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ATATURK'S PRINCIPLES AND HISTORY OF TURKISH REVOLUTION II

TURKISH REFORMS: POLITICAL REFORMS

WEEK 1

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Turkish Reforms

Political Reforms

Judicial/Legal Reforms

Educational and Cultural Reforms

Social Reforms

Economic Reforms



Banner says: «Turkish Revolution is unique»



The Abolishment of the Sultanate (November 1, 1922)

- The primary event that led to the abolishment of the Sultanate was the dual invitation to both Ankara and Istanbul Governments for the Lausanne Conference to be held as a result of the victorious end of the Independence War.
- In a telegram dated October 20, 1922, Grand Vizier Tefvik Pasha stated that Sublime Porte and the Grand National Assembly had unity in their objectives, had a joint fight to invalidate the Sevres Treaty and to remove the occupations.
- He emphasized the importance of national unity and expressed the necessity of waiving the the personal ambitions.



- On October 28, 1922, the Allied Countries officially invited the Istanbul and Ankara Governments to the Conference which would be held in Lausanne in Switzerland.
- In response to this, two days later, the Grand National Assembly conferred the draft resolution for the repeal of the Sultanate with no result.
- Nevertheless, the session of the Grand National Assembly on November 1, 1922 decided to the Abolishment of the Sultanate upon the severe intervention of Mustafa Kemal.
- According to Mustafa Kemal, many of the deputies opposed the abolishment of Sultanate.
- The Prime Minister Rauf Bey (Orbay) was convinced just after a meeting with Mustafa Kemal on October 29, 1922 as he objected to the resolution at the beginning.



- The proposals for the abolishment of the Sultanate were assigned to the three committees which were Constitution, Religious and Justice Committees.
- These three commissions convened in the same room and elected the Hoca Mufit as the president.
- As narrated in the «Speech (Nutuk)» by Mustafa Kemal: «The members of the Religious Commission asserted that the Sultanate could not be splitted from the Caliphate by depending on the widely known fallacies. The one who could have spoken freely to refute these allegations did not rise. We were listening to the discussions in a corner of this crowded room. It was futile to wait for the discussions to reach the desired resolution. We saw that. Finally, I requested permission to speak from the president of the joint commission. I made my speech aloud on the top of the desk in front of me:



- «Sirs, sovereignty and sultanate are granted to no one by no body for religious reasons through discussion and negotiation. Sovereignty and sultanate are seized by force, power and forcibly. Ottomans forcibly seized the Turkish sovereignty and sultanate. They maintained their tyranny for six hundred years. At this present time, Turkish nation retrieved his sovereignty and sultanate by rising and drawing a line against aggressors. This is a fait accompli. The matter in question is not whether we will leave nation's sovereignty and sultanate to the nation or not. The matter is nothing more than expressing a reality of fait accompli through a legislation. This will absolutely take place. I think it will be appropriate if participants in this room, Assembly and every other one take this normally. Otherwise, the reality will still be rendered. But, maybe, some will be beheaded.



- As for the religious side of the matter, Effendis need not to worry and wonder. I said I will make «religious explanations» and I gave some explanations lengthily. Upon this, Hodja Mustafa Effendy of Ankara said, “Excuse us Sir, we had taken the matter from different aspects. We were enlightened by your explanations.” The matter was concluded by the joint commission.
- With regard to the Vahiddedin’s escape from Turkey subsequent to the abolishment of the Sultanate, Mustafa Kemal told: (The Wretched who put a Noble Nation in a disgraceful situation) “Weak, vile creature, devoid of feelings and tolerance can take refuge in the conservation of any nation accepting him; nevertheless, it is surely not proper to express that such a creature bears the title of «The Caliph of All Muslims».



- The righteousness of such a point of view depends primarily on the condition that All Muslim nations are captives. Yet, is the reality in the world as such? We, Turks, are a nation which have become the independence and freedom along all our history. We have shown that we could remove the play of caliphs who saw no harm in tolerating all decay to drag their worthless lives miserably for two and a half days more from the scene. Thus, we manifested the renowned reality that in the relations between nations and states, the persons especially the sleaze who could not think of anything other than their personal conditions and lives even at the expense of the state and nation to which they are bound can not be attributed value. Ceasing the period of method to take advantage of the puppets in the international relations should be the sincere wish of the civilized world.

