disaster event (National Research Council, 2007). To demonstrate mitigation, we can count as follow; constructing buildings to decrease side effects, identifying and examining hazards to avoid putting social or physical assets in an area with potential harm expectation, and coding computer software to defend against any cyberattacks.

Preparation. This notion includes gathering people or executives that might be affected and giving them related equipment by a disaster or who may be able to help affected people with the tools to escalate their opportunity of survivability and to curtail their losses (Collins, 2000). As an example, the results of a lack of preparedness can be discussed. September 11 attacks or 9/11 attacks are the attacks that were organized as a series of airplane hijackings and implementing suicide attacks. These attacks occurred in 2001 by 19 terrorists who have attached to one of the Islamic extremist groups al-Qaeda. After these attacks, the number of tolls was considerably high and there were some points where the preparedness phase of disaster management had a deficiency; communication and coordination, unpredictable behaviors of patients at hospitals, and hospital preparation (Simon and Teperman, 2001). Deficiency of communication and coordination is one of the most vital mistakes that the US Government neglected until the attack (Simon and Teperman, 2001). According to Simon and Teperman, civil communication and coordination centers must be located on territories that prevent them to become an easier target, besides, these centers must provide coordination between hospitals and field forces about the capacity and occupancy rate of hospitals, transiently (Simon and Teperman, 2001; p.84).

Response. This term signifies taking action to diminish or remove the effects of disasters that occurred or disasters currently ongoing, in order to prevent mental and financial loss. Moreover, it contains such processes as follows (Carter, 2008);

- Implementing plans
- Activating counter systems
- Search and rescue
- Providing emergency packs (food, shelter, medical assistance, and so on)
- Evacuating

Forest fires in Turkey that occurred in 2021 can be given as an example of the lack of the third phase of disaster management. On the 28th of July, 2021, one of the greatest forest fires in the history of Turkey occurred (Deutsche-Welle, 2021). These forest fires lasted 2 weeks and they were taken under control with lots of casualties (Deutsche-Welle, 2021). Although there are more than one reasons that caused these fires, lack of preparedness and neglect must be emphasized. When fires between the years 2010-2020 are examined, there are 2 reasons that are more dominant and major compared to the rest of the reasons; omission (30%) and unknown origin (45%) (Avci and Korkmaz, 2021). These omissions that led to forest fires in Turkey are; a lack of air control team and equipment and a lack of experienced executives which are great mistakes for a country whose 29% of the total landscape is the forest (OGM, 2020).

Recovery. Recovery activities address eliminating or diminishing the direct and profound effects of a disaster and its long-term consequences (Oloruntoba et al, 2018). Furthermore, it attempts to create an atmosphere for accelerated recovery. It is an integrated process of supporting communities that had suffered from disasters (Oloruntoba et al, 2018). Besides, this process involves renewing and reorganizing both economic and natural environments. In Figure 8, the disaster management cycle and its steps are denoted.

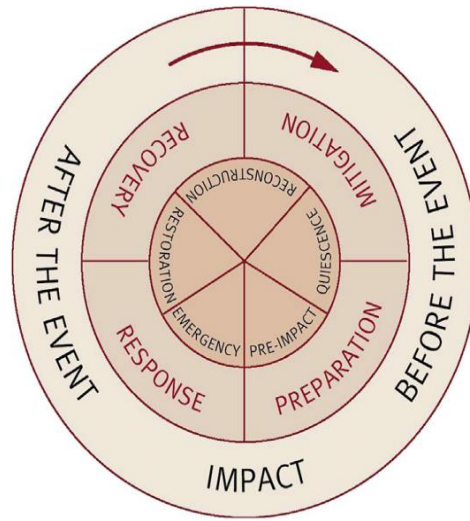


Figure 8. Disaster Management Cycle (Source: Cappola, 2006)

As it is stated above, disaster management is a process that contains four phases that aim to diminish the detrimental effects on communities that passed through a disaster. Therefore, it is articulated that it is an expense item that must not be considered by countries as a sunk cost. As one of the indicators, Turkey's share of United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Donor Contributions and Pledges in 2010 can be demonstrated. When Table 3 is discussed, Turkey's contribution rank is 30 out of 125 donor countries (Cappola, 2006). Even though the main mission of CERF does not contain internal mitigation that might be utilized by Turkey, Turkey's contributions matter in issues of being sensitive to international disaster and attempting to become a country that proves it as a political power. In Table 3, Donor Contributions published by United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund are demonstrated.

Table 3. CERF Donor Contributions and Pledges in 2010 (Source: CERF, 2010)

Country	Pledges and Contributions (US\$)
United Kingdom	\$364,933,003
Netherlands	\$285,068,964
Sweden	\$259,454,320
Norway	\$241,193,303
Canada	\$168,185,892
Spain	\$165,754,141
Ireland	\$98,083,022
Germany	\$63,500,346
Denmark	\$45,740,645
Australia	\$44,684,600
Finland	\$36,905,545
Switzerland	\$29,017,279
Luxembourg	\$27,822,901
United States of America	\$25,000,000
Belgium	\$23,707,347
Republic of Korea	\$14,500,000
Qatar	\$12,150,000
Japan	\$10,669,083
Italy	\$8,621,295
France	\$4,798,946
New Zealand	\$3,762,700
India	\$3,000,000
Austria	\$2,308,032
China	\$2,000,000
Russian Federation	\$2,000,000
Portugal	\$1,399,385
Greece	\$1,379,138
Poland	\$1,360,000
Iceland	\$1,319,861
Turkey	\$1,300,000
South Africa	\$1,197,138
Liechtenstein	\$899,970
Czech Republic	\$531,706
Indonesia	\$525,000
Mexico	\$500,000
Saudi Arabia	\$500,000
Monaco	\$491,608
Romania	\$430,625
Brazil	\$429,985
Estonia	\$350,558
Kuwait	\$350,000

Internally considered, Turkey formed its own disaster management system in 2013. After the earthquake in Van Province in 2011, the Turkish Government and its executives decided to work on a modern system that is to be followed before, during, and after disasters (Öcal, 2021). The system is called Disaster Emergency Response Services Regulation and it is operated under the roof of AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency) (Öcal, 2021). Moreover, this system is operated from a center and is interpreted as a potential threat adjuvant in case of a disaster in terms of analyzing and diagnosing the disaster because urban planning is not stable and similar in different parts of Turkey (Öcal, 2021).

In addition to humanitarian logistics and disaster management, humanitarian supply chain is the notion to be evaluated. Firstly, the humanitarian supply chain will be discussed. Humanitarian supply chain is an emerging area as a logistics discipline

(Behl and Dutta, 2019). Since efficiency and effectiveness are one of significant terms of logistics in terms of measuring success, they maintain their importance when it comes to the humanitarian supply chain because it elementarily empowers the flow of goods and services (Da Costa, Campos and Bandeira, 2012). As business supply chain requires, humanitarian operation supply chain contains some steps as follows; preparation, planning, procurement, transportation, storage, tracking and customs clearance (Da Costa, Campos and Bandeira, 2012). While studying humanitarian supply chain, the element of human carries unpredictability with it, thus, one of its most important contributions is *resilience* in supply chain (Blecken et al, 2009). Besides human as an element, some factors such as natural disasters, cyber-attacks, financial instability and terrorism may cause to loss effectivity in humanitarian supply chain, therefore, a resilient supply chain for humanitarian actions come into prominence (Behl and Dutta, 2019). In Figure 9, it can be seen an illustration of a humanitarian supply chain model.

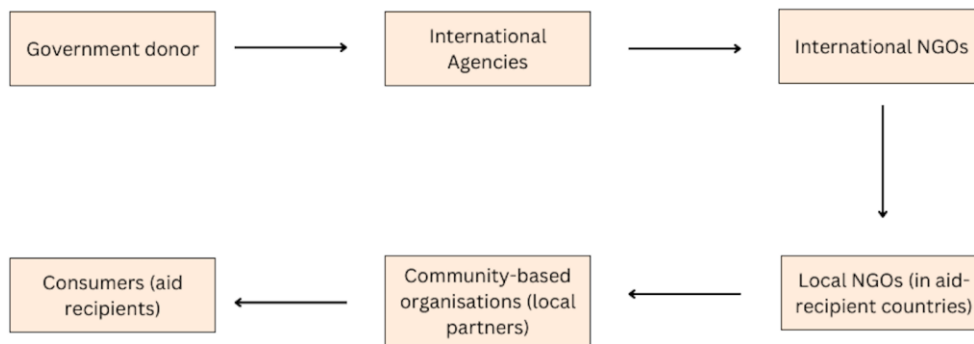


Figure 9. Model of a Humanitarian Supply Chain (Source: Oloruntoba and Gray, 2006)

Subsequently, effects of Covid-19 on humanitarian operations and humanitarian supply chain will be analysed. Even though humanitarian supply chain and commercial supply chain have similarities, there are some bigger challenges in humanitarian supply chain such as conducting these operations under damaged infrastructures (*limited transportation or limited energy*), working with multiple stakeholders, governmental mediation, and final recipient (Balcik et al, 2010). Furthermore, it is crucial for a humanitarian supply chain to meet sustainable activities, however, a sustainable humanitarian supply chain had totally unusual challenges compared to other disasters such as famine, drought and earthquakes

because it didn't have former experiences (Lu et al, 2020). Although it has a short history compared to other branches of logistics, challenges of sustainable humanitarian supply chain are detected as follows; organizational challenges (*lack of skilled workers or volunteers and lack of coordination*), social challenges (*lack of awareness among people and spread of rumours*), technical challenges (*limited infrastructure of telecommunication and inadequate transportation*), economic challenges (*shortage of materials and insufficient funding*) and environmental challenges (*uncertain demand and rapid emergence of clusters*) (Karuppiah et al, 2021).

