



ISTANBUL  
**GELISIM**  
**UNIVERSITY**

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

## **SOCIAL AND HEALTHCARE REFORMS**

WEEK 2

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# Turkish Reform

- Political Reforms
- Judicial/Legal Reforms
- Educational and Cultural Reforms
  - Social Reforms
  - Economic Reforms



Banner says: «Turkish Revolution is unique»

# Social and Community Reforms

Reforms in the Clothing (November 25, 1925)	Enfranchisement of the Women	The Surname Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There was not( a unity in the Ottoman Society which seemed as a jumble.</li><li>• The Hat Act (Şapka Kanunu) was legislated to modernize the appearance of the Turkish people.</li><li>• Ataturk wore the hat for the first time in Kastamonu on August 23, 1925.</li><li>• This enabled:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ the modernization of clothing.</li><li>○ the clothing jumble was overcome.</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The women was accorded to elect and be elected on April 3, 1930 for the municipal elections.</li><li>• They were entitled to be elected to be mukhtar on October 26, 1933.</li><li>• Finally, the women enfranchised to vote and hold office of the deputyship.</li><li>• The Turkish women acquired this right before many of the European countries.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People were identified and recognized by their fathers' name during the Ottoman times and this used to create confusions in the public affairs.</li><li>• Thus, the Surname Act (Syadı Kanunu) was adopted, which made it possible to;<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Recognize the people easily,</li><li>○ All titles, nicknames and cognomens which implied class distinction were banned.</li><li>○ Mustafa Kemal Pasha was surnamed as "Ataturk" by the Grand National Assembly.</li></ul></li></ul>



# Social and Community Reforms

## The Closure of the Dervish Lodges, Zawayahs and Shrines (November 30, 1925)

- Lodges were the meeting places of the sects and zawayahs were the smaller lodges.
- Especially in the late period of the Ottoman Empire, lodges and zawayahs turned into places where the religious emotionality of the people were abused.
- These places were closed with this Act and all religious titles like Sheikh, Dervish and Disciple, their clothes were prohibited.

## Reforms in the Calendar, Measures and Time

- Gregorian Calendar and International Time System were adopted on December 26, 1925 and started to be applied from January 1, 1926 onwards.
- Latin Alphabet was adopted on May 20, 1928.
- Metric System was adopted on March 26, 1931.
- The weekly holiday was fixed on Sunday in 1935.
- The primary aim of measure, time and calendar reforms was to comply with the Western Countries to facilitate the economic relations.



Mustafa Kemal Pasha in Izmir for the  
Introduction of Hat (Şapka)  
October 11, 1925

«Fellows, Effendies and Turkish Nation! The Republic of  
Turkiye can not be a homeland of the sheihks, dervishes,  
disciples and lunatics. The truest and the most genuine  
way is the way to the civilization.»





An ulema, who was distinguished by his headgear, could not use it after the Hat Act of 1925.

Great Day in the Assembly  
All titles of class distinction are abolished.



Calendar	Time	Numbers	Weight	Length Measures
				
Mohammedan Calendar Julian Calendar	Sunset Based Time	Arabian Numbers	Oke Dirham Weighbridge	Ell Fathom
The Gregorien Calendar	International Time	International Numbers	Metric System	Metric System



A coffeehouse discussion in  
the Ottoman Empire



# Turkish Civil Code (Medeni Kanun)



- Civil Code
  - Women and men are equated in the family.
  - Civil Marriage is obligated.
  - Monogamy is obligated, and polygamy is forbidden.
  - Women has been granted to conduct any occupation.
  - Women and Men are equated in the courts, testimony, inheritance and divorce.
  - Patriarchate has been deauthorized except for religious rights.
- The reforms in the Turkish civil code, including those affecting women's suffrage, were «breakthroughs not only within the Islamic world but also in the western world».

- During a meeting in the early days of the new republic, Atatürk proclaimed:
- **To the women:** *Win for us the battle of education and you will do yet more for your country than we have been able to do. It is to you that I appeal.*
- **To the men:** *If henceforward the women do not share in the social life of the nation, we shall never attain to our full development. We shall remain irremediably backward, incapable of treating on equal terms with the civilizations of the West.*

## Turkish women got the greatest right

The Grand National Assembly approved the enfranchisement of woman (right to elect and be elected) unanimously.





## The First General Elections Attended by the Women

The first general elections in which the women attended was the Fifth Term Elections of the Grand National Assembly on February 8, 1935

17 Women were elected as Deputy and this number rose to 18 when the retired teacher Hatice Özgenel was elected in the by-elections of vacant places in 1936.

# Healthcare Reforms

## Reforms in the Healthcare

- The Ministry of Health and Social Aid was established. (1920)
- Model Hospitals (Numune Hastaneleri) were established in 1924.
- The Public Sanitation Act was legislated. (1930)
- Sanitariums and Dispensaries were established.
- Sanitation Institutions were established.



