

ABSTRACT

For a long time, the humanitarian and economic aid have usually been understood either the responsibility of developed nations toward developing nations or as the assistance of allies to one another and therefore disregarded as non-scholarly matter. However, as of the beginning of 21st century, humanitarian and economic aid turned into a much more complex phenomenon involving political, economic, diplomatic, ideological and moral aspects. Character of humanitarian and economic aid has changed when emerging powers started to use them as a strong foreign policy instrument. This thesis studies the reasons and consequences of Turkey's leading position in the field of humanitarian and economic aid in the world by examining Turkey's policy of "humanitarian diplomacy" in Somalia which has been in place since 2011.

Turkey's leading position in humanitarian aid in Somalia remains as an intriguing subject for the scholars as Somalia faces external and internal power vacuum problems in state-building and peace-building process. This thesis investigates the reasons as to why Turkey conducts humanitarian diplomacy in Somalia through the theory of neoclassical realism. This thesis argues that Turkey has been trying to fill up this power vacuum in Somalia by using humanitarian diplomacy. Even though neoclassical realism is often neglected in examining foreign policy by many scholars, findings of this study suggest that neoclassical realism is the most appropriate theory to analyse Turkey's activism regarding humanitarian diplomacy in Somalia.