As for humanitarian operations, effects of Covid-19 were observed on that sub-branch, either. In some territories that get benefit of humanitarian assistance and contain mostly displaced people, there were difficulties such as critical shortages of health kit (*personal protective equipment, ventilators and testing equipment*) (San Lau, 2020). Thus, it made humanitarian operations more inconvenient for paramedics and doctors. As an example, some of the refugees in Lesbos, Greece, made effort to sew handmade masks for prevention of Covid-19 Spread in camps (San Lau, 2020). Furthermore, a humanitarian operation worker stated that what is already vulnerable became even more vulnerable due to Covid-19 (San Lau, 2020). Moreover, by considering the destructive side effects of Covid-19 on supply chains, it directly leads humanitarian operations to be implemented more difficultly to alleviate human suffering (Farooq et al, 2021).

CHAPTER 4: METHODOLOGY

4.1. *Research Objective*

Humanitarian aid and its operations have always been utilized by lots of states as an extension of soft power on international politics and its effect has sprawled to professions such as logistics. Especially between the era of 2019 and 2022, there were global incidents that led us to observe those operations; *Covid-19 Spread*. Therefore, this notion is not only a mainstream subject but also one to be taken into consideration, more circumspectly. Since 2004, Turkey, as its quasi-states such as Brazil, Hungary, and China have begun to use foreign aid, either (Kuraklıkaya and Nurdun, 2010).

To the best of our knowledge, it is determined that there is limited progress on such a vital issue. Moreover, the humanitarian logistics capability and financial stability of Turkey are two major points of the research while emphasizing the main research question. Since the beginning of the 2010s, the economic data of Turkey in terms of almost all kinds of indicators started to have negative appear. In addition to this, the economic damage of the Covid19 Era is estimated as between 400 and 675 billion Turkish Liras which is currently equal to between 26 and 45 billion Dollars (Adıgüzel, 2020). To highlight the depth of the crisis and heaviness of the amount, the currency stock of Turkey in March 2022 which is 105.9 billion US Dollars can be demonstrated (TCMB, 2022). Furthermore, this research is a junction point of logistics and international politics in terms of evaluating the implementation of logistics methods on humanitarian logistics and its international feedback. Thus, the dissertation does predicates on the following research question;

In the international arena, how can humanitarian operations and thus humanitarian aid be used as a political tool, during Covid-19 Era?

While following the main target and research question, in this respect, the study will, primarily, focus on the essential knowledge of international relations, logistics, and humanitarian logistics. After evaluation of the definitions and crucial notions, Covid-19 Era which encompasses the time period of the research and examples that will be used for diversifying the content will be enlightening the ideas. Furthermore, by predicating on the research question, Turkey's international strategy by following

humanitarian aid as soft power, its pros and cons, and its humanitarian operations have been analyzed.

4.2. Research Method

In this chapter, research method and its design that is utilized to study this dissertation will be demonstrated. The research question that guides the main content of the dissertation has to be answered in accordance with the appropriate method. In this research, the relationship between humanitarian operations and the economic/political development of donor countries, especially among emerging donors, has been evaluated by collecting statistics, data, and news from international institutions. Hence, as a research method, we used the case study via secondary data analysis.

First of all, the methodology mentioned above will be introduced and the reason that the methodology is chosen will be highlighted. Secondary analysis is when previously collected data are re-assessed (Greenwood, 2020). It can be run by the same researcher, or by another researcher who might get access to the relevant data (Greenwood, 2020). Researchers will utilize information to seek new debates that were not considered in the original project or to bring distinctive approaches, strategies, or frameworks which did not take a part in the first analysis (Greenwood, 2020). Thus, datasets and statistics are gathered and collected to highlight the debate that the dissertation emphasizes. In this sense, statistics from international institutions, governmental organizations, and NGOs are utilized. Datasets collected from World Bank, IMF and OECD compose most of the economic sources in the dissertation. Furthermore, independent statistics institutions such as Brand Finance and Statista were exploited. Moreover, United Nations and its sub-organizations were utilized while gathering theoretical information about international relations and humanitarian logistics.

On the other hand, we have also used the case study. Its basic definition is a group of approaches in political science and international relations that aim at testing and helping develop theory (Ruffa, 2020). The main distinguishing feature of the case study approach is their concentration point on one or more than one case, however, with the initiative to comprehend and highlight more extensive and more common dynamics (Ruffa, 2020). This signifies two main corresponding functions that are illustrating an observed phenomenon by taking its complexity into account and the second function is to try to generalize to a broader universe of cases (Ruffa, 2020). In

this dissertation, there is a chosen *res gestae* that profoundly affected the international systems during the given period; Covid-19 Pandemic. This case will be analyzed to support the main idea behind the research and it will attempt to encourage to find answers to the research question. Therefore, as a case, Turkey's humanitarian operations during Covid-19 are selected.

While running this assessment, the data that will be enlightening the content is; employment rate, inflation rate, balance of trade, balance of payments, distribution of wealth, gross domestic product, and distribution of income. These indicators are the main determinants while measuring the stability of an economy (Frumkin, 2015). The reason for using these indicators is the result of research that focuses on analyzing Turkey's international possessives that are related to humanitarian operations, therefore, measuring an economy will be helping to interpret the question. One of the most accurate economic measurement signals is GDP which is also one of the strongest secondary data in terms of reanalyzing the dataset and also utilized to expose the differences and similarities of selected countries. The rest of the indicators given above are chosen to amplify the main idea by presenting more sources. Furthermore, they are not selected indiscriminately. Economy books that focus on gauging the Turkish Economy and global macroeconomy are examined and the books utilized are; Turkish Economy by Mahfi Eğılmez and Macroeconomics by Daron Acemoęlu.

Furthermore, data is collected from international institutions that concentrate on the global economy and publish sources about them such as World Bank, and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), additively, domestic economy-related institutions such as the Turkish Central Bank and Turkish Development Assistance (TIKA). This methodology and data will attempt to come up with receipts of the impact of an economy on humanitarian operations.

Turkey, the country chosen as the case study, has been evaluated with both its economy and humanitarian aid operations. These values were compiled using the secondary data. The reliability of the sources used in cases where Secondary Case Analysis is used is significant. The institutions where economic data sets and statistics are collected (*IMF, World Bank and OECD*) are highly respected in their fields, not only in economic but also in demographic and social branches. In detail, the IMF and the World Bank publish many key economic indicators, some of which are; World Economic Outlook and Article IV Report. Moreover, the OECD is a useful institution for those collecting data on aid by presenting a country's aid statistics. In addition to

these, many studies in similar branches (foreign aid and economic development) have also benefited from the above-mentioned sources. Some of studies are; (Arpa and Bayar, 2022; Veiderpass and Andersson, 2007; Ekanayake and Chatrna, 2010; Headey, 2007)

To demonstrate the collection and evaluating of secondary data, the indicators mentioned above were gathered in Table 4 below. In Table 4, the countries represent the emerging donors that have same classification as Turkey and classic donors that have a more stable economy and history of being a donor.