- Still formally being the «Caliph», Mehmed Vahideddin VI attended the Friday Parade in November 10, 1922 but he took refuge in the British Malaya Battleship, anchored in the Bosphorus on November 17, 1922 by giving the threats against his life and freedom as justifications. In response to this, the Grand National Assembly promulgated Heir Presumptive Abdulmejid Effendy as the new Caliph on November 19, 1922.



Departure of Mehmed VI from Istanbul after the abolishment of Sultanate.



The Reasons of the Abolishment of the Sultanate

- The most significant reason of the abolishment of the Sultanate was the desire of Ataturk to establish a modern nation-state rather than outdated monarchy after the Independence War. (The contradiction of the Sultanate with the national sovereignty principle)
- The attitude of Sultan Vahdettin towards the Nationalist Movement. (The Imperial Irade (Order) of sentencing Mustafa Kemal and friends to death, establishment of Kuvayi Inzibatiye (Police Forces), Cooperation with the British)



- The principal event to accelerate the abolishment of the Sultanate was the dual invitation of Great Britain for the Istanbul and Ankara Governments to the Lausanne Conference. The British expected to take advantage of the duality, by exploiting the problems between two governments. The Sultanate was necessary to be abolished not to provide an advantage and to represent Turkey's rights in unity.
- Desire of some circles for the continuance of the Sultanate was among the reasons for abolishment.



Declaration of Republic (29 October 1923)



Banner Says: «Long Live the Republic of Turkiye»



Declaration of the Republic (October 29, 1923)

- On April 23, 1920, a new Turkish state was established which was based on the national sovereignty with the establishment of the Turkish Grand National Assembly. The new state was a republic whose title was not explicitly denominated and whose president was not elected yet.
- The use of this title was intentionally avoided not to create ill-timed arguments of regime and not to weaken the nationalist forces.
- The problem arising from the existence of the Sultan was resolved by the abolishment of the Sultanate but this time new problems emerges as a result of the absence of a head of state.



- Mustafa Kemal Pasha was not actually a head of state but the Spokeperson of the National Assembly.
- The Cabinet Crisis on October 25, 1923 created the proper atmosphere for the declaration of the Republic.
- He asked the Ministers he hosted in Cankaya to resign and not to take in charge in case of reelection. Following this, the Ministers Delegation chaired by Ali Fethi Bey resigned on October 27, 1923.
- The Grand National Assembly could not form a government until the evening of October 28, 1923.



- All the conditions were ready for the declaration of the Republic. Within this scope, a sentence stating that the regime of Turkiye is the republic was added to the first clause of the Constitution. Furthermore, other relevant changes were also realized.
- The proposal for the Declaration of the Republic was passed subsequent to the lengthy pro and con discussions in the People's Party Caucus on October 29, 1923. Afterwards, the Grand National Assembly passed the draft resolution at 20.30 among the cheers of «Long Live the Republic». The Assembly elected Mustafa Kemal, Ankara Deputy, as the first President.



*** By means of the Declaration of the Republic;**

- 1) The regime reached its true form and name,
- 2) Presidency problem was resolved,
- 3) The country went through a significant phase towards a modern and contemporary state.
- 4) «The Cabinet Regime» began instead of the Assembly Government Regime.
- * The President granted the right to form the first Republican government to Ismet Inonu. Former Prime Minister, Fethi Okyar Bey was elected as the Assembly Spokeperson. The Second Assembly which convened on August 11, 1923 for the first time realized many changes ranging from the establishment of the People's Party to the Declaration of the Republic; from election of Mustafa Kemal as the President to the abolishment of the Caliphate.



- The news of the Declaration of the Republic in Vatan Newspaper on October 31, 1923..



TURKISH REVOLUTION AND DEMOCRACY



Turkish Revolution and Democracy

- Mustafa Kemal, deeming the democracy in which the sovereignty of the people is valid appropriate for the Turkish Nation, was in the intention of completing the republic with democracy.
- The Deputies of the National Assembly uniting around the idea of the saving the motherland established different groups in time due to the influences of various ideas and beliefs. The groups such as Tesanüt Grubu (Cooperation Group), İstiklâl Grubu (Independence Group), Müdafaa-i Hukuk Zümresi (Defense of Rights Group), Halk Zümresi (People's Group), Islahat Grubu (Reform Group) were represented in the National Assembly along with the smaller groups gathering for specific reasons.



