**Kurds: What Is the Relation Between USA & Kurds and Turkey’s Position**

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The Middle East has always been a global hotspot, with the ongoing Israeli Palestinian conflict and complex ethnic conflicts between Arabs and Jews. But since the outbreak of the Arab Spring, the internal turmoil in Syria has attracted more attention from the world, presenting a long-standing hotspot in the Middle East. The Kurdish people, a nation that spans across four countries but has always been dependent on others and has repeatedly failed to fight for independence, hold the flag in their hearts, hold the gun in their hands, and go global without hesitation. In order to establish their own country, the Kurdish people have repeatedly resisted and are willing to become pawns for the United States to balance the Middle East. Although they have been abandoned multiple times, they have stubbornly turned themselves into living beings with their tenacious perseverance and strong strength. However, the stronger Kurds are, the more worried is Türkiye, which has been fighting with them, is. Kurds have always been a hindrance to Türkiye's rejuvenation, and they will try to pull it out quickly. The road to statehood is still long, but it is not hopeless.

**1. The arduous search of the stateless ethnic group: Kurds**

Kurds are one of the oldest ethnic groups in the Middle East. They are the fourth dominant ethnic group in the Middle East, second only to Arabs, Turks and Persians. They are also the only ethnic group in the Middle East that has no independent regime. They have a history of more than 4000 years.

Since ancient times, the Kurdish ethnic group has mainly resided in the Kurdistan region, with a total area of approximately 390000 square kilometers. The region spans the current four countries of Türkiye, Iraq, Syria and Iran, and the total number of Ku people in the four countries is about 28 million.

In addition, about 2 million Kurds have settled or been displaced in nearly 20 countries in Europe, the Caucasus, North America, and other regions. The establishment of an independent Kurdish state is a historic pursuit of the Kurdish people, which began during the Ottoman Empire's rule. Its ideology and movements have grown from small to large, evolving from ideological operation to armed struggle.

In 1880, Ubedulla, the Kurdish national hero, led the tribal armed men and launched large-scale uprisings in eastern, southeastern Türkiye and northwestern Iran, vowing to "fight to the end" for the establishment of an independent country. The uprising was jointly suppressed by the Ottoman Empire and the Persian Khaganate, but the seeds of independence were sown in the hearts of generations of Kurds.

The Ottoman Empire was defeated in World War I and was forced to sign the Treaty of Sevres with the Allied Powers in 1919, which stipulated that Kurds could establish autonomous regions or independent states in areas east of the Euphrates River, south of Armenia, and north of Syria and Iraq where Kurds held a majority. However, the treaty was never implemented.

This is the only international document involving Kurdish autonomy or independence, which has been borrowed by Kurdish political forces in the four countries and has become the main legal basis for their pursuit of establishing an independent Kurdish state.

At the beginning of the end of World War II, the Kurdistan independence movement became one of the levers of power for the United States and the Soviet Union in the Middle East. In December 1945, with the support of the Soviet Union, the Kurdistan Democratic Party was established in Mahabad, Iran, divided into two committees: Iran and Iraq.

The party announced the establishment of the "Mahabad Republic" with the goal of overthrowing feudal dynasties in Iran and Iraq and ultimately establishing a unified "Kurdistan Republic".

In 1946, the Pahlavi dynasty mobilized heavy troops to suppress the "Mahabad Republic", and a large number of key members of the Iranian Kurdish Democratic Party were killed or captured, entering a period of dormancy. The leader, Barzani, fled to the Soviet Union.

In 1958, the Faisal dynasty in Iraq was overthrown and the Republic of Iraq was established. President Kassem invited Barzani to return to his home country to help the government govern the Kurdish region in order to ease relations between Arabs and Kurds, and the two sides cooperated in a friendly manner.

The situation changed again in 1975, when the Iraqi Ba'ath Party regime launched a comprehensive crackdown on the armed forces of the Kurdish People's Party. Old Barzani led his remaining forces to flee Iran, and the leadership of the Kurdish People's Party was taken over by his second son Masoud Barzani.

In the same year, Talabani, who fled from Iraq to Syria, formed the Kurdistan Patriotic Union in Damascus, and since then, the Iraqi Kurdish independence movement has formed two major political forces. The Gulf War broke out in 1991, and the two major political parties launched the Iraqi Kurdish uprising, establishing a stable autonomous region in northern Iraq.

Inspired and influenced by the Kurdish independence movement in northern Iraq, Abdullah Ocalan founded the Kurdish Workers' Party of Türkiye in 1978 to carry out the armed struggle for independence and statehood.