Table 4. Economic Indicators of Turkey and Selected Donor Countries Between 2004 and 2020 (Average of the selected years) (Source: World Bank, 2022; OECD, 2022)

Countries	GDP Growth	Unemployment Rate	Balance of Payments (Million \$)	Distribution of Wealth (Global Rank)	Inflation Rate (CPI)
The US	1,71%	6,19%	-513.181	51	2,03%
The UK	0,97%	5,79%	-97.18	201	2,15%
Germany	1,12%	6,31%	237.15	137	1,39%
France	0,73%	9,14%	-14.639	202	1,27%
Netherlands	1,22%	6,22%	-12.317	230	1,60%
Turkey	5,12%	10,41%	-33.025,68	76	9,57%
China	8,61%	4,54%	204.272,00	212	2,68%
Brazil	2,04%	9,25%	-40.177,14	18	5,48%
South Africa	2,92%	26,24%	-11.139,53	1	4,88%
India	6,02%	5,60%	-29.756,15	188	6,69%
Hungary	1,84%	7,31%	26.629,75	121	3,62%
Canada	2,09%	6,99%	-28.414,18	199	1,70%
Sweden	1,96%	7,36%	26.744,83	177	1,14%
Japan	0,46%	3,82%	150.269,55	185	0,28%
Saudi Arabia	4,10%	5,82%	64.139,05	40	2,85%

Footnote: *Since Turkey was classified as a donor country in 2004, the range covered by the data in this table starts from 2004.*

The data of 15 selected countries (given above on Table 4) is calculated by utilising the formula as stated below;

- Average = $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i}{n}$

- $\sum_{i=1}^n X_i \rightarrow X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + \dots + X_n$
- $\eta \rightarrow$ total number of years

The mathematical formula given above is used to average the evaluated data over the given time period. Although this time varies according to the data type and the data available, the given year range has been adhered to.



CHAPTER 5: CASE STUDY: ASSESSMENT OF TURKEY DURING THE COVID-19 ERA IN TERMS OF ECONOMY AND HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

5.1. Economic Assessment to Turkey

Organizing humanitarian aid or building a school or another type of socioeconomic investment is mostly subsidized by the government (Schwartz and Clements, 1999). Since humanitarian operations are conducted within humanitarian aid, this subsidization has natural economic consequences that might reflect countries' economies, especially the countries without stabilized economic indicators. Therefore, Turkey's economic indicators, since it is considered a donor country, will be evaluated to highlight why Turkey is chosen as a case study.

As can be witnessed, humanitarian crises in this decade all around the world such as in Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda, Liberia, Afghanistan or Sierra Leone, and so on compose a wide area for humanitarian actions and research (Weiss, 1999). Subsequently, an era for new donors began, for example, China, Brazil, and India which are examples of new donors appeared on the stage of international politics of economy (Dreher et al, 2013). These donors are called "Emerging Donors" and Turkey is conceived in the same category since the country stops being a recipient and it became a rising emerging donor in 2004 (Kuraklıkaya and Nurdun, 2010). Therefore, Turkey being a donor country would bring over economic transactions and its reflections on the economy. However, Turkey's economy does not have currently positive signals, therefore, Turkey's current economic indicators must be examined in terms of employment rate, inflation rate, the balance of trade, balance of payments, distribution of wealth, gross domestic products, and distribution of income.

First of all, it is significant to evaluate the importance of the Turkish Economy in the global economy properly. Turkish Economy is one of the 20 biggest economies in the world with 789 billion Dollars of GDP (Eğilmez, 2020). Although Turkey had those impressive economic statistics, its GDP began to lower due to implementing unmeasurable economic acts. As can be seen in Table 5 below, in 18 years, Turkey was not able to escalate its position among the biggest 20 countries, on the contrary, its economy has fallen (Taskinsoy, 2022). One of the reasons that caused this regression in the Turkish Economy is the degradation of the Turkish Lira both

internally and externally. In addition to this, it must be emphasized that the Turkish Lira among all of the currencies was the currency that had the greatest devaluation in 2021 (Duran, 2021). Besides, those statistics were based on the statistics that were published by the Turkish Statistical Institute, on the other hand, IMF's measures were equal to 766 billion Dollars which is an indicator that points to the transparency of the Turkish Government. In Table 5, the World's Largest Economies in terms of GDP and Turkey's position are presented.

Table 5. Turkey's Position on Global Economy in terms of GDP (Prevailing Price, Millions) (Source: Eğilmez, 2020; World Bank, 2022)

Rank	Country	GDP (2000)	Rank	Country	GDP (2021)
1	USA	10.252	1	USA	23.315
2	Japan	4.888	2	China	17.734
3	Germany	1.955	3	Japan	4.940
4	United Kingdom	1.651	4	Germany	4.259
5	France	1.366	5	India	3.176
6	China	1.215	6	United Kingdom	3.131
7	Italy	1.145	7	France	2.957
8	Canada	745	8	Italy	2.107
9	Mexico	708	9	Canada	1.988
10	Brazil	655	10	South Korea	1.810
11	Spain	597	11	Russia	1.778
12	South Korea	561	12	Brazil	1.608
13	India	477	13	Australia	1.552
14	Netherlands	418	14	Spain	1.427
15	Australia	399	15	Mexico	1.272
16	Russia	278	16	Indonesia	1.186
17	Turkey	273	17	Netherlands	1.012
18	Switzerland	272	19	Turkey	819

Furthermore, Turkey's development rate among the countries must be reviewed. A donor country whose point is to implement the main requirements of foreign aid, logically, must be in a good shape of not only economy but also socioeconomic manifestation. Therefore, Turkey's ratio of different international institutions will be

shared for better observation. It can be easily seen that the unemployment and inflation rate in Turkey escalated from 2008 to 2018 and the per capita income diminished (World Bank, 2022). Additively, the negative trade balance of the Turkish Economy and foreign source dependency of the country are proving that Turkey has a high level of economic vulnerability (Şimşek et al, 2019). Another criterion that is utilized to define countries' economic position is Humanitarian Development Index (HDI). The HDI is a brief measure for evaluating long-term progress in three fundamental dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a decent standard of living (Chowdhury, 1991). Turkey's HDI rank in 2019 is 54 out of 189 countries (UNDP, 2020). Although Turkey managed to escalate its HDI rank between 1990 and 2018, it is not sufficient compared to its neighbors such as Russia and European Union. The last criterion that will enlighten the point is Independence of the Judiciary. It signifies the ability of courts or judges to do their duties equally and fair to any person or institution on different levels without being under any pressure or impression (Cox, 1995). While taking its rank of Turkey on the index of independence of the judiciary into consideration, it is 103rd out of 137 countries (WEF, 2018). Thus, Turkey's rank demonstrates to us that although Turkey is accepted as a donor country, it is not a fully developed country. In Table 6, Turkey's Ranks on some Global Indexes are demonstrated.

Table 6. Turkey's Ranks on Global System in 2018 (Source: Eğilmez, 2020)

Index	Year	Rank	Publisher Institution
Better Life Index	2018	35/38	OECD
Superiority of Law	2018	101/113	WJP
Global Gender Gap	2018	130/144	WEF
Global Competitiveness Report	2018	61/140	WEF
Open Market Index	2018	53/75	ICC
ICT Development Index	2018	70/167	UNITU

The employment rate as an economic indicator will be discussed. Unemployment is perhaps one of the most serious social problems. In economic terms, the cost of unemployment, both to the individual and to the collective, is extremely high (Jahoda, 1982). One of the significant forms of recessions is that they mostly are followed by

an escalation in unemployment (Abel et al, 2017). Unemployment elementarily refers to the people who are looking for a job but cannot find a job. The most known way to measure unemployment is the unemployment rate whose formula is unemployed divided by the total labor force. Moreover, unemployment might be dangerous, however, on some levels, it might be natural. This theory is developed by Milton Friedman and Edmund Phelps in 1968 (Blanchard and Katz, 1997). Natural unemployment is a type of unemployment that originates from incompatibilities and structural change when there is no cyclical unemployment (Parkin, 2010). Besides, full employment can be described as a case when the unemployment rate is equal to the natural unemployment rate (Parkin, 2010). The natural unemployment rate is not represented with a rate; however, the unemployment rate in Turkey certainly remains an issue that is a blockade on the Turkish Economy. Although the unemployment rate of the country had fallen in some periods since the day it has been called a donor country, it is not possible to say that the country was able to stabilize the rate. In Figure 10, it can be seen that the unemployment rate of Turkey between the dates that it is accepted as a donor country.

