

ABSTRACT

Turkey's silence towards the Uyghur issue remain to be questioned by international communities and media. The Uyghur tragedy has become an embarrassment for Turkey's ambition in resolving conflicts especially in the Muslim world. This thesis is aimed to explain the factors behind Turkey's inconsistency in dealing with Uyghur Issue during Recep Tayyip Erdoğan era in 2009-2019. In understanding the change of state behaviour, the author was using the Foreign Policy Decision-Making theory by William D. Coplin. By using this theoretical framework, this research proved that there are three prominent reasons behind Turkey's preference in engaging partnership with China rather than supporting the Uyghurs, which are: The pragmatic considerations took by AKP towards China, Turkey's economic crisis and the need of military cooperation with China, China is the world's new economic powerhouse who provides more beneficial offers to Turkey. Erdogan clearly stated that Turkey will not let any of the Uyghur issue to spoil the bilateral relations with China. It is really prominent for Turkey to strengthen the cooperation with China in various aspects.

Keyword(s) : *Uyghur Issue, Turkey and China Relations, Foreign Policy*