



ISTANBUL  
**GELISIM**  
**UNIVERSITY**

# **ATATURK'S PRINCIPLES AND HISTORY OF TURKISH REVOLUTION I**

**THE PREPARATION FOR THE TURKISH INDEPENDENCE WAR:  
CONGRESSES PERIOD (M. KEMAL'S DEPARTURE FROM ISTANBUL TO  
SAMSUN AND CIRCULARS-CONGRESSES)**

**WEEK 8**

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# Stages of Turkish War of Independence



# The Preparation for the Independence War

- After the widespread occupations by the Allied in Anatolia and the heavy terms of the Mudros, the local nationalist groups started resistance on an individual and regional basis.
- Also, the leading army officers in Istanbul held meetings to discuss the future of Turkey and Turkish people.
- Mustafa Kemal Pasha was one of the organizers of these meetings with Kazım Karabekir, Ali Fuad, Rauf, Refet and they agreed on a resistance to be started in Anatolia (Asia Minor).
- Therefore, they began to demand for new assignments from Ottoman War Ministry to Anatolia to further their intentions.
- Kazım Karabekir Pasha was assigned as Commander of the 15th Corps to Eastern Anatolia while Mustafa Kemal was assigned to Samsun as inspector of the 9th Army Troops.
- Ali Fuad Pasha was assigned as Commander of the 20th Corps to Central Anatolia.
- Following these prominent nationalists, Fevzi and İsmet Pashas joined them in Ankara in 1920.



The Turkish resistance movements were transformed into a complete war of independence when **MUSTAFA KEMAL** landed at Samsun as the Inspector of the 9th Army on **19 May 1919**. It achieved success against the armies supported by the large countries of the world and under very difficult conditions.

# Turkey After Armistice of Mudros



# Mustafa Kemal Pasha



- ❑ Assigned to reorganize what remained of the Ottoman military units and to improve internal security on April 30, 1919.
- ❑ He and his staff left Istanbul.

## The Preparation for the Independence War

- Mustafa Kemal landed in Samsun on May 19, 1919, which was just after the occupation of Smyrna (Izmir) by the Greeks and this date was later assumed as the start of the Turkish resistance and Independence War.
- He started to constitute a unification for the salvation of the country among the people but after realizing the inconvenience of Samsun, he decided to go to Havza on May 25, 1919, which was in the inner part of Anatolia.
- Here, he started to send circular, was called Havza Circular, to the authorities, officials and people for the continuance of resistance and demonstrations against the occupations.



Honorary aide-de-camp of the Sultan on the strip with Mustafa Kemal Pasha as the Commander of the Yildirim (Thunderbolt) Army Group, 1918.



## The Amasya Circular (Amasya Tamimi)

- On June 12, 1919, Mustafa Kemal arrived in Amasya with his friends and prepared a declaration with his colleagues Ali Fuad Pasha (commander of the 20th corps), Refet Bey (commander of the 3rd corps) and Rauf Bey (former Ottoman Naval Minister).
- Kazım Karabekir Pasha (commander of the 15th corps) and Mersinli Cemal Pasha (inspector of the 2nd army troops) also sent their approvals.
- This declaration which was named as the Amasya Circular was the first serious step towards an organized and unified resistance.
- The Amasya Circular described a grave danger of losing independence and the ineffectiveness of the Istanbul Government and stated the way to independence, which was dependent on the determination and decision of the nation.
- Therefore, the Circular stated the need for a governing council to conduct the resistance and declared a call for the holding of congress in Sivas.

## The Casern where the Amasya Circular (Amasya Genelgesi) was prepared



Saraydüzü Casern in Amasya where the Amasya Circular (Amasya Genelgesi) was prepared and telegraphed across Turkey



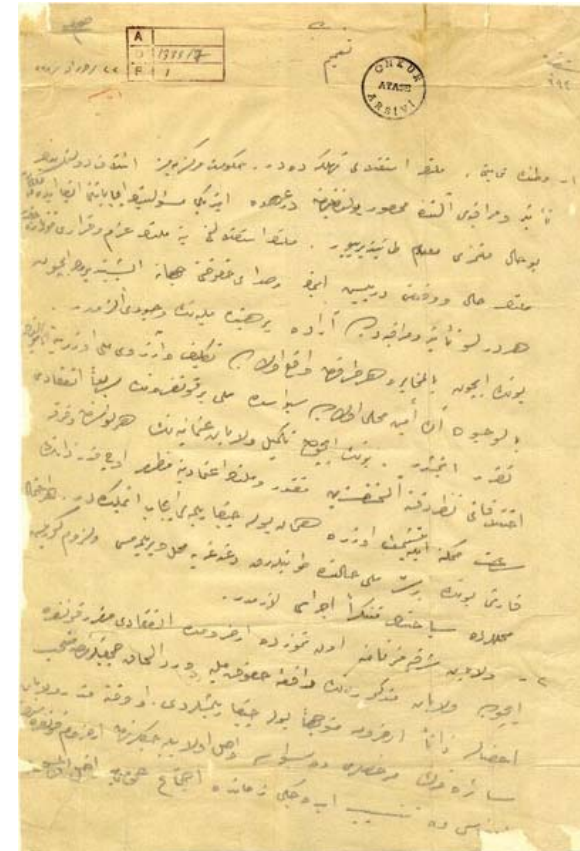


## Articles of the Amasya Circular

- 1. The unity and the independence of the nation is at great risk.
- 2. The government of Istanbul can't deal with the responsibility they take, the situation makes our nation look like gone.
- 3. Independence of the nation can be saved only by determination and faith of it.
- 4. To reach the nations purposes and to defend the people's rights, we must have a national committee free of restraint and inspection.
- 5. We will be having congress in the Sivas which is the safest place in any case.
- 6. For this purpose by the community of Defense of Rights (Müdafaa-i Hukuk ) and Rejection of Annexation (Redd-i Ilhak) three people from every province will be selected as representative.
- 7. In any case, the representatives must not use their real identities on the road and this circular must be kept as a national secret.
- 8. For the east side cities at July 10th there will be a congress at Erzurum . Until that date if the other representatives can reach Sivas the ones in east cities will move to Sivas.

# Original Text of the Amasya Circular

He declared that " The freedom of the nation shall be restored with the resolve and determination of the nation itself" in Amasya





- After Amasya, Mustafa Kemal went to Erzurum on July 3, 1919, where a regional congress for the Eastern provinces would be gathered against an Armenian State Project to be established.
- However, the Circular raised a discomfort on the Istanbul (Ottoman) Government and Mustafa Kemal Pasha was recalled on July 8, 1919.
- Istanbul government issued a warrant for the arrest of Mustafa Kemal, on the charge that he was disobeying the Sultan's order for disbanding of the remaining Ottoman forces in Anatolia, later condemning him to death.
- Upon this, Mustafa Kemal resigned from all his duties and army.
- Nevertheless, General Kazım Karabekir, who was the powerful commander of the Eastern Army sustained his support along with all other leading figures of the Turkish resistance and Mustafa Kemal continued his way to the Erzurum Congress.

# The Erzurum Congress

- Erzurum Congress was organized by the Association for Defense of Rights of Eastern Anatolia.
- This association elected Mustafa Kemal as the president of the Executive Committee.
- Gathering on July 23, 1919, the Congress continued meetings until August 7 and the resolutions as the result of the Congress created a decisive action in the preparation process of the Independence War.
- The Congress resulted in the formation of a Representational Committee headed by Mustafa Kemal.

