Abstract

How Did The U.S. Use and Betray Syrian Kurds?

Mohammed M. A. Ahmed (Dr.)

The Syrian Kurds, who have often been called the forgotten people of the Middle East, have been punished by successive Syrian governments for holding on to their own ethnic identity, cultural heritage, and language as their brethren have done across the borders of Turkey and Iraq. They came to prominence when they stood their ground, with inferior weapons, to fight back the Islamic State (IS), which tried to take over their villages and towns.

Having witnessed the courage of Kurdish women and men defending their community from the Islamic State invaders, the U.S. and its international allies came to their aid by providing them with air cover, training and better military hardware, a move that Turkey vehemently opposed. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused the U.S., a long time NATO ally, of arming his Kurdish enemies against Turkey. He demanded that the U.S. should join forces with Turkey in the fight against all forms of terrorism. This article explains that while the U.S. initially turned down Erdogan’s offer, it later greenlighted him to invade Kurdish towns and villages.