- These people from different regions had at the same time different ideas and opinions. Actually, deputies participating in the National Assembly as the representatives of the Association of Anatolia and Rumelia Defense of Rights were not able to form a unity in spite of their unity on the objective of Misak-ı Milli (National Frontiers).
- The political grouping hindered the successful functioning of the Assembly.
- Mustafa Kemal put much effort to reduce the political conflicts and unify the various groups.



- But, as these efforts failed, he established the Association of Anatolia and Rumelia Defense of Rights.
- The unity which was formed thanks to emergence of the Association of Anatolia and Rumelia Defense of Rights which was established at a time when there was a fight for survival enabled this struggle to succeed.



People's Party (Halk Fırkası) Later, Republican People's Party (Cumhuriyet Halk Fırkası)



People's Party

- This is the first political party of the Turkish Republic, which was established by Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk) on September 9, 1923.
- Party participated in the Grand National Assembly elections alone from 1927 to 1946.
- The Party name which was adopted as «Halk Fırkası» [People's Party] at the beginning was changed into the «Cumhuriyet Halk Fırkası» [Republican People's Party] on November 10, 1924. The name was changed into «Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi» [Republican People's Party] in the 4th Convention in May 1935.



- The roots of the Republican People's Party dates back to the Sivas Congress. All the resistance groups which were established to resist against the occupations in different parts of Turkey were unified under the title of the Association of Anatolia and Rumelia Defense of Rights in the Sivas Congress of September 4-11, 1919.
- The Grand National Assembly was formed by the delegates of the the Association of Anatolia and Rumelia Defense of Rights but this splitted into two as «Birinci Grup» [The First Group] and «İkinci Grup» [The Second Group] in 1922.



- After the success of the Independence War, Birinci Grup pioneered by Mustafa Kemal began to organize around the country and joined in the parliamentary election on April 8, 1923 with a single list and obtained almost all the deputyships.
- The notables of Birinci Grup formed the People's Party on September 9, 1923 under the presidency of Mustafa Kemal.
- Upon the hot debates in the National Assembly during the Lausanne Treaty ratification meetings, Mustafa Kemal declared the political programme titled as «Nine Principles» and two days later he founded the People's Party with the deputies aligned with him by submitting his petition to the Ministry of Interior.



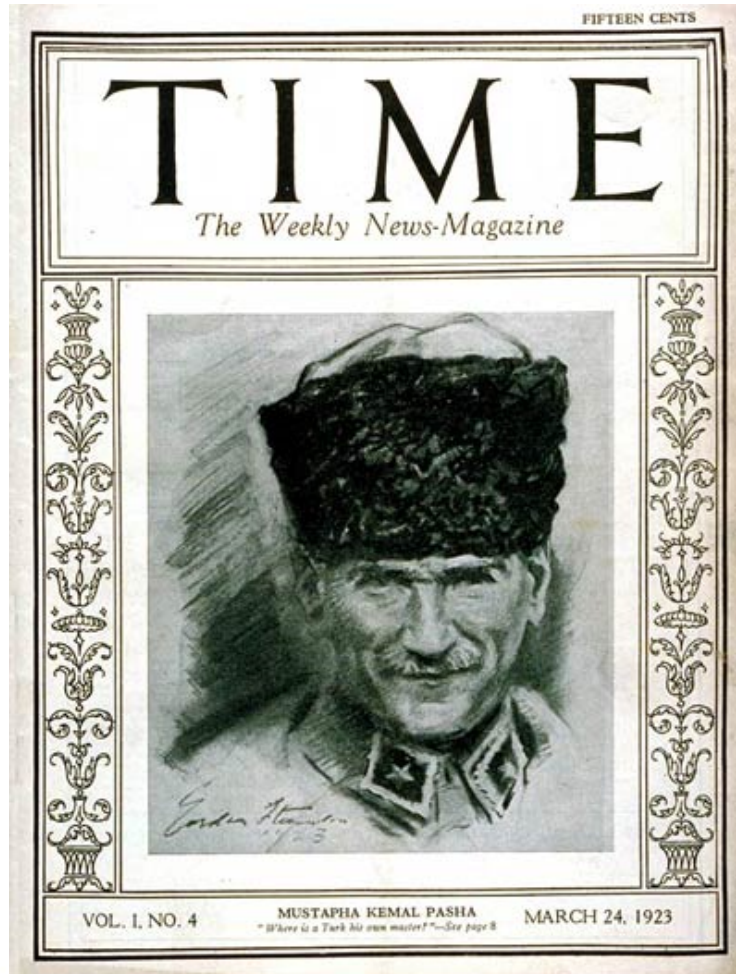
Ruşen Eşref (Ünaydın) and Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk) on the deck of Ertuğrul yacht on June 5, 1928.



