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**Tayyip Erdogan's leadership: A Beacon for the Unity of  
Muslim World**

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In modern Turkey's political discourse, Recep Tayyip Erdogan has emerged as the most astonishing, influential and august figure in world politics. Since the mid-2000s, Turkey has assimilated a soft power paradigm into its foreign policy to engage Muslim states and has shifted its policies towards the promotion of peace. Up till now, Under the

Erdogan's presidency, Turkey has emerged as a regional power, as well as a beacon for the promotion of Islamic values in the whole west Asian region. Tayyip Erdogan increases his global engagement to subdue and overcome the challenges faced by the Muslim World. His leadership style and preponderance are explicitly more efficacious, when it comes to Turkish politics, promotion of Peace and policy choices. Some people perceive him as a hostile and assertive leader towards his critics and rivals; others perceive him as a pragmatic leader who can inspire the entire Muslim community around the world.

As per the regional perspective, we can't understand his leadership style without having the complete grasp of Erdogan's exerted influence over the regional actors. Similarly, on the International stage, Erdogan adopted an increasingly confident position to address the issues and challenges faced by the Muslim world. In recent years, the Muslim Scholars of Turkey and the Arab World have seen tremendous development under Erdogan's policies to integrate Muslim countries. One of the key factors behind Erdogan's popularity is Turkey's soft power which helped Middle Eastern countries to resolve their differences.

During his visit to Malaysia to attend the Kuala Lumpur summit, Erdogan said that terrorism and Islamophobia have crippled the image of Islam; terrorism became a convenient excuse for those who want to promote the clash of civilizations. They are carrying out terrorist attacks under the name of Islam; the pertinent reason behind this is to humiliate Islamic values and the Muslim world. He has presented Muslims at International forums and noted Muslims as

powerless, inactive and is not fairly represented in world politics. Furthermore, Erdogan had taken a consistent approach that the Islamic world has no prerogative to formulate and implement wider decisions to determine its future. Erdogan urged the Muslim leaders that there is not a single Muslim country in the U.N. Security Council, which always leads to injustice with 1.7 billion Muslims. He had focused on consolidation of the Islamic world that without cooperation the peaceful, tranquil and stable system cannot prevail, until and unless the Muslim shall unite.

Having a platform of Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Erdogan emphasized that “we ought to visualize our power; we need to first believe in ourselves, we have to need to comprehend ourselves and determine our attitude accordingly”. He had denounced the international community and IOs for not being effective and efficient to find solutions to major conflicts like Lebanon, Iraq, Libya, Palestine, and Syria. While criticizing the USA, EU and Israel, Erdogan explained that the lines for bloodshed in the Middle Eastern region were drawn after World War-I and still the Muslims are suffering from it.

Considering the Palestine issue, the Turk leader encouraged the Muslims that we should resist Israeli illegal occupation over Palestine. In case of not giving respect to Palestinian people’s right to live and work in peace, Israel is jeopardizing the future of the world and the region. During his speech at 74<sup>th</sup> UNGA, he said that Israel’s occupation and constant attacks against unarmed Palestinian civilians undermining world peace and it will bring chaos and political turbulence in the region. Erdogan lambasted Trump’s Mideast peace plan and responded that such actions are ignoring the Palestinian rights and legitimating the Israeli occupation, so, we

the Muslim world rejecting this proposal. He argued that “as long as Muslims defend justice and freedom, Palestine will continue to exist”.

Recently, he reiterated for amendments in the Security Council’s political and administrative structure to be shaped taking into consideration the world masses especially Muslim majority states, these efforts enshrined the leadership skills of Tayyip Erdogan. Using soft power, Erdogan extended his efforts that Muslim countries should mobilize themselves to coordinate in technological advancements, commerce, and trade, and to promote their Islamic cultural and social values. To curb the rising hatred against Islam in western countries, Erdogan urged the international community to designate “International Solidarity Day against Islamophobia”. It’s remained a substantial concern for Erdogan to overcome the growing anti-Muslim sentiment, far-right extremism and xenophobia in the Western world. To overcome discrimination and racism against Muslims, Erdogan along with Pakistan and Malaysia, proposed a joint media network to improve the positive image of Muslims. Tayyip Erdogan vigorously worked to put an end to the negative portrayal of Islam and enmity against Muslims. These efforts assist Erdogan to emerge as an Icon and hope for the Muslim World. In short, the Muslim world under an influential leader like Erdogan got prestige from the international community with energetic and confident diplomacy. If we encapsulate the reasons behind his assertiveness then these are Erdogan’s soft power, active foreign policy, pursuing diplomatic relations prudently, political will and abroad receptive audiences which helped him to direct the international attention towards regional concerns. This also led to resolving the region’s serious problems to restore

the positive image of Muslim states. He gained the status of an exceptional leader by experimenting with his foreign policy on a global level to consolidate the Islamic states. This perception made Erdogan a rising star of the Muslim world, Arab intellectuals appreciated Turkey's role and urged him for more involvement in regional issues. In a nutshell, Turkey appeared as a potential country and peace-maker on the periphery of the international system under the leadership of Tayyip Erdogan. The world needs leaders like him for being able to bring trans-regional issues to international attention.

