How Turkey’s involvement in Belt and Road Initiative altered the bilateral trade relationship between Turkey and China ?

Research Question

Research Methods for Social Sciences

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Research Method



Research Design

- A mixture of Comparative and longitudinal research designs
- Examination of Turkey's performance in export to and import from China on yearly basis
- Comparison of each year with other years



Data Collection and Analysis

One group of data used as the primary data set:

- Turkey's export to and import from China

This data set is supported by:

- BRI related interactions between Turkey and China



Problems and Limitations

During the course of the research emerged two problems:

- The issue of identifying BRI related events
- The figures from differen, natioanal and international, sources do not match each other.

Literature Review and Justification

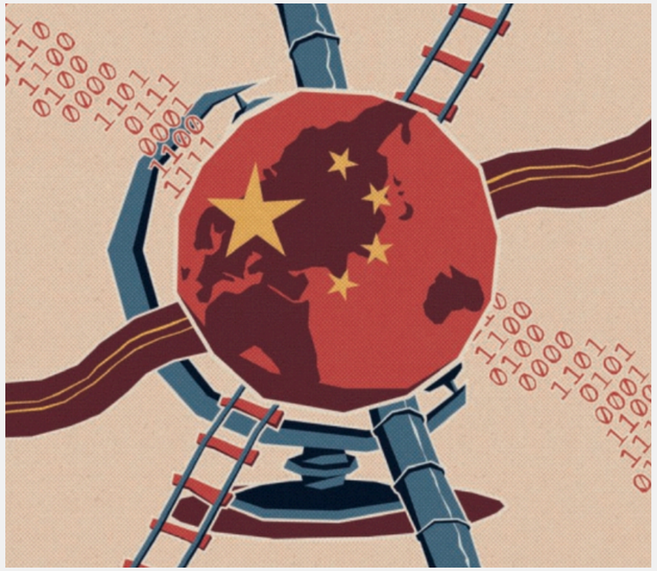
- In the literature there is clearly a gap about the role of BRI in the changing dynamics of bilateral trade of these two countries.
- My research exclusively aims to answer how Turkey's involvement in Belt and Road Initiative altered the bilateral trade relationship between Turkey and China ?

- Altay Atlı notes that "Initiatives like China's 'One Belt, One Road' (OBOR) project, which is welcomed by Turkey with great enthusiasm, serve to nurture this idea, and studies inquiring into the dynamics of the relationship between China and Turkey offer much optimism for the future."

- Selçuk Çolakoğlu points out "The Sino-Turkish economic partnership has become deepened in the first decade of the BRI. Turkey together with Russia got the majority of Chinese BRI investments in Eurasia. Both the bilateral trade volume and Chinese investments in Turkey reached their historically high numbers in recent years."

- Ziya Öniş says "Chinese FDI in Turkey experienced a sharp increase in 2015 following Turkey's signing of the BRI agreement."

About the Belt and Road Initiative



What is Belt and Road Initiative

- Announced by Xi Jinping in September 2013 at Nazarbayev University.
- Intended to fund infrustructure constructions around the world and place China at the center of a major transnational production network.
- Two component initiatives
  - New Silk Road Economic Belt
  - 21st Century Maritime Silk Road



Turkey’s involvement in BRI

- Involved in November 2015 during G20 Summit in Antalya by signing a memorandum.
- Alongside this momerandum included:
  - A “railroad cooperation agreement.” stipulating up to 40 billion dollors expected investment.