- The founders of the Party was Refik Saydam, Celal Bayar, Sabit Sađırođlu, Minir Hüsrev Göle, Cemil Uybadın, Kazım Hüsünü, Saffet Arıkan, Zülfü Bey and Recep Peker as the Secretary General.
- Saying «The cadre of the Republican People’s Party was all the members of the nation.», Mustafa Kemal conceived the party as the party of the whole nation rather than belonging to specific class of the society.
- Mustafa Kemal Pasha included all the reforms he contemplated to realize in the party doctrine and therefore the party programme became the Government Program as well.



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President of Turkey and Chairman of the People's Party,
Mustafa Kemal Pasha on the cover of *Time*,
March 24, 1923



The Abolishment of the Caliphate (March 3, 1924)

- After the abolishment of the Sultanate, Grand National Assembly elected Abdulmejd Effendy as the new Caliph. The new Caliph was requested only to use the title of «Caliph», to avoid the statements and behaviors which would remind and resemble the Sultanate. A group among which there were famous politicians and journalists desired to show and impse the Caliph as the head of state. There occured some show of loyalty to the Caliph among the soldiers.
- As for Mustafa Kemal, he was of the opinion that the Caliphate ran out of all religious and political meaning. The realization of the reforms to transform the country into a national, democratic, secular state would be impossible without the abolishment of the Caliphate.

- The bitter experiences of the past indicated the possible opposition of the Caliph and his supporters to the reforms by defending that they were against the religion.
- It was certain that the Caliph was always an alternative to the Republic. In accordance with the law legislated on March 3, 1924, the Caliphate was abolished, Ottoman Dynasty members (about 155 people) were exiled, the Ministry of Religion and Foundations was abrogated.
- Furthermore, the education was unified by the Law on Unity of Education, Turkish General Staff was established instead of the Ministry of General War Officers.



The last caliph Abdülmecid II
who went into exile in 1924

- With the abolishment of the Caliphate, the Republican regime was completely established and all the obstacles before the modernization was overcome.

The last Caliph, Abdulmecid Effendi with his daughter and granddaughters in Paris



PROGRESSIVE REPUBLICAN PARTY (Terakkiperver Cumhuriyet Fırkası)

Progressive Republican Party Terakkiperver Cumhuriyet Fırkası	
President and Founder	Kâzım Karabekir
Founded	September 17, 1924
Dissolved	June 5, 1925
Headquarters	Ankara, Turkey
Ideology	Liberal democracy Liberalism Conservatism
Political position	Centre-right



Progressive Republican Party

- 158 Deputies who were members of the People's Party declared the republic and elected Mustafa Kemal as the President on October 29, 1923.
- Some of the deputies who formed the leadership of the Independence War (Kazım Karabekir, Rauf Orbay, Adnan Adıvar, Ali Fuat Cebesoy, Hüseyin Avni, Cafer Tayyar Eğilmez, Refet Bele, Bekir Sami, Hüseyin Cahit Yalçın) formed a separate group, asserting that the country was directed to «dictatorship» thereupon.



Kâzım Karabekir led the Progressive Republican Party, which was the first opposition (organized under the GNA) party.



- They established the Progressive Republican Party on November 17, 1924.
- Just one week before this, the People's Party changed its title to Republican People's Party.
- Five days after the foundation of the Progressive Republican Party, Ismet Pasha who was known as «rigoristic» resigned and Fethi Okyar who was moderate in his policies became the new Prime Minister.
- Progressive Republican Party incurred harsh criticisms from the government due to the Sheikh Said Rebellion which broke out in February 1925.



- Fethi Okyar resigned thereupon and Ismet Pasha who formed the new government passed the law on maintenance of order which enabled the government to fine the press with serious punishments.
- Simultaneously, the Progressive Republican Party was closed on June 5, 1925 by the reason of incite reactionism.
- After the closure of the Progressive Republican Party and the execution of some leaders, Republican People's Party remained the sole part participating in the elections until 1946.



- The Doctrine of the Progressive Republican Party was based on:
 - The regime of the part is liberalism and the national sovereignty.
 - The party is of the freedom in general and is respectful to the religious ideas and beliefs.
 - The party will work to realize the decentralization in the governance.
 - Mustafa Kemal Pasha was content owing to the establishment of the party as he desired the formation of democratic system.