**Refik Saydam**  
Turkish Doctor and Politician,  
4th Prime Minister of Turkiye

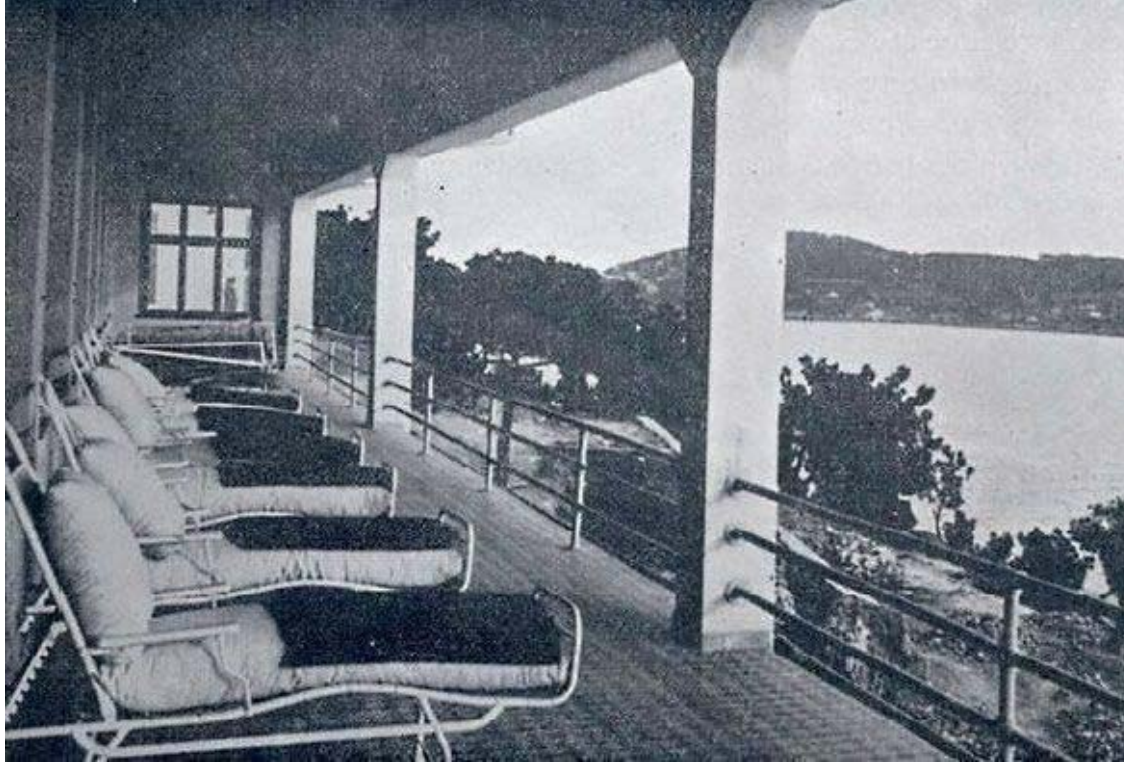


### **Hulusi Behçet**

He was a Turkish dermatologist and scientist. He described a disease of inflamed blood vessels in 1937, which is named after him as Behçet's disease.

## **Reforms in the Healthcare**

- Association to Fight Against Tuberculosis was established in Izmir in 1923,
  - Sanitarium was founded in Istanbul August 15, 1924,
  - The first Tuberculosis Dispensaries was established in 1925
  - Istanbul Association to Fight Against Tuberculosis was formed in 1927, all of which were pioneered by Dr. Behcet Uz.



Heybeliada Sanitarium



# Summary of Social Reforms

- *November 25, 1925*: Change of headgear and dress.
  - "Hat Law" was issued, abolishing religious dress.
- *December 26, 1925*: The International Time and Calendar System (Gregorian calendar, time zone)
  - A law was passed which abolished the lunar calendar in favor of the international calendar.
- *November 30, 1925*: Closure of religious convents and dervish lodges.
- *October 4, 1926*: Introduction of the new civil code modeled after the Swiss civil code.
  - Turkish civil code based on the Swiss Civil Code was accepted. The code granted expanded civil rights to women and prohibited polygamy.
- The Turkish women achieved voting rights in local elections on 3 April 1930.
- *June 21, 1934*: Surname Law.
  - The Surname Law was accepted, abolishing the former titles of Bey, Effendi, Pasha, Sultan, and Hanım as of 26 November.
- *November 26, 1934*: Abolition of titles and by-names.
- *December 5, 1934*: Full political rights for women to vote and be elected.
  - Turkish women were granted the right to vote and be elected in Turkish parliamentary elections. (Afterwards, in the first elections, 18 women were elected to the Turkish Grand National Assembly)