The Ku Labor Party, which "comes and goes freely" in Syria and Iraq, regards the Gandil Mountains in northern Iraq as a strategic rear, and establishes branches or bases in Türkiye, Syria, Iraq and Iran.

Later, Ocalan was captured by Türkiye, and Kurdish Labor Party set up a three person leading group, supporting Bayik as the leader. In May 2007, Bayık proposed to build the "widest united front", and the Kurdish PKK decided to unite with Kurdish political forces in Syria, Iraq, and Iran to fight for independence.

The PKK adopted a "curved salvation" approach, sending political and military cadres to the Kurdish ethnic group in northern Syria to help them establish a "Northern Syrian Federation", form an autonomous government, establish the capital in Qamishli, and establish the Syrian Democratic Army. Due to the need to combat ISIS, the Northern Syrian Federation has received support from the United States.

In Türkiye, the head office of the Ku Labor Party is rooted in the territory of the "Northern Syrian Federation", where Bayik remotely commands the liberation struggle of Kurds in southeast Türkiye.

**2. Spelling 'living child' from abandoned child**

After World War I, the powerful United States became the main sympathizer of ethnic separatist activities around the world. Of course, this sympathy comes with a prerequisite, which is that when it aligns with its own strategic interests, the United States will provide ideological support.

During the Cold War, the United States' policy in the Middle East was to counter Soviet influence. When the Iraqi Ba'ath Socialist Party regime began to align with the Soviet Union, US President Nixon began funding Kurdish guerrilla armed resistance against the central government, greatly stimulating the Kurdish independence movement.

But after Iran and Iraq signed the Algiers Agreement in 1975, the United States immediately withdrew its support for the Kurdish people. Especially in the context of the subsequent Islamic Revolution in Iran, Iraq became an important reliance for the United States to confront Iran and the Soviet Union.

Based on this international environment, the United States began to ignore Saddam's regime's retaliatory suppression of the Kurdish people. This is the first time that Kurds have become abandoned sons of the United States, and the Kurdish independence movement has entered a low tide as a result.

After the Gulf War began in 1991, the Kurdish independence movement surged again and gained greater autonomy with the support of the United States. In 2003, the United States launched the Second Iraq War to overthrow Saddam Hussein's rule and replace it with a Shia government led by the United States.

During this period, the United States began to worry that the rise of Kurdish power would undermine the authority of the pro American government in Iraq and affect the stability of relations with neighboring countries.

Therefore, until the rise of the "Islamic State", the United States generally adopted a tacit attitude towards Iraq and Türkiye's action against Kurdish armed forces. The United States also listed the Kurdish Workers' Party as a foreign terrorist organization, and Kurds became abandoned sons of the United States for the second time.

At this time, the Kurds had no independent status in US diplomacy, but were used by the US as a bargaining chip to regulate relations with the Iraqi government. When the US and Iraqi governments become hostile, they will incite Kurdish independence activities. When the Iraqi government is pro American, the Kurds will be abandoned by the United States.

This historical experience has led Kurds to have high expectations and dependence on the support of the United States, while also lacking a sense of security towards the United States.

After the rise of ISIS in Iraq and Syria, the United States began to attach great importance to the Kurds and establish unprecedented deep cooperation with them, despite having no one to turn to.

The rise of the Islamic State was very fierce, wreaking havoc on large areas of land with the momentum of wind and clouds. Among many local forces in Syria and Iraq, Kurds are almost the only armed group capable of strong resistance against ISIS.

They not only tenaciously defended their homeland and ensured that strategic resources such as Kirkuk were not lost, but also became the main force in the subsequent counterattack launched by the League of Nations. The performance of the Iraqi and Syrian government forces on the battlefield was slightly inferior to that of Kurdish armed groups.

They captured the self proclaimed capital of the Islamic State, Raqqa, and established contiguous control areas in Syria and Iraq far beyond their traditional sphere of influence. The Kurdish people have won the respect and support of the United States solely through their strength.

The establishment of direct military cooperation and even mutual dependence between the United States and the Kurdish people on the vast battlefields of Iraq and Syria is unprecedented in past history. The US military vehicles even escorted the Kurdish armed forces in Syria to deter Türkiye from carrying out air strikes against Kurdish armed forces. In short, starting from 7 years ago, the Kurdish people are no longer just a bargaining chip in the bilateral relationship between the United States and Iraq, but have been elevated to an equal dialogue partner and informal military ally.