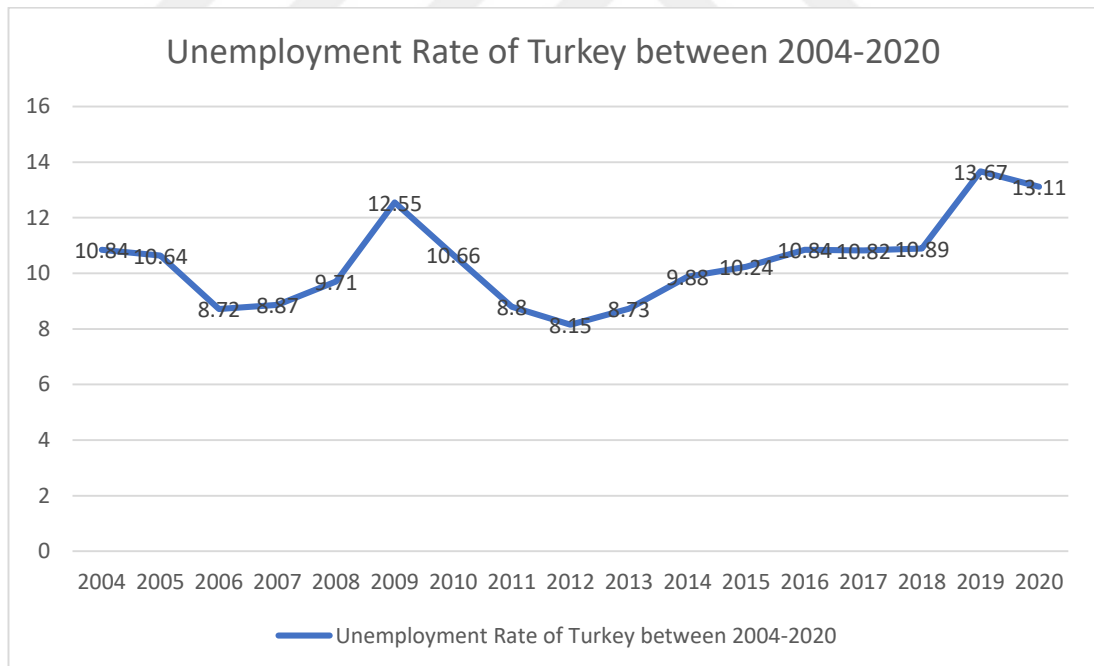


Figure 10. Unemployment Rate of Turkey Between 2004 – 2020 (Source: World Bank, 2021)

Footnote: Since Turkey was classified as a donor country in 2004, the range covered by the data in Figure 9 starts from 2004.

Another indicator that must be considered is the inflation rate of the Turkish Economy. While defining inflation, Oxford English Dictionary (OED)'s definition will be utilized. It is a "general increase in prices and decrease in value of money" (OED, 2017). In addition to this, the Turkish Central Bank's definition of inflation is considerably similar to OED's. Thus, it can be said that an abnormally high inflation rate is hazardous for an economy. Moreover, high inflation has been an issue for the Turkish Economy which has been experienced 3 times in 1954-1959, 1977-1980, and 1984 (Metin, 1995). To have a more accurate result, the terms Consumer Price Index and Producer Price Index must be evaluated. The goal of the CPI is to calculate the ratio of fluctuation in the cost of living for urban consumers (Wynne and Sigalla, 1994). It is implemented by measuring the average change in the prices of the goods that are paid by metropolitan consumers for the same and fixed goods and services of the same quality. In light of the given information, the significance of the stabilization of CPI and PPI is clear and it can be observed in Figure 11. What is also to be emphasized in Figure 10 is the constant rising of unstable CPI and PPI Levels in Turkey. The average CPI Level of Turkey between 2004 and 2018 is approximately 2.6 times more than the world average. Furthermore, the truss span between CPI and PPI does not indicate an economy that has good signals. Besides inflation being a chronic issue in Turkey, it can easily be said that it has a negative slope and influence on the economy that directly and indirectly puts an obstacle to true pricing on market for many years. In Figure 11, the change in CPI and PPI in the World and Turkey between 2004 and 2021 are denoted.

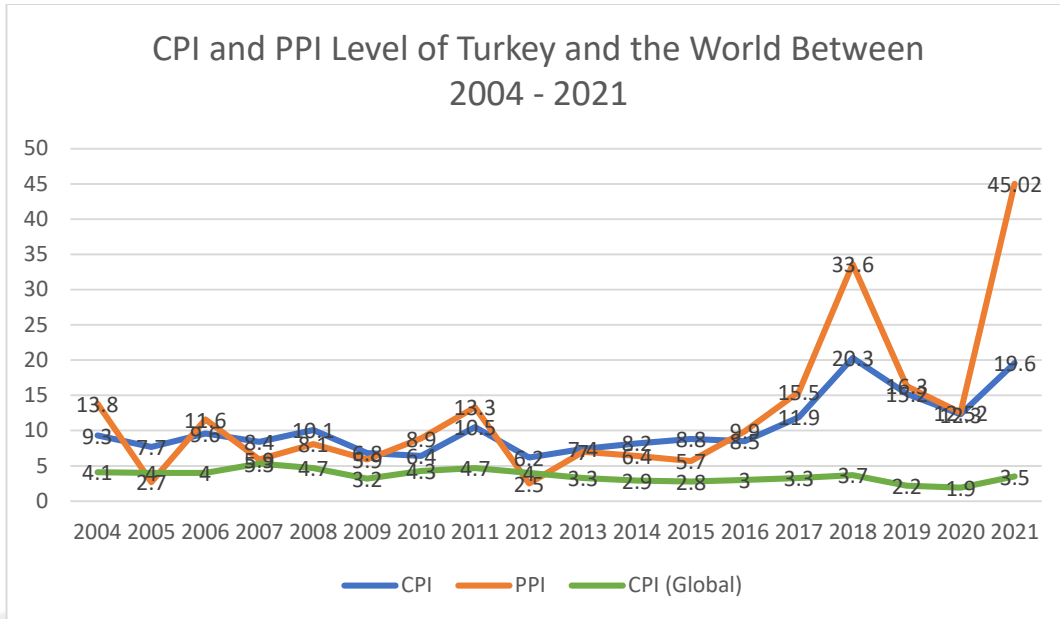


Figure 11. CPI and PPI Level of Turkey and the World between 2004-2021 (Source: Eğılmez, 2020; World Bank, 2020; OECD, 2022)

Footnote: Since Turkey was classified as a donor country in 2004, the range covered by the data in Figure 11 starts from 2004.

All countries aim to develop their economies, take the necessary steps for the modernization of society, and ensure the distribution of welfare. In order to achieve this goal, it is necessary to increase production and increase commercial relations. In this direction, with the decisions taken on January 24, 1980, Turkey shaped its strategy to be export-oriented (Ertuğrul and Selçuk, 2001). After these decisions, the growth rate of Turkey kept giving positive signals until the year 1987, then, it has begun to fluctuate again (World Bank, 2022). Turkey is a country that has been having current account deficit between 2004 and 2020 (World Bank, 2022). Furthermore, it must be emphasized that the connection between foreign trade and growth rate is one of the key indicators to analyze while discussing a country's economy (Sezgin, 2009). Even though having a negative balance of trade has multiple reasons, growth in foreign trade in Turkey has reflected its positive effects on its GDP, however, its current level for a country whose purpose is to be a country that attempts to use foreign aid as a soft power is open to discussion. In Table 7, the Balance of Trade of Turkey between 2004 and 2021 is demonstrated.

Table 7. Balance of Trade of Turkey between 2004 and 2021 (Million USD) (Source: TÜİK, 2021)

Years	Export	Import	Balance of Trade
2004	64.010.231	97.539.000	-33.528.769
2010	113.883.219	185.544.332	-71.661.113
2021	225.233.653	271.423.093	- 46.189.440

Footnote: Since Turkey was classified as a donor country in 2004, the range covered by the data in Table 7 starts from 2004.

Income inequality and poverty in Turkey as in other countries one of the most vital issues that not only affect life in a bad way but also to be resolved. In order to provide remarkable development in a country and to make it realize a high level of living standards, it must be emphasized the importance of sharing equally economic development among society and individuals. The distribution of wealth is a term that points comparison of the wealth of different members or groups in society (Blanchard et al, 1997). It illustrates an issue of economic inequality or economic heterogeneity. In Turkey, according to the data collected in 2005, approximately 381 thousand people attempt to keep living below the starvation line of their inability to meet their basic food needs (Çalışkan, 2011). Moreover, 13 million 108 thousand people are below the poverty line which involves food and non-food expenditures and nearly 10 million 186 thousand people have the opportunity to spend below the relative poverty line (Çalışkan, 2011). According to OECD's data that had been published in 2018, Turkey's rank in income inequality among 40 countries is 34th (OECD, 2022). As a comparison of two emerging donors (new donors) countries Turkey and Hungary, Hungary is in 12th place on the same list, thus, it can be said that Turkey has fallen behind developed countries and also its political competitor.

One of the indicators that are utilized in measuring the health of an economy is the balance of payments. It signifies transactions and activities between domestic economic units and international economic units. It consists of three accounts that record international trading, lending, and borrowing (Case et al, 2019). Those accounts are; the current account, capital, financial account, and official settlements account (Case et al, 2019). The distinctive feature of the balance of payment is the assessment of internal and external transactions without distinguishing currency (Parkin, 2010).

The current account does sums of quittance from exports of goods and services that are advertised abroad, payments for imports of goods and services from foreign countries, net interest income paid abroad, and net international transactions including foreign aid payments (Parkin, 2010). To comprehend it better, Turkey's balance of payments will be evaluated. In 2021, the foreign trade balance had a deficit of 29 billion dollars. Then, the goods and services balance gave a surplus of 27 billion dollars, causing the general deficit to fall to the level of 2 billion dollars. In the final operation, it can be deduced that the balance of payment in 2021 was -23 billion dollars. Compared to GDP in 2021, it corresponds to 3.41% which is an incontrovertibly high amount. In Table 8, the Balance of Payments of Turkey in 2021 is denoted.