Liberal/Free Republican Party (Serbest Cumhuriyet Fırkası)

Liberal Republican Party Serbest Cumhuriyet Fırkası	
President and Founder	Fethi Okyar
General Secretary	Nuri Conker
Founded	August 12, 1930
Dissolved	November 17, 1930
Headquarters	Ankara, Turkey
Ideology	Economic liberalism Republicanism Laicism Turkish nationalism
Political position	Centre-right



- The lack of an opposition in the National Assembly obstructed the watch the government. Hence, Mustafa Kemal asked Fethi Bey to found a party which would be secular and loyal to the principles of the republic.
- Fethi Bey established Free Republican Party on August 12, 1930 on condition that Mustafa Kemal remained neutral.
- The primary difference between the Free Republican Party and Republican People's Party was the Free Party's support of Liberalism in economy.



Ali Fethi Okyar was the leader of the second opposition (organized under the GNA) party



- Ataturk supported this party personally and encouraged some of the deputies to transfer to Free Republican Party in spite of the reaction and opposing of Ismet Pasha.
- He conceived to create an opposition to criticize the Ismet Pasha Government which were unrivalled for 5 years and to form an atmosphere for the freedom of thinking.
- He also wanted to prevent the abuse of power in the government.
- Nuri Conker (Secretary General), Mehmet Emin Yurdakul, Ahmet Ağaoğlu (one of the leaders of the Turkism), İbrahim Süreyya Pasha and Adnan Menderes (the future prime minister of Turkey) were among the members of the party.
- The incidents which occurred in during the visit of Fethi Bey to İzmir incited the radical side of the Republican People's Party.



- This resulted in Ataturk's intervention in the situation and Ataturk offered Fethi Bey to lead Republican's People Party against Free Republican Party and Fethi Bey as its leader. However, Fethi Bey did not accept this and repealed the party by stating that he was not in the intention to challenge the Gazi Mustafa Kemal.
- Thus, Free Republican Party could only survived three months by repealing itself on November 17, 1930.



Summary of Political Reforms

- **Turkish Reforms** were a series of political, legal, religious, cultural, social, and economic policy changes that were designed to convert the new Republic of Turkey into a secular, modern nation-state and implemented under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.
- Central to these reforms were the belief that Turkish society would have to Westernize itself both politically and culturally in order to modernize.
- Political reforms involved a number of fundamental institutional changes that brought end of many traditions, and followed a carefully planned program to unravel the complex system that had developed over the centuries.
- Reforms began with the modernization of the constitution, including enacting the new Constitution of 1924 which replaced the Constitution of 1921, and the adaptation of European laws and jurisprudence to the needs of the new republic.
- This was followed by a thorough secularization and modernization of the administration, with particular focus on the education system.
- **The Turkish Constitution of 1921** was the fundamental law of Turkey for a brief period from 1921 to 1924.
 - It was ratified by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in January 1921.
 - In April 1924, the constitution was replaced by an entirely new document, the Turkish Constitution of 1924.
- On November 1, 1922, **the Ottoman Sultanate** was abolished by the Turkish Grand National Assembly and Sultan Mehmed VI departed the country. This allowed the Ankara government to become the sole governing entity in the nation.
- The country's **new capital** was set in Ankara on 13 October 1923.
- The most fundamental reforms allowed the Turkish nation to exercise popular sovereignty through representative democracy.
 - **The Republic of Turkey** was proclaimed on October 29, 1923 by the Turkish Grand National Assembly.



Members of the Turkish Parliament



- On 9 September 1923, the "**People's Party (Halk Fırkası)**" declared itself to be a political organization.
 - On 10 November 1924, the People's Party renamed itself the "Republican People's Party« (Cumhuriyet Halk Fırkası)
- The **Progressive Republican Party (*Terakkiperver Cumhuriyet Fırkası*)** was founded on September 17, 1924, and established between 1924 and 1925 under the parliament.
 - It was later banned on 5 June 1925 after the Sheikh Said Rebellion.
- The National Assembly abolished **the Caliphate** on March 3, 1924.
- The **Liberal Republican Party (Serbest Cumhuriyet Fırkası)** was founded by Ali Fethi Okyar on August 12, 1930.
 - It was dissolved by Ali Fethi 3 months later in November.