Bilateral Trade after Turkey's involvement in BRI

My Hypothesis

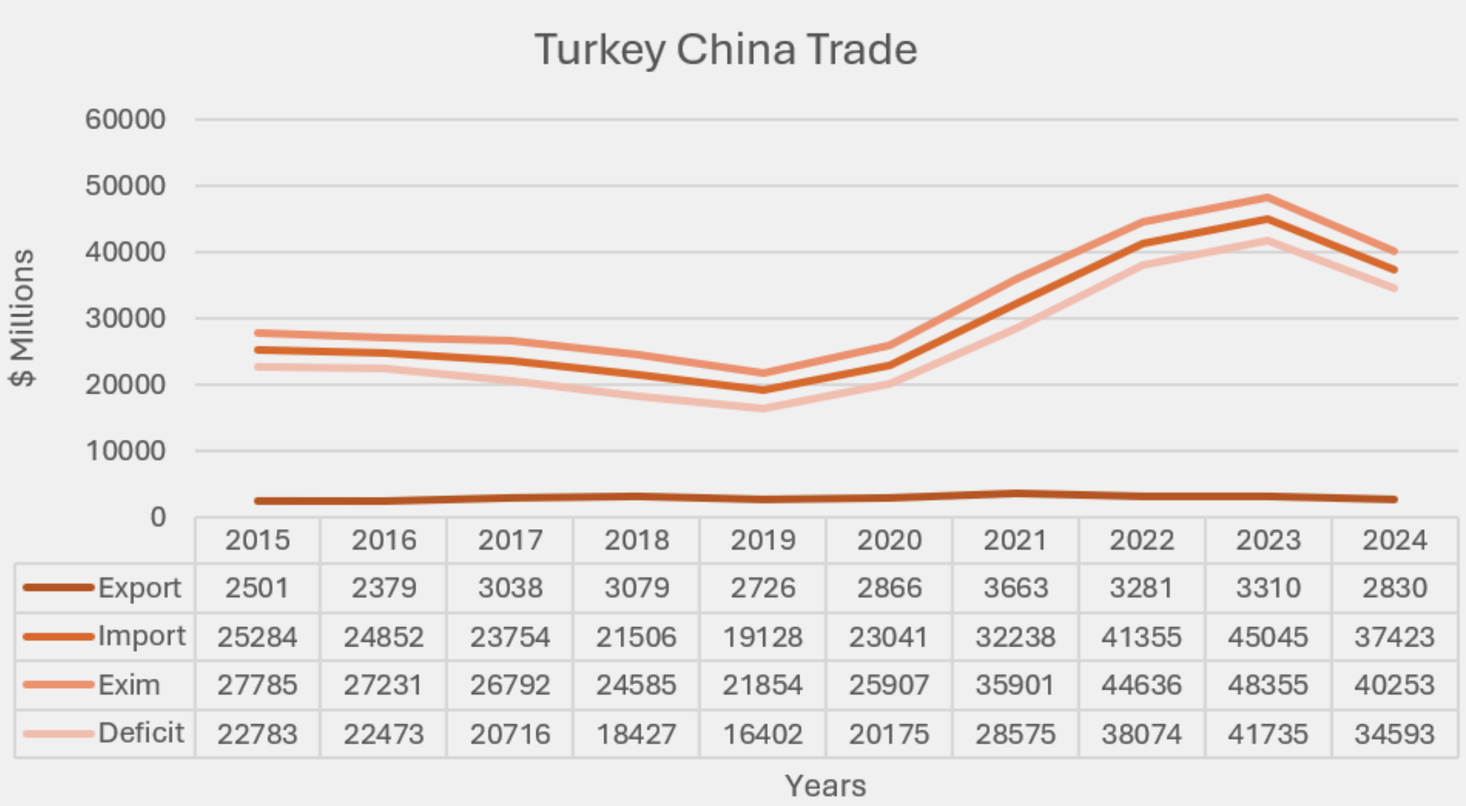
- Turkey's involvement in BRI had a positive impact in the trade between Turkey and China

Outcome of the research.

- Processes and mechanisms linked with BRI did not play any significant role both in the initial detoriation and the later improvement.

Discussion

- Rather than BRI, previous developments played a role in this detoriation.
  - Sinop Nuclear Power Plant
  - Missile Defense System
- Trade volume increased not because BRI but because Turkey aligned with China's interests.
  - April 2019 Belt and Road Forum
  - July 2019 Erdoğan's visit to Beijing



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Export	2501	2379	3038	3079	2726	2866	3663	3281	3310	2830
Import	25284	24852	23754	21506	19128	23041	32238	41355	45045	37423
Exim	27785	27231	26792	24585	21854	25907	35901	44636	48355	40253
Deficit	22783	22473	20716	18427	16402	20175	28575	38074	41735	34593



Thank you for listening!