

# THE KURDISH QUESTION IN TURKEY'S REGIONAL POLITICS. HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

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**Abstract:** *While relatively unknown up until 2012, the Syrian Kurds appear to be 'game changers' for the future development of the conflicts in Syria and Iraq, as well as the regional politics of both Turkey and Iran. In their attempts at controlling the foreign intervention in Northern Syria, the government forces withdrew from the Kurdish territories. The local Kurdish autonomy shook up affected neighbouring Turkey and the autonomous Kurdish government in Northern Iraq. In reality, the rapid rise ascent of the Kurds in Syria has the potential to become a pivotal moment, which can redraw the borders in the Middle East, first established in the Sykes–Picot Agreement following the end of the First World War.*

**Key words:** *Kurds, AKP, PKK, PYD, Turkish Hizbollah, Syria, KRG, Democratic Republic.*