Table 8. Balance of Payments of Turkey in 2021 (Source: TCMB, 2021)

Balance of Payment of Turkey in 2021	
A.Current Account(Million USD)	-13.959,00
A.1.Export(Million USD)	224.711,00
A.2.İthalat(Million USD)	253.943,00
A.a.Balance on Goods(Million USD)	-29.232,00
A.3.Services Credit (Million USD)	58.006,00
A.4.Services Debt(Million USD)	31.609,00
A.b.Balance on Goods and Services (Million USD)	-2.835,00
A.5.Primary Income: Credit (Million USD)	6.726,00
A.5.Primary Income: Debt (Million USD)	18.758,00
A.c.Balance on Goods and Services and Primary Income (Million USD)	-14.867,00
A.7.Secondary Income (Million USD)	908,00
B.CAPITAL ACCOUNT(Million USD)	-64,00
C.FINANCIAL ACCOUNT(Million USD)	-28.375,00
C.8.Direct Investment: Net acquisition of financial assets(Million USD)	6.449,00
C.9.Direct Investment: Net incurrence of liabilities(Million USD)	14.000,00
C.10.Portfolio Investment: Net acquisition of financial assets(Million USD)	2.260,00
C.11.Portfolio Investment: Net incurrence of liabilities(Million USD)	3.056,00
C.11.1.Equity Securities(Million USD)	-1.434,00
C.11.2.Debt Securities(Million USD)	4.490,00
C.12.Other Investment: Net acquisition of financial assets(Million USD)	12.937,00
C.12.1.Central Bank(Million USD)	0,00
C.12.2.General Government(Million USD)	16,00
C.12.3.Banks(Million USD)	7.491,00
C.12.4.Other Sectors(Million USD)	5.430,00
C.13.Other Investment: Net incurrence of liabilities(Million USD)	32.965,00
C.13.1.Central Bank(Million USD)	4.778,00
C.13.2.General Government(Million USD)	6.033,00
C.13.3.Banks(Million USD)	6.374,00
C.13.4.Other Sectors(Million USD)	15.780,00
Current, Capital and Financial Accounts(Million USD)	14.352,00
D.NET ERRORS AND OMISSIONS(Million USD)	8.978,00
GENERAL BALANCE(Million USD)	-23.330,00
E.RESERVE ASSETS(Million USD)	23.330,00
E.14.Official Reserves(Million USD)	23.330,00
E.15.Credit and loans with the IMF(Million USD)	0,00
E.16.Exceptional Financing(Million USD)	0,00

Finally, Turkey's economic reaction to Covid-19 will be assessed. In addition to this, the economic crisis that originated from the exchange rate which Turkey experienced in August 2018 caused the economy to decrease by 3% in the last quarter of the year (Adıgüzel, 2020). Thus, it can be said that the occurrence of Covid-19

globally was during a period when Turkey had economic damage that corresponds to approximately 200 billion Dollars.

From the day that Covid-19 became a great threat to the world, since the 11th of March in 2020, there was not any single Covid-19 case to be announced (BBC, 2020). Furthermore, OECD had increased the expected growth rate of Turkey from 0.9% to 2.7% and the institution had foreseen that the pandemics could leave a positive effect on Turkey (Açıkgöz and Günay, 2020). However, the Turkish economy which was already drawing back was about to get into a deeper crisis. For instance, in 2020, the export rate of Turkey decreased by almost 18% and its import rate escalated 3% to March 2020 (Ministry of Trade Turkey, 2020). Even though there are multiple reasons for a negative balance of trade such as broken supply chains and significant changes in household consumption, it was sufficient to damage the economy.

Another point that must be evaluated while observing the impacts of Covid-19 on Turkey is the tourism sector. It is a business branch that takes a significant place in the main income of the Turkish Economy (Akal, 2009). Moreover, it is utilized as an instrument to diminish the negative balance on the current account. In 2018, it directly effectuated for 7.7% of total employment, additively, it provided 2.2 million people to be employed. Total tourism income illustrated 3.8% of GDP in 2018 (OECD, 2020). During the Covid-19 pandemic, the sector took a dramatic hit (Altuntas and Gok, 2021). In final total, there were 44.7 million tourists, of whom 22 million were from European Countries and 5 million from Germany that visited Turkey before the pandemic in 2019, especially during the summer season (Altuntas and Gok, 2021). In comparison, Turkey managed to draw the attention of nearly 30 million tourists in the first eight months of 2019, however, this number was only 7 million in the same months in 2020 (Çakmaklı et al, 2021).

Though, the Turkish Economy has been evaluated above, however, to be able to compare the country and to be able to track whether there is a relativity between economy and humanitarian operations, leading donor countries and similar donor countries must be economically assessed by following the indicators that have been utilized. Thus, these countries are; the US, the UK, Germany, France, Netherlands (as a sample of developed countries), China, Brazil, South Africa, and India (as a sample of emerging donors that involve Turkey, either). As for economics assessment, by looking at the given statistics, it can be said that developed countries seem to remain a lower but stable economic outlook. This appearance was under a negative impression

during the crisis and disasters; however, crisis management was more accurate compared to developing countries by evaluating Annual GDP Growth. In Figure 12, the Annual GDP Growth of the Selected Countries During the Covid-19 Era and the Great Recession can be observed.

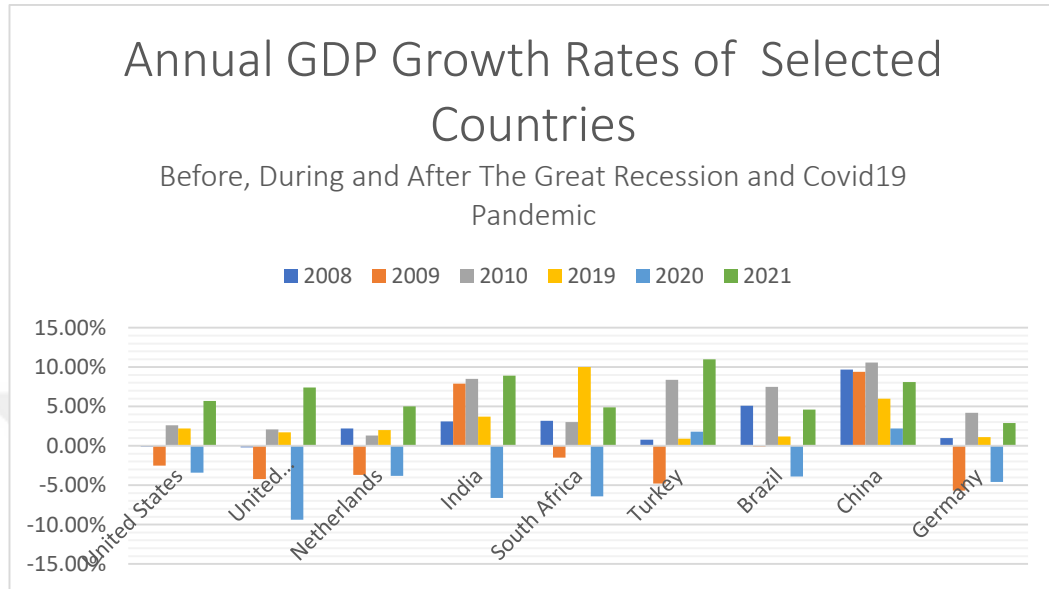


Figure 12. Annual GDP Growth Rates of Selected Countries Before, During and After the Great Recession and Covid-19 Pandemic (Source: WorldBank, 2022)

Both developed and developing countries of the chart appear with a more stable economic outlook compared to Turkey in terms of annual GDP growth, therefore, it can be said that Turkey could not get a stable economic position in both crises. Thus, it might make scholars and economic commentators question about strategy of Turkey. In a conclusion, after all the review, Turkey being one of the greatest humanitarian aid donors and a provider is not economically rational and there is not a direct correlation between economic growth and humanitarian operations frequency. In Figure 13, the Growth Comparison of Humanitarian Assistance Among the Largest Donors Between 2019-2020 can be observed.

**where does it come from?
largest five donors by volume****

2020

 % change, 2019–2020

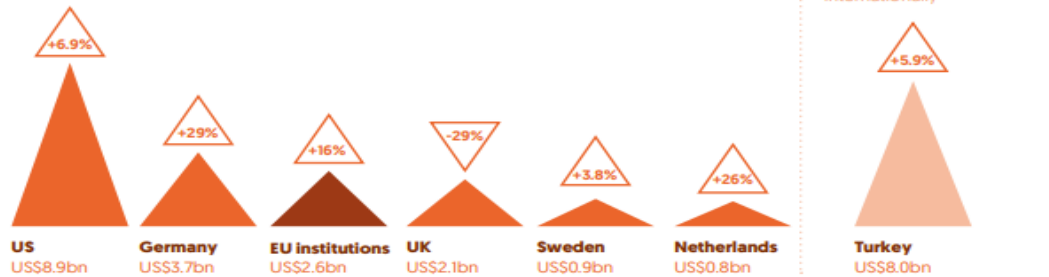


Figure 13. The Growth Comparison of Humanitarian Assistance Among The Largest Donors Between 2019-2020 (Source: Global Humanitarian Assistance Report, 2021)

To sum up, the Turkish Economy can be described as an unstable economy (Öniş, 2010). Although it escalated over years, there are still ongoing infrastructural debates. When the indicators that encompass the years between 2004 and 2022 were examined, a negative outlook can be easily noticed. Even though there were some developments and recruitments during the period, it was not sustainable and the wealth was not allocated to the mass in the way developed countries did. 2004 was the year and a turning point for Turkey in terms of being known as an “emerging donor” whereas the Turkish Economy has not made considerable progress since then.

6.2. Turkey’s Humanitarian Operations During Covid-19

Global changes, such as war, economic crises, and epidemiological situations provide an opportunity for international players to adjust or build their roles and strategy in the international arena (Jessop, 2007). In 2019, the outbreak of the Covid-19 appeared, the number of infected people increased rapidly, and, in March 2020, World Health Organization (WHO) declared the coronavirus a pandemic, followed by a series of quarantine measures (Jee, 2020). The total number of infected people has exceeded 3.5 million, and cases of Covid-19 have been reported in 187 countries in 2021 (WHO, 2022). Like the rest of the world, European Countries and the United States were profoundly hit due to Covid-19. In our case, the pandemic caused certain changes in the world order, related not only to healthcare but also to the balance of power of world players in the dimension of states and organizations (Allen et al, 2020). In the context of the Covid-19, Turkey had to work in 2 directions: firstly, it was

necessary to take control of the situation with the number of people infected in Turkey itself, as well as the consequences of the virus; secondly, Turkey did not need to get lost and only care about the situation inside its border, it needed to continue its policy of international humanitarian assistance in this period (TRT, 2020). During the 2 years of the pandemic, Turkey has become one of the leaders in providing humanitarian assistance and Turkey has sent medical assistance to more than 80 countries (TRT, 2020).

In April 2020, at the Cooperation Council of Turkish-Speaking Countries Conference, the President of the Turkish Republic Erdogan declared the construction of a new world order after the Covid-19 pandemic (Ministry of Turkish Foreign Affairs, 2019). The situation that has developed in the world in connection with the consequences of the pandemic has created prerequisites for strengthening the international image of the country (Şen, 2020). The humanitarian aid provided by the Turkish Government to other countries, in this case, should be considered not only as a gesture of goodwill but also as a serious application for the role of an influential player in global political processes.

Currently, Turkey's rank is at the top of the world as a comparison of the other donor countries in terms of the volume of humanitarian assistance provided in terms of GDP per capita (UNOCHA, 2022). According to a report published by the British Agency of Development Initiatives, in 2019 Turkey's spending on international humanitarian assistance amounted to 0.75% of the country's GDP. (Development Initiatives, 2020; p.37)

Furthermore, the organizations that are in charge of humanitarian operations must be examined, either. The assistance of Turkey during this period is coordinated through the Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), the Red Crescent, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Trade, and the President's Office in addition to its multilateral foreign aids that mutually coordinate with United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and World Food Programme (WFP) (Ministry of Turkish Foreign Affairs, 2022).

The activities of organizations such as the Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) and the Turkish Red Crescent are directly coordinated by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and play a crucial role in promoting the “soft power” of the state (Kuzey Ekspress, 2020). The Turkish Foreign Ministry Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu

claims they have extended a helping hand to 34 countries, including important allies such as Britain, Italy, and Spain that have already more developed economies than the Turkish Economy (DW, 2020). Turkey provided its first aid during the pandemic to Italy and Spain, supplying them with 450,000 masks on March 31, 2020 (BBC, 2020). In April of the same year, Turkey provided England and the United States with medical supplies (BBC, 2020). Since April 2020, Turkey began to send cargo planes, vehicles with medical masks, protective overalls, and disinfectants, with special protective overalls and disinfectants produced by Turkish defense industry enterprises (Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation, 2020). Turkey ranks third in the world in providing medical assistance to almost 60 countries to fight the pandemic (Valdes, 2020). In addition to developing countries, in the early months of the pandemic, Turkey also began to supply aid to Western countries, including the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, and the United States and this assistance includes masks, overalls, and testing kits (Valdes, 2020). Furthermore, Turkey has sent 5,000 locally made ventilators to Somalia to help the country's weak and overburdened health infrastructure fight Covid-19 (Ozkan and Gemici, 2020). All these actions contributed Turkey to strengthen its reputation as a humanitarian actor and donor country. Turkey's humanitarian policy has proven to be resilient and competent in the face of the pandemic (Valdes, 2020). Even though Turkey sent this health kit assistance to the countries mentioned above, Turkish Mass had to face a shortage of masks and other health kits such as medical gloves and Covid-19 vaccination during the very first period of the pandemic (Cumhuriyet, 2022).

According to a report that has been published by the Turkish Development Assistance (TIKA), the total amount of foreign aid was \$9.371 million in 2019 and it was \$8.797 million in 2020 (TIKA, 2019). This amount covers all foreign aid provided by government agencies, the private sector, and NGOs. At the bottom of the charts, it can be easily deduced that although the total amount of aid in 2020 decreased compared to 2019, the share of aid allocated to non-governmental organizations for humanitarian purposes increased by 17 million. (TIKA, 2019) In Figure 14, the Turkish Development Assistance in 2019 is demonstrated.

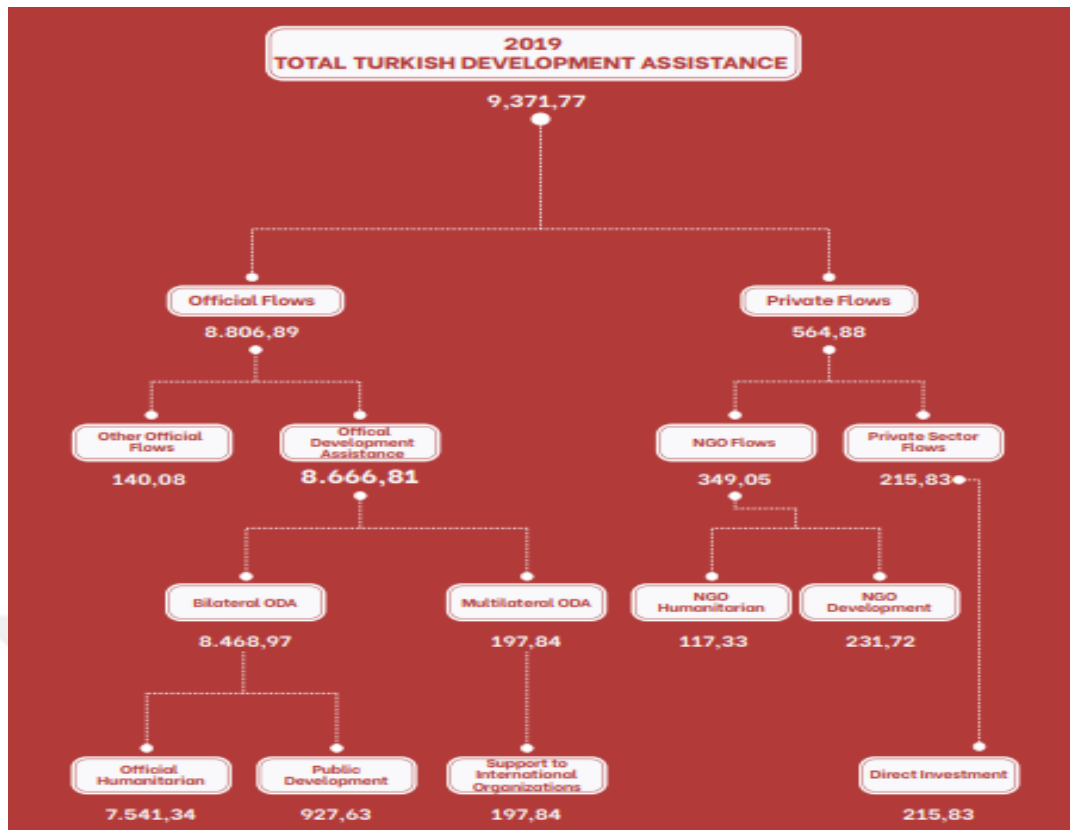


Figure 14: Turkish Development Assistance in 2019 (Source: TIKA, 2019)

If we analyze TIKA's assistance regionally, it should be noted that Turkey has begun to direct its support to Asian countries more, while its assistance to the European and African regions has slightly decreased (TIKA, 2020). On the list of Official Development Assistance ratio of OECD/DAC members, Turkey shares 1st place with Sweden having a 1.14% ratio (TIKA, 2020) Although Turkish assistance is pointed at Asian Countries and Eastern Countries due to a combination of reasons such as efforts of being a lead country among Islamic Countries, Turkish Assistance never fully withdrew from Western Countries.

