



Turkey Today

TERMS & NAMES

Mustafa Kemal
Grand National
Assembly

Atatürk

Tansu Ciller

MAIN IDEA

Turkey's culture blends modern European and traditional Islamic ways.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Turkey is an important military ally and trade partner of the United States and Europe.

DATELINE

ANKARA, TURKEY, NOVEMBER 25, 1925—No more fez. Turkish leader Mustafa Kemal has declared that Turkish men are no longer allowed to wear the fez, their traditional head covering.

According to the new Hat Law, hats are now the acceptable head covering for men. Muslim women are being strongly encouraged to give up the veil. These changes are in keeping with Kemal's drive to westernize Turkey. Many Turks are happy to see Turkey become more like Europe. Others are unhappy with this move away from the traditional Islamic way of life.



Culture • Turkish men are getting used to wearing hats. ▲



Culture • The fez will become a thing of the past. ▲

Between Two Worlds

If you look at Turkey on the map on page 273, you will see that it is joined to Southwest Asia on the east and to Europe on the west. The question after World War I was: Would Turkey be like its Islamic neighbors and hold on to its traditions, or would it become more like the West? Its powerful new ruler, **Mustafa Kemal** (keh•MAHL), believed in westernization, by force if necessary.



Place • Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was the founder and first president of the Republic of Turkey (1923–38). ▲

Reading Social Studies

A. Forming and Supporting Opinions Which of Mustafa Kemal's changes do you think had the greatest effect on Turkish life?

A Powerful Ruler

Mustafa Kemal was the founder of modern Turkey. He had been a Turkish officer and war hero for the Ottoman forces during World War I. The Ottomans had continued to rule Turkey even after the empire became weak. Turkey fought on the losing side during the war, which weakened it even more. In 1920, Great Britain occupied Turkey.

Mustafa Kemal Becomes Atatürk Kemal opposed Britain's action. He organized Turkey's first **Grand National Assembly**, or legislature. The assembly elected Kemal president. At his suggestion, the assembly officially adopted the name Turkey, the land of the Turkish people. In 1923, Kemal declared Turkey a republic and got rid of the old Islamic government the following year.

While Kemal was in the Ottoman army, he spent time in European cities. He admired the way of life he saw there. He believed adopting modern, "Western" ways and ideas would benefit Turkey. Over the next nine years, Kemal introduced his changes. The Western alphabet replaced the Arabic alphabet. The Western calendar replaced the Islamic calendar.

Before 1934, many Turks used only first names. In 1934, a new law required the use of last names. The National Assembly gave Kemal the name **Atatürk**, which means "Father of Turks."

Changes Brought by Modernization

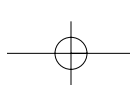
For nearly 1,000 years, Islamic law had shaped Turkish life. Atatürk, however, believed in secular government. He closed all institutions that had been founded on Islamic law. He replaced religious schools with secular schools. Since people were used to having Islam play a major role in all aspects of their lives, many protested Atatürk's reforms.

Women in Turkey Turkish women benefited from Atatürk's reforms. He made it easier for women to divorce their husbands. Marriages could no longer be arranged by a woman's parents unless she agreed. Men were no longer able to have more than one wife at the same time.

Women could now also vote and run for office. In the mid-1930s, women were elected to the national parliament. The world's first woman supreme court justice was a Turk. For several years during the 1990s, a woman named **Tansu Ciller** was Turkey's prime minister.

Movement • In 1993, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller traveled from Turkey to the United States where she met with President Bill Clinton. ▼





Rights and Freedoms Today

Turkey adopted its most recent constitution in 1982. The Turkish Constitution promises freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and other rights. The government, however, does not always live up to these promises. It sometimes limits freedoms. Turkish journalists can be arrested for writing articles against the government. The government also bans some publications.

The Kurds The Kurds are a group of people who live in the mountainous regions of southeastern Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria. They have been fighting for their own state since 1984. The Turkish government has made suspected Kurd fighters leave their homes. It limits the right to teach Kurdish in schools. It also limits the use of Kurdish in television and radio programs.

