



ISTANBUL  
**GELISIM**  
**UNIVERSITY**

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

**THE TURKISH WAR OF INDEPENDENCE:  
WAR FRONTS - EASTERN AND SOUTHERN FRONTS**

WEEK 11

Assc. Prof. Ercan KARAKOÇ

# Stages of Turkish War of Independence





# The Independence War

- In addition to the occupations and domestic uprisings, the economic and human resources stood out as a great obstacle for the Ankara Government to organize a powerful resistance to the invaders.
- The wars looming over the Empire one after another destructed the very limited economic resources of the government and devastated the young and military-age people at the fronts.
- This created an hardship for finding enough soldiers and meeting the war expenses.
- The long years of wars in different fronts around the vast Ottoman territory split the farmers from their fields and decreased the agricultural production severely.
- The fields could not be harvested because of the scarcity of labor and this, later, increased the number of deserters from the Army to return their fields.
- Besides, the taxes were insufficient and the budgetary income were almost none to finance the war expenditures.

## Turkish War of Independence

- Clockwise from top left:
  1. Delegation gathered in Sivas Congress to determine the objectives of the National Struggle;
  2. Turkish people carrying ammunition to the front;
  3. Kuva-yi Milliye infantry;
  4. Turkish horse cavalry in chase;
  5. The Turkish army entering Izmir;
  6. Last troops gathered in Ankara Ulus Square leaving for the front.