In Iraq and Syria, there is actually a main triangular relationship between government forces and Shia militia armed groups - Kurdish armed groups - Islamic State armed groups. All external forces that want to intervene in the situation in Iraq and Syria cannot do without the status of the Kurds, and the United States is no exception. The impressive achievements on the battlefield, the constantly expanding sphere of influence, and the unprecedented close cooperation with the United States have stimulated the nationalist enthusiasm of the Kurdish people, and the demand for independent nation building among the people is increasing.

Four years ago, the Kurdish local government in Iraq announced an independence referendum on September 25th, which can be seen as a big step forward for the Kurdish people on the road to independence. However, from the reactions of all parties that followed, its symbolic significance was greater than its practical significance.

Especially in the United States, they have been persuading the Kurds from the beginning to prioritize the overall situation on the battlefield and postpone the date of the referendum. After unsuccessful persuasion, the United States immediately publicly opposed it.

At the same time, the referendum also led to sudden tension in the situation around Iraq. At the request of the Iraqi government, Iran cut off the air route to the Kurdish region, and Türkiye and Iraqi military forces launched joint military exercises in the Turkish Iranian border area. Seeing this situation, there has been a significant change in the United States' unilateral and harsh attitude towards the Kurdish people. On the day of the referendum, the US wording changed to 'deeply disappointed' and emphasized that 'the traditional friendship between the US and Iraqi Kurds will not change due to this non binding referendum'.

And while urging the Kurds to respect the legitimate status of the Iraqi government, the United States also warns the Iraqi government and other neighboring countries not to use force threats.

Overall, the principle of the United States regarding Kurdish independence is to maintain the status quo. For the purpose of "maintaining stability", the United States opposes Kurdish referendums and places Kurdish security under its own protection.

**The attitude of the United States towards the Iraqi Kurdish independence referendum has been fluctuating, mainly due to:**

Firstly, the United States is concerned that the independence referendum may weaken the joint efforts to combat ISIS. Because the United States' policy towards the Kurdish people has always been based on its core strategic interests. The Islamic State is the number one security threat to the United States and the most significant scar on its global leadership image. The rise of the Islamic State began with the United States' brutal invasion of Iraq, its imprudent policies towards the Syrian civil war, and its forced withdrawal of troops in a "start and end" manner.

The consequences of the rise of the "Islamic State" not only increase the threat of terrorism, but also trigger the refugee problem in Europe, which is dragged into the great power game between the United States and Russia, evolving into a global threat.

In recent years, the United States has emphasized the priority of domestic issues, and its policy tone is not to invest large-scale military forces in the Middle East. Therefore, in order to eliminate ISIS, the United States must rely on multiple forces. So, with the promotion of multiple parties such as the United States and Russia, an international alliance to combat the "Islamic State" has gradually taken shape, but this international alliance is actually a combination of many conflicting forces.

They include tactical military forces from the United States, Europe and Russia, Iraqi and Syrian central government forces supported by the United States and Russia, as well as Türkiye forces that often launch cross-border attacks, Shiite militias and Kurdish armed forces mainly supported by Iran, and a large number of smaller opposition forces.

It is not easy to coordinate these forces on the battlefield, even if it is only a certain degree of tacit understanding. In terms of effectiveness, although the progress of the battle has been slow and prolonged, the Islamic State has ultimately reached its end.

In this situation, from the most urgent strategic perspective, the United States has been demanding that the Kurdish people postpone the referendum. The United States believes that if the referendum is held at this point in time, it may become an excuse for Türkiye, Iran and other important stakeholders to quit in the joint fight against the "Islamic State". It will evolve into a "black swan" event that the United States does not want to see, which will impact the top strategic goal of the United States.

Secondly, the United States is concerned that the independence referendum may have an uncertain impact on the political direction of Iraq. In recent years, the United States has begun to worry that the Kurdish forces' influence may impact the elected government supported by the United States , but the fact shows that the Iraqi government does not have the ability to integrate the whole country.

Former Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki's repressive policies towards Sunnis and Kurds have become an important reason for the rapid growth of the Islamic State. Seven years ago, the United States re elected the moderate Abadi as the Prime Minister of Iraq, and the serious ethnic and sectarian conflicts were only partially resolved. However, the rise of ISIS once again strengthened the hardline forces represented by Maliki.

The current Iraqi military is a mixed armed force, including approximately 100,000 Shia militia members who are more loyal to Vice President Maliki, who has close ties with Iran. In the Iraqi parliament, Shia lawmakers are also more obedient to Maliki than Prime Minister Abadi.

The United States hopes that various factions in Iraq can achieve new cooperation and balance through the war against ISIS, thereby achieving stability in the situation. Only then can the United States withdraw from the Middle East and focus its resources and energy on "America First" affairs.

