

*Voice of*

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# ATATÜRK

*April 23  
"National  
Sovereignty and  
Children's Day"*



Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

**"Atatürk and the nature of Political Leadership"**

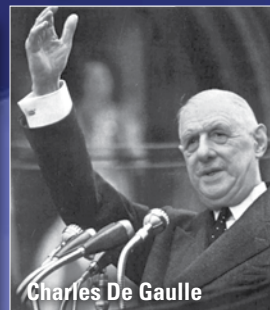
*Prof. Arnold Ludwig's lecture at ASA's May 19 event*

*Atatürk  
Memorials  
around the  
world*

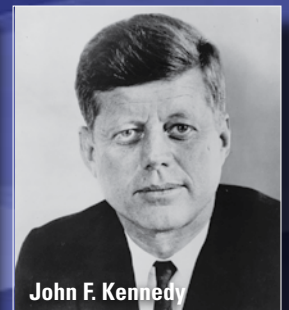
**Mikhail Gorbachev  
discusses Atatürk's  
influence**



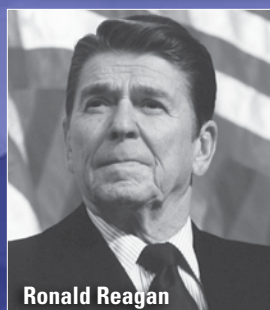
Franklin D. Roosevelt



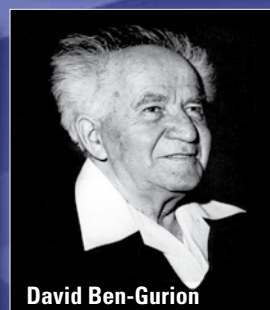
Charles De Gaulle



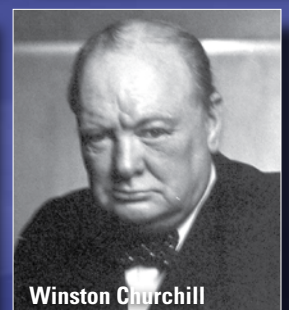
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David Ben-Gurion



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## The Atatürk Society of America

Voice of

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**Hudai Yavalar**  
Chairman, Founding President

## Atatürk's Exemplary Foreign Policy based on Independence, Westernization, and Realism

**W**hen contemplating Atatürk's foreign policy, one adage comes to mind; **"peace at home, peace in the world."** Having liberated Turkish lands from foreign occupation, Atatürk was not interested in territorial expansion. He knew that in order to reach the goals he envisioned for his country, modernity, economic success, independence, and secularism, he had to concentrate on developments within the country.

Atatürk pursued realistic policies. While adamant about the necessity to strengthen and modernize the Turkish state, Atatürk never aimed to unite the Turks living outside of Turkey. **"We know our limitations. We are not worldly minded. There are many of our co-religionists who are groaning under the afflictions of slavery. It is one of our greatest wishes that they too will acquire independence and will attempt to achieve prosperity and progress for their countries through complete independence."**

Mustafa Kemal's main goal was the establishment of a completely independent Turkey, free of all foreign intervention and interferences. He rejected all suggestions of being under the mandate of a great state, and was very mindful of the dangers of imperialism.

While the Bolsheviks were very helpful to Atatürk during the War of Independence, he did not embrace communism. He opined **"Communism is a social matter. The current situation of our country, its social conditions, and the strength of its religious and national traditions confirm the opinion that Communism, as practiced in Russia, could not be put into practice in our country."**

Turkey's western-inclined foreign policy went hand in hand with its attempts to modernize itself. Atatürk equated modernization with westernization. At the end of the War of liberation in 1923 he stated: **"All of our efforts are directed toward the establishment of a modern, therefore western, government. Has there been a nation which has desired to be civilized, but which has not turned towards the West?"**

He added "In keeping with our policies, our traditions, and our interests, we are inclined to the establishment of a European Turkey, or to be more precise, a Turkey inclined toward the West."

Turkey established normal political relations with the west in the 1930s. This normalization of relations formed the basis of the military and political cooperation following World War II, such as the Council of Europe, the OECD, and NATO.

Having fought a brutal war of independence, Atatürk sympathized with colonized countries, and wanted Turkey to serve as a role model. Indeed, Mohammed Ali Jinnah of Pakistan, Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia, and Sir Abdurrahim, President of the Indian Parliament all cited Atatürk's character and accomplishments as an inspiration for their own national struggles.

An avid reader, Atatürk was keenly aware of international developments, and kept in mind national and international realities, which helped to preserve the country's independence. After independence, Turkey found itself to be surrounded by powerful countries such as the Soviet Union, England (because of its mandate in Iraq), France (because of

*continued on page 4*



*continued from page 3*

its mandate in Syria), and Italy (which occupied the Dodecanese.) In addition, modern Turkey bordered Bulgaria and Greece. While developing friendly relations with its powerful neighbors, and previous enemies, Turkey joined the League of Nations to benefit from a system of mutual defense, and sign agreements with its neighbors, rejecting all forms of adventurism.

US Ambassador to Turkey, Charles H Sherrill, who knew the President well, remarked **“Mustafa Kemal has no superior in the field of statesmanship anywhere.”** He called Atatürk a **“liberator, a regenerator, a national hero, and world’s statesman.”** Even Prime Minister Venizelos of Greece, shortly after meeting with Mustafa Kemal, stated **“He is a very great man. I have never encountered a general who was so broad-minded or had such knowledge of government.”**

Turkey demonstrated allegiance to the rule of law. On August 27, 1928, Turkey signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact which renounced the use of war as an instrument of foreign policy. Turkey was the first country after the United States to ratify this pact.

Atatürk believed in the importance of relations based on equality with the Balkan and Near Eastern states which once were in the Ottoman Empire. Atatürk stated that the formation of a federation among the Balkan states should be one of Turkish foreign policy’s main aims.

Turkey’s relations with Arab states and other Muslim states suffered given Atatürk’s abolition of the Caliphate, emphasis on secularism, and emphasis on westernization.

In addition to friendship pacts signed with Afghanistan during the War of Liberation, similar pacts were signed with Iran and Afghanistan in 1926 and 1928. Shah Reza Pahlavi’s visit to Turkey in 1934 began a new phase in Turkish-Iranian relations. However, there were no concrete disputes such as disputed borders, conflicts, or economic and political interest differences. Atatürk attempted to establish relations with these countries, just like he did with the West.

After the Mosul territorial dispute was resolved, there remained no issues between Turkey and Iraq. Thus on July 8, 1937, the Saadabad Pact was signed between Turkey, Iran, Af-

ghanistan and Iraq. This was a pact of friendship and solidarity, not a military alliance which called for non-interference in internal affairs of participating states, respect for common boundaries, and mutual guarantees of non-aggression.

Thus with good relations with Western nations through the Balkan Pact, and Eastern neighbors through the Saadabad Pact, Turkey sent a clear message that she had no interest in claiming former Ottoman territories. This decision to be content with established borders allowed Turkey to live the longest period of peace in her history. For over 80 years Turkey had been one of the few countries in the world which has not been involved in a major war. Given Turkey’s strategic location and neighbors, this accomplishment is even more meaningful; and possible only because of the peaceful foreign policy initiated by Atatürk and continued by his successors.

A further gift to his nation was Atatürk’s geopolitical vision which far saw a new war in Europe as shared with Douglas MacArthur when the General visited him on 1932. Atatürk indicated during this visit that the war would be incredibly destructive and at its end Germany would lose. With his unparalleled appreciation for the dynamics of the relationships of countries in Europe and the middle east he wisely guided Turkey toward a neutral stance in the tradition of Switzerland which was adhered to even after his death. Thus, Turkey avoided the great upheavals of

““ Atatürk is a very great man. I have never encountered a general who was so broad-minded or had such knowledge of government.”

— Prime Minister Venizelos of Greece

World War II through Atatürk’s wise policies which prevented a possible reversal of his revolutionary changes in Turkish politics and society.

Upon his death, Donald Webster, an American who studied Turkey and the Atatürk period first hand, concluded:

**“The greatest Turk of recent centuries, if not of all time—possibly the most dynamic leader of the contemporary world died November 10, 1938. Although his years did not number three score, he expended as much energy as three men. Every year during the last two decades, he gained in prestige and esteem both at home and abroad. He was respected as much as some of his notable contemporaries are feared.”**



**Timur Edib**  
President

## Dear Supporters of Atatürk:

It is difficult to follow news in the international media without reflecting on the fact that America is different than other countries; in that Americans live in the greatest democracy in the world because of our Constitution, and the First Amendment. The American forefathers had the wisdom to know that true enlightenment can only happen when people are allowed to have debates that are based on open, fair, and unhindered discussion, where everyone has an equal right to express their viewpoint. Other countries, democratic or not, do not hold this high esteem for public discourse, and therefore foreign media tend to present skewed and biased information.

Recently, the government in Turkey blocked access to the website YouTube, a powerful and growing medium on the internet that allows video images. If a picture is worth a thousand words, imagine the power of streaming video. The government's rationale for blocking this medium was that a video insulting Atatürk was being posted. The obvious thing that we must notice from this action is not that government can "protect" Atatürk, but that the government has the power to control all media. If the government truly wanted to "protect" Atatürk, the youth would know about Atatürk's achievements: his military brilliance, his contributions to the Republic, and mostly his commitment to humanity. If the government wanted to protect Atatürk, every person that cherishes the Turkish flag would know that the flag and Atatürk are one and the same, and that without Atatürk there would be no Turkey. The children of Atatürk do not need to be protected from a video, for they know that an insult to Atatürk is an insult to each and every person that says "Ne Mutlu Türküm Diyene."

Atatürk's legacy can withstand a YouTube video, what it can not withstand is an assault on the principles of democracy and secularism on which he built the Republic. Atatürk's legacy is well established in history. Dr. Arnold Ludwig, the keynote speaker at our May 19 event, published a book in 2002 entitled "King of the Mountain: The Nature of Political Leadership." As an independent scientific researcher he analyzed all of the leaders of the 20th Century, and concluded that Atatürk was the greatest leader of our time. Mr. Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the House of the United States House of Representatives and former history professor, also cited Atatürk as a positive role model for himself during his keynote speech for our organization two years ago. The legacy of Atatürk is not only assured in history, but leaders from every corner of the globe, from the United States, to Austria, to Pakistan, to New Zealand, all know of the greatness of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

From the YouTube action, it is now obvious that the government has the power to control the media, and therefore the unhindered and enlightened debate as envisioned by the American forefathers is not possible in Turkey. Irrespective of whatever reason the government may give for its action, it is an obvious conclusion that when you control the media (the print media, the broadcast media, and now internet), you control not only the debate, but the Truth.

# The Audience gets to Grade Atatürk

By Bulent Atalay, PhD

**A**rnold 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. The highly incisive book was previously reviewed in an article "Atatürk, a Leader off the Scale" in the Spring 2007 issue of 'Voice of Atatürk.' Arnold Ludwig was raised in Philadelphia, attending Swarthmore College and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. He served on the faculty of the University of Kentucky Medical School for three decades, in part as the Chairman of its Psychiatry Department. Upon retiring from the University of Kentucky, the preeminent psychiatrist took an adjunct teaching position at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

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.

Dr. Ludwig in his original assessment and ranking of 20th century national leaders was based on a "Political Greatness Score" (PGS), that he had derived from an examination of individuals in history whose very names have become synonymous with leadership — among them, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar,



“ I’m so glad my findings found a wide audience in Turkey. The Turkish people have so much to be proud of regarding Atatürk’s phenomenal accomplishments. . . ”

George Washington, Napoleon... He began his presentation at the ASA event by explaining the PGS system, where eleven areas are used in testing political leadership:

- I. Whether the state already exists, or is created out of nothing (scale ranging from 0 to 3)
- II. Whether the territory has been expanded (0-3, with 0 assigned for

loss of territory, to 3 for permanent gain of new territory)

- III. Staying power or length of tenure in office (0-5, with 0 for less than 2 years; and increasing by 1 for each increment of 2 years, up to a maximum of 5 points for over 16 years)
- IV. Military prowess (0-3, with 0 for losing a war, 1 for no wars, up to 3 for winning all wars)
- V. Social engineering, referring to the legislating of laws (0 for introducing no new laws, 1 for introducing laws with precedent, up to 3 for introducing general laws and with no precedent)
- VI. Economics (0-3, with 0 worse off than before, to 3 for far better than before)
- VII. Statesmanship (0-3, with 0 for no activity, 1 for active in ethnic or religious, 2 active in regional, up to active international)
- VIII. Ideology (0-3, with 0 for none, 1 for distinctive but no force, up to 3 for original and force)
- IX. Moral exemplar (0-3, with 0 for



- corrupt, up to 3 for surpassing)
- X. Political legacy (0-3, with 0 for disgrace, up to 3 for legendary status)
  - XI. Weighting according to national population (0-5, with 0 for less than 2 million, 1 for up to 2 million, 2 for 10-25 million, 3 for 25-50 million, 4 for 50 to 100 million, and 5 for over 100 million)

To fully illustrate the scoring for his PGS, Dr. Ludwig referred to scores that had been previously assigned in each of these categories for five well known national leaders: Indira Ghandi (India); Nelson Mandela (South Africa), Winston Churchill (United Kingdom); Mikhail Gorbachev (Russia); and Bill Clinton (United States). Their final scores had been tabulated, respectively, as 18 for Ghandi (5 for very populous nation), 22 for Churchill, 24 for Gorbachev (3 for establishing a new nation, 5 for managing a population of over 100 million, but enjoyed a tenure of less than four years), 15 for Clinton (0 for establishing a new nation, 5 for managing a very populous nation).

In computing an objective PGS score for Atatürk the author asked everyone in the group to assign individual scores in each of the 11 areas, then he took the averages of these scores. For comparison, he also asked the guests to assign scores in each of the aforementioned areas for the performance of George W. Bush, the current American President. The exercise was not carried out in a manner to denigrate the effectiveness of Mr. Bush as a leader. Bush scored 13, just a single point lower than Jimmy Carter, President from 1976-'80; and 2-points lower than Bill Clinton, President from 1992-2000.

The exercise managed to bring out Atatürk's extraordinary vision and precision, his surpassing intelligence and confident leadership — manifested in the highest PGS score among all national leaders in the 20th century. Finally, the credibility of the test itself was bolstered



Prof. Bulent Atalay

by the fact that the manifestly biased group of Atatürk supporters gave their man 32 points, just 1 point above the 31 points that Dr. Ludwig had computed from his own analysis, and quite simply the highest of all leaders of the century.

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. Ms. Ozkan reminded the audience that May 19 marks the launching of Turkish people's independence struggle when Mustafa



Pianist Selim Sert

Kemal Atatürk arrived in Samsun 89 years ago on May 19, 1919, and it is also celebrated as Atatürk's birthday. Ms. Ozkan also noted the primary principles of Atatürk's ideology, and especially his revolutionary leadership in shaping a new and modern life in Turkey.

Following Dr. Ludwig's presentation was a short solo piano concert by the gifted young musician, Selim Sert, originally from Istanbul, and now living and plying his trade as a musician in the Washington Metropolitan Area. His virtuoso performance was a fitting sequel to the afternoon of the Washington Area Turkish people and their guests to reflect on what an extraordinarily gifted leader they had in the savior of their nation, the man who created the Republic of Turkey from the smoldering ashes of the Ottoman Empire.

A brief postscript to the foregoing is a passage from an e-mail I received from Arnold Ludwig: "I'm so glad my findings found a wide audience in Turkey. The Turkish people have so much to be proud of regarding Atatürk's phenomenal accomplishments... You might be interested to note I just received an email from Pegasus Press to publish *King of the Mountain* in Turkish."

# 19th of May is a very special day

*Today we are celebrating two most important events in Turkish history.*

By Deniz Ozkan

**89** years ago on 19th of May 1919, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, great founder of the Republic of Turkey, launched our independence struggle in Samsun when he arrived from Istanbul to assume command of the 9th Ottoman Army. When the Ottoman Empire was in its death throes, occupied by the Western Nations, he became the national leader of the Turks. Once he said “This nation has never lived without independence. We cannot and shall not live without it. Either independence or death”. Under his leadership, in just four years, after significant sacrifice and determination, Turkey gained her independence and Turkish Republic has been established.

After many years, when Mustafa Kemal was asked about his birthday, he emphasized the importance of May 19 with these words: “I was born on May 19!”. So today

we are also celebrating his 127th birthday.

With limited and insufficiently equipped forces, he accomplished the impossible, by repelling the enemies on the East, on the South and on the West. Besides defeating the external invading forces, he also had to fight with the Sultan’s army and local rebellions, before securing the total control over the country. Against all enemies, internal and external, in 1922, he won one of greatest victories in the history.

Atatürk is one of the world’s greatest leaders and strategists who led his nation to independence without losing any battle, keeping the rare distinction of a perfect military record which includes only victories.

After the national independence war, the great leader announced: “Following the military triumph we accomplished by bayonets, weapons and blood, we shall strive to win victories in such fields as

culture, scholarship, science, and economics,” adding that “the enduring benefits of victories depend only on the existence of an army of education.”

We are thankful to Atatürk not just for being a brilliant military commander but for being a revolutionist leader whose cultural and political reforms shaped the new and modern life in Turkey.

After he proclaimed the Republic of Turkey on 29th of October, 1923, young Turkish Republic committed herself to the national sovereignty - to the creation of, in President’s words, “the state of the people “. “Kemalism” or later known as “Atatürkism” has become the ideology of the new established Turkey. The primary principles of this ideology are having a state governed by a parliamentary democracy representing the will of the electorate, secularism, nationalism, mixed economy with state participation in major critical sectors, and modernization.

One of his aims was to enhance the position of Turkish women in the society and affiliate them completely with the contemporary world. To achieve his aim he regarded secularism as the major instrument. Mustafa Kemal did not believe that gender is a factor in social society. It is impossible not to share his views on the equality of men and women. He said “If a society does not march towards its goals with all its women and men together, it is impossible for it to progress.” And after all those years modern history proved his vision right that scientifically it is impossible to achieve progress and to become civilized if the gender separation continued as in the old times.

This is why women’s education was so important for Atatürk. Before declaring the Republic in 1922, he said: “We shall emphasize putting our women’s secondary

*continued on page 11*





# The Establishment of The Grand National Assembly and Atatürk's Gift to Nation's Children

**A**pril 23 is a national holiday in Turkey with two meanings, both of which were established with the opening of the Grand National Assembly in April 23, 1920, under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. In 1924 that date was declared as "National Sovereignty Day," an official holiday that commemorates the founding of the national parliament of the newly declared Republic of Turkey. And in 1929, Atatürk gifted April 23 to the young republic's children, as the "National Sovereignty and Children's Day." Atatürk dedicated this day to the children of the country to emphasize how valuable they are to the future of the new nation. Turkey is the only country around the world, which has a National Day for children.

## Leading a Nation

As a military commander in the Ottoman Empire's army, Mustafa Kemal established himself as an extremely successful commander in World War I (1914 – 1918). According to the Sevres Treaty (August 10, 1920), which was signed at the end of World War I between Ottoman Empire and the Allies, Ottoman territories were divided into pieces and Turkish Nation was losing their right to live independently. In hopes of expelling the Ottoman Empire from Europe, France, Italy and Britain had secretly begun the partitioning of the empire as early as 1915.

In reaction to the Sevres Treaty, Mustafa Kemal became the uniting force of the Turkish revolutionaries against the Allied power. He led the Turkish people in their War of Independence (1919-1922) against the allied occupiers. The occupying forces were not expecting the kind of resistance rising from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire. Realizing the impor-



tance of a common national identity for the people, Mustafa Kemal established a new provisional government in Ankara. Despite the fact foreign forces occupied Istanbul, on April 23rd 1920, the Grand National Assembly opened in Ankara, attended by deputies hastily elected from all over the non-occupied territories of Turkey, together with those members of the Ottoman Parliament who had escaped arrest following the occupation of Istanbul by the Entente Powers. Mustafa Kemal was elected the Assembly's Permanent Speaker. He took the stand on April 24th to declare openly that it was absolutely necessary to form a government because there was an emergency and the "destiny of the country" could only be governed "by the determination and will of the Turkish nation as expressed in the Grand National Assembly." In this meeting on April 24, 1920 the Grand National As-

sembly adopted the following resolutions proposed by Mustafa Kemal:

1. A government will be formed.
2. A head of government on a temporary basis or an authority replacing the Sultan cannot be accepted.
3. The will of the nation represented by the Grand National Assembly will be the sole authority to determine the future of the country. There is no power above the Grand National Assembly.
4. The Grand National Assembly is vested with legislative and executive powers. A body to be created by the Grand National Assembly from within itself will exercise the executive power of the Grand National Assembly. The Chairman of the Assembly will preside over this body.

In the first speech at the opening of the Grand National Assembly, Mustafa  
*continued on page 23*

# Atatürk Dünya Lideri

Atatürk Society of America derneğinin geleneksel 19 Mayıs programında Atatürk'ün dünya lideri olduğu bir kere daha ispatlandı.



## Atatürk en büyük lider

20 Mayıs 2008

Kasım Cindemir / Washington

ABD'de Brown Üniversitesi öğretim görevlisi Profesör Arnold Ludwig, geliştirdiği bir metodoloji sonucunda, Atatürk'ün 20. yüzyılın en büyük siyasi lideri olduğunu ortaya koydu.

“Dağın Arslanı: Siyasi Liderliğin Doğası” adlı kitabın yazarı Prof. Ludwig, Amerika Atatürk Derneği'nin (ASA) toplantısında, geliştirdiği 'siyasi büyüklük skalası' ile, Atatürk'ü işbaşındaki ABD Başkanı George W. Bush ile karşılaştırdı. Sonuçta, Bush 15 puan alırken Atatürk 32 puan topladı. Ludwig'in çalışmasında, Nelson Mandela 20 puan, Winston Churchill 22 puan ve Bill Clinton da 15 puan almıştı.

### Mao'dan 2 puan yüksek

Ludwig'in daha önce yaptığı çalışmada, Atatürk 31 puan ile birinci olurken, Mao Zedong ve Franklin D. Roosevelt 30 puanla ikinci olmuştu. Aynı çalışmada, Charles De Gaulle altıncı, Woodrow Wilson 15. olmuş ve Ronald Reagan da 25 numarada yer almıştı. Psikiyatrist olan Prof. Ludwig, 'kültürel özellikler ve önyargılardan arındırılmış' bir yöntemle dünya liderlerini 11 ayrı kategoride değerlendiriyor. Her kategoride liderlere 0 ile 3 arasında puan verilirken, sadece iki kategoride 0 ile 5 arasında puan



verilebiliyor. Bu kategoriler, sıfırdan ülke yaratmak, toprakları genişletmek, iktidarda kalınan süre, askeri başarı, sosyal tasarım gücü, ekonomik başarı, devlet adamlığı, ideoloji ortaya koyma, ahlaken örnek olma, siyasi miras ve ülkenin nüfusu olarak sıralanıyor.



## Atatürk, 20. yüzyılın en büyük lideri

Amerikalı tarihçi ve psikiyatrist Prof. Arnold Ludwig, dünyanın çeşitli siyasi önderlerinin başarı ve önem derecelerini sınıflandıran 11 ölçeğe göre, Türkiye Cumhuriyeti'nin kurucusu Mustafa Kemal Atatürk'ü, 20'nci yüzyılın en büyük lideri olarak nitelendirdi.

Amerika Atatürk Toplumu adlı

kuruluşun Washington'da düzenlediği yıllık Atatürk'ü anma konuşmasını, halen ABD'nin en eski yüksek öğretim kurumları arasında yer alan Brown Üniversitesi'nde görev yapan ve 2002'de yazdığı ve dünya liderlerini ele aldığı “Dağın Arslanı: Siyasi Liderliğin Doğası” adlı kitabıyla tanınan Prof. Arnold Ludwig yaptı.

Aslen psikiyatrist olan ve daha sonra tarih ve siyasi liderlik konularını incelemeye yönelen Ludwig, siyasi önderlerin neden ve ne kadar önemli ve büyük olduklarını tarafsız şekilde değerlendirebilecek bir ölçeği geliştirmek için uzun süre çalıştığını ve sonunda Jul Sezar, Napoleon ve George Washington gibi tarihi isimlerin, liderliği tanımlamak için ortak kullandığı 11 kriterden oluşan bir sistem belirlediğini anlattı.

### 11 kriterden oluşan sistem

Ludwig'in verdiği bilgiye göre bu ölçeğin

kriterleri, “sıfırdan ülke yaratmak, toprakları genişletmek, iktidarda kalınan süre, askeri başarı, sosyal tasarım gücü, ekonomik başarı, devlet adamlığı, ideoloji ortaya koyma, ahlaken örnek olma, siyasi miras ve ülkenin nüfusu” ölçütlerinden oluşuyor. Daha sonra incelenen liderlere, bu kriterlerin her biri için 0 ile 3 veya 0 ile 5 arasında puan veriliyor. Prof. Ludwig, kitabında, 20’nci yüzyıla damgasını vuran yüzlerce lideri bu sisteme göre kıyasladığını ve Atatürk’ün en üst sırada geldiğini anlattı.

Buna göre Atatürk, Ludwig’in kitabında bu 11 kriterden toplam 31 puan aldı. Sıralamada ikinciliği, 30’ar puanla komünist Çin’in kurucusu Mao Zedung ve 2. Dünya Savaşı sırasındaki ABD başkanı Franklin Delano Roosevelt elde etti. Aynı ölçüğe göre, dağılan SSCB’nin son lideri Mihail Gorbacov 24, İngiltere’nin efsanevi başbakanlarından Winston Churchill 22, Güney Afrikalı lider Nelson Mandela 20, eski ABD başkanı Bill Clinton da 15 puan topladı.

Ludwig, toplantıyı izleyenlerle birlikte şimdiki ABD Başkanı George Bush’u da değerlendirdi. Bush’un puanı 15 çıktı.



## 19th of May is a very special day | continued from page 8

and higher education on an equal footing with men.” And added “Everything we see in the world is the creative work of women.” Under his leadership in 1934, Turkish women have been granted full civil rights including political way before the several other nations. The change was not an easy task.

Turkish youth has a very special meaning for Atatürk. He presented May 19th as a gift to the Turkish youth. In his speech in 1927 he said:

“Gentlemen, these detailed descriptions, which have occupied you for so many days, are, after all, merely a report of a period of time, which will henceforth belong to the past.

I shall consider myself very happy if I have succeeded in the course of this report in expressing some truths, which are calculated to rivet the interest and attention of my nation and of future generations.

Gentlemen, I have tried to show, in these accounts, how a

great people, whose national course was considered as ended, reconquered its independence; how it created a national and modern State founded on the latest results of science and technology.

The result we have attained today is the fruit of teachings which arose from centuries of suffering, and the price of streams of blood which have drenched every foot of the ground of our beloved Fatherland.

This holy treasure I lay in the hands of the youth of Turkey.

O Turkish Youth! Your first duty is ever to preserve and defend the National independence, the Turkish Republic.”

And as Turkish youth, we repeat once again that in any circumstances we will forever protect and defend Turkish independence, Turkish Republic and Atatürk reforms.

Thank you.

\* Deniz Ozkan is the President of the Graduate Turkish Student Association at GWU



# The Atatürk Memorials

## NEW ZEALAND

**A**tatürk Memorial (NZ) is situated on a ridge above Tarakina Bay, Wellington. The Memorial looks out over Cook Strait and the site was chosen for its remarkable likeness to the landscape of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The Memorial is an outcome of an agreement between the Turkish, Australian and New Zealand governments. In 1984, Australia asked Turkey if the cove on the Gallipoli peninsula could be renamed Anzac Cove in memory of the Australian and New Zealand troops who died there in 1915 during the Gallipoli Campaign of World War One.

The Turkish Government agreed to change the cove's name from Ari Burnu and also built a large monument to all those who died in the campaign.

The Memorial was designed by Ian Bowman and was unveiled on Anzac Day 1990 by the Turkish Minister of Agriculture. The Memorial comprises a marble crescent, a bust of Atatürk, inscriptions and soil from Anzac Cove. In 1999, a



paved forecourt and path, also designed by Bowman, and gravel car parking areas were added with funding from the Turkish Government.

The inscription on the Memorial was written by Atatürk in 1934, and is read every year by the Turkish Ambassador on Anzac Day at the National War Memorial, Wellington. The text is as follows:

*"Those heroes who shed their blood and lost their lives, you are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace.*

*There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side in this country of ours.*

*You, the mothers who sent their sons from far away countries wipe away your tears, your sons are now lying in our bosoms and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they become our sons as well."*

## AUSTRALIA

**T**he memorial, created by the architectural firm PDCM Pty Ltd, consists of a crescent-shaped wall on a circular paved area. The form of the wall reflects the crescent and five-pointed

star of the Turkish flag. At the centre of the memorial, placed in a time capsule, is soil from the battlefields of Gallipoli. This memorial is designed by Turkish sculptor Huseyin Gezer.

Centrally located on the wall is a bronze likeness of Atatürk, a gift of the Turkish government. The inscription beneath - Atatürk's own words - pays warm tribute to the ANZACs and reflects his understanding of the awful cost of war. Surrounding the memorial are pine trees, *Pinus halepensis*, grown from seed collected from the Gallipoli 'lone pine'.

The memorial is a crescent-shaped wall derived from the symbol on the Turkish flag. It is constructed from aggregate concrete, polished granite, stone sets and copper alloy and is placed on a circular mosaic made up of small granite squares. In the centre section is a bust of Kemal Atatürk and inscribed in the south west corner is the crescent and star symbol of the Turkish flag. To the south of the memorial are two flag poles which fly the Australian and Turkish flags and further south again is a notice board with a description in both English and Turkish. A canister containing soil from Gallipoli has been placed in the ground at the memorial's centre.



## ON CENTRAL PANEL OF WALL BELOW BUST OF HEAD OF KEMAL ATATÜRK:

*Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives... You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the johnnies and mehmetts to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours... You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.'*

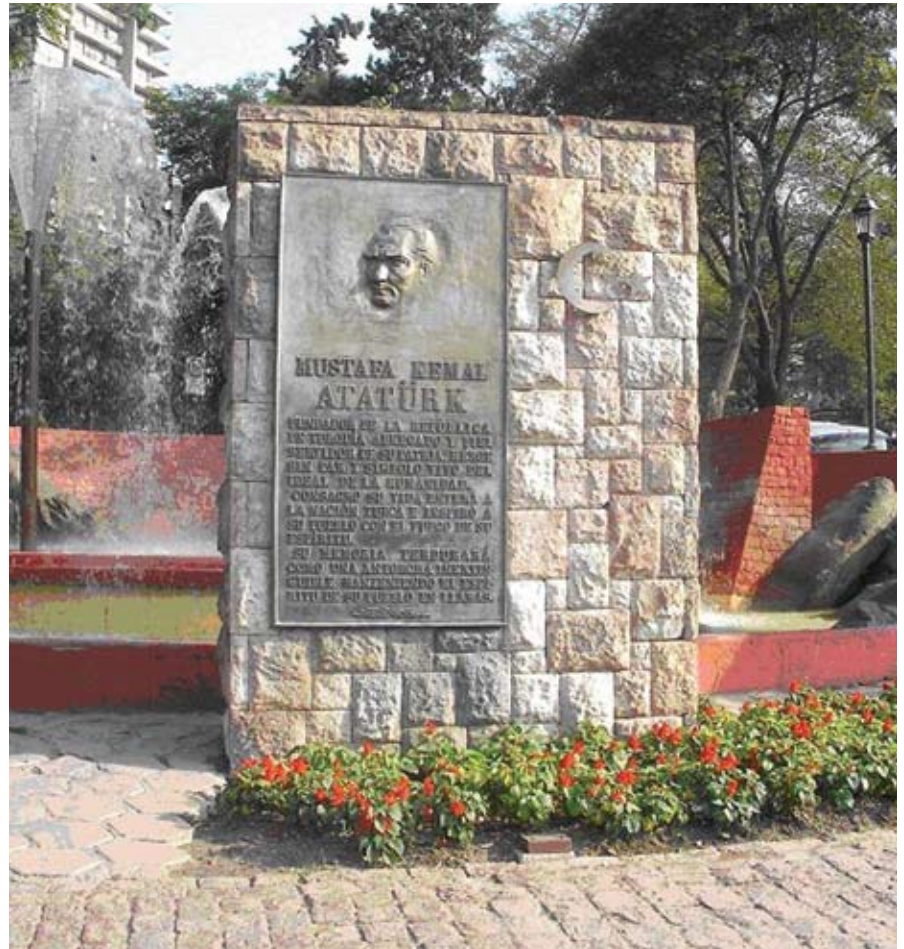
## CIRCULAR PLAQUE AT GROUND LEVEL IN CENTRE OF MOSAIC:

*Soil from anzac cove, turkey was placed beneath this plaque at the commemoration of this memorial on 25 april 1985, the 70th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli, by his excellency Mr. Vahit Halefoglu, minister for foreign affairs of the republic of Turkey in the presence of the honourable Gordon Scholes, minister for territories and acting minister for veterans' affairs of the commonwealth of Australia and the honourable Frank O'lynn, minister for defence and associate minister for foreign affairs New Zealand.*

## SANTIAGO, CHILE

**T**he municipality in Chile's capital, Santiago, built a monument with Atatürk's words inscribed at a park so that those living in that city can use it as an example. The monument with Atatürk's words inscribed is located at the Novigod Park on Apoguindo Street so that people in the city can be inspired by them.

The inscription reads: "The founder of the Republic of Turkey, the country's loyal and self-sacrificing servant, unique hero, live example of the human ideal, who devoted his entire life to the Turkish people, gave his own soul and fire to his nation. His memory lives on as an eternal flame which keeps his people's souls alive."



## MEXICO

**T**he Atatürk statue was provided as a gift to Mexico City with the assistance of the Union of Turkish Confederation of Employers.

The statue is located in a nearly 200 square meter park on one of Mexico City's most important avenues called "Reforma."

The official unveiling of the statue was held on the commemoration of the 80th year of our Republic on April 29, 2003. Attending were State Minister GÜldal Akşit, Defense Minister Vecdi Gönül, Labor Minister Murat Başesgioğlu, Union of Turkish Confederation of Employers President Refik Baydur, as well as Turkish Ambassador to Mexico Mehmet Nuri Ezen, and Ambassador Ergun Pelit who was Ambassador to Mexico when the statue was erected in 2002.



# Atatürk as a Transformational Leader

*Refik Çulpan\**

In the lives of nations, leaders have played key roles in the success and prosperity of their countries. Thus, it is important to study effective leadership styles. One of the most popular leadership styles is called “transformational leadership.” It is defined as the ability to develop a shared vision, culture, and the means that enables the transformation of a social entity (e.g., group, organization, and nation) from a current state to a visionary state by inspiring their followers to maximize their contributions for the betterment of the social unit. I will analyze Mustafa Kemal Atatürk as a transformational leader to demonstrate his effective leadership style. His transformational leadership qualities can be defined as follows:

**Atatürk as a nation builder:** Throughout history, there have been numerous leaders and national heroes. However, Atatürk emerges not only as a military hero, but also as a nation builder.

In general, the role of leadership is considered as a function of a leader's personality, his/her relationships with the followers, and contextual situation in which s/he emerges. To understand Atatürk's leadership qualities, one needs to assess his evolution and accomplishments from a historical perspective and within the context of his time. The qualities of Atatürk can be briefly defined as a genius, liberator, founder, and man of Enlightenment. To combine all these qualities in one person is exceptional. Thus, to appreciate Atatürk's accomplishments and reforms, his personal qualities, his relations with his followers, and the situations in which he has risen to lead need to be considered.

## **Atatürk's Personality**

Atatürk was a visionary leader with extraordinary goals for his followers and country. He was an achievement-oriented person with great ambitions of making his country

reaching a level of modern civilization. He was smart, inquisitive, fearless, determined, and most importantly a reformist. After finishing his Military Academy with distinction, as a young military officer, he accepted and completed difficult assignments during the decline of the Ottoman Empire. Inspired by the French Revolution, Atatürk wanted to bring radical changes to his deteriorated country in the late Ottoman period. His revolutionary thoughts included the establishment of a secular and modern Turkish Republic in the place of the Ottoman Empire against the all the odds at that time. Atatürk was not only a thinker, but also a man of action. In addition to being a successful military commander, he was a skillful political leader. As a commander, he undertook difficult assignments in Gallipoli, Çanakkale and Sakarya battles, then as a political leader, he served as the first president of Republic of Turkey during the transformation of the nation. Atatürk started his journey to Samsun on May 19, 1919 with an idea of launching independence war against the Allied nations (grand military powers at that time) and their ally Greece despite the Sultan's opposition.

## **Atatürk's Relations with his Followers**

Atatürk was a masterful thinker and communicator. He not only held a great vision, but also communicated it to his people. He was able to reach out to ordinary people like soldiers, religious leaders, villagers, and artisans. He successfully shared his beliefs, objectives, and reforms with his followers and persuaded his people. For example, Atay notes once Atatürk decided on some major reforms, he consulted with his favorite Hoca Raşit Efendi, the Head of Religious Affairs (Diyanet İşleri Reisi). If a persuasion of Hoca Raşit is needed, for further consultation Atatürk referred him to General Fevzi Çakmak, the Chief of Staff (Mareşal) who held strong Islamic beliefs. He selected his friends carefully, but trusted

them. Close associates of Atatürk respected him truly and were loyal to him all the way. Such names in his close network as İsmet İnönü, prime minister, Fevzi Çakmak, the chief of staff, and Kazım Özalp, the defense minister, were always supportive of his leadership while he provided an opportunity to his followers to carry out their joint ideals and supported them to realize their competencies.

Although some critics of Atatürk claim he engaged in an authoritarian leadership, it is disputable whether he could have been successful if he acted otherwise. His leadership style allowed him to make quick decisions and implement measures determinedly and immediately. There was no time for consensus building given the adverse conditions that existed then in Turkey.

## **The Situational Factors**

The third factor that contributes to the leadership phenomenon is the situation in which a leader arises, grasps those unfavorable environmental conditions, and seeks solutions out of deteriorated circumstances. At that time, a large part of the country was occupied by Allied nations and Greece. In addition, the Ottoman government in Istanbul had lost its connection with its people and lost their support, the Sultan's leadership and government in Istanbul were helpless, economic and social conditions were depressed, and most importantly the Turkish people were insulted and in despair. The Sultan's government, a theocratic dictatorship, was trying to buy time to survive by submitting itself to the Allied forces. In addition to the vacuum of political power, the country lacked infrastructure, having only primitive roads, railroads, and harbors, practically no capital, banking systems, foreign investments or entrepreneurs.

In these conditions, Atatürk unified, inspired, and persuaded people in joining him to realize his dream of establishing a

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**TÜRK SİLAHLI KUVVETLERİ  
MEHMETÇİK VAKFI  
(PLAKET BERATI)**

BERAT NO.: 2903-08-797

22 NISAN 2008

AMERİKA ATATÜRK DERNEĞİ

Vatanımızın ve ulusumuzun güvenliği, huzuru ve refahı için canlarını hiçe sayarak şehit olan veya herhangi bir nedenle hayatını kaybeden Mehmetçiklerimizin bakmakla yükümlü oldukları yakınları ile gazi ve engelli Mehmetçiklerimize sosyal ve ekonomik destek sağlayan, çocuklarına üniversite seviyesi dahil öğrenim yardımı yapan, gücünü Yüce Milletimizin üstün insanlık ve yardımlaşma duygusundan alan Türk Silahlı Kuvvetleri Mehmetçik Vakfına yaptığınız ..... 34.574,00 ABD Doları Bağışınız ..... ile önemli katkıda bulunduğunuz.

Bu belge, yaptığınız bu katkı karşılığında, kahraman Mehmetçik'in bir şükran anısı olarak ..... Derneğinize ..... tevdi edilen ..... Gümüş Plaket ..... berati olarak sunulmuştur.

Saygılarımla.

Melih TUNCA  
E.Tümgeneral  
Vakıf Genel Müdürü

new Turkish Republic, and adopting major reforms that would drastically transform the nation. He achieved all of his objectives with the support of his inner circle of friends and most importantly with the support of his people. He built enthusiasm, courage, self-confidence, and most importantly a hope for his followers so that they fought along with him despite all of the unfavorable conditions. In this way, he emerged as a savior and national hero.

The leadership of Atatürk can be explained in terms of transformational leadership characteristics.

**Creating a vision.** Atatürk created a vision of an independent and modern Turkish Republic, which will pair up with its Western counterparts. This vision had led his government and people being a driving force over the years. The ultimate target was in his words “modern civilization,” which meant a continuous progress.

**Mounting mutual gains:** Atatürk unselfishly worked for his ideals and accomplished many of them during his short lifetime. His followers and people benefited from them enormously. By changing the Turkish alphabet from Arabic script to Latin script, he made easier for people become literate. Because of a new alphabet campaign that he personally launched, the literacy rate of Turks had increased tremendously. As part of adoption of new laws providing women equal rights with men, Turkish women gained suffrage even before some western countries including Switzerland. In addition to a new constitution for the young Turkish Republic, new legislations were enacted, adopting Civil Code based on Switzerland’s civil code, Commerce Code based on Germany’s commerce code, and Penal Code based on Italy’s Penal Code. Such Westernization of the legal system had profound impact on the social and economic conditions tremendously.

**Communicating and inspiring his followers:** The Turkish Parliament under Atatürk’s Presidency adopted many reforms. Atatürk personally pursued the applications of all these reforms. He set a role model for his

followers so that other political leaders and administrators worked tirelessly for the accomplishment of new policies ranging building new schools to creating new state economic enterprises. He had numerous tours to various cities to find out how people feel about and react to his reforms, and then communicated the peoples’ concerns to the government.

**Influencing values, beliefs, and culture:**

Probably the most notable accomplishment of Atatürk was his ability in changing the existing beliefs and values in the society. It was extremely difficult to change old beliefs in a traditional society like Turkey, which ruled over more than 600 years with a dictatorship with deep-seated Islamic values. Then Atatürk, as a transformational leader, established a secular republican state by abolishing the theocratic monarchy, Caliphate. Moreover, he launched numerous reforms including the emancipation of women in the male-dominant society; the adoption of Western clothing in the place of traditional Middle Eastern clothes; the adoption of a new alphabet with Latin script and a new Gregorian calendar in the place of Muslim Julian calendar; and the enacting of Western style laws governing from family to commerce in the place of the Sharia, Islamic law. Only Atatürk was able to do all in an amazingly a short-period of time.

**Preparing his followers:** From the early days, Atatürk realized that all movement of revolution could only be achieved with the help of supporters by negotiating, persuading, and at times contradicting with them even though he later had some major differences with a few of them.

**Building personal ties with his followers:**

Atatürk discussed many of internal and external political matters at his dinner table. He invited numerous pertinent friends and experts to exchange views, to learn from them, and test some new ideas at such dinners. It provided an opportunity to communicate one’s views to the most powerful person of the nation while to learn Atatürk’s opinions and thoughts on various controversial matters.

**Accomplishing breakthroughs:** Obviously, the most notable breakthrough was the formation of a new force and the win of the Independence War against the Alliance forces and Greece. However, equally or may be more important accomplishment was the establishment of modern Turkish Republic on the ruins of the old empire and the replacements of many laws and regulations of backward society by a series of reforms including major changes in political, legal, social, cultural, and economic fields. Of the reforms, the most important one was the establishment of secular republican system by abolishing the sultanate and the Caliphate and westernization of legal system and society with a new constitution and series other laws mentioned above. It was a very bold step to establish a secular state in a traditional and religious society. In the new secular regime, the state affairs and religious affairs were separated. All backward religious schools (medreses) and lodges (tekkes) were closed down and a modern educational system was introduced. Concomitantly, the legal provisions concerning the emancipation of Turkish women entitled the women with equal rights with men (e.g., ending divorcing at the husband’s discretion, giving equal inheritance rights as those of men, entering occupations in education, medicine, law, and public services).

The following example illustrates well his determination in accomplishing his reforms. In 1928, Atatürk formed a committee in Ankara to make recommendations in adopting the Latin alphabet with Turkish phonetics. The committee after long deliberations recommended that the change to the Latin alphabet should be done gradually in five years. Atatürk, on the other hand, decided that it would be done in three months. The whole nation switched into the Latin alphabet in that period by using only new scripts. Atatürk adopted the policy of “Peace at Home and Peace in the World.” He inspired the leaders of other Muslim and developing countries. It is interesting to note that his former enemy, but new ally, the Prime Min-

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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

## House of Representatives

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HON. JEAN SCHMIDT  
OF OHIO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008

- Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate May 19 as a very significant day in the history of our dear friend the Republic of Turkey. In Turkey, May 19 is celebrated as the commemoration of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the Founder of the Republic of Turkey. It was May 19 in the year 1919 when Mustafa Kemal landed in the Black Sea port of Samsun and the war of independence began. Under his leadership less than a year later the Turkish Grand National Assembly was established and a few years later the Republic of Turkey was born a new nation.
- Atatürk had a vision for Turkey and he set about reforming her. His vision of a pro-western, secular, and democratic state under the rule of law quickly became reality.
- President John F. Kennedy said, ``The name Atatürk reminds mankind of the historical accomplishments of one of the greatest men of this century. His leadership gave inspiration to the Turkish nation, farsightedness in the understanding of the modern world, and courage and power as a military leader.”
- It was in 1934 that Atatürk demonstrated his commitment to the rights of women by giving them full political rights. He understood that a country can only flourish when it's people are truly free.
- My hero, General Douglas MacArthur described Atatürk better than most could ever attempt. ``He was a soldier-statesman, one of the greatest leaders of our era. He ensured that Turkey got its rightful place among the most advanced nations of the world.”
- May 19 is a very important day when it all began. On this day a great leader began his journey, a vision became reality and a great nation was born. We should all learn a lesson from this man's life. A leader with a vision coupled with determination can lay the roots for a great future. Turkey's neighbors who today wrestle with their own beginnings should take note.



# “Atatürk allowed no room for dogmas”

*“Below is an interview with Michael Garbochev carried out by Dr. Özer Ozankaya in 1998 and published in Atatürk’s Legacy, Views by World-Famous Intellectuals.”*

**Ö. O:** Mr Gorbachev, I thank you very much for allowing us this interview on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Atatürk’s death and the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Turkish Republic. Mr.Gorbachev, you are a personality who gave direction to a very important turning point of the 20th century. I studied your book Perestroika immediately after it was published in 1986. One of your assertions there that impressed me most was that “In the Soviet Union eulogizing and servility were encouraged, the needs and opinions of the ordinary working people and of the public at large were ignored, scholastic theorization was encouraged and developed in the social sciences but creative thinking was driven out, and a broad democratization in all aspects of society was needed.” These assertions of yours reminded me of a fundamental difference between the strategies of Atatürk and Lenin. Atatürk declared that “Individuals must be reasoning beings. Unless they become so, anybody can lead the society either to good or to evil. Our principle is therefore freedom.” Atatürk’s principles keep leading Turkish people, inspiring them even 60 years after his death. Might this be principally due to this basic strategy that the Turkish Revolution adopted from its beginning onwards?

**M.GORBACHEV:** You ask several related questions at the same time. I am going to underline what we think and tell in Russia on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Turkish Republic and the 60th anniversary of Atatürk’s death. I would like to begin with a summary of the history

of our relations under Tsarist and Soviet regimes.

I should point out at the start that the history of the relations between the two countries is a centuries-long one, rich in various events including warfare. But during the World War I years when the fate of the Turkish State was also to be determined, the efforts of the Soviet Government to assert itself in the international arena started up a period when both of our peoples could come closer together.

“ Do you know why Atatürk was right? Every theory commits crimes through models and thesis. These models and thesis are imposed upon real life.

At a time when the Soviet Government was trying, correctly or incorrectly, to protect her peoples, Turkish forces were engaged in a deadly struggle to rescue the Turkish State by mobilizing all sorts of material and moral support of the people. The most brilliant proof of this is to be found in the emergence of Atatürk’s principles labeled as Kemalism or Atatürkism. It is the same kind of struggles as those

that our forefathers had fought out. The mutual contacts established between our two countries at such a time were entirely natural contacts.

While the young Soviet Russia was trying to repel the imperialist aggressors, Mustafa Kemal and his friends were struggling against the same enemies to prevent the division of the country. This kind of common events play very important roles in the destiny of both the Turkish and Russian peoples. This is the first point that I want to make.

Secondly, the development of relations between our two peoples has never been easy. Both of our countries have lived difficult times in their relations. Life has taken away something as it always does. We are two neighboring countries and we must develop opportunities for mutual cooperation. For my part, I am very happy to see that this cooperation is reached during this period which covers the span from the last years of the Soviet Union to present-day Russia. I think this precious capital should not be wasted. It should, on the contrary, be put into human service.

I share Atatürk’s view that when people have the right to exist, to vote and to determine the Government, the country and the State will also be stronger. Because a man enjoying these rights will not be a slave, but a citizen. Let us take a glance at what we stood up for during the perestroika period. We kept telling our people at that time that the best educated people of the world with the richest culture and with capacity to solve problems can not live under tight control and oppressive government. All these assets have to be

integrated with democracy. Without democracy and freedom they can not be productive and give their fruits. That was the most important principle of perestroika. The principles that are followed in the new period Russia are in harmony with those of Atatürk.

**Ö. O:** Mr. Gorbachev, I think that by rejecting to adopt any theory as a dogma Atatürk made an important contribution to democracy. One of the significant examples of this is his concept of society as an integral whole rather than formed by an independent superstructure. Would you agree on that and if you do would you kindly give us your comment?

**M.GORBACHEV:** I would like to tell you my views about a question that I am frequently asked in recent days. Who am I? A communist or a social-democrat or a liberal? I would like underline that it is not so important to compare socialism and liberalism any more than comparing Christianity and democracy. What led our work during the perestroika years was this difficulty. We reached at an age when in building for the future we should no more ask the question of "Socialism or Capitalism?" I think it is high time for a grand synthesis. What we need for the future are free men. These men should engage themselves in social and creative endeavors. That depends upon freedom and liberal values. Life takes place at a real time, in a country and in a historical context that are full of realities and real problems. In order for the people to be hopeful about the future, political, economic and social institutions should create concrete and realistic environments. Therefore socialism, Christianity, and Islamic values are all unavoidable because they represent the moral values in people which help mankind to become human. These values carry out a function in society similar to that of constructing elements in an edifice. I see therefore the society of the future



as a democratic and free society open to other peoples. These are what I regard as important when I comment on the future.

**Ö. O:** After the decline of the Soviet Union, capitalism is imposed in the world through a very heavy propaganda as a perfect social order. Atatürk, on the contrary, saw the necessity of both engaging the State directly in economic activities as a precondition of democracy, and at the same time of not taking that engagement to the point of replacing the individuals; on the contrary he saw the necessity of leaving the bulk of economic activities to private enterprise. He also proved the

applicability of such an economic system by his accomplishments in Turkey. May I ask your view as to whether this one-sided propaganda bombardment and actions imposing capitalism as a perfect system might constitute a threat to democracy and world peace and whether Atatürk's path might be a third way before humanity?

**M.GORBACHEV:** Do you know why Atatürk was right? Every theory commits crimes through models and thesis. These models and thesis are imposed upon real life. Communists, that is, Lenin and the Bolsheviks came up with positive slogans: "Lands will be given to peasants,

plants to workers!”, “Freedom for slaves!”, “Peace for peoples!”. And to accomplish them they chose the path of dictatorship which ended up in totalitarianism. What matters most is not to force people into the framework of preconceived models. Such a thing is a sin. These models carry on themselves the white cover of a certain period in the past. Whereas we are talking about the future. Every society should have a certain direction. Every society should build a life which will satisfy her. Every nation and every country will attain at that goal someday. Naturally it may take different forms in different countries because every country and every people has her own particular history, culture and way of thinking, as is reflected in the emergence of liberal, social or Islamic values. These are only different orientations; the rest is the real life of the society itself. It is society that forms the political, economic, social and cultural structure.

In response to your question I would like to say that there are command elements in both Atatürk's thought system and what I try to say. Atatürk allowed no room for dogmas. He wanted the society itself to find the regime it needs instead of imposing on it a certain direction. It was Bolsheviks who resorted to the latter path which they believed was the right way to go. They actually pushed the society into a communistic model which led to a totalitarian regime and the principles of the revolution have consequently vanished. People did not believe in them. In this respect Mustafa Kemal behaved skillfully, but he did not have enough time. His achievements bear witness to his greatness. His legacy deserves every respect because his principles did not lose of their importance either in Turkey or anywhere else in overcoming the problems we face today. Atatürk's ideas never became outdated. They are not only the past, but the future as well.

I believe these principles of Atatürk are even more topical today after the decline of the Soviet Union and the removal of

totalitarian regime. There is nothing to be pitied in the collapse of communism because it is not socialism which was defeated; it is the totalitarian dictatorship which ran aground. For the welfare of any society social values are also needed along liberal ones. Current events confirm the genuineness of Atatürk's ideas. The important thing is not taking the State completely out of the economic sphere, but making the economy as well as the State democratic and allowing citizen's freedom of work and enterprise.

**“ We always think about Atatürk with respect. His principles remain valid not only for his country, but also for world politics. He was a very great man of his period.**

On the other hand, a society with certain different interests has its own desires which must be taken into consideration. Unless this is done social explosions are to be expected from which the State can not stand aloof. Here again the State must play a stabilizing role. Such a State is not dictatorial because it thinks of the interests of the entire society. This is exactly what is on the agenda today in the USA, Western Europe and all over the world. Those in Russia who wanted all the reforms to be realized in a very short time after the dissolution of the Soviet Union were dreaming. And if in the recent times the Kiriyeno Government's policy is to be pursued, we will see an increase in the State's economic roles.

Every State is going through a process

of growth. There must be a particular way of preparing the society to the market economy system. Those States which still insist in or cannot get rid of the old system's habits are suffering great economic losses; because by so doing they are prohibiting many enterprises. If private enterprises and public interest concerns of the State are brought into a harmony that will be to the greater benefit of the State. What matters is that this harmony should be established. Otherwise there may be complaints about the excessive interference of the State in the economy.

**Ö. Ö:** Mr. Gorbachev, Atatürk had expressed in the 1930s a view to the effect of bringing a ban on the production of offensive weapons in order to save the peace in international life. And as the leader of the Turkish Republic he himself was pursuing a policy of “Peace at home, peace abroad”. Would you like please to give your appraisal on Atatürk's ideas and endeavors with respect to world peace?

**M. GORBACHEV:** It is not possible for me to appraise all of Atatürk's ideas and actions. I am not well informed in this matter either. Today we all often hear the need expressed for the elimination of nuclear weapons and a ban on the possession of offensive weapons. What Atatürk once said about armament is in parallel with our day. He is sort of taking part in these dialogues. I have just learned from you Atatürk's thought on armament and it is very interesting for me.

We always think about Atatürk with respect. His principles remain valid not only for his country, but also for world politics. He was a very great man of his period. The ideas of such great men have always survived beyond their times and beyond historical period. The distinguishing feature of such men is their capacity to foresee the future.

**Ö. Ö:** I thank you very much, Mr. Gorbachev.





# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

## House of Representatives

### NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND CHILDREN'S DAY IN TURKEY --

(Extensions of Remarks - April 23, 2008)

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#### SPEECH OF HON. VIRGINIA FOXX OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2008

- Ms. FOXX . Madam Speaker, April 23rd of every year is celebrated in Turkey as National Sovereignty and Children's Day. The genesis of these celebrations is this date in 1920. On April 23, 1920 during Turkey's War of Independence, the Grand National Assembly met in Ankara to lay the foundation for modern parliamentary democracy in the form of an emerging liberal and secular Republic.
- Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder and later the first President of the Republic of Turkey, designated April 23 as National Sovereignty and Children's Day, in recognition of the importance of children to the country's future. This was the first time that a world leader designated a day for children.
- In Turkey this day is recognized as an official public holiday. Schools participate in week-long ceremonies marked by performances by children in large stadiums that draw the attention of the entire nation. On this day children also send their own "representatives" to replace state officials and high ranking bureaucrats in their offices. The President, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet Ministers, and provincial governors all turn over their positions to children's representatives. This symbolic gesture is intended to show children that they are the future leaders of Turkey and to remind current leaders that they are serving these children and the nation that they will inherit. These children, in turn, sign executive orders relating to educational and environmental policies. Children also replace the parliamentarians in the Grand National Assembly and hold a special session to discuss children's issues.
- It is inspiring to know that this tradition of celebrating children's day has been adopted internationally. World Children's Day was the idea of two classmates, Funda Karagozler and Engin Ustundag (9 and 11 years old) from Atatürk School in New York. In April 1986, in response to an assignment to comment on the nationally celebrated Children's Day in Turkey, these two friends wrote a letter addressed to the "Kids of the World", inviting them to come together with the common objective of peace and friendship.
- The school principal was so impressed with the letter that she sent it to UNICEF, a United Nations body dedicated to children's issues. Through UNICEF's assistance, a copy of the letter was sent to the permanent missions of the United Nations. The response was overwhelming. Everyone wanted to participate. On April 27, 1986, the UN General Assembly was opened to children for the first celebration of World Children's Day. Later that same year, the World Children's Day Foundation (WCDF) was established to oversee World Children's Day activities. In addition to the annual celebration in New York, WCDF sponsored programs and community service projects in 140 countries around the world.
- The program's goals were: (1) To equip children to make a difference in their own lives and the future of their communities and nations; (2) To bring children of different nationalities, races, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds together and to show them that, in spite of these factors, all people have much in common; (3) To establish the Fourth Sunday in April as the internationally celebrated World Children's Day to recognize the capability and potential of children everywhere to shape the future.
- More than 5,300 children from 140 countries have participated in World Children's Day celebrations in the UN General Assembly. About four million children have participated in WCDF community service projects around the world. These projects have touched millions of lives worldwide.
- I stand to commemorate this important date dedicated to the children of the world and remember its origins in Turkey in 1920.

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Membership in ASA is **US \$50** for a calendar year or for a portion of it. Students pay **US \$10**. 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.

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ANNUAL FEE (Check One)	<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY (\$50)	<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL (\$50)	<input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT (\$10)
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## A Campaign to Donate Books to Libraries



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	price	quantity	total
Atatürk, by Andrew Mango	\$35		
The Atatürk Revolution, by Suna Kili	\$25		
Turkish Woman, by Ayşe Cebesoy Sarialp	\$20		
Donation			
		grant total	

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
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The ASA Executive Board has launched a campaign to donate to local libraries books on modern Turkey. The Board was motivated by the oft observed fact that local libraries and school or university libraries are very poor on up-to-date books on Turkey. ASA members are expected to respond enthusiastically to this campaign.

Members are invited to order the three books currently available to ASA for a donation of \$80, including shipping and handling, and donate them in turn to the libraries in their neighborhood. They will, of course, benefit from tax deduction.

The books are Atatürk, by Andrew Mango, The Atatürk Revolution, by Suna Kili, Turkish Woman, by Ayşe Cebesoy Sarialp.

You may also wish to donate to your community library books on modern Turkey you may have in your own library and may not need any longer. By taking part in this campaign you would be supporting the better understanding of Turkey by the public.



# The Establishment of The Grand National Assembly and Atatürk's Gift to Nation's Children

*continued from page 9*

Kemal stated: "Success is only possible by struggle, which can be sustained by spiritual and physical energy." Referring to the necessity of pursuing a national policy, he said: "We can safeguard our existence within our national frontiers only by replying on our own power, which is the best way of making our country happy and prosperous. We must not waste the time, energy and resources of the nation on futile plans."

The Turkish War of Independence ended in victory, and following the defeat of the Allied invasion forces on September 9, 1922, the Treaty of Lausanne was signed, recognizing the boundaries of the modern state of Turkey. The Grand National Assembly met in Ankara on April 23, 1923, and decided that a government be formed immediately. It was at this meeting of the Grand National Assembly that Turkey was officially called "TÜRKİYE" for the first time in its history.

## Modernization

The greatest dream of Atatürk was modernization. He considered this important, since democracy functions well in all modern countries that have a strong economy. Atatürk knew that industry was weak in the Republic he founded and therefore, he tried to achieve modernization through the revolution of education. He envisioned that children educated at schools based on positive sciences could achieve his ideal. Therefore he dedicated April 23 to children.

Since the late 1980's, large number of world states is sending groups of children to Turkey to participate in the Children's Day festivities. Turkish families host these visiting children in their homes. The foreign children groups also participate in the special session of the Grand National Assembly. The importance of April 23



as a special day of children has also been recognized internationally and UNICEF endorsed this important day as the International Children's Day in the 1980's. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in his message to the International Children's Festival on April 23, 2003, "when Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey, dedicated this day to children, he stressed that the future of all nations lies in their children -- in nurturing them and enabling them to reach their full potential."

Atatürk believed in his people, and he was a man who lived what he believed.

*"There are two Mustafa Kemals. One is the flesh-and-blood Mustafa Kemal who now stands before you and who will pass away.*

*The other is you, all of you 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."*

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## Atatürk as a Transformational Leader

*continued from page 16*

ister of Greece, Venizelos nominated Atatürk for the Nobel Peace Award. This only happens for an extraordinary person.

### Conclusion

The review of Atatürk's leadership style and accomplishments obviously proves that he was a transformational leader. Previously many historians, political scientists, and sociologists attested this fact in different ways. Not only his people, but also the world leaders at his time and later have admired his accomplishments.

Only transformational leaders with great visions, inspirations, strong personalities and behaviors, determinations, and competencies can accomplish grand reforms. Atatürk had demonstrated all those features aptly. Studying Atatürk as a transformational leader

er provides invaluable insights into effective leadership, from which I hope current and future leaders in Turkey and beyond learn important lessons.

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# Atatürk stamps from around the world

