

## Abstract

In 2010 a contract was signed between Russian Rosatom and Turkey to build the first Nuclear Power plant (NPP) in Turkey called Akkuyu NPP. The aim of this thesis is to analyze energy diplomacy between Turkey and Russia in context of the construction of Akkuyu. By analyzing energy diplomacy in the context of Akkuyu NPP gives a better understanding of bilateral relations, national interest, economic considerations and security concerns. To study this, explaining the outcome type of Process Tracing (PT) was used as it allows analyses within a case. Akkuyu NPP in itself is unique as it is the first NPP that is built on Build Operate and Own (BOO) principle that is technically owned by the Russian Federation. Three hypotheses were formulated and tested. As a result, out of three hypotheses two were proven. The first hypothesis that argued that the construction of Akkuyu NPP was used as an energy diplomacy tool by Russia to promote national interest was conclusively proven but had some plausible indications. Hypothesis two and three demonstrated that construction of Akkuyu was affected by energy diplomacy and economic considerations and Akkuyu NPP has negatively affected energy diplomacy between Turkey and Russia. From PT results and literature review combined it can be further plausible to say the following arguments. Russia with the help of the Akkuyu NPP project has increased leverage over Turkey on energy and other national interests. Second, even with challenging conditions of Akkuyu NPP Turkey sees Akkuyu NPP as a benefit for its own interests. Third, Russia utilizes energy diplomacy for its various national interests. Fourth, Rosatom has a different agenda and is perceived with more soft power elements that are able to generate a “pull”. And lastly, Turkey by accepting challenging conditions of Akkuyu NPP might be investing in the bilateral relation to acquire future advantages with Russia. The organization of the thesis is as such, a literature review that covers: Turkish Russian bilateral relations, Russian foreign and energy policy, security considerations, and Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant’s background and significance. Theoretical framework covers concepts of diplomacy and energy. Followed by a methodology part that explains the process tracing, tests and logic behind it. Then the Process tracing that involves seven steps and a hypothesis testing which are: Straw in the wind, hoop test, smoking gun test and doubly decisive. Then a rating scale for the process tracing results, followed by findings and discussion.