The Kurdish independence referendum will undoubtedly exacerbate the crisis of the current Iraqi government and further affect the question of where Iraq will go in the future, which the United States does not want to see.

Thirdly, the United States is concerned that the independence referendum will exacerbate the instability of the Middle East situation. In addition to the Iraqi government, Türkiye, Iran and Syria are the strongest opponents of Kurdish statehood.

Apart from Iran and Syria, which are hostile to the United States, Türkiye plays a key role in the current and future Middle East pattern. Both the United States and Turkey are NATO allies, but under the influence of multiple factors, the US Turkey relationship has shown a deteriorating trend, and the Kurdish issue has further exacerbated the rift in the US Turkey relationship.

Due to the support of Russia for the Syrian government, Kurdish armed groups in Syria have become the most reliable force for the United States to combat ISIS and oppose the Bashar regime. This has led to Türkiye's serious dissatisfaction. Five years ago, Türkiye's defense minister even publicly suspected that the United States had "other intentions" in supporting Kurdish armed forces in Syria.

While appeasing Türkiye, the United States openly restricts the actions of the Kurdish armed forces in Syria. Former Vice President Biden even threatened to withdraw his support for the Kurdish armed forces. Therefore, the independence referendum of Iraqi Kurds has put the United States in a greater dilemma, because it involves the fundamental interests of Türkiye. Türkiye is highly worried that the establishment of the Iraqi Kurds will lead to the independence of the Syrian Kurds, and the Syrian Kurds have extremely close relations with Türkiye's eyesore, the Kurdish Labor Party.

If there is a Kurdish country close to Türkiye's border in the future, Türkiye's government will absolutely not accept it. In this situation, if the United States does not publicly oppose the Iraqi Kurdish referendum, it will undoubtedly confirm the suspicion that the United States has "ulterior motives" in dividing the Syrian territory.

The lesser of the two evils is the power of the two evils. The United States also adopted the strategy of abandoning its children. It withdrew from Syria two years ago, exposing Kurdish forces to Türkiye's attacks.

But the United States dare not completely abandon the Kurds and turn them towards Russia, so a month later, former Vice President Pence personally flew to the Iraqi capital of Erbil to visit Syrian and Iraqi Kurdish allies. Although it is only a verbal appeasement of actual harm, it can also be seen that the Kurdish people have become an important force influencing the situation in the Middle East.

**3. There is a fierce tiger on the side of the bed: Turkiye**

The more brilliant Kurds are, the more threatening Turks will feel. Türkiye has a total population of only 80 million, of which 15 million are Kurds. These Kurds who can fight well are extremely threatening "tigers" to the Türkiye government.

Since the mid-19th century, Kurds ruled by the Ottoman Türkiye Empire have awakened their national consciousness and started to fight for independence. According to the "land" stipulated in the Sevre Treaty, which the Kurds regard as the classic for the establishment of the country, it covers about 190000 square kilometers in Türkiye, accounting for about a quarter of Türkiye's land area.

If Kurds become independent, such a large area of land will also be separated from Türkiye, which is absolutely unacceptable for Türkiye, which pursues the rejuvenation of a great power.

Therefore, the Turks not only firmly deny the legality of the treaty, but also believe that the first President of the Republic of Türkiye, Kemal, can guarantee the territorial integrity of Türkiye only by becoming a "single nation" country. Since the mid-19th century, Kurds ruled by the Ottoman Türkiye Empire have awakened their national consciousness and started to fight for independence. According to the "land" stipulated in the Sevre Treaty, which the Kurds regard as the classic for the establishment of the country, it covers about 190000 square kilometers in Türkiye, accounting for about a quarter of Türkiye's land area. If Kurds become independent, such a large area of land will also be separated from Türkiye, which is absolutely unacceptable for Türkiye, which pursues the rejuvenation of a great power.

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The desire for national independence led the Kurds of Türkiye to launch an armed uprising led by Sheikh Said in 1925. Although it ended in failure, the Kurds revolted many times in the following 20 years, which sounded the alarm bell for the Türkiye government.

In order to prevent trouble before it happens, the Türkiye government, while forcibly migrating some Kurds to East Thrace, further accelerated the pace of separation of church and state, and cancelled Kurdish language.

Due to the deprivation of Kurdish language and cultural rights over the years, as well as the lack of improvement in their fundamental living conditions, Kurdish national consciousness has significantly increased and centrifugal tendencies have become more apparent. In the 1980s, after the establishment of the PKK, it led the armed forces to carry out a long-term guerrilla war with the Türkiye government.