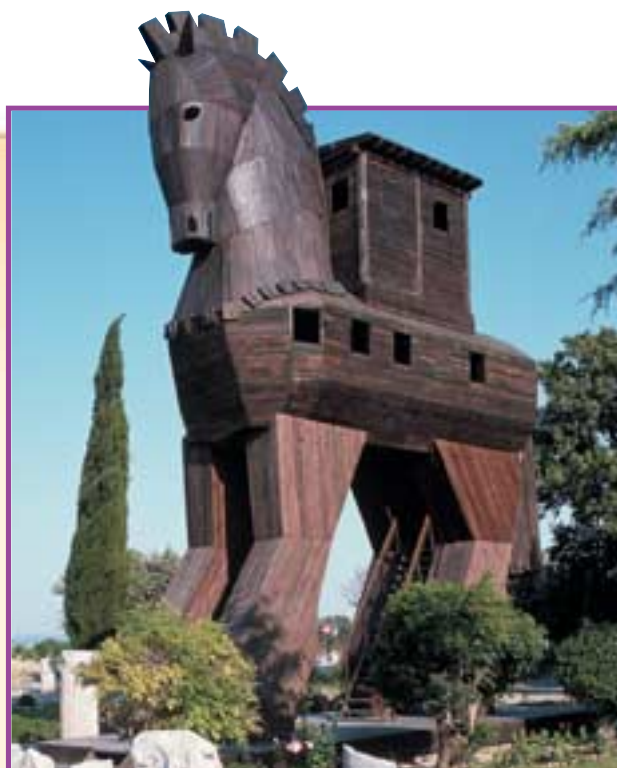
International Alliances

Turkey and the United States are both members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This alliance was formed in 1949 to keep the Soviet Union and its allies from attacking non-Communist countries in Western Europe. Turkey joined the alliance in 1952. When the Soviet Union fell apart in 1991, some NATO members felt the alliance was no longer necessary. Turkey disagreed because NATO membership helps protect its borders. Membership also gives Turkey a say in major decisions other members make.



Looking for Troy Two of the world's best-known epic poems tell about a long-ago war in the eastern Mediterranean. In the *Iliad*, Greeks besiege the city of Troy. Greek soldiers hide inside a giant wooden horse to trick the Trojans into opening the gates of the city. The photo at right shows a model of the Trojan Horse. In the *Odyssey*, the hero, Odysseus, has many adventures on his way home from the same war. Both poems may have been composed by the Greek poet Homer sometime around 800 B.C.

While many people thought the Trojan War was just a legend, Heinrich Schliemann, a German archaeologist, dreamed of finding the real Troy. In the 1870s, he began to dig at a site in northwestern Turkey. He found ruins of palaces and golden artifacts. In fact, Schliemann had found Troy—but not the city of the poems. Over centuries, people had built new cities on the ruins of older ones. Archaeologists think that the seventh city down on the site is the Troy of the *Iliad*. It was destroyed about 1250 B.C.





Joining the European Union Most of Turkey's trade is with Western Europe. In 1987, Turkey applied to join the European Union. The EU was reluctant to accept Turkey, partly because of the size of its population. There are not enough jobs in Turkey for all the people who want them. Two million Turks have gone to Germany to work. Millions more work in other European countries. Workers from EU countries are allowed to move freely within the region. European countries worried that membership in the EU would let more Turkish workers into their countries than they could handle.

Region •
The city of Istanbul is partly in Europe and partly in Asia. ▲

SECTION 5 ASSESSMENT

Terms & Names

1. Identify: (a) Mustafa Kemal (b) Grand National Assembly
(c) Atatürk (d) Tansu Ciller

Taking Notes

2. Use a chart like this one to list changes made by Mustafa Kemal.

Old Ways	New Ways
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Main Ideas

3. (a) How does Turkey limit the rights of the Kurds?
(b) How did Atatürk's reforms benefit women?
(c) Why does Turkey value its membership in NATO?

Critical Thinking

4. Analyzing Issues

How does the issue of unemployment affect Turkey's chances of joining the European Union?

Think About

- ♦ Turkey's population
- ♦ jobs in Europe

ACTIVITY -OPTION-

Write a **dialogue** between two Turks, one who welcomes Mustafa Kemal's changes and one who opposes them.