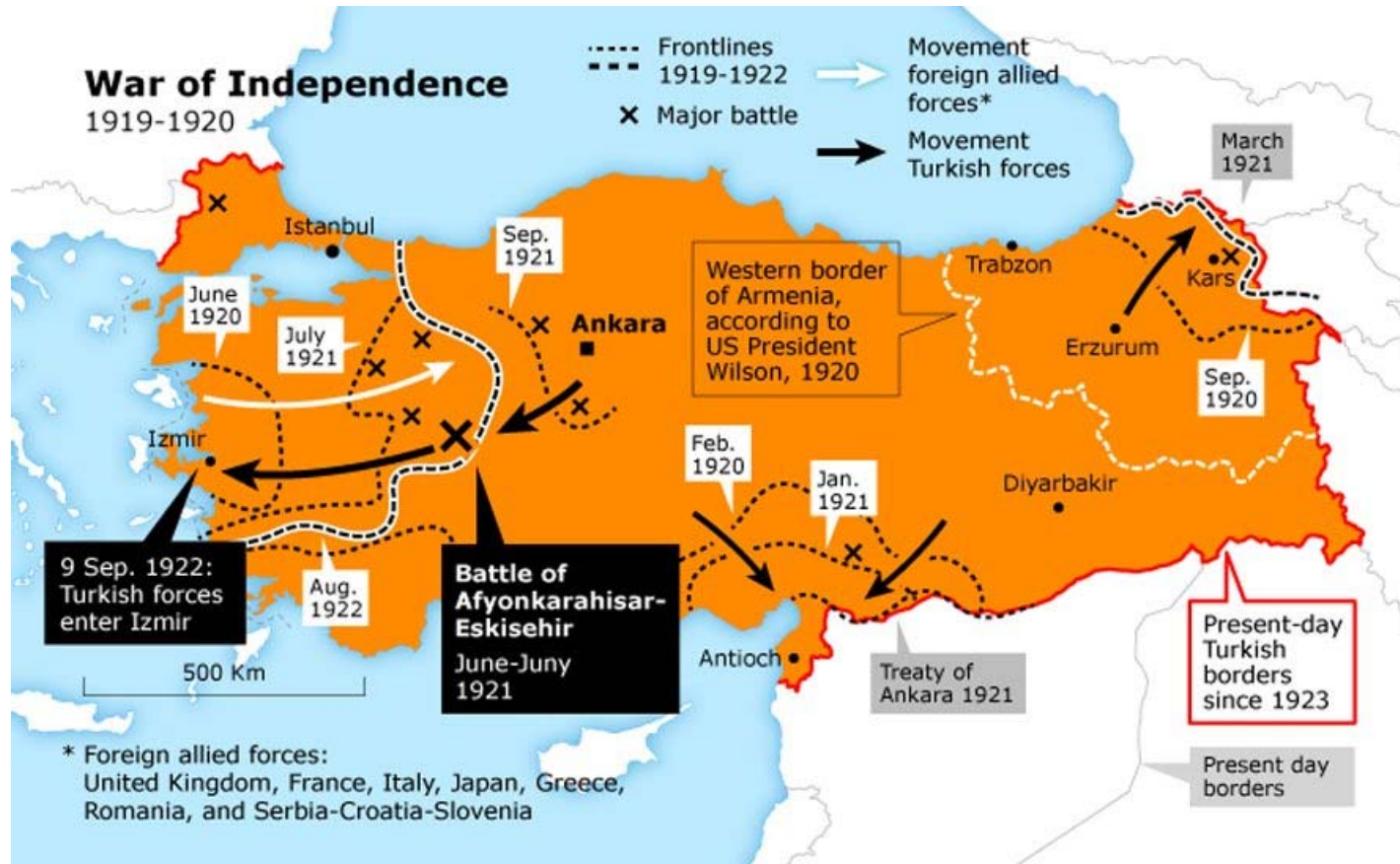


- The first and the primary resource of war funds was the donations by the people, which was collected through Associations of Defense of Rights.
- Precautions such as National Tax (Tekalif-i Milliye), Luxurious Goods Ban (Lüks Ürün Yasağı) were put in action; reserves and depots of the Public Debt Administration were utilized to provide more finance.
- More importantly, the arsenals in Istanbul were gradually shipped to the Nationalists by the underground organizations of the Nationalists.
- Apart from the domestic sources, foreign aid was also an alternative for the Turkish nationalists.
- Mustafa Kemal Pasha resorted to the Soviets which would possibly support and supply the necessary arms and funds in a war against the colonial powers. The Soviet Government sent a remarkable amount of guns, ammunitions and money through the war.
- Furthermore, the Muslims under the Russian and British rule, such as central Asian Turkish Muslims and Indian Muslims, gathered and donated substantial amount of money to the Ankara Government.



## Soviet Support

- Before the Amasya Circular (22 June 1919), Mustafa Kemal Pasha met with a Bolshevik delegation in Anatolia.
- The Bolsheviks saw a Turkish Republic as a buffer state or possibly a communist ally.
- Mustafa Kemal's official response was «Such questions had to be postponed until Turkish independence was achieved».
- Soviet support was important for the national movement.
- The Soviet weapons allowed the Turks to organize an effective army.
- In addition to the Soviets, Italy and later France provided weapons for Turkish Nationalist.
- These supports became very effective especially throughout battles with the Greeks at Western Front.



## The Eastern Front

- The Eastern Front was the first to be successfully conducted and terminated by the Nationalist Forces.
- The main struggle was against Armenian, which was established after the Russian (Bolshevik) Revolution and was promised to annex the «Three Vilayets (Provinces)» under the Wilson Principles and Sevres Treaty.
- The Three Vilayets (Kars, Ardahan and Artvin) was emptied in accordance with the Armistice of Mudros.
- Kazım Karabekir Pasha reported to Ankara that the Armenia would occupy Erzurum as well unless the Government took the necessary steps.



Kâzım Karabekir Pasha  
During the Turkish War of Independence






Kâzım Karabekir Pasha was appointed the commander of the Ottoman XV Corps and landed at Trabzon on 19 April 1919.

