

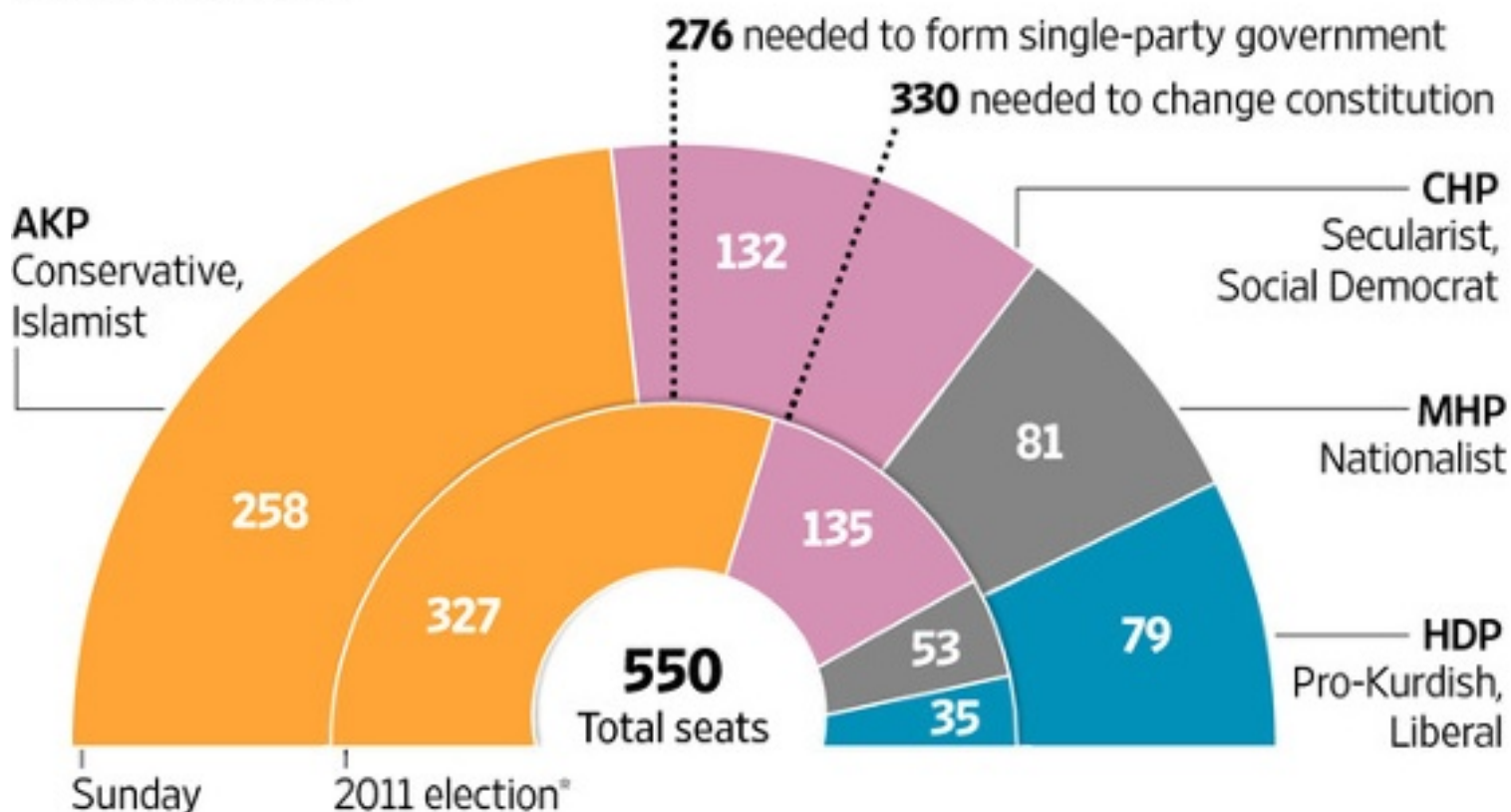
# 2015 Turkish Elections Results and What Next?

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# Power Shift

Turkey's Justice and Development Party, or AKP, failed to secure enough parliament seats in Sunday's election to form a majority government for the first time in 13 years, or to change the constitution.

## SEATS PER PARTY



# Justice and Development Party

- Lost 10% votes
- Not able to establish a majority government for the first time since 2002
- And unable to change the constitution and expand the powers of the president any further

# People's Democracy Party

- Passed the highest election threshold of 10%
- Campaigned for all oppressed minorities of Turkey (women, LGBT, handicapped, Christian, Jewish) and their message was heard by urban left liberal circles in Western Turkey, which helped them pass the threshold.

# How to explain AKP's loss?

- Lost the trust of Kurds (most significant loss)
- Mr. Erdogan's authoritarian tendencies
- Corruption allegations around Mr. Erdogan's family and cabinet, excessive spending, major interventions in the independence of the legal system, press freedoms
- Not, but the least Mr. Erdogan's embrace of an increasingly angry rhetoric

# How to explain HDP's success

- Benefitted from AKP's shifty approach towards the peace process and gained support of almost all Kurds
- The campaign displayed their evolution from a Kurdish movement to a left movement embracing all oppressed groups of Turkey. For the first time gained support from Western urban Turks.

# What next?

- A new government needs to be established in 45 days, otherwise there will be early elections.
- Because AKP polarized Turkey so much, no party wants to enter a coalition with them.
- Because MHP refuses any relation with the HDP, a coalition of three parties outside AKP is not possible.
- Most likely coalition: AKP – CHP.
- Or may be AKP – MHP.

- But most likely scenario is early elections – probably in the Fall 2016.
- AKP hopes that looming economic downturn and political instability will make votes return to AKP.
- In order to do this, AKP has to convince Kurds that voting for HDP is to their disadvantage.



# How will the election results change Turkey?

- The possibility of Mr. Erdogan turning into a president who holds all powers in his hand is curtailed.
- Liberals in AKP gained a stronger hand – it is even possible that they may split from AKP.

# If the three parties can act together they can enhance democracy

- Send the family members of Mr. Erdogan and his cabinet members to court for corruption allegations
- Change the law that gives new powers to the National Intelligence Agency and the police
- Decrease limitations towards press and internet users
- Limit or abolish discretionary funds allocated to Mr. Erdogan

- HDP's victory is a big step towards the peace process.
- Success of a party promoting rights without arms will decrease the power of Kurds who argue for armed struggle
- Recognition of Kurds as legitimate actors in politics is undeniable
- HDP's active feminism will also transform representation of women in other parties, at least CHP for sure

# In international relations

- Turkey will need to question its failing strategies in the Middle East
- It will deliver its promise to fight against the Islamic State more effectively. Or, allegations against Turkey's support for the IS will be able to be better monitored.

- Of all parties, HDP is most invested in better relations and possible integration with the European Union. Any coalition, other than AKP-MHP one will take steps in that direction.

- No matter, which coalition, now there will be a better balance of powers that is crucial for democracy.