The two devastating earthquakes that hit Turkey last year, resulting in more than 17,000 deaths and causing extensive material damage to the country’s industrial heartland, revolutionized the way in which the state, state-society relations, and civil society are all being questioned. Particularly in the western press, popular attention was given to the state’s slow and equivocal response to the disaster as portrayed by the media and the government. It was also reported that the state was not ready to respond to the disaster as it was preoccupied with other matters such as preparing for the upcoming elections in November. The government’s slow response to the disaster was criticized by the opposition parties, who demanded that the government take more immediate action to provide relief to the affected people.

The two disasters, which hit Turkey in the first week of November 2011, were the worst natural disasters in the country’s history. The first earthquake struck on November 28, causing widespread damage and killing hundreds of people. The second earthquake, which struck the same region on December 15, was even more devastating, killing thousands of people and causing extensive damage.

In response to the disaster, a large number of NGOs and other civil society organizations rushed to the scene, providing relief and assistance to the affected people. The NGOs played a crucial role in providing essential services such as food, water, shelter, and medical care. The NGOs also worked to raise awareness about the disaster and to mobilize resources to support the relief efforts.

The government, however, was criticized for its slow and inefficient response to the disaster. Many NGOs and civil society organizations complained that the government was slow to respond to the disaster and that it took too long to provide relief to the affected people. The government was also criticized for its lack of coordination with the NGOs and other civil society organizations.

In conclusion, the two disasters in Turkey highlighted the importance of civil society and the role that NGOs and other civil society organizations play in responding to disasters. The government must work closely with civil society organizations to ensure that they are able to respond more quickly and effectively to disasters in the future.