Turkish assistance to developed economies during the pandemic can be diversified with the example of assistance to the United States. Turkey sent several military planes with medical assistance to the United States to fight the virus and the aid included 500,000 surgical masks, 4,000 overalls, 2,000 liters of disinfectant, 1,500 goggles, 400 N-95 masks, and 500 face shields (Allahverdi, 2020). US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Congressman Alex Mooney of West Virginia, and Congressman of Ohio Steve Shabot thanked Turkey via Twitter, noting that this is a generous gesture of goodwill and solidarity (Allahverdi, 2020).

It should be noted that Turkey helped not only countries but also international organizations that fought against the Covid-19 (Daily Sabah, 2020). These organizations consist of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), UNICEF, Caribbean Community Intergovernmental Organization, Central American Integration System, NATO, and Islamic Development Bank, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, World Health Organization, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, African Union and World Bank (Daily Sabah, 2020). This assistance consisted of protective overalls for medical personnel, Covid-19 diagnostic kits, ventilators, and cash (Daily Sabah, 2022). In addition, Turkey built a hospital in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in 2020, and in Albania in 2021 (Daily Sabah, 2022).

In conclusion, Turkey has a negative slope in its economic indicators during the period. Historically, Turkey has faced 3 inflation waves, and currently, it is a still major issue. The country, even though it is shown as one of the biggest economies in the world, could not stable its economic outlook. In terms of GDP, balance of trade, CPI, and the rest of the indicators mentioned above, Turkey, among emerging donors, is the country that has the most negative appearance by predicating on data that was collected from the most reputable economic institutions such as World Bank and OECD. Since humanitarian operations and humanitarian aid have an aim of increasing life standards of a territory, it cannot be said that Turkey has a competitive rank on *Better Life Index*, *Superiority of Law* and *Global Gender Gap* during given period. Furthermore, Turkey had to confront losing its tourism income which is a large-scale source of income, during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Like most the states, the Turkish Economy had to confront with economic results of lockdown, slow down of global trade. However, Turkey kept organizing humanitarian operations to various countries. Interestingly enough, these countries consisted of not only underdeveloped countries but also more developed countries, such as Italy, Spain and US, compared to Turkey. In addition, when Turkey sent the United States medical kit and masks as a gesture, Turkish Mass was facing with shortage of masks and black-market for masks. Since the day Turkey was classified as a donor country and beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the country exceeded its economic budget that was spared for humanitarian aid, hence, humanitarian operations. Therefore, Turkey, in terms of economy, politics

and its infrastructure, was chosen as a *case study* for this research to highlight and go along with the research question.



CHAPTER 6: FINDINGS

In this chapter, Turkey's specific humanitarian operations and the concepts they represent in international relations will be examined and the connection between them will be attempted to be revealed. As stated in the previous chapters, one of the concepts that occur most when it comes to humanitarian operations and aid is the concept of soft power. In Table 9, Global Soft Power Index during the Covid-19 Era is demonstrated.

Table 9: Global Soft Power Index Between 2020 and 2022 (Source: BrandFinance, 2022)

2020		2021		2022	
Country	Rank	Country	Rank	Country	Rank
Turkey	30	Turkey	27	Turkey	22
Hungary	45	Hungary	43	Hungary	45
South Africa	36	South Africa	37	South Africa	34
Brazil	29	Brazil	35	Brazil	28
China	5	China	8	China	4
India	27	India	36	India	29

This total data consists of familiarity, influence, reputation, business and trade, governance, international relations, governance, culture and heritage, media and communication, education and science, and finally, people and values (BrandFinance, 2022). The countries listed on Table 9 are representatives of emerging donor countries. Considering the table, Turkey constantly increased its global soft power position between 2020 and 2022, on the contrary, other emerging donors had a fluctuation on their ranks. Based on this index, which includes the subtitles of International Relations and humanitarian aid, it can be seen that Turkey has gained positive momentum in the soft power index. However, at the time of the research, with the global economy stagnating due to Covid-19, the lockdown, and then the crisis between Ukraine and Russia affecting the entire globe such as high inflation, higher prices on gas, wheat, and minerals other countries made savings in their expenditures (Mbah and Wassum, 2022).

In addition to the power concept in humanitarian operations, destination of the operations is a significant factor. The destination might reveal the strategies of the donor countries. According to the research that was made by US News in 2022, countries were ranked in various categories (US News, 2022). In this research, 73 countries were observed and those countries were evaluated by different topics such as quality of life, entrepreneurship, cultural influence, power, heritage and so on (US News, 2022). In accordance with the research, the most religious countries were sorted, either (US News, 2022). In Table 10, the most religious countries in 2022 are demonstrated.

Table 10. The Most Religious Countries in the World in 2022 (Source: US News, 2022)

Country	Rank
Saudi Arabia	1
Israel	2
Iran	3
United Arab Emirates	4
India	5
Egypt	6
Qatar	7
Turkey	8
Jordan	9
Morocco	10

Meanwhile, during the Justice and Development Party (JDP) rule, Turkey has experienced the period that the greatest number of humanitarian operations organized in its history (OECD, 2017). Furthermore, JDP's new foreign policy focused on Neo-Ottomanism, which replaced Kemalism. Neo-Ottomanism is described in Ahmet Davutoglu's the most famous article Strategic Depth as increasing impact on the lands that were under influence of Ottomans (Akca, 2021). Besides, President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan, as a non-African president, holds a personal record of having visited the African continent 26 times (Akca, 2021).

In accordance with the contemporary foreign policy approach of Turkey, statistics on the Annual Report published by Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency in 2020 will be examined. The report divided Turkey's humanitarian operations into the

regions (Turkish Development Assistance Report, 2020). As for the report, in South Asia, Arakan Muslims who escaped from the aggressive pressure that was implemented by Myanmar were the receivers of the humanitarian operations (Turkish Development Assistance Report, 2020). In 2020, approximately 10.000 people were beneficiary from Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency's humanitarian aid that contains parcels, blankets and hygiene packs for fighting with Covid-19 (Turkish Development Assistance Report, 2020). In Africa and Middle East Regions, in 31 countries, 400.000 people that were affected by Covid-19, humanitarian crises and natural disasters in 2020 benefit from food and material assistance (Turkish Development Assistance Report, 2020). Finally, in Europe, 3000 Muslim people live in Tirana, Shkodra, Kukes, Pogradec and Fier in Albania benefited from hot iftar meal distribution for 30 days in Ramadan in 2020 (Turkish Development Assistance Report, 2020). In Table 11, Turkish Humanitarian Aid by countries and regions in 2021 and 2022 is presented. The percentages shown in parentheses in Table 11 show what percentage of humanitarian aid was sent to which region during the relevant year. In addition, since the Asian Region also covers the Middle East, the amount of aid received by the two regions is shown separately as a percentage.

Table 11. Turkish Humanitarian Aid By Countries and Regions In 2020 and 2021 (Million, US Dollar) (Source: OECD, 2022)

2020		2021	
Europe (Total)	54,39 (0,74%)	Europe (Total)	3,16 (0,04%)
Albania	53,68	Albania	0,04
Bosnia Herzegovina	0,06	Bosnia Herzegovina	0,16
Montenegro	0,03	Montenegro	0,08
Asia (Total)	7.115,87 (97,87%)	Asia (Total)	6.730,90 (99,20%)
Afghanistan	17,33	Afghanistan	17,73
Bangladesh	3,74	Bangladesh	3
Iraq	31,52	Iraq	26,67
Lebanon	0,54	Lebanon	0,42
Syria	7.052,42	Syria	6.663,55
West Bank and Gaza Strip	9,02	West Bank and Gaza Strip	16,91
Yemen	0,19	Yemen	1,36
America (Total)	0,29 (0,003%)	America (Total)	0,52 (0,007%)
TOTAL:	7.270,51	TOTAL:	6.785,01

As Table 11 demonstrates, the humanitarian operations of Turkey are organized to almost all of the continents. Although it has wide range, most of the budget was spent on the countries which have high number of Muslim citizens. Among the given countries, Syria stands out more than the others in terms of the spared budget and its geographical proximity. As for the relation between Turkey and Syria, they share 800 kilometres long border, however, the economic relationship between them has never been remarkable as expected (Tül, 2016). Therefore, it can be said that Turkey's humanitarian operations aim to enhance local residents' life quality during the Civil War that emerged in 2011 and, when the Civil War ends, to have a say in the system to be established in Syria and to increase Turkey's economic interests.