The Kurdish problem in Türkiye broke out on a large scale at the end of the 20th century, mainly because:

First of all, the Türkiye government has made major mistakes in its ethnic policy. Since the 1980s, Türkiye's economy and society have developed rapidly. However, in sharp contrast, the government has not effectively improved the social and economic conditions of Kurds.

The per capita income of Kurds is only 40% of the national per capita income, and the contrast is so great that Kurds are more firm in their independent opinions and their centrifugal tendencies are greatly increased.

Secondly, support and assistance from foreign forces. There are a large number of Kurdish immigrants in EU member states, who have a certain degree of influence on the politics of their home countries and in the host countries. They have established extensive contacts with Kurds in Türkiye and relevant European national institutions in various forms to support and support the independence struggle of Türkiye's Kurds.

They also took measures to make the European Union believe that Türkiye has many problems in Kurdish human rights, delaying the process of Türkiye's accession to the European Union. At present, the trend of Kurdish issues has become a barometer to observe the relationship between Türkiye and the EU.

In addition, the realistic examples of the Kurds in Syria and Iraq who have achieved a certain degree of autonomy through struggle have greatly inspired the hope of the Kurds in Türkiye.

The PKK's request for the establishment of a Kurdish state has touched the "Sevre" complex of Türkiye's Turks and poses a very serious challenge to Türkiye's national identity. At the same time, Türkiye's "EU trip" will have a profound impact on this country, and the Kurdish issue will rise and fall together with Türkiye's "EU trip". Where are the Kurds heading? They need to step out step by step.

**Difficult Military Situation of Kurdish Forces in Iraq and Syria**

The current situation of the Kurdish armed forces is very similar to that of the Jewish people in the past, but the Kurdish armed forces are even worse than the newly established Israel.

Although Israel did not have much national support and had enemies on all sides, the Jewish people at that time held an extremely important position in the world's finance and technology fields. Therefore, the Jewish people received active support from all over the world, including economic assistance, channels for purchasing weapons, and so on.

However, compared to them, the Kurdish people are relatively disadvantaged.

Firstly, the Kurdish people have very little influence internationally, limited to their activities in the Middle East region. There is a huge gap in its political resources compared to Jews.

On the other hand, the Kurdish people have a fatal problem, which is that they themselves are not united enough. We know that when Israel was first established, the Jewish people were exceptionally united. At that time, Jews from all over the world rushed back to Israel, actively supporting the war. Some even went to the battlefield as soon as they got off the plane, and even sacrificed themselves without knowing their language or leaving their names behind.

 It is precisely under such cohesion that Israel was able to establish its own state. Let's talk about the impression of Kurds in the minds of Arabs.

During the previous Iran Iraq War, Kurds were like wall grass, swaying with the wind. After the end of the war, both Iran and Iraq believed that Kurds were treacherous individuals. So the Kurds have a poor reputation in the Middle East.

To sum up, the situation of Kurds in the Middle East is very difficult. After the United States gave up its support for Kurdish armed forces, the Kurdish armed forces first reached a settlement with the Syrian government forces, and then Kurds refused to allow the Syrian government forces to enter the city, which fully exposed their nature of being two faced. At present, the Kurdish armed forces have about 40,000 regular troops and 20,000 militia forces, which are likely to collapse by the military operations launched by Türkiye.

However, the Kurds are far from united. After the First World War, the Kurds had the opportunity to establish their own country, but the revolution broke out in Türkiye at that time, and the Ottoman Empire was overthrown. In order to divide the Kurds, the new Turkish government divided the Kurds into four parts, which belong to Türkiye, Iran, Iraq and Syria. Later, the Kurds in Iran and Iraq were gradually conquered and assimilated, while Türkiye continued to suppress the Kurds by controlling water sources and other means. At present, the Kurds in Syria are in a very difficult situation. For example, the Kurds in Iran are unwilling to help them, and internal differentiation and contradictions also lead to the Kurds being isolated and helpless.

Türkiye is located at the "Eurasian crossroads". At present, Türkiye is dreaming of reviving the hegemony of Türkiye's empire . Its primary goal is naturally to pay off the Kurds, because the conflict between Kurds and Türkiye has not been a year or two, but has a hundred years of gratitude and resentment. Moreover, Türkiye is not just trying to eliminate the Kurdish armed forces. Türkiye also wants to take this opportunity to take a large area of ​​land in northern Syria, even the Omar oil field in Deir Zur Province, to establish its leading position in the Arab countries. The Kurds, in the end, are likely to be under Erdogan's wildness Victims.