The Unveiling: The new Atatürk Statue in Washington, D.C. represents the first public monument in the United States honoring one of the greatest leaders of the 20th century.
CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Mustafa Kemal’ın Askerleriyz...
We are the soldiers of Mustafa Kemal...

“There are two Mustafa Kemals. One, the flesh-and-blood Mustafa Kemal who now stands before you and who will pass away. The other is you, all of you here who will go to the far corners of our land to spread the ideals which must be defended with your lives if necessary. I stand for the nation’s dreams, and my life’s work is to make them come true.”

—Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

Believing secularism, democracy, science and technology

The year 2013 marked the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Turkish Republic. And it was also the year of the most significant uprising in the history of Turkey. The chant “Mustafa Kemal’ın Askerleriyz” (We are the soldiers of Mustafa Kemal), could be heard all over Turkey, in public squares.

In 2010 Fall Edition of Voice of Atatürk, on this same page, under Chairman’s Comments, I finished my remarks with these sentences: “No wonder there is increasing alarm that Turkey has lost its way. It is time to relearn the lessons of Atatürk, for the sake of our children and grandchildren”.

Our children, the third and fourth generation of Turks since 1923, took action, and started the “Gezi Park Protests”, a massive civil uprising against the Islamist politics of the current government. What started as a peaceful sit-in at a public park in Istanbul became a nationwide show of unity and pride to protect Turkey’s legacy as a democratic, secular country. The protesters, especially the younger generation of Turks, showed us and to the whole world, that the Turkish youth is committed to follow the secular path set by modern Turkey’s founder, Kemal Atatürk.

The determined mind of the Turkish Youth will not let anyone reverse the progress made by Atatürk’s revolutions. Young people of the nation are through, energetic and committed. Their inspiration comes from Atatürk’s trust and belief in Turkish youth.

Youth, you are the ones who support and maintain our courage. You will be the most precious symbol of humanity and civilization, love for the motherland and freedom of thought with the help of the manners and knowledge you are taught. The rising new generation, the future is yours. We founded the Republic, you are the ones to raise it and keep it alive.

—Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

The number of Turkish flags and Atatürk portraits keeps increasing at protests each time Recep Tayyip Erdoğan retaliates with a new campaign. One of the latest is the ban of the student oath, the Turkish pledge of allegiance, be recited at primary schools. This was the last straw in a chain of relentless campaigns by the government, which resulted in even stronger unity for a democratic Turkish Republic.

Even the fans of the three major rivaling soccer clubs in the country came together during the protests. There was a steady increase in the number of visitors to Anıtkabir, Atatürk’s final rest place and monument this year compared to 2012.

Turks all around the world took action in support of the same ideals. Turkish Americans in Washington DC, were among the worldwide supporters. They showed their solidarity with Gezi Park protests. This was the biggest show of solidarity amongst Turkish Americans in Washington, DC, and those who came from all around the US. Hundreds attended to these historic gatherings at Lafayette Park in front of the White House 12 weeks in a row.

The 90th anniversary of the Republic marks another historical event for me personally. Something that I have been dreaming about since the first day I arrived in the US in 1958, the dream to see a continued on page 26
PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

PROMOTING THE WORLDVIEW OF ATATÜRK

The Atatürk Society of America (ASA) is an independent, non-partisan group, of patriotic Turkish-Americans. Indeed, they are individually and collectively patriotic toward Turkey as well as toward their adopted country, the United States. The primary focus of ASA is in promoting the views of Kemal Atatürk, seen in the extraordinary reforms with which he imbued his creation, the Republic of Turkey—chief among them, the secular state and equality of genders.

The year 2013 saw a frenetic pace of activity for the ASA, as a short inventory will reveal:

- On March 27 ASA and TPC (Turkish Policy Center) jointly organized a panel discussion of three international journalists at the National Press Club. The general theme of their presentation was “Press Freedom & Rule of Law” (or lack of) in present day Turkey.

ANZAC DAY

April 25 is commemorated as ANZAC Day throughout Australia and New Zealand, as well as by Australians and New Zealanders traveling abroad. And for many years members of ASA have been invited as honored guests at the National Cathedral where the Australians “Aussies” and the New Zealanders “Kiwis” take turns sponsoring the event. Atatürk’s deeply gracious and comforting words to the mothers of the fallen is always read aloud, and has even been set as an operatic aria that is sung by a leading soprano. Several of the officers of ASA were present for the occasion, seated immediately behind the Ambassadors of their respective nations.

This year I was personally unable to attend the National Cathedral event, busy giving lectures on an 18-day cruise from Dubai to Rome. One of the most elegant cruise ships, the Seabourn Odyssey was filled to capacity with 450 passengers. In commemorating ANZAC DAY, I was asked by the 79 Australians onboard to give a special talk to their group. I opened by greeting them on behalf of the Atatürk Society of America, and told them that my grandfather, Ismail Hakki, had fought alongside his legendary childhood friend Mustafa Kemal…just as their grandparents had fought on the ANZAC Side. “In that campaign of 1915,” I mentioned, “…there existed rough parity in numbers between the soldiers of the two sides facing each other. But on this occasion, “I continued, “I found myself outnumbered 98-to-1.” Then, expressing my deep gratitude for being asked to address them on this solemn occasion, I handed out copies of Atatürk’s deeply moving “Letter to the Australian Mothers,” I asked them to join me in reading it aloud. There was neither a dry eye in the room, nor a pair of hands that missed applauding the incredible man who had written the letter.

- On May 24 ASA sponsored a speech by the Turkish Member of Parliament Muharrem Ince representing the AK Party. The venue was the Cosmos Club on Massachusetts Avenue, where in the past countless Nobel and Pulitzer Prize Winners have addressed audiences. Hon. Ince, a physics teacher turned politician, is an unusually intelligent and articulate speaker. He delivered a forceful and eye-opening speech about the systematic dismantling of Atatürk’s Reforms during the term in office of PM Erdogan and his AK Party.

- On several Sundays in June-July members of the ASA joined a tumultuous group of Turkish-Americans walking in solidarity with the peaceful demonstrators at Gezi Park. On June 16, the group numbered over a one thousand marchers, all sharing a somber mood, walking from the White House to Capitol Hill.

THE ATATÜRK STATUE PROJECT

At 9:05 am on November 10, the statue of Atatürk was unveiled as the newest public monument in Washington, DC. After a moment of silence, the hundreds of guests who had gathered outside for the unveiling stopped inside the Ambassador’s Residence for a brief, but dignified ceremony. Australian Ambassador Kim Beazley, who was away on a trip, sent his emissary. Following the event, I was immediately on my way to Penn State to address the Turkish Students Association and to sit on a two man panel discussing the “Reforms of Atatürk” with Stephen Kinzer, Vice President of International Studies at Brown University, and former Bureau Chief for the New York Times stationed in Istanbul. It was gratifying that our messages appeared to complement each other strongly.

