

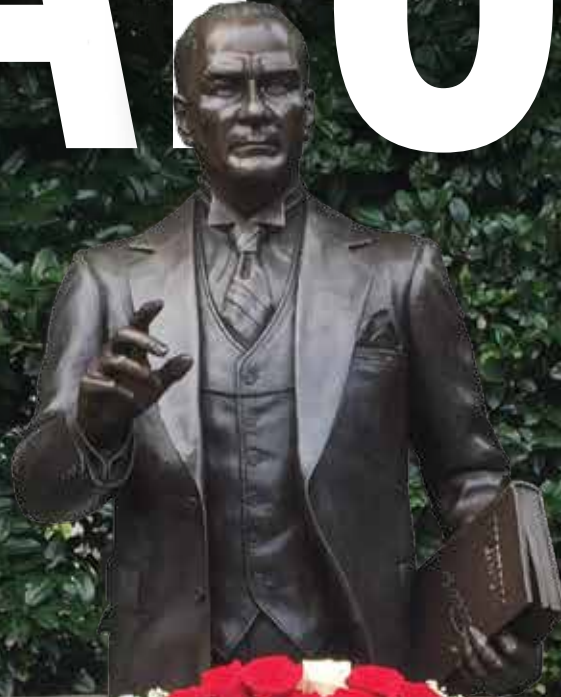
Voice of

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ATATÜRK SOCIETY OF AMERICA

ATATÜRK

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

The First Bronze Statue
of Kemal Atatürk
in Washington, DC,
on United States Soil



PEACE AT HOME...

PEACE IN THE WORLD'

Anniversary

20TH

YEARS



The Atatürk Society of America

Voice of

ATATÜRK

CONTENTS



1995



1996



1997



1998



1999



2000



2001



2002



2003



2004



2005



2006



2007



2008



2009



2010



2011



2012



2013



2014



2015

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The Atatürk Society of America (ASA) is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit, organization.

Reflections on the Atatürk Society of America (ASA) at its 20th anniversary

From the time I first arrived in the United States in 1958, I heard my American friends expressing interest in my birthplace. Discussions regarding Turkey, however, would invariably involve an acknowledgment of Atatürk's contributions. I was astonished that Americans in the Washington area were well aware of Atatürk, and considered him among the great world leaders of the past, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and few others.

Turkish Americans, who moved to this great country, recognized Atatürk's effects on their lives and on Turkey's modernization, and yearned to not only to honor him, but to keep his vision alive. The rise of Islamic fundamentalism in Turkey, and other developments away from Atatürk's secular principles were among the motivations for establishing ASA and working to keep Atatürk's vision alive.

A group of us met for several months in 1995 to brainstorm on establishing a non-profit organization with this mission. The late Orhan Tarhan was the intellectual and inspirational leader in bringing to a successful end our efforts to lay the foundation of ASA.

We are proud of ASA's accomplishments achieved in the ensuing twenty years. This issue will provide an overview of our activities and publications completed during this time.

ASA understands Atatürk's political philosophy to be:

- Sovereignty belongs to the people.
- Public sovereignty cannot be qualified, nor can it be shared with any other authority, including religious authority.
- Secular public sovereignty is essential for avoiding the influence of religion on state affairs, to ensure the separation of religion and state, and to have peace in the country.
- Secular education ensures public sovereignty, freedom of speech, and individual and national development.
- Science and reason are the path to progress towards the contemporary civilization.
- Freedom and the pursuit of happiness are common aspirations of humanity.
- "Peace at home and peace in the world" is crucial to maintaining the common good of humankind. "Cultures vary, but the civilization is unique".

ASA grew through activities, both in size and effectiveness. ASA gained worldwide recognition, not only in the US and Turkey, but also Australia, New Zealand, Germany, England and elsewhere. We continue to work hand in hand with Atatürk organizations around the world.

ASA seeks to shine the light on the Atatürk's vision, manifested in his reforms in Turkey, and as they effect the rest of the world. ASA endeavors to promote internationally Atatürk's aspirations of democracy, and freedom; secular education and secular governance, and with by science

and reason serving as guide for international progress. It believes in peace with neighboring countries, with former adversaries, and with the rest of humanity.

ASA is grateful to all its members and volunteers who selflessly devoted their time to promote of the organization's objectives in achieving a better Turkey and a better world. Indeed, we are all determined to continue on the path that Atatürk envisioned for humanity.

“Atatürk belongs not only to Turkey but to Humanity.”

Jorge Blanco Villalta



Hudai Yavalar

Chairman, Founding President

“We are determined to continue on the path Atatürk opened to humanity.”

Remembering Dr. Engin Arik

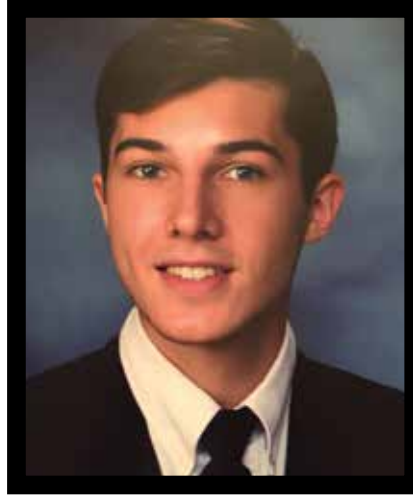
By Berke Arik

My first lesson in science was on “gravity”. It was taught to me when I was just a toddler by my “babaanne”, Prof. Dr. Engin Arik, my paternal grandmother who was a physicist. I remember learning other concepts in physics from her up until her untimely death on Nov. 30, 2007. She and two



other physics professors and their three graduate students were passengers along with 51 others on the ill-fated AtlasJet KK 4203 flight that crashed outside of Isparta, Turkey. No one survived. I was 9 years old at the time.

As I grew older and wiser, I started to realize that my grandmother was a world renowned physicist, conducting pioneering research on the subject of particle physics at Boğaziçi Üniversitesi (Bosphorus University), Istanbul where she taught and led the Experimental High Energy Physics group and CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research), Geneva. CERN houses the 27-kilometer “large hadron collider”, world’s largest particle accelerator. Experiments are held there to



collide particles to gain further insight into the intricacies of our universe.

Turkey was not a member of CERN due to lack of funding from YÖK (Council of Higher Education) of the Turkish Ministry of Education and TÜBİTAK (Scientific and Technological Research Council) to be a formal member. * However, my grandmother had formed a team of Turkish physicists (professors and students) to participate under the umbrella of member countries. Her hope of Turkey joining CERN as a formal member still has not been realized. However, the “Engin Arik Fellowship” established upon her death by my family helps to finance

further research by Turkish physicists and keeps her memory alive.

When I tell people here in the United States about my grandmother, I sense that they are surprised such a successful and established scientist woman, by the standards of advanced nations, could emerge from Turkey, a pre-dominantly Muslim nation. My grandmother’s over abundant curiosity, energy and drive were the main factors of her success. The social and educational establishment in Turkey enabled women like my grandmother to become educated, productive members of society.

What I learned from my family and my own readings show that it was due to Atatürk’s reforms which elevated the status of women in Turkey by giving women equal rights as men. **

Because of these monumental reforms, women excelled and showed their ability in all walks of life. My grandmother lived by the secular, modern and democratic principles introduced by Atatürk. Her life’s work and accomplishments as an educator, scientist and a role model to other women prove that she was committed to these principles. She was and still is an inspiration to all those that follow in her footsteps.

THE ENGİN ARIK FELLOWSHIP

The funds raised by the “Engin Arik Fellowship”, established upon my grandmother’s death, provide monetary assistance to bright Turkish physics students to participate in the CERN Summer Student Program.

You may read about this fellowship program at

<http://bit.ly/1YmHaQK>

If you would like to contribute, you may wire money to UBS Bank.

Account’s IBAN number: CH8800279279289067M1J BIC (or SWIFT in the USA) code: UBSWCHZH80A.

*Turkey is in the 21st position on the ranking of countries by the amount of spending on research and development in 2012 according to the World Bank and the Turkish Statistical Institute.

**The percentage of female scientists in the total labor force in Turkey is 44.2 compared to 43.5 to that of men in 2010 according to the European Commission’s She Figures 2012 Report.

President's Remarks

Twenty years ago in 1995, Hudai and Mirat Yavalar, along with a small group of other ardent supporters of Atatürk, founded the Atatürk Society of America (ASA). Their mission was to promote the ideals of Atatürk's political legacy. With this mission in mind, ASA organized scholarly lectures, panel discussions, and other programs emphasizing the importance of Atatürk's political philosophy for international prosperity and peace. In reviewing its activities of the past two decades, ASA prides itself with its endeavors having remained on course.

Atatürk, the Greatest Turk of them all, proved himself to be invincible on the battlefield during Turkey's War for Independence, and, following the war in 1923, he went on to establish the Modern Democratic Republic of Turkey. The pillars, on which his Western leaning a secular creation stands, are governance by science and reason rather than superstition and dogma, the equality of genders, and modernity in general. His reforms are woven into the economic and social fabric of the nation he founded — in individual freedom and in the freedom of the press, in the promotion of a secular public education system, in banking and jurisprudence, in progress in technology and agriculture, in the adoption of the Latin alphabet and of western style clothing.

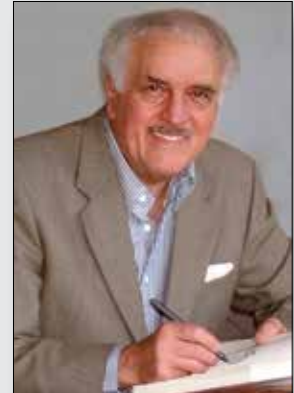
The Atatürk Society of America (ASA) is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit, organization, its day-to-day operations provided mostly by a small group of unabashed admirers of Atatürk, all dedicated to promoting his ideals. Thus, it is the labor of love that fuels its efforts.

Two years ago the Society unveiled the statue that now stands at Sheridan Circle, of Atatürk holding a copy of the book, "Nutuk" ("Speech") in his hand. Created by the Virginia sculptor Jeff Hall, the 6'10" bronze has been recognized as the defining statue of Atatürk. And, it has become that all-important prop with which visitors love to be photographed. We are eternally grateful to Ambassador Namik Tan who made it possible to erect the statue next to the Ambassador's Residence. And we are in debt of architect Nuray Anahtar for helping to secure the necessary permits from Washington, DC authorities and, indeed,



to place the statue public space. The efforts of everyone involved in this project were nothing less than heroic.

Finally, Atatürk's worldview of "Peace at home, peace in the world" becomes even more relevant in our day when the world finds itself in shambles, teetering on the edge of the abyss. We at the Atatürk Society find deplorable the terrorist acts that occurred in 2015, spreading fear and hatred with tactics ultimately aimed at dividing the world, instead of uniting it. An overwhelming misfortune that exists in our times is precisely the fact that deep ideological divisions divide society — the East does not meet West, the North does not meet South. Promoting Atatürk's ideals, his worldview of peace, we believe, can help repair the social and political fissures that pervade Turkey, the United States, in Europe, Southeast Asia... And promoting his ideals remains the mission of the Atatürk Society of America.



Dr. Bulent Atalay

President, ASA

"The Atatürk Society of America (ASA) is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit, organization, its day-to-day operations provided mostly by a small group of unabashed admirers of Atatürk, all dedicated to promoting his ideals."

1995

May 19, 1995 Dinner Launching Atatürk Society with Peace and Democracy Award Recipient Senator Robert Byrd

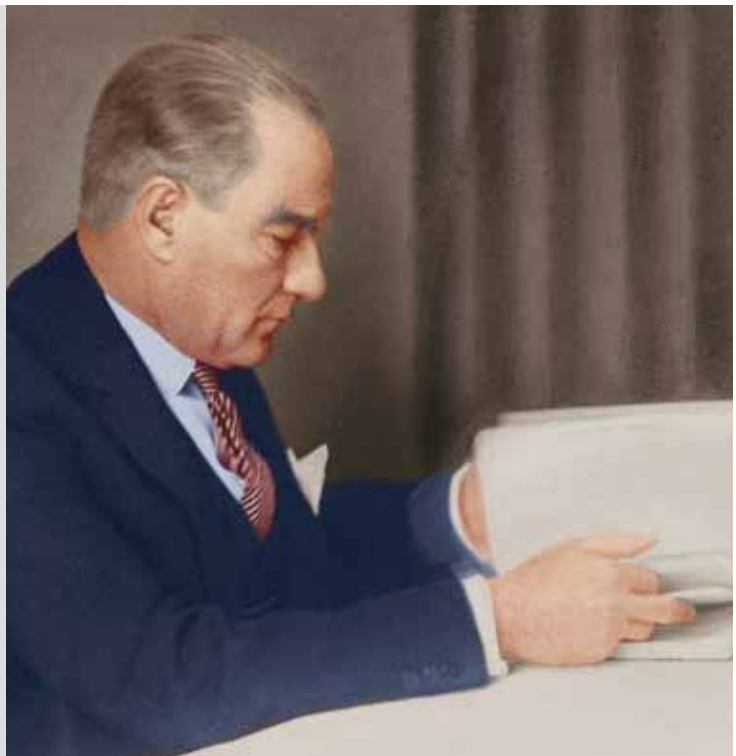
May 19, 1995: On May 19, a dinner celebrating the official launching of the new Atatürk Society of America (ASA) took place at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Washington, DC. Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia (D) made the keynote

speech and received the Atatürk Award for Peace and Democracy. Senator Byrd revealed his extensive knowledge of Turkey's history and spoke with deep admiration of Kemal Atatürk.



Atatürk's Legacy Commemorated in New York City on November 10, 1995

Nov. 10, 1995: ASA and the Society of Turkish American Architects, Engineers and Scientists, Inc. (MIM) jointly remembered Atatürk on the 57th anniversary of his death during ceremonies at the NYU Medical Center in New York City.



PANEL DISCUSSION: “Rising Fundamentalism in Turkey: Challenges for the US”

March 10, 1996: On March 10, 1996 ASA organized a panel discussion at the American University to discuss “Rising Fundamentalism in Turkey: Challenges for the US.” Panel speakers were Prof. Talat Halman, Prof. Kenneth Moss, Prof. Nilufer Narli, Prof. Howard Reed, and Mr. Orhan Tarhan.

ASA foresaw the looming rise of Islamic fundamentalism in Turkey at a time when the seriousness of the issue did not register in the minds of most Turkey analysts around the world.



Walter Cronkite narrated “Incredible Turk” Documentary Shown for the First Time in Washington DC for Atatürk’s Commemoration Event

Nov. 10, 1996: The Atatürk Society of America remembered Atatürk on November 10 jointly with five other Turkish-American Associations of Washington. The four speakers were Amb. Nuzhet Kandemir, Prof. Sabri Sayari, Dr. Curtis Bristol, Dr. Engin Inel Holmstrom. The program also included the showing of a documentary movie called “Incredible Turk” narrated by Walter Cronkite which showed Atatürk’s efforts beginning with the First World War until the end of his life. The meeting was followed by the opportunity to visit an exhibition of Atatürk pictures.



1996

Prominent Diplomat Richard C. Holbrooke Receives Award on May 19, 1996

May 19, 1996: On May 19, 1996 The Atatürk Society of America celebrated the 115th birthday of Kemal Atatürk at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC, and gave the 1996 Atatürk Peace and Democracy Award to Mr. Richard C. Holbrooke, former Undersecretary of State for European Affairs. The celebration included a special performance by the String Quartet of the Ankara Chamber Orchestra.



1997

PANEL DISCUSSION: “Rising Fundamentalism in Turkey: What Now?”

April 6, 1997: On April 6, 1997 at the Ward Building of the American University in Washington, DC. The subject was “Rising Fundamentalism in Turkey: What Now?” Last year (1996) we had invited panelists from Turkey with two American experts on Turkey.

In the 1997 panel discussion, we wanted to concentrate on the U.S. policy towards Turkey. Thus, we wanted to communicate with American policy-makers. Panel speakers were George Harris, Alan Makovsky, and Orhan Tarhan.





Solidarity March in Support of the Movement “A Minute of Darkness to Reach a Bright Future”

March 2, 1997: On March 2, 1997 the Atatürk Society of America led the Turkish-Americans, other nationalities, student groups and Turkish-American Associations in showing our solidarity with the movement in Turkey called “A minute of Darkness to Reach a Bright Future” against the rising dark forces of Islamists rampant corruption and lawlessness in the state. The demonstration held at Lafayette Park located across from the White House.

The Atatürk Society of America (ASA) and the Assembly of Turkish Youth Associations (ATSA) Hold Event Highlighting Atatürk & Turkish Youth

May 18, 1997: Youth Day was celebrated on May 18, 1997 at the Ward Building of the American University in Washington, DC. Appropriately, the celebration was organized jointly with The Assembly of Turkish Student Associations (ATSA).

ASA President Hudai Yavalar welcomed the audience. Then “Atatürk’s Address to Turkish Youth” was read in Turkish by Oray Esiner. A response to that address by the Turkish youth was read by Yaprak Seymen and Halim Tansu. Amb. Nuzhet Kandemir and Ms. Lerzan Aksoy, the president of the Turkish Students’ Association were the speakers.



Secularism & Democracy Award to Turkish General Staff

Nov 25, 1997: General Cevik Bir, the Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff, praised Atatürk and Atatürkism as an ideology which Turkey would continue to hold on to during an award reception on Nov.25. Atatürk Society of America presented him with the Atatürk Secularism and Democracy Award of 1997 which he accepted on behalf of Turkish General Staff. Admiral William Crowe, then the Vice President of Capitoline, a Washington lobbying firm, and the former Chairman of U.S. Ambassador to London, introduced Bir to the audience.

1998

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral William Crowe Jr. Receives Atatürk Peace & Democracy Award During the Celebration of Atatürk's Birthday

May 15, 1998: ASA celebrated May 19 on May 15, 1998 at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel at Washington, DC.

Admiral Crowe Jr. received the Atatürk Peace and Democracy Award of 1998 for his much publicized appreciation and admiration of Atatürk. In his acceptance speech, Admiral Crowe, thanked ASA for this honor and strongly emphasized the economic and strategic importance of Turkey in today's world.



ASA Participates in April 23 National Sovereignty & Children's Day Celebrations

April 26, 1998: ASA took part in the celebration of the April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day in Washington, DC. The event was organized by the Turkish Embassy. The ceremony was attended by a great number of children, university students, and a large crowd of guests. An interesting aspect of this celebration was that the keynote address of the day was made by the new Ambassador H.E. Baki Ilkin who arrived in Washington just a few days ago. On ASA's behalf, Mrs Mirat Yavalar personally handed t-shirts as gifts to participating children. These white and red t-shirts carried the message "23 Nisan Çocuk Bayramı-Atam İzindeyiz-Atatürk Society of America"



Medical Book Donations to the Gulhane Military Medical Faculty in Ankara

One of ASA's longtime supporters the late Dr. Faruk Ozer of Rockville, Maryland, donated medical books and various medical equipment to ASA. ASA was pleased to send this generous donation to the Gulhane Military Medical Faculty.



1998

Panel Discussion: "Atatürk's View of Popular Sovereignty and Current Turkish Political Reality"

Nov. 24, 1998: A panel organized by ASA took place on November 24, at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. The topic was Atatürk's View of Popular Sovereignty and Current Turkish Political Reality. Panel speakers were Prof. Leslie Lipson: The Concept of Sovereignty of People. Congressman Ed Whitfield: Practice of Democracy in the United States of America. Prof. Emre Kongar: Atatürk's Understanding and Practice of Sovereignty of the People. Prof. Ersin Kalaycioglu: Sovereignty of the People and Current Turkish Practice.



1999

In Pursuit of Atatürkism

By Metin Camcigil

August 2015

Atatürk Society of America's (ASA) twentieth anniversary is an opportune time to reflect on the current state of Atatürkism, because ASA stands for Atatürkism. Such reflection summarized below brings forth the need for civil society initiatives like ASA. ASA deserves well-earned congratulations for relentlessly disseminating Atatürkism.

I need to explain Atatürkism. I argue that Kemalism, the term used in academia and media, does not constitute a fair, comprehensive, and objective discourse about Atatürk.

Kemalism, as a study of Atatürk's style of leadership and his politics, is a very narrow and superficial approach to an understanding of his monumental work. Especially, when the term is used sometimes scornfully to represent

“Kemalism, as a study of Atatürk's style of leadership and his politics, is a very narrow and superficial approach to an understanding of his monumental work.”

one-man rule. It is unfortunate that the discourse did not develop on the concept, the reason, the purpose, shortly, the philosophy of what Atatürk accomplished or, at least, intended to accomplish. A true understanding of Atatürk's work is through Atatürkism.

There should not be any doubt that Atatürk was motivated by the impoverished, humiliated, and exhausted conditions of his countrymen due to intermittent wars stretching over

sixty five years, (beginning with the Crimean War in 1853 to the end of WWI in 1918, all caused by Russia's and Britain's expansionist policies). Disturbed by endless Ottoman concessions to the European powers and half-hearted modernization efforts in futile attempts to ward off European aggression, he fought for a fundamental change. He reasoned that Turks had to acquire at least the same knowledge and skills of the dominant powers, in order to regain national pride and peace. Progress for the objective of “joining the contemporary civilization”, meaning reaching the level of advanced societies, underlies all of his reasoning and actions. This is his political philosophy, this is Atatürkism.

Why then are we still in pursuit of Atatürkism eighty years after the Atatürkist reforms?

Atatürk expected the people to desire progress naturally, because dignity is a human trait.

Accordingly, he attributed all the liberation and reformation actions to the people, at every step of the way, even if those acts did not emanate from the public. It worked; with constant encouragement, Turks quickly took giant steps on route to progress during Atatürk's time.

However, after the extraordinary times of WWII which followed his demise, Turks started wavering during the fast pace of the new international post-war era, from 1945 to 1965. Religion was introduced in politics for seizing the votes of uneducated masses. Religious education became the nemesis of the Atatürkist philosophy, of progress. The gradual replacement of modern education with a religious one created pious generations that are





unambitious, fatalistic, carefree, relying on mediocre leaders, and faulting countries that pulled ahead of them (conspiracy theories, xenophobia). Education, domestic and foreign policies, economy, legal system, social peace all fell prey to devout generations that long for Ottomanism instead of aspiring to new achievements. It was easy for the Turkish society to revert to the old times since raising at least two modern generations to sustain a reform, and to anchor it in the society never materialized. The society, mostly, became unfit for modernization. Atatürk seeded an uncultivated land, a society unprepared for the benefits of progress.

Now, pre-reform conditions returned to Turkey, conditions reminiscent the ones caused by external wars of the Ottoman period referred to above, but self-inflicted this time by internal politics. Namely, a despotic leader rules the country with a police force (reminiscent of Sultan Abdulhamid) in contempt

of laws and with corruption, the army and the economy are weakened, and minority insurgency is rampant. A good portion of citizens is systematically kept insensitive to ominous reality by the anodyne effect of religion imposed not only by officials but also by public pressure. The entire population is spectators to unfolding events to replace Atatürk's name in the hearts of Turks with that of the current ruler. Turks do not rise against being ranked internationally very low in democracy, human rights, freedom of expression, civil society activism, scientific publications, technological innovations, and manufacturing (the Turkish economy's recent upsurge is based on a simple and crude economy of construction and trade).

This state of affairs explains why we are in pursuit of Atatürkism. Since there will not be another Atatürk to pull the Turks out of the quagmire, Turks, individually, need to internalize Atatürkism, i.e. "progress towards joining the contemporary civilization", and

to this end, to adopt modern education and civil responsibility (to be not only a diplomate, but to be an informed, analytical, learned, enlightened individual). ASA strives for a resurgence of Atatürkism in Turkey, for the revival of a majority that looks forward to the laurels of the future, rather than to those of the ancient history. Liberal, and progressive Turks must rally behind ASA.

ASA's cause was helped in the past by experienced politicians like Senator Robert Byrd, Newt Gingrich, and Secretary Chuck Hegel, and by world-renowned academics like Profs.

Bernard Lewis, Leslie Lipson, Andrew Mango, Talat Halman, Behram Kursunoglu, and Türkan Saylan, to name a few. Speeches, lectures, panel discussions, and books by these prominent people helped disseminate Atatürk's philosophy. I am lucky to have served once as President of ASA, thus been given the opportunity to partake in ASA's laudable fight.

1999

Celebration of May 19 Youth Day

May 19, 1999: May 19 was celebrated at Park Hyatt ballroom, in Georgetown. The program consisted of a video showing of a documentary film taken at the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Turkish Republic in Ankara, and a piano recital. The film which has a great historical value was presented by Mr. Emin Veral of Bilkent University. This presentation was followed by an impressive piano recital performed by Ms. Idil Ulgen.



2000

Celebration of May 19, 2000

May 14, 2000: The Atatürk Society of America celebrated May 19 at Westin Fairfax Hotel in Washington DC on May 14. The program included an opening remark by the President, a very exciting speech by Hon. Greg Laughlin, former Congressman from Texas, and a short classical concert by Drs. Osman Kivrak and Teri Lazar.



Carnegie Endowment Hosts Lecture on Atatürk's Reforms with Former Ambassador Richard Barkley

April 21, 2000: The Atatürk Society of America organized lectures on Atatürk's reforms at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington DC on April 21. Ambassador Richard Barkley. Amb. Barkley's lecture was on the success of Turkey's modernization.

"Atatürk's Secularism and International Stability" Panel Discussion

November 12, 2000: A panel organized by ASA took place on November 12, at the American University Ward Building in Washington, DC. The topic was "Atatürk's Secularism and International Stability." Panelists:

Prof. Suna Kili, Bogazici University, Department of Political Science and International Relations; Prof. Unsal Yavuz, Ankara University, Deputy Chairman of Turkish Reforms History Institute; Prof. Talat Halman, Bilkent University, Chairman of Department of Turkish Literature; Dr. George Harris, Consultant on Eurasia and Middle East; Prof. Amos Perlmutter, The American University, Department of Political Science



2001

“LATIFE” Play Depicting One Thousands Days with Mustafa Kemal Shown in Washington and New York City

April 29, 2001: Turkish stage actress Dilek Turker performed Neziha Araz play “Latife-One Thousands Days with Mustafa Kemal” in New York and in Washington, DC upon invitation by the Atatürk Society of America. Dilek Turker portrayed Latife both in her earlier years with Atatürk and in her later years in solitude.



Science, Education and Secularism Highlighted with Awards Granted to Renowned Leaders in their Fields Including Prof. Turkan Saylan in Celebration of May 19, 1919

May 25, 2001: The Atatürk Society of America presented Atatürk Awards on the occasion of celebrating May 19 at a ceremony at the Turkish Embassy on May 25, to three outstanding Turks who are representatives and guardians of Atatürk's principles and reforms. “Science is Guidance Award” went to Prof. Behram Kursunoglu of Miami FL. “Education & Modernization Award” was presented to Prof. Turkan Saylan of Istanbul. “Secularism & Democracy Award” to Orhan Tarhan of Bethesda MD. Ambassador and Mrs. Baki Ilkin were the most gracious and generous hosts of this celebration. The award ceremony was crowned by a captivating concert by Turkish American composer and viola master Osman Kivrak and his equally masterful companion violinist Teri Lazar. Prof. Saylan also presented a citation to Mr. Hudai Yavalar.

Remembrance of Atatürk

November 10, 2001: Atatürk Society of America remembered Atatürk on the 63th anniversary of his death during ceremonies at the Turkish Embassy in Washington, DC.

Dr. Michael Radu, Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute was a speaker at this event. A documentary movie called “Incredible Turk” narrated by Walter Cronkite which showed Atatürk’s efforts beginning with the First World War until the end of his life was also shown to the audience.

Bernard Lewis receives ASA Atatürk Award During Celebration of Atatürk’s Birthday

May 25, 2002: The Atatürk Society of America celebrated May 19 with a program at the Turkish Embassy premises on May 25. The program consisted of the presentation of ASA’s Atatürk Award to Prof. Bernard Lewis. The ASA Executive Board decided to present the award to Prof. Lewis on grounds that he contributed extensively to history scholarship with his accurate analysis of Turkey’s and in particular of Atatürk’s positive impact on Middle Eastern history. The award was named “Universality of Civilization & Peace” after Atatürk’s dictum “cultures vary but civilization is one.” The program continued with a concert by the Sunrise Quartet, and a reception, at which Prof. Lewis’ birthday was also celebrated.



Remembrance of Atatürk



November 10, 2002: Atatürk Society of America remembered Atatürk on the 64th anniversary of his death during ceremonies at the Turkish Embassy in Washington, DC. Ambassador Dr. Faruk Logoglu’s speech was followed by a presentation by guest speaker Dr. Engin L. Holmstrom. The Hon. Greg Laughlin & Mrs. Laughlin presented to the ASA the U.S. flag flown over the Capitol in memory of Atatürk on November 8, 2002.

2003

Lecture by Daniel Pipes

February 15, 2003: Upon invitation by Atatürk Society of America Dr. Daniel Pipes, Director of the Middle East Forum delivered a lecture on Saturday, Feb. 15, at the Library of Congress. The lecture was titled “Turkey and War on Terror”.



Ambassador Baki Ilkin and Mrs. Nur Ilkin Recognized During Celebration of Atatürk’s Birthday

May 18, 2003: The Atatürk Society of America celebrated May 19 at the Turkish Embassy premises on Sunday May 18, with the gracious permission of Ambassador Faruk Logoglu. The core of the program was the presentation of “Appreciation of Support Award” separately to Amb. Baki Ilkin and Mrs. Nur Ilkin in recognition of the untiring and generous support they continue to give to the ASA after their relocation from Washington to Ankara.



Fairfax County Public School Administrators Introduce Atatürk Reforms Instruction in Curriculum

The Atatürk Society of America Executive Board expressed appreciation to the Virginia Fairfax County Public School Administrators and teachers for having introduced instructional material in high schools regarding Atatürk’s modernization reforms. Two administrators and three teachers were honored at a ceremony on October 26 with the presentation of appreciation plaques and citations. History teachers Cathleen Boivin, John Hawes and Scott Thimons prepared an excellent and accurate audio-visual and written material.

Dr. Andrew Mango, Author of Atatürk's Biography, Receives The "Universality of Civilization and Peace" Award During The Turkish Republic's 80th Anniversary Celebrated in DC

October 26, 2003: The Atatürk Society of America celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Turkish Republic in Washington DC on October 26, 2003 at the Turkish Embassy. The program centered on the presentation of the Atatürk Award to Dr. Andrew Mango, author of *Atatürk: The Biography of the Founder of Modern Turkey*. The award was titled "Universality of Civilization," one of Atatürk's political principles. The ASA Executive Board's choice of presenting the Award to Dr. Mango was based on the fact that he made an indelible contribution to the understanding and propagation of Atatürk's thoughts and achievements through this biography. Dr. Mango received his award from Prof. Bruce Kuniholm at the Turkish Embassy.



ASA Gathers Atatürk Supporting Associations at the Mausoleum in Ankara for Unique Commemoration



November 10, 2003. The Atatürk Society of America Executive Board celebrated the 80th Anniversary of the Turkish Republic, the greatest edifice of Atatürk and the greatest gift to international peace in modern times, on the date of remembrance of Atatürk, in Ankara on November 10, 2003. The slogan of the day was "Rational Education and Modernity." More than a dozen organizations from around the world that believe in Atatürk's political philosophy supported the organization of the event. Among them were Ankara Chamber of Commerce, Daughters of Atatürk of California, Federation of Atatürk Societies of Europe, Australia Atatürk Cultural Center, Bilkent University, Turkish Society for Support of Modernity, World Turkish Congress, Istanbul University, and the Turkish Association of Handicapped. The program comprised a public mass visit to the Mausoleum with

2003

flowers. Istanbul university students under the direction of famed Yildiz Kenter, read Atatürk's renowned address to the youth and the youth's response given by the same University's students. Popular stage actress Dilek Turker performed a passage from playwright Nezihe Araz' "Kuvayi Milliye Kadınları" (Women of the National Forces). This monologue depicted a talk of Atatürk's mother with his son. Bilkent symphony orchestra and Military bands played national themes. The event was attended by thousands of people. Bilkent University, by courtesy of its President Prof. Ali Dogramaci to the Atatürk Society of America, organized an evening program. Prof. Turkan Saylan, President of the Society for Support of Modernity, called on the intellectuals to defend Atatürk's philosophy and to further rational education. Awards were presented to Prof. Turkan Sytan, Prof. Suna Kili of the Bogazici university, Dilek Sabanci of the Turkish Society of the Handicapped, and to playwright Nezihe Araz. Performer Dilek Turker repeated her morning presentation of Araz's play. The program closed with a concert by Bilkent Symphony Orchestra.



2004

US Congress Hosts ASA President Metin Camcigil Speech on the Greater Middle East Initiative

May 25, 2004: The Atatürk Society of America organized a talk by the President to the Congressional Staff on May 25, 2004 on the Greater Middle East Initiative. The meeting took place at the House Energy Committee room of the Congress. Many invitees from outside the Congress also attended along with Congressional staffers.

Youth Focused Event on May 19, 2004

May 23, 2004: May 19 Youth Day was celebrated once again at the Turkish Embassy premises, courtesy of the Turkish Ambassador, on May 23. Student Abby Bowman, talked about her experience in researching Atatürk reforms for the National History Day competition, and about her visit to Turkey. Cathleen Boivin, World History and Geography II teacher at West Springfield High School in Fairfax County gave an audio-visual presentation on Atatürk reforms.

Future Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel Speaks at ASA's 10th Anniversary Celebration on Capitol Hill

May 19, 2005: The Turkish national day of May 19 was celebrated by the Atatürk Society of America at the United States Senate Russell Office Building. The event took place in the famous and historic Caucus Room of the Russell Building, the scene of many important Senate Committee debates. This Celebration was organized to also mark the tenth anniversary of the Atatürk Society of America. The guest speaker of the day was Nebraska senior Senator Chuck

Hagel. Both ASA President's introductory remarks and Sen. Hagel's speech concentrated on United States-Turkish relations. ASA presented Sen. Hagel with a memento thanking him for his contribution to the improvement of relations between the two countries. The inscription on a crystal figure of Atatürk read "Presented to Hon. Chuck Hagel for appreciation of Atatürk's modernization model." Amb. Faruk Logoglu of the Republic of Turkey kindly agreed to present the memento on behalf of ASA.



2005

2005

90th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Battle Remembered

April 25, 2005: April 25 is the remembrance day of the heroic battle of Gallipoli. The Atatürk Society of America commemorated the day with some dedicated articles.

2006

ANZAC Day Commemorative Service

April 25, 2006: On April 25, 1915, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landed on Anzac Cove at Gallipoli Turkey at 4:29am. This landing has been commemorated ever since in Australia, New Zealand and Turkey. A commemorative service was held at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, DC to remember those who made the supreme sacrifice both in the Dardanelles campaign and in subsequent conflicts. The service included prayers, hymns and a speech by New Zealand Ambassador Roy Ferguson. Turkish Cellist Efe Baltacioglu was among the performers. Atatürk Society of America was presented at the service by Chairman Hudai Yavalar, Vice President Filiz Odabas-Geldiay, and Treasurer Mirat Yavalar.



Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich Impresses Atatürk's 125th Birthday Participants at the House Caucus Room With His Admiration and Knowledge of Atatürk's Leadership and Reforms

May 19, 2006: On May 19, 2006 Atatürk Society of America celebrated Atatürk's 125th birthday with great fanfare and joy. The event was held in the historic and majestic House Caucus Room with a large audience consisting of diplomats, Members of Congress, congressional staff, U.S. government representatives, ASA members, and others. Former Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Bob Livingston recalled the days of building a Republican coalition with the featured speaker, Newt Gingrich, and highlighted Speaker Gingrich's contributions to the U.S. political system and recognized his accomplishments. Speaker Gingrich's sincere and heartfelt remarks regarding Atatürk's legacy received a standing ovation from the crowd which was mesmerized by his insight and observations. ASA Chairman and Founder Hudai Yavalar presented Speaker Newt Gingrich with an award in commemoration of his contribution to publicizing Atatürk's legacy.

Linda Laughlin, wife of former Congressman and ASA Advisory Board Member Greg Laughlin, presented a U.S. flag which had been flown over the Capitol in commemoration of Atatürk's birthday.

Pelin Aylangan, American Turkish Association of DC President provided an example of the opportunities provided by Atatürk for the country's youth.

New Zealand Ambassador to United States Roy Ferguson chronicled the Gallipoli campaign of 1915, recalling Atatürk's leadership, and read a letter sent by Prime Minister Helen Clark.

Certificates were presented to long standing ASA members for their outstanding support and contributions to the organization and its mission.



2006

Panel Discussion Held at Georgetown University: “Atatürk’s Reforms as a Response to Radical Islam”

April 26, 2006: On April 26, Atatürk Society of America organized and held a panel discussion at Georgetown University, Washington, DC, titled: “Atatürk’s Reforms as a Response to Radical Islam” The panel was moderated by Timur Edib, President of the ASA. Panel speakers were Prof. Bulent Atalay, an ASA Board member who teaches at the Physics Department of University of Mary Washington; Prof. David Cuthell, Director of the Institute for Turkish Studies; and Prof. Clive Foss, History Department, Georgetown University..

Successful Campaign to Donate Books to Libraries

The ASA Executive Board completed a campaign to donate to local libraries books on modern Turkey. The board was motivated by the often observed fact that local libraries and schools or university libraries are very poor on up-to-date books on Turkey. The three books selected for donation to all local public libraries and school libraries were: Atatürk, by Dr. Andrew Mango, The Atatürk Revolution, by Prof. Suna Kili, and Turkish Woman, by Ayse Cebesoy Sarialp. ASA members responded enthusiastically to this campaign, and went door to door to donate the books.

Immortal Atatürk

November 10, 2006: On November 10, 2006, ASA President Timur Edib, Vice President Filiz Odabas-Geldiay, and ASA Treasurer Mirat Yavalar, and other ASA members participated in the remembrance ceremony for Atatürk at the Turkish Embassy, and lay a wreath at Atatürk’s statue.

For his part, ASA Chairman Hudai Yavalar participated in the remembrance day ceremonies at the Anitkabir in Ankara on Nov. 10, 2006. Atatürk Mausoleum Commander Colonel Erkan Atalay presented Mr.Yavalar with a thank you letter for ASA contributions to the maintenance of the Anitkabir Peace Park.



ASA Board Members Attend luncheon for H.E. Helen Clark Prime Minister of New Zealand

On March 20, 2007: ASA Chairman Hudai Yavalar and Treasurer Mirat Yavalar attended an Asian Society luncheon for visiting Prime Minister Clark in Washington DC. The Yavalars had an opportunity to speak to her about ASA's mission, and present her with Andrew Mango's book, *Atatürk*, Arnold Ludwig's *King of the Mountain*, several issues of *Atatürk's Voice Magazine*. She stated that Atatürk and Turkey are very important in the history of the ANZAC countries, and thanked ASA for its contributions to bringing the one time foes on the battlefield even closer together now as allies.



The "Support for an Ever Secular Turkey" Demonstration in Washington, DC



May 20, 2007: On May 20th, La Fayette Park witnessed a demonstration like no other. The collective and independent efforts of the DC Turkish community to organize an event supporting all other similar demonstrations happening in major cities in Turkey and Europe proved successful. After witnessing unprecedented large scale demonstrations of millions of people in Ankara, Istanbul, and Izmir, Turkish-Americans in the Washington DC area were inspired to express themselves in support of a secular, democratic Turkey in the footsteps of its founder, Kemal Atatürk.

On May 20, 2007, nearly 700 members of Turkish, Turkish-American and Friends of Turkey communities joined hand in hand at a pro-secular Turkey rally. Dressed in red and white and carrying Turkish flags and posters, they gathered in Lafayette Park in front of the White House. Some of the messages read: "Turkey is, and has always been secular" "No to

2007

Sharia,” and “Don’t let Turkey turn into another Iran!”

The “Support for an Ever-Secular Turkey” demonstration started at 1:00 pm with National anthems of USA and Turkey, followed by popular marches and speeches from the community representatives. Local musician İlhan Özulu felt the pulse of the crowd and played inspirational music to reflect the mood and make the crowd’s enthusiasm felt.

Ata Istar was the Master of Ceremonies. Oray Esiner read Atatürk’s Address to Youth, while Ata Yavalar read the Youth’s Address to Atatürk in response. Graduate student Deniz Ozkan explained the significance of May 19, and why Atatürk bestowed the holiday on the country’s youth. ATA-DC President Pelin Aylangan moved the crowd to tears with her presentation which answered the question of why we had gathered in front of the White House on a Sunday in May.



Successful Mehmetcik Foundation Fundraiser

In support of the Mehmetciks, Turkish military veterans that have sacrificed life and limb on behalf of the Republic of Turkey, we have raised nearly \$35,000.00, to show our support. The bedrock of our activity however will continue to focus on May 19 celebrations and November 10th remembrances as was recognized by Turkish Radio and Television, TRT-International.

May 19 Event: Prof. Arnold Ludwig's Lecture Recognizing Atatürk's Leadership

On Sunday May 18, 2008 the Atatürk Society of America (ASA) was privileged to host Professor Ludwig, at the historic DACOR Bacon House in Washington, DC. A lively group of 90 comprised the audience, interspersed with a few very young people, but all encouraged to express their own assessments of Atatürk's contributions. As a counterpoint to the assessment of Atatürk's effectiveness would be an assessment of George W. Bush, the current President of the United States. Arnold Ludwig, in his 2002 book, *King of the Mountain: the Nature of Political Leadership*, had reported the results of his study of 1941 national leaders whose terms spanned the years from 1900-2000. Dr. Ludwig's primary focus had been the 377 leaders on whom data was especially abundant.

Prior to Dr. Ludwig's presentation, representing Turkish youth, Ms. Deniz Ozkan, a doctoral student and President of the Graduate Turkish Student Association at the George Washington University, spoke about the importance of May 19 in Turkish history.

Following Dr. Ludwig's presentation was a short solo piano concert by the gifted young musician, Selim Sert.



ASA Educational Outreach Continues

In commemoration of the 85th anniversary of the establishment of the Turkish Republic, ASA distributed the following books and magazines to libraries, high schools, and universities in the Washington, DC area:

- *Atatürk by Prof. Andrew Mango*
- *The Atatürk Revolution "A Paradigm of Modernization by Prof. Suna Kili*
- *Turkish Woman by Ayse Cebesoy Sarialp*
- *Who Are the Turks? By Prof. Justin McCarthy & Carolyn McCarthy*
- *Voice of Atatürk, Publication of the Atatürk Society of America*

2009



Demonstration in La Fayette Park across White House Promoting A Secular Turkey

February 15, 2009: On February 15, Atatürk Society of America (ASA) and supporting organizations held a demonstration in La Fayette Park across from the White House, which attracted participants from around the United States, and was supported by: American Turkish Association of Washington DC, Florida Turkish American Association, Maryland American Turkish Association, American Turkish Veterans Association, Washington Turkish Women's Association.

May 19 Commemoration Raises Money for The Association to Support Contemporary Life (CYDD) Guest Speaker Dr. Canan Aritman (Member of Parliament from CHP)

In 2009, Atatürk Society of America (ASA) celebrated May 19 with a fundraiser for Cagdas Yasami Destekleme Dernegi, also known as The Association to Support Contemporary Life (CYDD). CYDD is a non-profit organization in Turkey dedicated to providing scholarships and building schools and dormitories for secular education in under served areas in rural and urban parts of Turkey. CYDD schools and dormitories educate young girls who, alternatively, would be forced to become child brides as young as 12 due to circumstances and local customs.

ASA Founding Member and Treasurer Mirat Yavalar provided an overview of the significance of May 19, and accentuated Turkey's drift from Atatürk's principles. She drew attention to the importance of CYDD as an organization and extension of Atatürk's work, including providing information on Dr. Turkan Saylan, the recently deceased founder of CYDD. Ms. Yavalar then introduced Dr. Canan Aritman, the guest speaker for the event.



Atatürk Society of America Donates First Piano to Village School in Anatolia

ASA donated a piano to the Kizilkoy elementary and middle school in Tokat, Turkey, which feeds from five villages and serves roughly 200 students.

For the first time, students had access to a multi-string instrument and classic music device. Atatürk promoted progress through contemporary music and aimed to build bridges between modern Turkey and the secular western world through Bach, Beethoven, and Mozart.

As Kemal Atatürk stated, “A population without music and the arts lacks one of its most important arteries.”



Kizilkoy students with the ASA-donated piano.

2009

ASA Commemorates Anzac Day at Georgetown University

ASA organized the screening of the documentary by Savas Karatas, “Gallipoli: History in the Depths” at the historic Copley Hall at Georgetown University. The Australian Air Vice Marshal Kiym Osley, Turkish Defense and Air Attache Murat Yildirim, and ASA Board Member Ilknur Boray made memorable presentations. The Australian speaker explained the importance of the day to the birth of new nations, and how the participants did not see each other as enemy states, notwithstanding the tremendous human and physical cost of war and tragedies which were experienced.

The documentary used images from the current state of the sunken ships used during the war and actual footage of the battles, as well as the emotions from Turkish, British, New Zealand, and Australian officers, including the strategic and tactical decisions taken.

The evening ended with a reception which provided an opportunity for speakers and participants to exchange ideas and share their experiences related to Gallipoli and the Anzacs.



2010

2010

May 19, Turkey Caucus Co Chairs Virginia Foxx (R-NC) and Steve Cohen (D-TN) Join ASA to Celebrate the Birthday of Atatürk

May 28, 2010: The May 19th celebration was held at the Yavalar residence with the participation of the Co-Chairs of the Turkey Study Group from the United States Congress; The Honorable Virginia Foxx (R-North Carolina) and The Honorable Steve Cohen (D-Tennessee).

Representing Turkish American youth was Selin Odabas-Geldiay, who impressed the audience with her pride of being a Turkish American. Congresswomen Foxx later inserted her remarks into the Congressional Record so that they could be read by a larger audience. Congressman Cohen likened Atatürk as a cross between George Washington and Robert Kennedy. He spoke with pride of his Turkish heritage. ASA was pleased to host representatives from the Turkish Embassy, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Turkish Coalition of America, and other organizations.

ASA Republicanism Award Presented to Prof. Dr. Suna Kili on the 23rd of April 2010

On the 23rd of April, 2010, the Executive Board of ASA (ATATÜRK SOCIETY OF AMERICA) unanimously moved to bestow the Republicanism Award on Prof. Dr. Suna Kili. Prof. Kili's main areas of specialization are political theory, models of development and modernization. Throughout her academic career Prof. Kili has brought her expertise in these areas to analyze Atatürkism (Kemalism) and the Atatürkist model of modernization. She has committed her life to the continuation and enrichment of the "The Turkish Enlightenment". Her efforts in this direction have been nationally and internationally recognized leading to her receipt of "Woman of the Enlightenment Award" in 1998.



2011

Atatürk's Immortal Words in an Anthem for Anzac Day

In the program Atatürk's letter to the mothers of fallen ANZACS was rendered into an anthem for ANZAC Day, composed in song format by Graham Ashton, and sung by the soprano soloist, Donna Balson. The experience was incredibly poignant! Atatürk's letter, written in 1930, fourteen

years after the cessation of hostilities in the Gallipoli campaign, was overwhelmingly generous, and had to have been deeply comforting to the women who lost their sons in the campaign. (April 25, 2011)



Atatürk's 130th BIRTHDAY AND MAY 19 YOUTH DAY CELEBRATION

Guest speaker Prof. Edward Erickson at the Turkish Embassy

May 19, 2011 signified many events; the Youth Day, (19 Mayıs Gençlik ve Spor Bayramı) and the 130th anniversary of Atatürk's Birthday. Collectively, the Atatürk Society of America, the Association of Turkish-Americans of DC and the Turkish Embassy organized an evening of celebrations to commemorate these events which was held at the Turkish Ambassador's Residence. More than 130 guests attended, including members of the diplomatic community, US Congressmen, a Nobel Prize winner in Physics, members of the National Geographic Society and military attaches of Australia and New Zealand. The highlight of the evening was the presentation by the guest speaker, Prof. Edward Erickson from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Quantico, VA who gave detailed historic accounts of the Gallipoli campaign and Atatürk's involvement as a Lieutenant Colonel and the commander of the 19th Infantry Division of the Ottoman army.



Atatürk remembrance event, the John-Hopkins University, Krieger School in Washington, DC. Guest Speaker Dr. Austin Bay

On the 73rd year anniversary of Atatürk's death, Atatürk Society of America held an event to commemorate Atatürk's incredible life and accomplishments on November 15, 2011 at the John-Hopkins University, Krieger School in Washington, DC. The highlight of the event was a lecture by Dr. Austin Bay, a professor, syndicated columnist and the author of an outstanding new book on Atatürk titled ATATÜRK: LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP FROM THE GREATEST GENERAL OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE. The foreword notes of his book were written by General Wesley Clark. After the lecture, Dr. Bay answered questions raised by the audience, gave an interview to Turkish media and signed copies of his book. (Nov. 10, 2011)



2012

Oktay Eksi Receives “Free Press and Democracy Award” on Behalf of Unfairly Incarcerated Journalists and Writers in Turkey on MAY 19th Youth Day

Atatürk Society of America held a festive event for the Turkish-American community to celebrate the Youth Day, “19 Mayıs, Gençlik ve Spor Bayramı. The celebration was held at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC. The highlight of the evening was the lecture by our guest speaker, the Honorable Mr. Oktay Ekşi. During the celebrations, the Atatürk

Society of America presented Mr. Oktay Ekşi with the “Free Press and Democracy Award” for his exemplary work in advocating democracy, secularism and modernism in Turkey. Mr. Ekşi will share this award with his journalist colleagues who are currently unfairly serving jail sentences for freedom of expression charges. Two other awards

were presented in absentia to a pair of historians living in Turkey. The absentee recipient of the “History and Literature Award” was Turgut Özakman, a



Mr. Oktay Ekşi and Dr. Aysel Ekşi



Ms. İlmiye Çığ
Historian, Archaeologist



Mr. Turgut Özakman
Writer, Historian

prominent writer, historian and lawyer. The absentee recipient of the “Secularism and Civilization Award” was Ms. Muazzez İlmiye Çığ, a historian, archaeologist and strong advocate of secularism. Dr. Aysel Ekşi accepted the two awards on behalf of Mr. Özakman and Ms. Çığ.

During Mr. Ekşi's visit in Washington, Mr. John Hughes, a member of the board of the National Press Club organized a luncheon in Mr. Ekşi's honor on May 16, 2012. Also, Mr. Ekşi went to the US Congress where he met with some of his US counterparts, including Congressman Mike Turner (R-OH), Chairman of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and Congressman Tom Marino (R-PA), Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. (May 19, 2012)



Mr. Oktay Ekşi and Dr. Aysel Ekşi with ASA Board Members

ASA and TPC Jointly Hold Panel Discussion on Freedom of Press and Rule of Law in Turkey

(March 27, 2013) National Press Club, Washington, DC

On March 27, 2013 Turkish Policy Center (TPC) of Washington DC and the Atatürk 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 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.

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 Fact and Fantasy: Turkey’s Ergenekon Investigation.”



ASA Presented Paper on “Atatürk’s Reforms Empowered Turkish Women and Set Example for the Developing World” at Two Day Conference Organized by the Light Millennium in New York City

The 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: PIONEER OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: ATATÜRK

Atatürk Society of America participated in the conference with a paper titled “Atatürk’s Reforms Empowered Turkish Women and Set Example for the Developing World - A look at the remarkable transformation of a Nation”. The paper was written by Aynur Uluatam Sumer and Ilknur Boray - Atatürk Society of America Board Members; and it was presented at the conference by Ceren Olga Sayan. (April 19-20, 2013)

2013

CHP Parliamentarian Muharrem Ince Wows ASA Guests on MAY 19, 2013 Youth Day Celebration

Atatürk 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's 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 and the Youth and Sports Day celebration. The ceremony started with a welcome speech by ASA President Dr. Bulent Atalay. ASA Board member Mr. Burak Sahin spoke on behalf of the Turkish American youth, and Ms. Suna Zerwas gave this year's presentation of Atatürk's address to the youth. The event attendees were entertained by Ince's lively speech and recital of one of his own poems.

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.



GEZI PARK Protests at Lafayette Park Across from White House

Summer of 2013 marked a new alliance for many members of the Turkish American community in Washington, DC and around the US. We all showed our support through marches and gatherings for the Gezi Park movement which started in Istanbul. We took to the streets in June, when peacefully protesting people, most of them young environmental activists, were attacked in Taksim –Istanbul. ASA, along with the other local Turkish –American groups, under the leadership of the Turkish Policy Center (TPC), took a front role in organizing demonstrations on the U.S. Capital's streets, and in front of the White House 12 weeks in a row. Every weekend for more than two months, we made Lafayette Park, across from the White House, our own Gezi Park. We came together in forums at the Pershing Park. The common goal for the Turkish Americans was to get an alternative voice to represent Turkey, and the current reality of Turkey; to Congress, to local politicians, to the press and the American public. What changed in the summer of 2013 was that this constituency was no longer willing to sit silently as an alternative reality was fabricated and maintained. (June 2013)



SILENT SCREAM Protests For Unlawfully Incarcerated Military Officers

On December 15, 2013 a group of Turkish Americans joined hands for an event in Washington DC to bring awareness to the lawlessness of the Erdogan regime in Turkey where 400 plus innocent lives were imprisoned. The events were started as part of the “Vardiya Bizde – Sessiz Ciglik” protests which were started by the spouses of imprisoned Turkish officers in Turkey. ASA Executive Board members and members in general showed their support by participating in many protests in front of the White House; and letter writing campaign to the prisoners in Turkey. Most of those prisoners were released in 2014, but the Silent Scream protests continue in Turkey and in the US; for justice in Turkey.



2013



Republic Day Ball on the 90th Anniversary of The Turkish Republic

ASA was one of the main contributors and sponsors in 2013, for the annual Republic Day Ball organized by the American Turkish Association of Washington, DC (ATA-DC). The Ball had one of the largest attendance of the recent years. The guests recited the Turkish Pledge of

Allegiance in unity, which was banned at primary schools by the government in Turkey in 2013. It was a joyous celebration with Folk dance performers from the Northern Cyprus Turkish Republic, and the music of Turkish American musician İlhan Özulu. (Oct. 29, 2013)



ASA PROUDLY PRESENTED ITS GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

The First Bronze Statue of Kemal Atatürk in Washington, DC, on United States Soil

2013

At a Board Meeting of the Atatürk Society in October 2012, the Founder of ASA, Hudai 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 75th Anniversary of Atatürk's death on November 10, 1938. 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.

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 City 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 had a small list of four talented sculptors to invite to the competition, and at the end chose Jeffrey Hall, a local sculptor. Mr. Hall created a extraordinarily powerful statue, which was unveiled on November 10, 2013 at 9:05am., in front of hundreds of guests who had gathered at Sheridan Circle.



2014

Successful Fundraiser for “Little Heroes”, children of unjustly imprisoned Military Officers in Turkey

Little Heroes” fundraising Brunch, benefiting the children of unjustly imprisoned Turkish military officers who were framed with fabricated evidence. Ayse Zerwas, member of ASA, proposed this idea and spearheaded it from its conception through its implementation. The event was held at the Prof. Turker Ozdogan’s residence.

With the support of: Turkish Policy Center, Bridge to Turkey Fund Virginia Group, Northern Virginia Turkish Women’s Entrepreneur Group, and Umut Olalim Group. \$14,000 was collected and sent to TESUD – Association of Retired Turkish Military Officers (in Turkey) for the purpose of helping the education of the children of the framed military officers. (April 13, 2014)



ASA and ATA –DC Celebrated April 23rd International Children’s Day on Sheridan Circle in Front of Atatürk’s Statue

The Washington, DC area’s Turkish community came together on April 26th, to celebrate **23 Nisan International Children’s Day** with a ceremony at the Sheridan Circle location of the statue of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk followed by a program at the Turkish Embassy featuring performances by students of the American **Turkish Association of DC (ATA-DC)** Atatürk School. The activities at the statue were organized by **Atatürk Society of America (ASA)**. April 23rd marked the 94th Anniversary of the establishment of The Grand National Assembly of Turkey.





May 19 Youth and Sports Day

Celebration event was held on May 18th., at the Yavalar residence. “Atatürk Youth Award” was presented to the Gezi Park Youth , a group of peaceful young Turkish activists who started an enviromental protest which turned into an nationwide protest against the Turkish government. The award was

received by Ata Akiner, president of the Turkish Policy Center, on behalf of all the young activists in Turkey and Washington, DC; who were part of the Gezi Park protests.

The celebration program included a presentation about the significance of May 19, 1919; presented by Gulgun Karamete and Besim Cafer.



August 30th Victory Day Picnic

Celebration Picnic, held on Sunday, August 31st, at Barcroft Park in Arlington, VA. Organized in collobaration with ATA-DC and the Turkish Policy Center.

2014



American University Hosts Atatürk Remembrance on November 10, 2014

76th anniversary of the death of Atatürk. The remembrance event took place at the American University, Washington DC, on Sunday, November 9, 2014. Keynote Speech “Turkish Resistance” was given by by Metin Camcıgil, Former President of ASA. Documentary film presentation: “The Incredible Turk”.



Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Victory at the Battle of the Dardanelles - April 26, 2015 at American University in Washington, DC.

Participants once again were reminded of the unlikely victory of Turkish soldiers under the leadership of the young officer who later became known as Atatürk. The Guest speaker Prof. Dr. Kemal Ari is the director of the Atatürk Institute for the Modern Turkish

History, at the “9 Eylül Üniversitesi” in Izmir, Turkey. ASA Executive Board Member Ilknur Boray made a presentation about the true story of two Battle of Dardanelles veterans; a Turkish soldier (her grandfather), and an Australian soldier who met as 17 year olds during the war in 1915, and reunited in

1973 after 58 years. The program was concluded with a reception.

On April 25, as in previous years, ASA Board and Members attended the ANZAC commemoration at the National Cathedral organized by the Australian and New Zealand embassies.



ASA Awards Turkish American: Youth Who Demonstrated Success in their Chosen Fields for May 19 Youth and Sports Day Commemoration



We celebrated the 134th Birthday of Atatürk, and the accomplishments of Atatürk's youth at the May 19, YOUTH and SPORTS DAY ceremony in Washington, DC., on May 17, 2014, at the American University. 2015 “Atatürk's Youth Award” recipients are: Scientist Melis Anahtar, Violinist Zeynep Alpan, and Basketball star Ece Yurdakul. Extreme athlete Erden Eruc is

2015

ASA Awards Cont.

the recipient of this year's special "Peace Award" for his "Row for Peace" project. ASA Executive Board members Ilknur Boray, Gulgun Karamete, and member Kaan Karamete made a presentation about the significance of May 19, 1919. A celebration dinner at the Yavalar residence followed the ceremony.



“As clearly as I see daybreak, I have the vision of the rise of the oppressed nations to their independence... If lasting peace is sought, it is essential to adopt international measures to improve the lot of the masses. Mankind's well-being should take the place of hunger and oppression... Citizens of the world should be educated in such a way that they shall no longer feel envy, avarice and vengefulness”

Kemal Atatürk - April 22, 1935



August 30, 2015 Victory Day

The Atatürk Society of America celebrated the August 30th Victory Day Celebration - 30 Ağustos Zafer Bayramı - with a ceremony by the Statue of Atatürk, on Sunday, August 30, 2015 at 11:00 am, at the Sheridan Circle in Washington, DC. The ceremony was attended by a large crowd of guests, including many children. The speakers, ASA board members Mirat Yavalar, Ilknur Boray and Gulgun Karamete, expressed the crowd's undying respect, admiration and affection for Atatürk and his loyal comrades in arms, in their speeches.



2015

ASA organized two events in remembrance of Atatürk, on the 77th anniversary of his death

Atatürk Society of America organized two events in remembrance of Atatürk, on the 77th anniversary of his death. The first event took place on Tuesday, November 10th, 2015, starting at 8:45 am as a Gathering at the Statue of Atatürk, at the Sheridan Circle, in Washington, DC. The attendees paid their respects with a moment of silence at exactly 9:05 am, the time of Atatürk's passing. Speeches reflected the concerns of the attendees, who pointed out that as they mourned Atatürk's death, they were also mourning the assault on his creation, the secular Republic of Turkey by the present government.

The second event was held on Sunday, November 15th at the American University, School of International Service, in Washington DC. The program included a statement by Mr. Burak Sahin, Executive Board Member



of ASA; and a lecture by guest speaker Prof. Edward J. Erickson, on "Gallipoli, Command Under Fire - understanding the impact of Kemal Atatürk".

The program also included a Documentary Film: "The Name of the Sun, Kemal Atatürk" and a video of "Atatürk's Address to the Youth".



The Atatürk Society of America is 20 Years Old

By Dursun Atılğan

President of European Kemalist Thought Federation

In the aftermath of the establishment of the Kemalist Thought Association on May 19th, 1989 in Ankara by Professor Muammer Aksoy and his 49 friends upon the request of Distinguished Professor Hıfzı Veldet Velidedeoğlu, Turks worldwide began establishing identical associations in different countries. The very first of these is the Atatürk Society of Germany which was founded in Cologne and the Atatürk Society of America established in Washington DC (ASA).

It always is an honor to have this sister association called ASA that was founded by our highly sensitive, patriot friends. Afterwards, similar Kemalist Thought Associations were founded in Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, England, as well as Norway. Additionally, an Atatürk Cultural Center was established in Australia.

We personally met with the founder of ASA, Mr. Hüdai Yavalar, at the house of the Chairman of the Court of Constitutional Law, Mr. Yekta Güngör Özden, where we engaged in a healthy exchange of ideas. From that moment, we kept in frequent contact, and continued our dialogue.

The goal of our 20 year-old sister association is to hold seminars, meetings, encourage the studies of literary, scientific, intellectual and cultural pursuits, introduce the unique principles and workings of the Turkish revolution which was designed and led by Atatürk himself, and raise awareness of the Turkish Republic's establishment and history where Turks live in the US.

ASA also vigorously works to introduce to the United States, contemporary Turkey and the Turkish culture and art which

Atatürk handed over to Turkish youth.

The other purpose of ASA is to explain the Turkish revolution and its ethos, which was led by Atatürk, and the principles which Atatürk bestowed upon our nation in addition to our Republic.

ASA has made sincere efforts to take ownership of our territorial integrity, the unique structure of our state, the unity of our nation and protect all of these factors.

Since ASA was established, its valuable Atatürk supporter officers were not satisfied with only holding seminars, meetings and cultural and social events –but also supported the correct and appropriate steps taken in Turkey. On the other hand, when Turkey was treated unfairly, they always provided the American public with correct information through effective and level headed statements, forewarnings, and press releases.



It always is an honor to have this sister association called ASA that was founded by our highly sensitive, patriot friends."

When examining activities undertaken over the last 20 years, ASA has undertaken and continues to engage in activities aimed at the US Administration, the United States House of Representatives and US Senate to strengthen Turkish-American relations. On anniversaries of our national days and adoption of revolutionary legislation, they hold important events highlighting Atatürk's principles and contemporary Turkey's uniqueness.

In addition, specifically in collaboration with the Bilkent University, they engage in events to honor scientists, artists, and journalists who support

and protect Atatürk's revolution and its principles.

The events commemorate the following dates:

- April 23rd - Foundation of The Turkish Parliament, National Sovereignty and
- Children's Day
- May 19th - Atatürk Commemoration Day, Youth and Sports Day
- August 30th - Victory Day
- October 29th, Republic Day
- November 10th - Atatürk Remembrance Day

American and Turkish scientists are hosted at these important and meaningful events.

One of ASA's most important accomplishments is the bronze Atatürk statue placed in Washington, DC. That statue is the first one of its kind in the US, and is being visited on both our national days and on the anniversary of Atatürk's passing as a memorial.

Further, visiting this statue is a meaningful and great occasion for each and every Turk who visits the sculpture.

At this juncture it should be underlined that ASA works to beautify the grounds on which the Anıtkabir is built, and these efforts are always met with respect.

The leaders of our counterpart association in America were the following Atatürk supporters (in order of tenure):

Mr. Hüdai Yavalar (Founder and its first President)

Mr. Orhan Tarhan (RIP)

Metin Camcıgil

Timur Edib

Bülent Atalay

We extend our best wishes and appreciation to all of the presidents, managers and, last but not least, members of ASA, our sister association.

We wish the 20 year-old young ASA organization a healthy, successful, and everlasting life. ▀

Our Commitment to Atatürk's Enlightenment

By Tan Karamete

November 19, 2015

We, the youth, are infinitely grateful and indebted to Atatürk for rescuing our ancestors and giving them a reason to defend their country as the proud people of a sovereign nation.



Against impossible odds, victory over oppressive powers—foreign and domestic—was achieved by bolstering the idea of sovereignty belonging to the people; that the unity of the nation had to be

defended at all cost. The institutions of the new republic were designed to function towards the betterment of the people with the virtue of fostering a free and peaceful society.

Mustafa Kemal not only freed the Turkish nation, but also changed six-hundred years of backwardness to favor western civilization and modernity. His extraordinary wisdom, his prescient vision and his noble leadership accomplished the secular Republic; the greatest product of Atatürk's revolution. The collective psyche of the people was elevated from one of subservience to personal freedom; from servitude to equal citizenship.

Let us admit it: a nation that neglects art, that forbids the freedom of press,

speech, and assembly, that denies the safety and well-being of its citizens, that can not uphold the law equally and justly for all, deserves no place on the path towards development. Since Atatürk's death, there have been growing forces—both within and external—whose interests were to reverse the advancement of the Turkish enlightenment. It is only now that the republic is facing the great danger of losing its most cherished constitutional values; just as Atatürk had predicted in his closing remarks to the Youth. **But I want you not to forget, Mustafa Kemals are in their twenties.**

Now more than ever, we, as young Mustafa Kemals, must abide by our commitment to the secular and democratic Republic. ▀

“I am convinced that the exercise of social and political rights by women is necessary for mankind's happiness and pride. You can rest assured that Turkish women together with world's women will work towards world peace and security.”

Kemal Atatürk - April 22, 1935

“My people are going to learn the principles of democracy the dictates of truth and the teachings of science. Superstition must go. Let them worship as they will, every man can follow his own conscience provided it does not interfere with sane reason or bid him act against the liberty of his fellow men.”

Kemal Atatürk



MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATÜRK



PURCHASING REPLICAS OF JEFF HALL'S STATUE OF ATATÜRK

For the home:

Sculptor Jeff Hall has agreed to create bronze-colored composite/resin replicas (18" high, including a 3" composite/resin base in black) for home sales.

These replicas are works of art in a small limited edition, individually prepared and numbered. They are not mass produced! Their prices are less than one-tenth the price of comparable limited edition artwork. (There is no profit here for the artist nor for the Atatürk Society).

The following tables list the prices for these replicas

PRICES FOR COMPOSITE/RESIN BUSTS

18" Bust composite (resin)	\$300 + Shipping
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For Businesses/Embassies/Consulates:

Mr. Hall is offering full-size (6'10", including 3" base) bronze replicas of the original statue standing at Sheridan Circle, as well as full-size (30", with bases as seen). These replicas are individually created and numbered works of art.

PRICES FOR FULL SIZE BRONZE BUSTS AND STATUES

Molds for the full-size statue and for the full-size bust (30") already exist in the sculptor's studio. These can be ordered in bronze immediately.

30" Bust full size (bronze) Mounted to granite on a 18"x18"x48" wood laminate pedestal (as seen) Limited edition of only 40 numbered	\$11,600 + Shipping
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6'7" Full size statue (bronze) (6'10", including a 3" high circular base as it is seen at Sheridan Circle, Washington)	\$60,000 + Shipping
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The replicas can be ordered through the Atatürk Society by emailing info@ataturksociety.org



Join Today!

Membership in ASA is US \$50 for a calendar year or for a portion of it. Married persons may also register their spouse as full members without additional membership fee. Members' rights include attending the annual General Assembly meetings, voting for and serving in the Executive Board, receiving the **Voice of Atatürk**. Active participation in ASA activities is encouraged.

To become a member please fill out the form and mail to:

Atatürk Society of America
4731 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington DC 20016

FIRST AND LAST NAME (Please Type)

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, POSTAL CODE

EMAIL

PHONE NUMBER

FAX NUMBER

ANNUAL FEE (Check One)

☐ FAMILY (\$50) ☐ INDIVIDUAL (\$50) ☐ STUDENT

DONATIONS FOR:

☐ DONATION FOR VOICE OF ATATÜRK

☐ DONATION FOR OTHER

TOTAL

Make sure your check is payable to

Atatürk Society of America

4731 Massachusetts Ave. NW

Washington, DC 20016

Phone: (202) 362 7173 Fax: (202) 363 4075

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Atatürk's words of interest to all nations

One of the fundamental principles of the Turkish Republic "Peace at Home, Peace in the World" ought to be the most essential factor in the prosperity and progress of mankind and civilization. (1933)

Mutual security and safety might be the principle for happiness desired by all nations of the world. (1925)

The Turkish State is secular. Every adult is free to practice his or her religion. (1930)

Science is the truest guide for success, for life, for the spirit, and for all things. (1924)

Sovereignty is vested with the nation unconditionally and without any reservation. (1923)

The right to justice is essential for the independence of a nation. A nation whose judiciary is not independent cannot be considered a state. (1920)



Progress and dynamism are the source of life. Man is obliged to adapt himself to it. (1930)

A nation without art is one without lifelines. (1923) (1926)

War might be engaged in only if it is absolutely necessary and vital. War is murder if the survival of the nation is not in danger. (1924)

Nations are diverse, but civilization is one; it is necessary for the progress of a nation to participate in this single civilization. (1923)

Every individual has the right and freedom to think what he wants, to believe in what he wants, to have a political opinion of his own, and to observe or not to observe the requirements of the religion he has chosen. No one's ideas or conscience may be dominated. (1925)

Everything on earth is the product of women. (1923)

Educate youth. Give them the positive ideas of knowledge and science. (1927)

Progress is very difficult if not impossible in nations who persist in the preservation of irrational belief and traditions. (1922)

National leaders naturally seek first and foremost the survival and happiness of their own nations; but, they should wish the same also for all other nations. ... For the humanity must be considered a whole, and a nation a member of it. The whole body feels the pain at the tip of a finger. (1937)