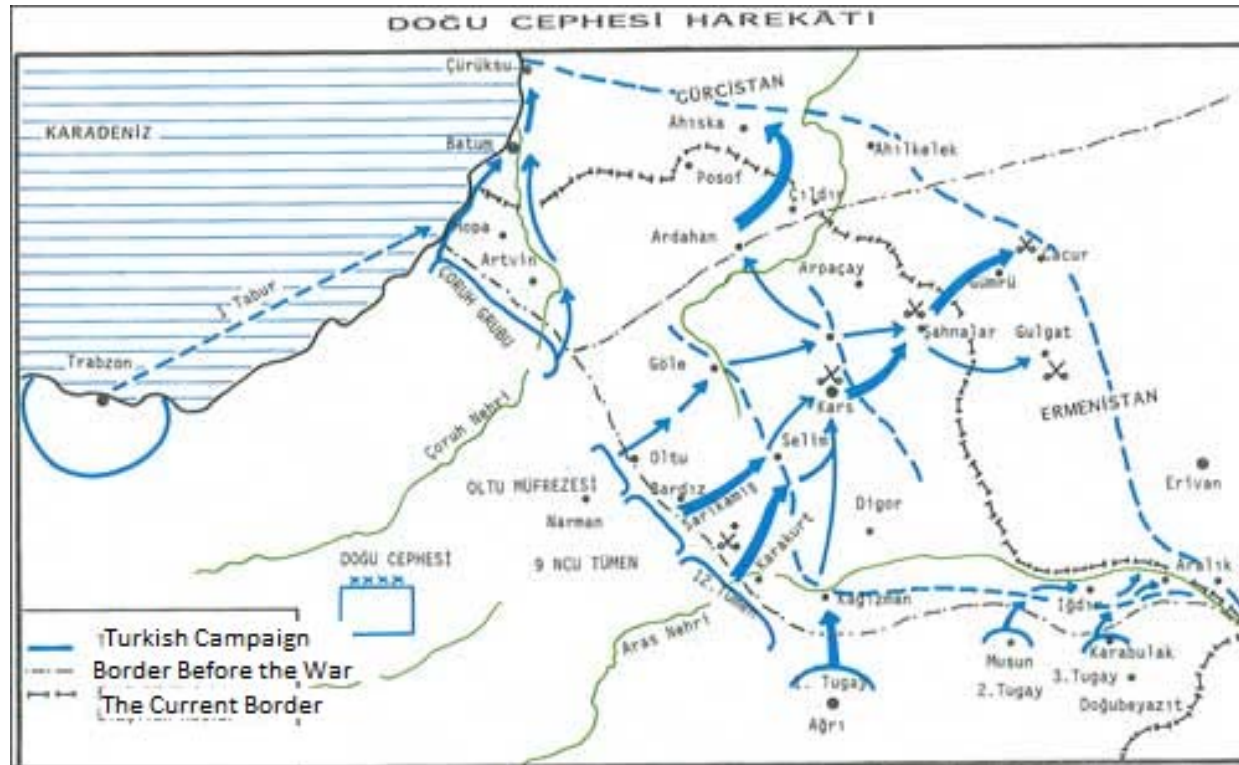


- Therefore, the Eastern Army under the command of Kazım Karabekir Pasha started the campaign on September 28, 1920; proceeded till the boundaries of the National Pact and defeated the Armenian forces by taking Kars and Sarıkamış back.
- This victory decisively forced Armenia to retreat and leave Anatolia.
- On December 3, 1920, the Gümrü Treaty (**Treaty of Alexandropol**) was signed between Armenia and Turkey and the final border with Armenia was determined.
- Moreover, Armenia declared the invalidity of the Sevres Treaty.
- The Gümrü Treaty was the first military and politic success of the Ankara Government and also Sevres Treaty was declared to be invalid for the first time in the international arena.

### Treaty of Alexandropol

<b>Type</b>	Peace treaty
<b>Signed</b>	December 2, 1920
<b>Location</b>	Alexandropol, First Republic of Armenia
<b>Signatories</b>	 First Republic of Armenia  Grand National Assembly of Turkey

# Eastern Front



# Soviet Armenia



Kazım Karabekir Paşa  
General of The Ankara (Mustafa Kemal's) Government  
Wikimedia Commons

After the American Congress rejected a Mandate over Anatolia, the Armenian Republic in the Caucasus, starting in June 1920, attacked Turkey, sending guerrilla bands as well as organized army units into eastern Anatolia, and undertaking widespread massacres of the settled population.

The Ankara (Mustafa Kemal's) Government moved to the defense in September, and within a short time the Armenian forces were routed, eastern Anatolia was regained, and order and security re-established.

By the Treaty of Gumru (Alexandropol) signed by the Ankara Government and the Armenian Republic on 3 December 1920, both sides accepted the new boundaries and acknowledged that the provisions of the Treaty of Sévres were null and void. The Armenians also renounced all territorial claims against Turkey.

Shortly after this the Red Army entered Erivan and established the Soviet Armenian Government. However through a revolt in Erivan on 18 February 1921 the Tashnaks once again took over control of Armenia.

The new Vratzian Government sent a committee to Ankara on 18 March asking for Turkish assistance against the Bolsheviks, a strange event indeed considering that only two years ago the Tashnaks had organized an Armenian invasion of Turkey.

The Tashnak government did not last very long, however, and the Soviets soon regained control of Erivan.



## The Southern Front

- The **Franco-Turkish War**, known as the **Cilicia Campaign** in France and as the **Southern Front** (Turkish: *Güney Cephesi*) of the Turkish War of Independence in Turkey, was a series of conflicts fought between France (the French Colonial Forces and the French Armenian Legion and the Turkish National Forces.
- After the Paris Conference, the French sent troops to Adana, Kilis, Antep, Maraş and Urfa together with the local Armenian militias. Adana was occupied on December 17, 1918, Maraş on October 29, 1919, Antep on October 29, 1919, Urfa on October 30, 1919.
- However, the French occupation resulted in oppression and persecution in the region and therefore, awakened a resistance among the people.
- As the only place, in which no troops from the regular army fought, the Southern Front was defended by the locals.
- The Nationalist militias (Kuva-yı Milliye) organized resistance and the Ankara Government supported the forces through sending officers.

## Slayt 14

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## Armenian volunteer soldiers in the French Army







## Franco-Turkish Pact 1921 (Treaty of Ankara)

- Due to the heavy resistance by the local forces, French Troops suffered heavy casualties and could not suppress the uprisings of the people in the region.
- As a result, the French had to sign the Ankara Treaty on October 20, 1921 and leave the region till Syria, thereby approving the National Pact as a Part of the Allied Powers.
- Apart from Iskenderun, the Syrian-Turkish border was determined on this treaty and after the treaty, Turkish Government could supply arms from France as well.





## Cilician Nationalist forces







- Italy was interested in Antalya and vicinity for a long time and the Allies accepted the establishment of a domain after the World War I.
- The Italian forces landed in Antalya on March 28, 1919, and expanded their occupation to Konya, Burdur, Muğla and other southern cities in time.
- Contrary to the previous allocation of Smyrna (Izmir) to Italy, the Allied consented the Greek occupation of Izmir which resulted in disappointment and conflict between Italy and the Allied Powers.
- Hence, Italy did not fight against the Nationalists and prevent their activities in Istanbul and their domains in Anatolia.
- After the Sakarya Victory, they left Anatolia.