With fervent hopes for a Peaceful 2014, I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season.

A Defining Statue of Kemal Atatürk

“The new statue of Atatürk represents the first public monument in the United States honoring one of the greatest leaders of the 20th century.”

by Prof. Bulent Atalay

At a Board Meeting of the Atatürk Society in October 2012, the Founder of ASA, Hadud Yavalar, announced that the Society might have an exciting new project on its plate — the creation of a bronze statue of Atatürk to be placed on the periphery of Sheridan Circle, next to the Turkish Ambassador’s Residence at 1606 23rd Street, NW, Washington, DC. This would be the first public monument in the United States honoring the greatest Turk of them all, and coincide with both the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the secular Republic on October 29, 1923 and the 72nd Anniversary of Atatürk’s death on November 10, 1950. Although no one on the Board had any direct experience with commissioning a monumental bronze, this immediately became an enticing project for those of us who genuinely revere Atatürk.

A full-size statue already stands on the grounds of the New Turkish Embassy at 3253 Massachusetts Avenue, but it is not readily accessible to the public, standing on raised ground and behind a massive wrought iron fence surrounding the Embassy. Moreover, it is in the style of Eastern European heroic statuary, made of fiberglass, and over-painted in bronze tones. We thought Atatürk deserved better. The Turkish-American architect Nuray Anahit drew preliminary plans for the new statue to be placed at the center of a semicircular balustrade, an indentation in the wall surrounding the Turkish Embassy’s Residence at 1606 23rd Street, but not in Embassy property. As such, the statue would represent the first public monument in the United States honoring one of the greatest leaders of the 20th century. The consensus of the Board of the Atatürk Society was to have Kemal Atatürk depicted in a timeless realistic style, with the medium bronze. Selecting the sculptor, closely overseeing the carving of the work, and procuring permits from a plethora of government officials — the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC), the DC Board for Public Spaces, and the Historic Preservation Commission — were some of the tasks facing us. We also had to make a decision regarding the age to depict Atatürk — a young military officer struggling with battle strategy and wearing
Atatürk, and although they might have their own preferences, they can immediately assess whether an image produced by an artist even resembles Atatürk. Here, deciding to go with one of the two younger sculptors turned out to be a crucial salutary decision. Jeffrey L. Hall, lived no farther than one-hour's distance from Wash-ington, and he insisted that could he produce the finished art piece in roughly six months. We came to realize that he was always open to suggestions, and always willing to make changes. A few of us made at least a dozen visits to his studio in rural Virginia to observe the latest changes, only to offer new sugges-tions. What we feared was the well-worn ad-geism, “A camel is a horse designed by a committee!” What gave us confidence, however, was Jeff’s legen-dary master, Rick Hart’s description of his former assistant’s skills, “…whose quality of work rivals any in history.” Jeff knew nothing about Atatürk in advance. But as he immersed himself in the hundreds of photos and even old films that cap-tured his subject's general demeanor and movement, he became as familiar with Atatürk’s deportment as any Turk. Mean-while, we watched as his subject came to life. Standing next to the 6’7” bronze statue, perched on a 3” bronze base, one can sense Atatürk’s figure exuding that abstract quality of “heych,” an unmis-takable heroic presence.

As the author of a pair of books on Leonardo da Vinci (Math and the Mona Lisa, Smithsonian Books, 2004) and Leonardo’s Universe (National Geographic Books, 2009) I could bring suggestions based on my knowledge of the Renaiss ance Genius's own words. Leonardo in painting “The Last Supper,” had empha-sized the importance of the hands, “The subject should speak with his hands as much as with his facial expressions.” From the beginning I frequently spoke about Leonardo’s dictum regarding the impor-tance of the hands. In Jeff’s statue, Atatürk is depicted as a reformer/teacher, giving a speech — his left hand is holding a heavy book with the title “Nüktük” (“Speech”). The book is resting on his hip, but with his index finger holding his place in the book. The right hand captures the electric moment when he has paused, to make a point with his index finger. His intensity is seen in the details of the bulging veins. Among other details, Jeff is seen to have captured Atatürk’s “renkli güzler” (“light colored eyes”). We all marvelled at how a dark bronze statue could convey the illu-sion of light colored eyes. The irises are much shallower than they would otherwise be in depicting a subject with dark eyes. Among the accompanying photos, a white plaster bust, cast directly from the mold for the bronze, reveals this technique. Another subtle detail that few visitors would be expected to recognize is the direction of the stripes on Atatürk’s tie. Mathematically speaking, these stripes display “negative slope” (upper left-to-lower right). This style of stripe is known as the “American Stripe.” In distinction, the European striped ties always display positive stripes (lower left-to-upper right). In examining photos of Atatürk wearing ties, we found that his ties of choice had the American Stripe. One can only speculate about his ties being presented to him by the American Ambas-sador in Ankara, or one of the Turkish Ambassadors who once occupied the Embassy in Washington. The details also include the chain for his pocket watch, and in homage to his military days, his medal, proudly covered by his lapel.

The English poet William Blake (1757-1827) had once written the couplet, “Mysteries will never cease; the Priest clamos for war, and the soldier peace.” He could not have been more prescient, or more accurate, in describing Atatürk. The unenvied military tactician and strategist, who was underfed in the military cam-paigns that had consumed the first three decades of his life, becoming the greatest proponent for peace once he established the Republic of Turkey. In the semi-circu-lar balustrade surrounding Atatürk’s statue, we impressed into the walls bronze letters carrying his immortal words, “Peace at home… Peace in the World.”

SHERIDAN CIRCLE

The address Sheridan Circle is at the top of any short list of prime real estate in Washington, with the Embassy Row of Massachusetts Avenue radiating east west from the circle. Several embassies line the rim of the circle. Along with the former Turkish Embassy (now the Ambassador’s Residence) there is the Romanian embassy on the southern side, the Greek Embassy on the northeast, and the Embassy of Pakistan on the northwest. In front of a few of the embassies stand statues of prominent statesmen, including Greece’s early 20th century Prime Min-ister, Eleftherios Venizelos, whose armed forces had fought Turkey until 1922, and who nominated Kemal Atatürk for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1934. The centerpiece of the circle is an equestrian statue of the Union General Philip Sheridan, of the American Civil War fame. Although the equestrian statue, weathered naturally to a verdigris patina during the 105 years it has stood at the site, is extraordinarily beautiful in its own right, it is the sculptor of the statue, Guzzo Borglum, who is to be remembered. Borglum is much better known as the sculptor of the massive four quartet of heads of Presidents at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. The newest of the four Presidents, Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt, was a good and colorful Presi-dent, but he does not rise to the strato-spheric prominence achieved by the other three. For Teddy Roosevelt the timing was right: he was the reigning President, he was unusually fond of the Wild West, and he was a friend of the sculptor. The other three — Washington, Jef-ferson, Lincoln — are unrivaled as the greatest among the 44 Presidents in the history of the United States. The First President, General George Washington, unflattering military leader who ultimately defeated the British, stands symbolically as the “Father of the Nation,” The Third President, Thomas Jefferson, a brilliant theorist and political writer, authored the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson also strongly believed that religion was a personal choice that should be free from government interference. Then there is Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President, who beyond anyone else held the United States together during the dark years of the Civil War. He authored the Emancipation Proclamation, although it would take the better part of a century for this proclamation to fully take root. Each member of this iconic trio is honored with an impressive edifice, his own National Monument in Washington. Atatürk embodies the greatest assets of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln — military strategist par excellence, social, educational and economic reformer; statesman — Father of his Country — the man the distinguished professor of psy-chology, Irving Lorge, ranked Number One among all 3,200 national leaders of the 20th century:}
Turgut Ozakman's poignant final interview before his death

Historian and writer Turgut Ozakman was born on September 1, 1930 in Ankara, Turkey. He died on September 28, 2013 in Ankara. He was a Law School Graduate, but his interest in theatre and writing steered him in a direction which opened doors to a successful career in both fields. He started as a dramaturgy (script writer) at The Turkish State Theatre Company, and many years later returned as the General Manager to the same company. He was the Director and General Manager at the Turkish Radio Television Corporation, and Script Writing Instructor at the University of Ankara Theatre department. He has written many books, including 8 novels, 2 career books, 4 research books, more than 20 plays, 3 screen plays. His novel “Su Çiğnir Türklerki” (Three Crazy Turks), which was published in 2007, became the best seller for many weeks, and the most selling book ever in Turkey. Currently it’s at 597th print. Turgut Ozakman is survived by his wife Ayla, their three children and four grandchildren. In 2012, Turgut Ozakman received the History and Literature Award from the Atatürk Society of America. ASA Board member Ilknur Boray visited Mr. Ozakman at his home in Ankara on March 8, 2013, seven months prior to his death, to conduct this interview.

by Ilknur Boray

You were born and raised during the early years of the Republic. What are your memories of those days?

I was born in Ankara, but we moved to Istanbul when I was three years old. First we lived in Cengelköy, for about two years. Then we settled in Bakırköy. Let me say that Bakırköy was my mother’s village. And if you ask me, Bakırköy was a more advanced, more civilized place than Istanbul itself, during our childhood. Population was about eighteen to twenty thousand people. Bakırköy had a festive feeling in its entirety in those days. First of all, it felt like we enjoyed the new Republic more than anyone else. Our families, our schools... Everyone was so excited about what was happening in the country. It was such a remarkable period of time; just feels better every time I remember...

It was such a remarkable period of time; what are your memories of those days?

You were born and raised during the early years of the Republic. What are your memories of those days?

Well, maybe he is not aware that this is a lie... Why are you saying the wrong thing? What a shame! He says this was "crude"... Come on! If you are really interested in something, if you really like it, you will research to learn more about it. If this politician really liked Turkish music, he would have easily found out the truth. We owe everything we have today to the establishment of the Republic. Especially to the first 15 years, the Atatürk period.

Going back to your education: You went to the Theatre Institute in Cologne, Germany, after graduating from the Faculty of Law in Ankara. How this transition did from law to theatre took place? Did someone steer you in that direction?

...Freedom Movement and the mean-

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Going back to your education: You went to the Theatre Institute in Cologne, Germany, after graduating from the Faculty of Law in Ankara. How this transition did from law to theatre took place? Did someone steer you in that direction?

I went to Law School because it was in the field of social sciences. I wasn’t planning to stay in the law field anyway. I was interested in the theatre even then. As a matter of fact, my first play was staged at The State Theatre Company while I was in my last year of studies at the law school. It was 1952, the name of the play was “Pembe Evin Kaderi” (“The Fate of the Pink House”). I did my lawyer internship and completed my military service after graduating from Law School. During that whole time I was researching theatre... What was it all about? It is easy to write your first play, but it is not that easy to write the second one. Because you start realizing the difficulties, hardships, the special touches... So, while I was getting ready for my second play, Muhsin Ertugrul (actor/director who was...
I went to Cologne in 1954. The Cathedral was still in ruins. It wasn’t repaired after the war yet. But they were rebuilding the train station, opera and the theatre build-
ings. First priority: the train station; second priority: opera & theatre...Now, you can’t be bored this kind of culture. They may lose the war, but they will still be the heavy weights in culture and politics. Recently, there were some angry reactions to an event that took place in Turkey, at the State Theatre Company. Some people argued that the State could not, should not own a theatre company... In Germany, the number of state and city owned theatre compa-
nies are around 200 or so...Plus, there are private theatre companies, and they receive financial support from the local municip-
alis or foundations. That’s for sure... For example a private theatre company owned by Turks can survive in Hamburg or Ber-
lin, because of the financial support they’ll receive. Some of their plays may even be staged in Turkish...But arts, theatre will be
supported no matter what... Ataturk’s legacy in Anatolia has been uneducated and ignorant for the last thou-
sand years. How could it be possible to reset this ignorance and become civilized during the 17 years of Ataturk’s presidency? If his work could have been carried out and continued with the same energy, maybe...But it didn’t continue, it wasn’t carried on there was no desire to carry it on... Places which could help the public, such as Community Homes (Halk Odaletleri), Community Rooms (Halk Odaları) were closed. Village Institutes (Bay Insitutleri) were also closed. But there was something which was the continuation of all those in some way, and it is usually forgotten...I’d like to mention that...Radio and Televis-
ion was restructured and established as autonomous, according to the new constitution. But there was no connection to the ruling government. I was appointed as the Head of the Broadcasting of Turkish Radio - Television (TRT) at that time. But I had a question for the manager before accepting the position. I said ‘Sir, I will accept this duty only if we are going to broadcast in a nature that will fill the empty spot left by the community centers and village institutes. Otherwise, I can’t accept it.’ His answer was ‘Accept it... And, that self-governing radio man-
aged to broadcast programs that were able to inspire its listeners. There were some people who accepted the idea of autonomous at the beginning, mostly political arguments...But the people were very happy in general, there were no complaints about the programs. Some were not happy about the fact that the language used was new, modern Turkish, not the old Ottoman kind of Turkish... There were politicians such as Osman Bolkabasi, who didn’t like our being unbiased, who later gave up... And at the end, this free entry status of TRT bothered those who were ruling the country. So, the self-governing status was removed, and TRT became a public corporation which was connected to the ruling power. Still, its neutrality is essential. But unfortunately, right now it is not unbiased. So, I believe a crime is being committed at the moment at TRT.

You have concentrated on historical characters in your plays and novels, whether they are real or imaginary, since the very beginning of your writing career. I mean Keloğlan, by imaginary character, for example. And, later on, you got involved with the history of the National Liberation Move-
ment. It looks like all of your writing styles (history, plays, novels) were blended together in your most popular novel “Su Celligent Turkler” (These Crazv Turks). In that, you created a very unique style of novel. Even though you were an accomplished and well known writer already, your writing career reached new heights with that histori-
cal work. How did it all come together in this novel?

The information I was researching just began to expand while I was gathering the materials for the book. A small collec-
tion eventually became a big pile. It took me a while to decide what to do with all this information. Should I write a play? Should I do this, should I do that? Finally I reached two decisions, with the hope that it could be beneficial for the younger generation: 1. I shall only write about real events, only the truth. 2. I shall write it in the novel form, so it’ll be easy to read. But it took me 3-4 years to find the final form. I wrote it one way, it didn’t work... Tried another form, didn’t work... And at the end I decided on the format you have read it. It is a parallel way of storytelling. The other side is, after all these problems, even if we had some cloth materials, furthermore, you are so poor that you may even find any thread to sew...An Army like this defeated imperialism? Some ask: “Where did they win against imperialism?” They won against the French in the South, and Greeks in the West. It was the British who supported the Greeks and supplied their weapons. It’s their 18 million Pound who kept the Greeks going. Those are the ones who supported and defeated a third world nation who had a British General sitting across from us (Turkish delegates).

Turkish women carried those armammes in their bosoms along with their babies. The soldiers hardly had any-
thing to eat. Still, so much was accom-
plished under those circumstances. From zero to victory! A National Struggle that had started from zero... The number of the enemies with weapons was 400,000. Think about what we had. But those in charge were very much. Atatürk’s military genius was incredible. He never went to fight in a new front without winning and finishing the job at another front. The Battle of Sakarya was the most danger-
ous battle. The enemy came all the way to Polatlı, near Ankara... About 70 km. close... They were debating whether to move the Parliament to Kayseri, and even started to carry the archives. But then, Turkey stopped imperialist right in front of its door, chased it, and put it into the sea. Now, ask you, is it possible for Imperial-
ism to forgive us? No... Is it possible for them to forgive us? Yes... It is possible for them to talk about Atatürk in a respectable way? Well, if they do, those are the exceptional people in the society. But most of them think differently... Today is March 8th, it’s celebrated as Women’s Day around the world. Turk-
ish women were given many rights as a
result of Atatürk’s reforms. And even though there have been much advance-
ment in women’s rights, the situation we are in today can’t be what Atatürk
envisioned for the Turkish Women of the 21st century. What is your view on
that? Advances will take place again. There are always lows and highs...In France for
example, the French got a taste of the republic after the revolution, they real-
zied the importance of it, but the rule of
citizens came back at one point, and then they went back to the republic rule once
again. They had the second, third, and
fourth republic...Hopefully Turkey will not
have an experience like that. Right now
there is a halt...Going backwards...They say
that this is a conservative government. I am
willing to be conservative if it is conserving
important things. But the things they are
conserving are making us doubt. We see
what they really want to conserve. I mean,
the things they are willing to be conservative if it is conserv-
ous, we can’t conserve. I mean, why is it not conserving PTT (The
Postal service)? Why is it not conserving FF (The
company), that were established by the
state? All of those were established with
the taxes our fathers paid. They claim that
the state cannot own public assets. This is
hogwash, a lie. Let me tell you this: the
total average of England, France, Germany
and the USA’s public assets is 32%. They
say in Turkey it is 0%, but that’s not true...
The percentage of our public assets during
when we were most statist is 26%. Any
word said after seeing these numbers will
be a fairy tale. If he’s a delirium, it’ll be a
shame, and it’ll be disrespectful to
history.
You were talking about the imperialist
powers...And nowadays the country is under a heavy load of other powers
because of foreign borrowing.
They will come if you don’t stand tall. The
location of the Anatolian peninsula is so
critical...I can’t imagine how imperialist
powers would not be interested here. They
will wait, stop, and take a break...Just like it
happened during the time of Atatürk...But
after a while they came again...They stopped
when they were resisted. But looks like it’s
easier to move around now. The new glo-
balization concept became a good cover for
imperialism. So now people think that we’ll
be more civilized with the arrival of global-
ization. I think that’s how they present it to
the people...But these are huge political sins.
Turkish people would not swallow these if
they were vigilant. One needs to be edu-
cated to be vigilant. But just going to school
to be educated is not enough. I mean, one
may graduate from medical school, but
it doesn’t mean much if he doesn’t know
anything other than medicine. If he doesn’t
go to the theatre, doesn’t read novels, knows
nothing about poetry, not interested in his-
try, has no social life; if he doesn’t enjoy
going for a walk...What good does he do?
These are one dimensional people.
The number of one dimensional people
has been increasing in Turkey. But it didn’t
start with the government who is in power
now. This has been going on for thirty years.
Unfortunately, we are among the countries
who read the least. But still, if a book was
printed 397 times, we can’t say that they
don’t read.
That is to say, if you’ll give them
the right books such as “Su Cilgin
Turkler”, they will read. What are you
working on right now?
Right now I’m working on a book for
the 90th year of the Republic, which is
about the Republic. I’m working on some
projects related to the truce years. I want
to simplify my book “Su Cilgin Turkler”
for children. That book received great
interest from middle school students. I
want to make it easier for them to read and
understand. There are so many things I’m
working on and want to write, even though
sitting in front of the computer and not
moving around is bad for my health.
My whole purpose is to write the history
of the Republic in a way that can capture
the interest of young people and children.
To write it in a way that they will like
and read with interest. And of course, to
acquaint young people with the life and ideals of Atatürk.
The debt of the Ottomans was being paid according to an agreement, and the Central Bank was filled with gold and foreign currency, all neighboring countries, and we have the responsibility of explaining and teaching the true meaning of “Turkish Miracle” to our youth, the village youth, town youth and those who are the city youth that are part of this miracle. We must raise them as devoted, conscious, and happy individuals who know and understand this miracle which is composed of the National Struggle and the concept of Republic. This is the duty of every informed citizen.

We, as the Atatürk Society of America, take this duty very seriously, and we take pride in being part of the “Turkish Miracle” as we celebrate the 90th anniversary of our republic. Atatürk's “LEGACY” with all our efforts, courage and resistance to keep the Republic alive. We have to be more courageous than those who want to destroy the Republic.

The airplanes which were built at the aircraft factory in Kayseri started flying in our skies,

The first Turkish submarine's production started,

Ports and Railways were nationalized,

3000 km of new railways were added to the existing 4000 km,

Contemporary Laws were put in effect,

All financial and moral barriers which limited women's rights were lifted, nationwide schools and community homes (for educational purposes) were opened (Village Institutes were opened eventually as well),

Conservatories for art (music) education were established,

University reform was realized,

Secularism, which is the mandatory requirement for democracy and modernity was adopted,

Factories were built all around Anatolia,

Significant progress was attained in education, sports, and arts,

An organized fight against contagious and common diseases was started and they were all restrained,

Peaceful relations were established with all neighboring countries,

Not a Penny was received from the West, inadequate revenues, lack of equipment, lack of sufficient numbers of educated experts, Turkish - Italian tension, revolt in Eastern Turkey, and of course, the crisis around the World.

Each of these developments and success stories are individual “epics” of civilization. To call this progress a “miracle” is not an exaggeration; it just does justice to the truth.

We, the Atatürk Society of America, take this duty very seriously, and we take pride in being part of the “Turkish Miracle” as we celebrate the 90th anniversary of our republic. Atatürk's “LEGACY” with all our efforts, courage and resistance to keep the Republic alive. We have to be more courageous than those who want to destroy the Republic.

The airplanes which were built at the aircraft factory in Kayseri started flying in our skies,

The first Turkish submarine's production started,

Ports and Railways were nationalized,

3000 km of new railways were added to the existing 4000 km,

Contemporary Laws were put in effect,

All financial and moral barriers which limited women's rights were lifted, nationwide schools and community homes (for educational purposes) were opened (Village Institutes were opened eventually as well),

Conservatories for art (music) education were established,

University reform was realized,

Secularism, which is the mandatory requirement for democracy and modernity was adopted,

Factories were built all around Anatolia,

Significant progress was attained in education, sports, and arts,

An organized fight against contagious and common diseases was started and they were all restrained,

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We asked this question to five respected intellectuals, all of whom contributed to the advancement of the Turkish society through their personal accomplishments. Their exemplary personal lives and careers have been a source of inspiration to so many people. They truly carried the brilliant light of Atatürk’s principles to this day, through their positive attitudes, hard work and discipline. Here are their answers:

**Mrs. Muazzez İnliyie Cig**

**Born in 1914**

Mrs. Cig is an Architect who specializes in the study of the Sumerian, Akkadian, and Hurrian cultures. She was one of the first women to study at the The Institute of Ancient Middle East. Her Curtenum Documents Archive for 35 years. Along with her two colleagues, she cleaned and categorized thousands of tablets from the Sumerian, Akkadian, and Hitit civilizations: establishing an archive which consists of 36,000 tablets. Muazzez İnliyie Cig has written 17 books, 14 of them dedicated to the Sumerian civilization. And 2 of them about Atatürk.

I’ve lived through three wars, and witnessed the formation of the Turkish Republic when I was in elementary school. Atatürk was the savior of this nation, and he is the foundation of this republic. He gave us hope in a time of despair. My father named me Muazzez, hoping that I would be involved with science (İlim). I started teaching in 1931, and my mother stopped wearing her large scarf and the veil around the same time. Reforms were all happening at the same time. Atatürk taught us to be educated doctors graduated from newly established Medical Schools. Atatürk taught us to be efficient and creative. He emphasized the importance of education.

Every single government that came to power after Atatürk’s death, helped create the so-called “Milli Islam” Turkey, by making concessions from all the progress he brought about. As Ataturk said in one of his speeches, we as the people must have control over our own destiny, if we want to better ourselves.

I was born on April 1, 1923. The same year as the proclamation of the republic. I am a child of the republic. I was born in Hemsin, and moved to Rize at the age of 4 because there were no schools in our town near the Black Sea. There were no doctors, and no medical resources around that district for people to support their families, during the Ottoman rule. I stayed in Hemsin, probably I would have been sent to become a baker in Russia, like many other children from our town. But with the establishment of elementary schools right after the proclamation of the republic, boys and girls both had a chance to receive an education in that district. The names of the new elementary schools in Rize were very meaningful. Liberation, Republic, Independence...The students learned about Atatürk and his heroism at those schools. People of that generation have always been resourceful, because they learned to take care of their own problems at a very young age. We moved to Erzurum after I finished elementary school, because there was no middle school in Rize. And in 1949, I was sent to the Medical School of the University of Istanbul. I worked through my childhood, and I grew hard. My house the way he took care of my illness and made me feel better, that’s when I decided to become a doctor. I grew up during the most difficult days of the young Turkish Republic. I remember all the hardships and suffering just like it was yesterday. There was so much poverty, and the Turkish people hardly had any access to medical care or doctors. The real, scientific medical care started with the proclamation of the Republic. Properly educated doctors graduated from newly established Medical Schools. Atatürk taught us to be efficient and creative. He emphasized the importance of education.

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Atatürk and Modernization of Turkish Music

A mong the prominent political leaders of the 20th century, not many articulated the significance of culture as much as the founder of the Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Stating that culture was the foundation of the Turkish Republic, he advanced cultural reforms in conjunction with the political, economic, legal, social and educational reforms needed to further the newly formed Turkish Republic. For Atatürk, to create a unique Turkish identity with higher cultural and artistic values would only be possible by integrating the viable elements inherited from the ancient cultures of Anatolia with modern techniques and norms. Music, in particular, holds a special place in Atatürk’s ideals to advance Turkish culture.

In a lecture at İzmir Teacher’s College on October 14, 1925, they asked Atatürk if music was essential in life. This was his reply:

“Music is not necessary for life because life is music itself. If the matter is human life, music always exists since life without music is nonexistent. Music is the joy, spirit, and everything in life. However, we need to analyze the nature and types of music in our lives.”

Atatürk was not a musician, nor an expert in music; but he was a leader with a vision who recognized the importance and relevance of music and the arts on the development and education of younger generations. He knew that music served as a unifying element at all levels of society and a medium for expressing individual and collective feelings and aspirations. Atatürk made it a priority to bring into the country a number of pianists who continue to grow in numbers and quality. Among these were the main efforts of a leader who wished to take the new nation to a higher place of cultural diversity in the world.

In contemporary Turkey, the number of music institutions, including orchestras, conservatories, opera houses, and other educational programs, has increased tremendously. The number of Turkish musicians, composers, and musicologists has grown significantly in the last few decades. This growth has been facilitated by the Turkish government’s efforts to support the arts and culture. The Turkish government has provided financial support for the arts, and there are now more opportunities for musicians and composers to receive education and training in Turkey.

Atatürk was a great leader who was always fond of Turkish music, especially in its roots and integrated with western styles. He described music as the joy, spirit, and everything in life. Atatürk said that the origin of Turkish music and how it was then developed into the Revolution of the Republic and the establishment of the Turkish Republic. Atatürk told them that the creation of Turkish folk music was quite different from the Turkish classical music developed later by the Ottomans. In an interview from 1925, Atatürk asked the German journalist, Emil Ludwig, about the development of Western music in Europe. When he was told that it took about four hundred years to be developed, Atatürk immediately replied, “Well! We do not have that much time.”

After the establishment of the Turkish Republic in 1923, Atatürk did not wait at all! At such a devastating time, following the Independence War, there were 13 million people, almost no budget, no schools, hospitals, or restaurants in Turkey’s capital Ankara. Meanwhile, Atatürk was sending young musicians abroad for musical training and was making plans to establish conservatories, orchestras, and opera houses throughout Turkey. First, the Musiki Miillii Mektebii was reestablished as Ankara State Conservatory, then the Darül Elhan (School of Melodies) in Istanbul became the Istanbul Municipal Conservatory, both providing Western classical music education. He also founded the Teacher’s College and Educational institutions like Gazi University in 1925 to raise music educators rather than just performers and composers. Then, they would be able to provide music education throughout the country. These were the main efforts of a leader who wished to take the new nation to a higher place of cultural diversity in the world.

Meanwhile, the first generation of Turkish composers was sent to Europe by Atatürk on state scholarship in order to receive their music education in Europe’s finest music schools. Upon their return to Turkey, they conducted research on the modal and polyphonic structures of Turkish folk music, and recomposed them with Western techniques. They aimed to add a polyphonic character to the monophonic structures of Turkish melodies. This is how they were able to create a universal language that was based on Turkish musical tradition. Their goal was not only to reinvent Turkish music but also to invest in fully developing musical institutions and educating many students.

In today’s Turkey there have been at least three generations of composers who continue to grow in numbers and who have been internationally recognized for their contributions to Turkey’s cultural advancement. The number of music institutions, including orchestras, conservatories, opera houses, and other music organizations has already reached hundreds throughout Turkey.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY


BIographies: Turkish-American pianist Aysegul Kus Durukoglu has concertized as soloist and chamber musician nationally and internationally and has been featured in various festivals, radio and television programs. She began her musical life in Istanbul and received her Bachelor of Music degree at the Istanbul State Conservatory. As a recipient of a scholarship (established by Atatürk) from the Turkish Government, she came to the United States to pursue her graduate studies. She received her Master’s from the Juilliard School and a Ph.D. degree with notable distinction at the New York University where she also served on the piano faculty. She has been currently serving on the full-time faculty of the Music and Technology Division of the Steinway Institute of Technology. Most recently she released an album of Debussy’s Twelve Piano Études; presented a chamber music performance at the Jazz at Lincoln Center; and, participated in the International Conference of the College Music Society in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Happy 132nd Birthday to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

MAY 19, 2013 Youth Day Celebrations

A
tatürk Society of America’s annual Youth Day “19 Mayıs, Gençlik ve Spor Bayramı” celebration, commemorating the start of the Turkish War of Independence, was held at the Cosmos Club, in Washington, DC on May 24, 2013. May 19 is also traditionally accepted as Atatürk birthday. This year was the 132nd year of his birth.

Hon. Muharrem Ince, a current member of the Turkish Parliament (from the opposition party CHP) was the keynote speaker at this year’s May 19th Commemoration of Atatürk. Ince is the Turkish Parliament’s Education and Cultural Affairs Committee Chair. He is a former Privacy and Cybersecurity Minister, a lawyer, a former professor, and a theologian. Ince was a leader of the Young Turk movement and the founder of the Justice and Development Party (AKP). Ince is one of the top candidates to lead the Turkish government. The key speaker at the event was the current President of the Turkish Republic, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Erdogan is a member of the AKP. Ince, the opposition leader, was standing in front of a large crowd of American youth, and Ms. Suna Zerwas gave the welcoming speech.

Following the celebration at the Cosmos Club, a dinner and a cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate Atatürk’s birthday was held at the home of ASA founding president Hudai Yavalar and Mrs. Mirat Yavalar. Following are some excerpts from Hon. Muharrem Ince’s speech at the Cosmos Club:

“I am very honored to be speeching to the Turkish Students and Youth of America. I am extremely happy to be here with you. I would like to wish you all a very Happy Youth Days. I am so proud of all of you...”

Today there are attacks on the Republic, there are attacks on the founding philosophy of the Republic. This is happening, because we have a nation of people who are different than the people of the past. Because, Turkish people of today are open to manipulation... So many internet sites, so many cringing, partisan, biased (AKP-the ruling party- supporters) media; so many profit seeking NGOs... As a result of these, people are more open to manipulation. Now everything is open to discussion. Everything from changing the borders of Turkey, to doing away with Anıtkabir, to abolish the armed forces, giving the title of General to Abdullah Ocalan (imprisoned Kurdish Rebel Leader). These can be discussed in Turkey now. A youngster carrying a Turkish flag gets a beating from the police, while the one with a poster of Abdullah Ocalan is praised as a freedom warrior... The worst part is, there are television stations, internet sites, newspapers, profit seekers and partisans who justify this.”

“AKP (the ruling party) is not in power because they are good, in my opinion they are there because we (CHP - the opposition party) are not good. We advocate religion instruction in schools to start at age 12. Why? Because abstract thinking starts after age 12. Heaven, Hell, death, God... a 4 year old cannot comprehend these. AKP says “No” They will start religion instruction at age 2, if they can. We tell them: “look, you’ll be imposing if you'll start this at an early age. Families can impose religious teachings on their children, but the State cannot do that. That is not Secularism. To be considered a Secular State, religious teachings need to start after age 11-12”

“No matter how much you educate these people, whether they become a teacher, doctor, engineer, government minister, president; there is hostility against the Republic in their roots”

“There is no reason for us to fight with Syria. Why are we fighting? Why? It was in Hatay two months ago. There is no border anymore. The Free Syrian Army soldiers go to Syria and fight in the war during the day, and they cross the border and come back to Turkey to rest and take care of their wounds at night time. Turkey is not a Banana Republic! Where is the border? Our citizens died in Reyhanlı, the intelligence gave information about the possibility of an attack, to the government, long before that incident. 73 Security cameras were broken all at the same time. Is that possible? Borders are the honor of a nation. Turkish borders turned into a colander, this is not acceptable. Turkey is our neighbor, we do not have a war with Syria. Certain subjects are internal business of Syria. Whatever we lived through during the Iraq crisis in the past, we are experiencing exactly the same things now relating to Syria. Turkey shouldn’t take sides. Turkey shouldn’t open its arms to armed forces who are opposed to the current regime in Syria. Turkey should not help them. This is not appropriate. It is against international law, it is against morals. We know Esad is a dictator, but we also know how democratic is Tuyugg Erdogan.”

“Our party CHP wants peace, but we have concerns; we have concerns about this process, because everything is done without the knowledge of the parliament. Only the Prime Minister, Abdullah Ocalan and a few of his supporters know what is going on. We know that there is the talk of Presidency for Erdogan, and freedom for Ocalan as part of their bargaining. The temporary silence of the weapons in Turkey doesn’t mean that they are going to be silent for good. Turkey should expect even bigger problems if an agreement is not reached at the end of this process.”

We, at Ataturk Society of America, thank Hon. Muharrem Ince for his visit and lecture. It was a great pleasure to have him as our guest speaker on this special day. To many Happy Youth Days, and Happy Atatürk’s Birthdays, to us all.”
OF PARKS AND MEN
(and Women and Children and Thousands of Voices Protesting Tyranny and Injustice)

by Burak Salun

It all started with a small park.

A small group of activists staged a sit-in at Taksim’s Gezi Park in opposition to plans to replace the park, excessive police force against the peaceful activists caused tensions to escalate so rapidly that within only two days, Turkish people were staging almost 400 protests in more than 60 cities.

What at first appeared simply as environmental activism soon started showing the broad outlines of a widespread national protest against the government: The protests were in fact a spontaneous uprising against a perfect storm of overt nepotism, unprecedented corruption, ram-}

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A school and a memorial built on Atatürk’s principals

ASA founding president Mr. Hüdai Yavalar was born in Tokat. Together with his wife Murat Yavalar, who was trained as an educator, he had a dream of building a school in his village. After careful planning and years of consultations with Turkish officials, the Yavalar family’s gift of hope to the village of Kızılköy became a reality. The groundbreaking ceremony took place in September 2011, and the project unfolded efficiently throughout the construction. Yavalar family would especially like to thank Mr. Erdog-"An Aslan, the Vice Presidents of the school, who gave generously of his time to this project from the very beginning to the completion. The opening ceremony of the “Kızılköy Atatürk School” was held on September 25, 2013, with the attendance of the Governor of Tokat Mr. Mustafa Taskesen, Tokat Education Ministry Director Mr. Levent Yavas, and other dignitaries. In his opening remarks, Mr. Yavalar said that his wish was to provide a better future for the students. Mrs. Yavalar told the students: “Our duty is to give you the educational opportunities that you all desire. And your duty is to work hard and be good students, good citizens. We expect you to give back to your country, your families, and to the environment when you grow up. You are the true owners of this school.” The school contains a music room and instruments, all donated by the Yavalar. Instrumental music instruction will start later this year. A memorial to honor and celebrate Atatürk’s reforms on education was built and dedicated as a gift to the Izmit high school by the Yavalar family. The “Atatürk Corner” is situated on a raised area in the garden, near the main entrance to the school building. In the center section is a bust of Kemal Atatürk, raised on a pedestal, and there are 6 granite blocks in the background. The inscriptions on the granite backgrounds reflect Atatürk’s thoughts about education.

In addition to the memorial, a library honoring Mr. Nurdüngöz Öndogan was established and donated to the high school by the Yavalar family. The late Mr. Öndogan was a well-respected teacher in Izmit, and ASA founding president Mr. Yavalar was a student of his in the 50’s.

American Friends of Turkey (AFOT) Embassy Lecture Series

A merican Friends of Turkey, Embassy Lecture Series continued in 2013. As part of their program, lectures and trips, AFOT held a public lecture at the Turkish Embassy Office Residence in Washington, DC on November 12, 2013, under the Patronage of Ambassador and Mrs. Namık Tan. The speaker George W. Gawrych, Ph.D., latest book, “Youth, Patronage of Ambassador and Mrs. Nemik Tan. The speaker George W. Gawrych, Ph.D., latest book, “Youth, Education from Soldier to Statesman of Turkey” was released on April 16, 2013.

At the Nov. 12 Embassy Lecture, titled “Youth Atatürk, The From Ottoman Soldier to Statesman of Turkey” was released on April 16, 2013.

At the Nov. 12 Embassy Lecture, titled “Youth Atatürk, The From Ottoman Soldier to Statesman of Turkey” was released on April 16, 2013.

Two-Day Conference organized by The Light Millennium

T he Light Millennium and The College of Arts and Letters at the Stevens Institute of Technology jointly organized and presented a Two-Day International Conference on April 19-20, 2013, sponsored by the Atatürk Society of America. The topic of the conference was: “Youth, The Future of Turkey: The Light Millennium Development Goals: Atatürk/the Two-day conference closed with a Concert by pianist Aysegül Durakoglu and violinist Yigit Karatas. The Light Millennium and the Columbia University Turkish Student Association jointly organized a High-Level Panel on “The Impact of the Lassarus Peace Treaty in the world: A celebration for the 50th Anniversary” at the Columbia University November 24, 2013.

A Panel Discussion hosted by The Turkish Policy Center

T he Turkish Policy Center (TPC) hosted a panel discussion, titled “Miracle or Mirage: Transitions in the Turkish Economy” on November 21, 2013 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The topic was the the status quo of Turkey’s economy: what is the current diagnosis and where is it headed? Are developments in the Turkish economy over the past years actually a miracle or mirage? What kind of impact, if any, did the recent protests in Turkey have over the economy, and are there any implications for upcoming elections?

The panelists were:

- Steven Cook: Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations
- Sebnem Kalemli-Ozcan: IMF, Senior Fellow (Professor of Economics, University of Maryland
- Khush Choksy: Vice President for Turkey and the Middle East, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- Steven Cook:  Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations
- Sebnem Kalemli-Ozcan: IMF, Senior Fellow (Professor of Economics, University of Maryland
- Khush Choksy: Vice President for Turkey and the Middle East, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

The panel discussion, titled “Miracle or Mirage: Transitions in the Turkish Economy” was hosted by The Turkish Policy Center.

YOUTH CORNER

You are strong, and you will speak what you truly believe in.

“You, the Turkish youth! Your primary duty is to forever protect and defend the Turkish independence and the Republic of Turkey. These conditions and possibilities may appear unfeasible. The adversaries, who scheme against your independence and your Republic, may be the representatives of a victory without precedent in the World. By force or by force, all citadels and arsenals of our dear fatherland may have been taken, all of its armies may have been dispersed! More defeating and more grievous than all these, those who hold and exercise the power within the country may have fallen into gross error, blunder, and even treason. You, the future sons and daughters of Turkey! Even under such circumstances and conditions, your duty is to redeem the Turkish independence and the Republic! The strength you shall need exists in the noble blood flowing through your veins.”

— M. Kemal Atatürk, October 20, 1927

By Camilo Derya Rivera
Panel Discussion on Freedom of Press and Rule of Law in Turkey

National Press Club, Washington, DC

On March 27, 2013 Turkish Policy Center (TPC) of Washington DC and the Ataturk Society of America (ASA) hosted a panel discussion titled “Press Freedom & Rule of Law in Turkey: Current State & Future Prospects” at the prestigious National Press Club in Washington D.C. This event had over 70 participants.

The introductory remarks were given by TPC President and Founder Turker Yucel. Our panel discussion brought together a very well-respected group of journalists and analysts who have covered such issues. Susan Corke is currently managing programs and conducting advocacy at Freedom House. She worked on Turkey during her tenure at the State Department. Baris Terkoglu, a news director at Odatv spent 19 months in jail in Turkey due to his journalistic activities prior to his release in September 2012. The trial asking for his imprisonment for 8 years continues. Gareth Jenkins, a British analyst who has been living in Turkey for over two decades, wrote the most-critically acclaimed report on the Ergenekon case in 2009 titled, “Between Fast and Fantasy: Turkey’s Ergenekon Investigation.”

You can read below the highlights of each panelist’s speech.

Susan Corke, Director for Eurasia programs at Freedom House, Washington DC

- Countries in the Middle East are looking at Turkey. Turkey, as a leader in the region and a global actor should be held to a higher standard and should set an example for the other countries in the region.
- If the idea of a “Turkish model” is realistic, then Turkey should look to address its own issues, starting with freedom of expression. Freedom House lowered Turkey’s civil liberties rating. Committee to Protect Journalists reported that Turkey has the highest number of imprisoned journalists in the world. Many legal campaigns including Ergenekon seem to be politically motivated.
- The issue with freedom of press is directly tied to judicial independence and the judicial process. There are many shortcomings in the judicial process and in many legal cases of journalists and Ergenekon. The upcoming judicial reform package has a lot of work to do to address these issues.
- The attitude of the government towards journalists is another big issue. Firing of critical journalists, backchannel pressures on editors and publishers are known issues and make the media vulnerable to political pressure due to economic interests. This is the most worrisome part of the issue. A free press is first and foremost a mechanism for peacefully voicing grievances, a way to expose problems to public scrutiny so that they can be resolved.
- As the recent controversy with Ambassador Ricciardone showed, Turkey has to be more accepting of criticism and acknowledge its shortcomings.
- The West has to make sure it supports the development of a stronger civil society in Turkey, and that Turkey’s EU accession process is still alive. The appointment of a new EU commissioner joining the EU has resulted in reforms and we should make sure this process continues.
- The idea of innovation opportunity; both for the people and the leaders of Turkey. We need to see a real desire on the part of Turkey’s leaders to fulfill the country’s democratic promise. Only by seizing this moment to become more democratic, more inclusive state can Turkey realize its potential and become a true model in the region and beyond.
- Access all of Baris Terkoglu’s remarks, please go to: http://bit.ly/txw4qt

Baris Terkoglu, News Director, Odatv, Istanbul

- There are two big threats to democracy; rule of law and press freedom in Turkey. The first is Prime Minister Erdogan’s repressive politics. The second is the formation of Gulenist Gulen groups that are using illegal surveillance and creation of false evidence to arrest judges, and become a true model in the region.

The United States is ignoring the lack of rule of law and freedom of press because of its economic interests. The open support from Turkey’s EU accession process is still alive. This process continues.

Gareth Jenkins, Analyst & Author, Istanbul

- There is no evidence of that illegal organization so-called “Ermenekos” ever existed. There is no evidence of a concrete coup plot. Much of the “evidence” is in the indictment itself. Contradictory, absurd and there are very strong suspicions that they have been altered.
- The same evidence is evident in the Balyoz (Sledgehammer) case as well. There are strong suspicions of intimidation. The nature of evidence and conduct of investigation are dubious. There is also no mention of Ergenekon organization. This is the real problem. The supposed coup is on just one CD. The fact that the entire investigation is based on a single CD burned in Microsoft Office 2007, seems suspicious.
- There are very good reasons suspect all these cases are not real cases. Both cases look very similar in their nature, the personnel, the methodology, the lack of evidence and confessions.
- There are also a good number of reasons to suspect Fethullah Gulen to be behind these cases. All suspects are rivals of the Gulen movement, all the cases are revealed by journalists close to the movement, and that police and prosecutors leading the investigations are all close to Gulen.
- These cases intimidate everyone. People are afraid to be critical of the government and the Gulen movement. They fear tax fines, failure to get permits, or ending up in jail. (Continued from page 23)

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The streetcar back to light.

It all started with a small park.

And now, there are armies of people demanding change. Part of this change will be in the minds of those who thought ‘Ataturk’ meant Mus- lim with an Islamist past who had nonetheless evolved into a modern, pro-Western democracy” had the potential to set a powerful example for the region; part of it will involve mobilizing a greater constituency to enact this change and ultimately it will lead to that one shared goal: Turkey has arrived at the stop, and needs to ride the streetcar back to light.

Of Parks and Men

reporter to produce a short film whose lead actor was the lovely smartphone that heard our cries and carried them across the world.

What changed in the summer of 2013 was that a group of 10-20 people in each forum that knew the truth, but chose to look the other way when events deviated from their agreed version of this agenda. Some of these so-called democracy activists tried to appropriate the Gezi events and carried them across the world.

It is all started with a small park.