He convened Erzurum Congress  
during 23 July - 7 August 1919



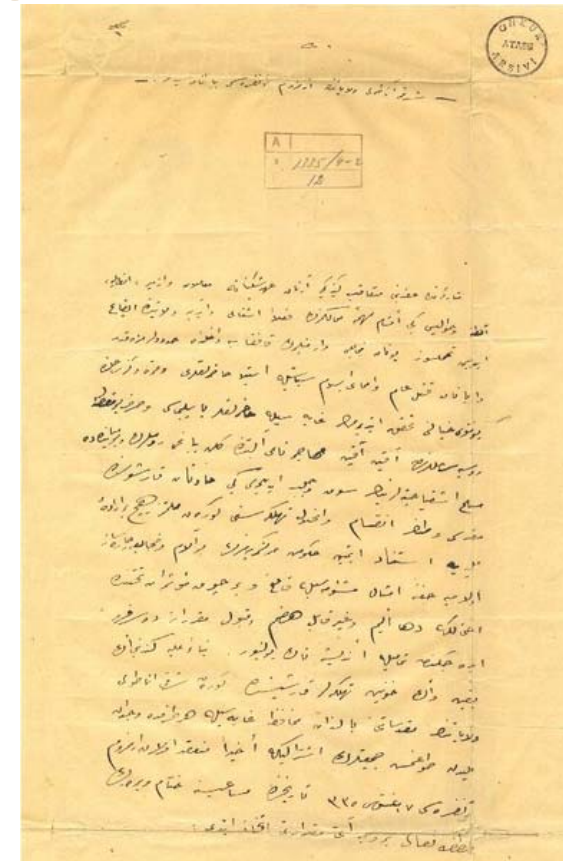


## Erzurum Congress Delegates



# Resolutions of the Erzurum Congress

- The territorial integrity and indivisibility of the homeland must be protected.
- The nation would resist foreign occupation and inference.
- A provisional government would be formed if the government in Constantinople is incapable of maintaining the nation's independence and unity.
- The aim is to consolidate the national forces into a ruling factor and to establish the will of the nation as the sovereign power.
- The nation shall not accept the status of a mandate or a protectorate.



# The Sivas Congress

- Mustafa Kemal arrived in Sivas on September 2, 1919 and the Congress started on September 4, 1919 with the participation of 38 delegates from different parts of Turkey.
- The Congress was headed by Mustafa Kemal and lasted until September 11, 1919.
- The congress at Sivas took a number of vital decisions which were fundamentally to shape the future policy to be conducted in the frame of the Turkish War of Independence.
- The Congress mainly determined the outlines of the National Pact which would be discussed in the Ottoman Parliament later.

He also convened Sivas Congress during 4 - 11 September 1919, thus defining the path to be followed towards the freedom of the motherland.



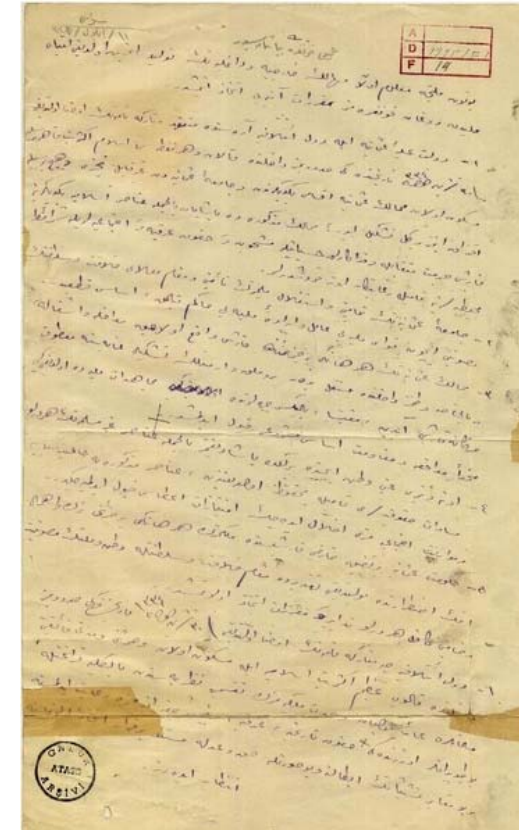


Turkish National fighters from Left to Right: Rauf Bey, Mustafa Kemal Bey and Ali Fuad Pasha



## Resolutions of the Sivas Congress

- The resolutions of the Erzurum Congress were confirmed and expanded in this congress for the whole country.
- The mandate case was rejected, and all regional defense associations were unified under a common name of «Associations for Defense of National Rights of Anatolia and Rumelia».
- The Representational Committee was expanded, and the Ottoman Parliament was called for an urgent meeting.



# Mustafa Kemal's Route to the Independence War



- Amasya Circular
- Erzurum Congress (23 July-7 August 1919)
  - Representative Committee
- Sivas Congress (4-11 September)
  - Formation of Anatolia and Rumelia Defence of Rights Organization



Prominent nationalists at the Sivas congress. *Left to right:*  
Muzaffer Kılıç, Rauf (Orbay), Bekir Sami (Kunduh), Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk),  
Ruşen Eşref (Ünaydın), Cemil Cahit (Toydemir), Cevat Abbas (Gürer)



The Turkish National Movement members during the Sivas Congress, left to right, Rauf Bey (Orbay), Nustafa Kemal and Ahmet Rustem Bilinski.