In addition to those, Turkey's role on Muslim World can be considered as a motivation to concentrate on the amount and distribution of Turkey's Humanitarian Operations. Turkey draws attention as a significant player in Muslim World, especially after the end of the Cold War (Larrabee, 2007). Turkey had to focus on Muslim World and Middle East, due to security reasons occurred after the Cold War and its foreign policy was reshaped (Larrabee, 2007). Moreover, within the new foreign policy strategies and conjunctural incidents, Turkey had decided to operate military operation in Syria in 2016 and currently, these operations can occur occasionally (Siccardi, 2021). As result of those operations, Turkish President Erdogan avoid his political party JDP to lose the elections (Siccardi, 2021). Thus, it can be demonstrated as a use of hard power and its domestic achievement. Furthermore, within the military operations, Turkey managed to utilize migration flows as a politic trump against European Union (Siccardi, 2021). Therefore, by using the humanitarian operations in Middle East, Turkey will be able to attempt to increase its reputation in Muslim World and economic privileges in receiver country.

Another dimension of the humanitarian operations organized by Turkey is more developed countries as receiver countries. Some of the countries are as follows; Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States (BBC, 2020). Turkey's donation of a Covid-19 Health Kit and N95 Mask to the United States can be shown as an example (BBC, 2020). During the very first days of the Covid-19 epidemic, Turkey benefited from soft power by providing healthcare equipment to the United States. However, it was not enough to reshape the fluctuating political relationship between the two states. In addition, these aid operations were criticized by Turkey's opposition parties as "trying to run for foreign aid when it has no power to help its own citizens" (BBC, 2020). As our case study and statistics demonstrate, Turkey did not act rational but pragmatistic by running those operations.

In conclusion, humanitarian operations are one of the tools that a country can use in international politics. This tool has taken its place in the literature as a representative of the concept of soft power. When the Global Soft Power Index is evaluated, Turkey's place in the ranking has risen steadily by counting the humanitarian operations and different factors that Turkey has organized during the Covid-19 process, and this has not been observed in other donor countries in its classification. In this respect, it can be said that Turkey has increased the use of global soft power. Moreover, the result of another statistical evaluation of Turkey is that Turkey is a truly religious country. It is

obvious that this assessment is also clearly observed by Turkey's foreign policy makers. Foreign policy and the structure of the country are concepts that are shaped in parallel with each other. Considering these, the regions and countries in which Turkey conducts humanitarian operations have been evaluated. These regions are mostly regions with a high Muslim population. It can be said that with Turkey's new foreign policy, Turkey is trying to increase its effectiveness in these regions. This initiative seeks to gain both political and economic privileges. However, the result of these attempts cannot be seen clearly. An example of this is the operation of sending Covid-19 kits to the United States, which is also an example of the use of soft power. As a result, no clear economic or political outcome of humanitarian operations can be presented. Nevertheless, the importance of the use of soft power in terms of international politics cannot be ignored. However, it is a controversial issue that a country that has been going through an economically difficult period and has repeatedly followed the wrong economic policies to increase the amount of humanitarian operations. In addition, organizing those operations while Turkish Citizens were having difficulty in accessing medical equipment may cause the international image that Turkey attempts to enhance to derogate. As in the case of Turkey, it can be used in international politics, bilateral relations and to increase privileges. However, it will not be enough to correct the negative economic outlook and build a country's actor identity on its own.

CHAPTER 7: DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Humanitarian Operations and, directly, humanitarian aid is one of the most significant subjects concerning both international politics and logistics. As for humanitarian logistics, it must be noted that it denotes the sub-branch of logistics that evaluates the humanitarian operations, thus, humanitarian logistics occur when there is an organized operation. At first glance, those operations may seem like they aim to provide material and moral assistance to people who are experiencing serious damaging events such as terrorism, natural disasters, and today's Covid-19. Although this statement is true for the definition of humanitarian operations, it is not its only area of use. In this research, it will be observed that one of the other goals of humanitarian operations which is its use as a strategic tool to improve a country's global position.

Essentially, it is significant to examine the history of Turkish Humanitarian Aid and its policy before associating humanitarian logistics and international politics. Since the foundation of Turkish Republic, there were different eras that Turkey became a recipient country that has started with Marshall Plan and, then, a donor country (Ertüzün,2012). Moreover, institutionalism of Turkish humanitarian policy was one of the milestones for a country during its transformation from a recipient country to donor country. In this sense, in 1992, the Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency was established (Fidan and Nurdun, 2008). Afterwards, Davutoglu, who was former prime minister of Turkey, emphasized in his book that a new language for international politics is so vital that humanitarian aid plays a huge role (Davutoğlu, 2013). Consequently, one of the most important notions that shapes the research is examined; soft power. The term is defined by Joseph Nye, in 2004. It signifies the ability to get what you want through attraction rather than coercion or payments (Nye, 2004). It differs from coercive power, thus, it is a more common tool in international politics.

Secondly, humanitarian logistics is evaluated in this paper. Briefly, humanitarian logistics encompasses different types of operations at different periods. Those operations include the allocation of medical supplies, food supplies, and critical supplies that are needed right after a disaster (Holguín-Veras et al, 2012). When it is humanitarian logistics, disaster management must be beared in mind, either. It is all

of the actions implemented to reduce the effects of a disaster or an emergency (Coppola, 2006). In Turkey, its institutional equivalent is Disaster and Management Presidency which also presents a professional system Disaster Emergency Response Services Regulation (Öcal, 2021). As a result, the concept of humanitarian operation has been mentioned in literature and it has a wide range of studies including humanitarian logistics, disaster management, institutions, international politics and soft power.

During the research, a complex methodology was mainly exploited; *Case Study via Secondary Data Analysis*. Turkey has been chosen as a case study, and the time range is between 2019 and 2022 when the global effects of Covid-19 were felt the most. As for secondary data, statistics, publications, and journals were gathered from international and domestic institutions. Those data were mainly utilized to analyze Turkey's Economy and Turkish Humanitarian Operations. Moreover, global economic effects of Covid-19 were observed thanks to the data. Furthermore, the study attempted to present the use of humanitarian operations as a strategic tool while improving the global position of a country. In this sense, the answer will be evaluated.

Firstly, by taking Turkey's rank Global Soft Power Index into consideration, it can be said that Turkey has managed to escalate its position as a country that utilizes soft power. Therefore, it can be said that Turkey managed to seem like a country that has a better understanding of the importance of the use of soft power such as humanitarian operations and it may be considered an advantage to Turkey's international reputation. Consequently, Turkey's humanitarian operations in specific territories were analyzed. As a result of this, Turkey, mostly, focused on the areas whose population substantially consist of Muslim People that suffered from various disasters. The main reasons for this are as follows: the high ranking of the Turkish Mass in the ranking of conservative countries and Turkey's new foreign policy. In detail, Turkey's humanitarian operations in Syria can be demonstrated. In addition to sharing a border of approximately 800 kilometers, Syria, as a neighbouring country, is important for Turkey in terms of foreign policy. Turkey allocated a significant budget to Syria for humanitarian operations after the Civil War that started in Syria. However, Turkey's gains from these operations in Syria are limited economically and politically. Currently, Turkey's dominance in Syria is open to debate. In addition to those, another humanitarian operation that is analyzed is the medical kits that Turkey sent to the United States during the Covid-19 outbreak. While the people in Turkey were struggling with the

lack of masks, this aid to the United States aimed to alleviate and improve current problems.

In conclusion, in terms of the concept of soft power, Turkey has increased its use in some indices, especially considering humanitarian operations, and it can be said that its international prestige has increased in this context. However, in a holistic approach, this study has shown that despite Turkey's increased prestige, its humanitarian operations during the Covid-19 period did not provide any economic profit to its citizens. It is even very ironic that some of these humanitarian operations aim to help people in the most developed countries when the Turkish people needed medical kits the most.

In addition to what this research reveals, different methods can be used by future studies to better highlight the use of humanitarian operations for getting soft power in international relationships. Future research can conduct a detailed statistical analysis to show the relationship between humanitarian operations and soft power. Another future research avenue could be to examine the consequences of soft power, i.e., what the donor country gets in return for humanitarian operations. Future research can also investigate the opinions of citizens in donor countries such as in Turkey regarding how they perceive these operations while they live in economically difficult conditions. In addition, multiple case studies can be conducted to better show how countries can be categorized with respect to their humanitarian operations and economic performance. Besides, future studies would focus on the question of “what are the challenges of use of soft power in a recipient country?” thus, a recipient country can be assessed in terms of its economy, political structure, efficiency of received aid and its humanitarian space.

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