

Emergence and Electoral Victories of the Justice and Development Party in Turkish Politics

Durgesh Kumar

Introduction

The Justice and development party, known by its Turkish acronym AKP was founded in August 2001. From the establishment of the AKP, the party won all the general elections as well as Presidential elections. The AKP founded in 2001 by Erdogan, former mayor of the Istanbul.¹ After the formation of the AKP, the party contested its first general elections and won by majority. The footprint of the AKP's emergence can be found in 1970s. It is the latest Islamic oriented party, the first Islamic oriented party in Turkey establish in 1970 by Necmettin Erbakan, which known as the National Order Party (NOP). The Islamist parties have been restricted by military or by Constitutional Court because these parties were threat to the secular nature of the Republic. The NOP was banned by Constitutional Court in May 1971. The second Islamist party got established in November 1971, which known as the National Salvation Party (NSP). It was survived until military coup in 1980. After the end of military rule in 1983, one more Islamic oriented party then established by Erbakan to continue the ideology and program of the NSP, known as the Welfare Party (WP). In the general elections of 1995, it gained the popular support with 21 percent of total votes. In June 1996, it formed a coalition government with centre-right the True Path Party (TPP) to rule Turkey from June 1996 to June 1997.²

A set of demands, recommended to government by military on 28 February, 1997, which carry out leaders to soft coup in 1997. In June 1997, Erbakan was forced by military and constitutional court to resign. After the resignation of Erbakan, President called to centre-right but secular the Motherland Party (MP) to form a new government. The MP formed government and immediately showed their determination to execute the military recommendations.³ In May 1997, it was last week of Erbakan government; a

1 Aswini K. Mohapatra (2011), "Turkey's Transition to Liberal Democracy and the Issue of its EU Membership", *India Quarterly*, 67(2), p. 154.

2 Sakir Dincsaahin (2012), "A Symptomatic Analysis of the Justice and Development Party's Populism in Turkey, 2007–2010", *Government and Opposition*, 47(4), pp. 618- 619.

3 R Quinn Mecham (2004), "From the ashes of Virtue, a Promise of Light: the Transformation

*Doctoral Candidate, Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi