



ISTANBUL
GELISIM
UNIVERSITY

ATATURK'S PRINCIPLES AND HISTORY OF TURKISH REVOLUTION II

REPUBLICANISM, SECULARISM AND POPULISM

WEEK 7

Assoc. Prof. Ercan KARAKOÇ



Republicanism (Cumhuriyetçilik)

- It has been derived from the word «Cumhur» which means people, community and crowd. «Cumhurî» means belonging to the people.
- Cumhurî Devlet (People's State) or Cumhuriyet (Republic) means the government regime in which the sovereignty belongs to the people.
- * In this context, it can be regarded as synonym for the word «democracy».
- Republic, in its current use, involves the election of the President of the State by the people directly or indirectly for a certain time.



"Sovereignty belongs, without any restrictions or conditions, to the nation"





- * While Republic existed as a regime of government in the 1923 Constitution, it was later expressed as the type of the state in the first clauses of the 1924, 1961 and 1982 Constitutions.
- * Republic as a form of state is the regime in which the sovereignty belongs to whole nation rather than to a person or a group.
- * Republic as a form of government is a regime that involves the election of President and Government Bodies rather than the hereditary transfer of power.



- * If the sovereignty is in the hands of a certain group, this is called as aristocratic republic.
- * When the sovereignty belongs to the whole nation, it is democratic republic or people's republic.
- * Democracy and Republic are two different terms. While democracy defines the content, Republic indicates a form.
- * Republicanism principle of the Kemalism is synonymous to the «democracy» for Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.



- Ataturk always treated the republic and democracy together and assumed the republic as a form of government with democracy.
- He expressed that the republic is in favour of the freedom of thoughts and all opinions would be welcome on condition that they are sincere and legitimate.
- The existence of an elected and fixed-term president constitutes the basis in the modern and democratic republics.
- Representative democracy and free elections are the main principles while the political parties are the indispensable institutions.



xlexw\$ls{ \$ i\$ sr\$li\$Vityfpg2



- * Another main principle of the republican governments is the division of power and check and balance in the state administration, which signifies the separation of executive, legislative and judicial powers.
- * Republican State is a state of law and therefore, the legislations by the National Assembly and the executive affairs are subject to the judicial review in terms of legality.
- * In the governments whose sovereignty is under the will of the people unconditionally, basic liberties such as freedom of conscience, freedom of thought, personal security, immunity of residence are accorded to the citizens as well as the basic rights of health, education, working and social security.



- «Republicanism» can be assumed as the natural consequence of the nationalism. If the sovereignty belongs to the nation, that means the administrators and the governance rules will also be determined by the people.
- Republicanism, at the same time, indicates the secularization of the political power and modernization of the political regime. Therefore, this principle is closely related to the Secularism as its drifting apart from the religion and to the Populism because of its basing the legitimacy on the people's support.
- «The State of Turkey is a Republic.» according to the first article of the Constitution.



The second article “The Republic of Turkey is a democratic, secular and social state governed by rule of law, within the notions of public peace, national solidarity and justice, respecting human rights, loyal to the nationalism of Atatürk, and based on the fundamental tenets set forth in the preamble”.

The third article, “The State of Turkey, with its territory and nation, is an indivisible entity. Its language is Turkish. ”.

- «The Basic Principles of the Republic» are determined in the second article. These are:
- 1. Basic Principles: The absolute superiority of the national will, division of powers, national unity and solidarity as well as national ideals.



2. Republicanism: It is the form of state in which Sovereignty, that is, the power and authority to govern the state, belongs to the nation.

3. Loyalty to the Ataturkist Nationalism: Ataturkist nationalist view describes an approach of modern nationalism to bring prosperity, peace and happiness to the Turkish nation.

4. Secularism: It is the reliance of laws regarding the state and people on the reasoning, science and societal needs.

5. State Respecting the Human Rights: The State accords the human rights to citizens as a constitutional and legal right.



- 6. Democratic State: Sovereignty, without any condition and reservation, belongs to the nation.
- 7. State of Law: The State applies laws to all citizens equally and fairly while all State applications are conducted in accordance with the rules of law.
- 8. Social State: It describes the equality of citizens of all languages, religions, sects, races, sexes and political views before the laws and the State adopts serving to the people as a duty.



Features of the Republicanism

- 1) The main principle in Republicanism is elections.
- 2) Republic is opposed to holding of offices for the life-time.
- 3) Sovereignty, without any condition and reservation, belongs to the nation in the Republicanism.
- 4) Republic is form of state, depending on the moral values.
- 5) Republicanism exists as «shall not be amended, nor shall their amendment be proposed.» in the Constitutiton.
- 6) Republican regime is a form of state together with democracy.
- 7) It is the most suitable form of government for the Turkish nation's character and traditions.



Revolutions as per the Principle of Republicanism

- 1. The formation of the Grand National Assembly
- 2. The making of the 1921 Constitution.
- 3. The abolishment of the Sultanate.
- 4. The declaration of the Republic.
- 5. The establishment of the political parties.
- 6. The seperation of the Army and Politics.
- 7. Enfranchisement of Woman (the vote and the right to hold office)



- The Advantages of the Republic for the Turkish Nation:
 - a. It enabled the equal involvement of the people in the state administration
 - b. It enabled the development and modernization of the Turkish society.
 - c. It created the necessary basis for the democracy.



Principle of Secularism (Laiklik)

- The word «laik» (Secular) was borrowed from French.
- The people who were not engaged with the religious affairs in the Christian Europe were called as «Laici» and therefore, it means «a person without religious title and authority.»
- Secularism emerged as a reaction to the centralist and oppressive system of the Catholic Church. The Church established a tight control over the society and individuals through the inquisition courts, excommunication, rigid moral and disciplinary rules.
- The intervention in the conscience and all parts of lives in the name of religion and the sect resulted in mass and individual tyrannies and massacres in the West.



- The Positivist philosophy carried out an influential fight against the Church by proving the Church's views on the creation of the universe and the world wrong.
- The Enlightenment, started by the contributions of the Reform and Renaissance, triggered a resistance against the pressure of the religious dogmas on the science, politics, art and philosophy. Secularism in this context spread to the whole Europe with the French Revolution.





- The immigrants, migrating to the United States due to the religious and oppression, incorporated the freedom of religion and nonreligious state into the 1776 American Constitution. «Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.»
- The French Revolution and the Bill of Rights in 1789 brought the rule that nobody can be condemned for their religion. Furthermore, religious ceremonies and rituals was limited with the obligation for the preservation of the public order.



- In the pre-Islamic Turkish states, secular principles can be said to have outweighed.
- Following to the acceptance of Islam, Turks shifted into the adoption of a theocratic state system.



- Ottoman Empire is commonly regarded as governed by the customary laws by the Sultan at the beginning and the theocratic character of the state was assumed to increase its influence gradually.
- The main principle in the theocratic Ottoman Empire was naturally the suitability with the Islamic Law. This law was exactly applied as the Ottoman private law.
- The Ottoman Law was not only comprised of the Islamic rules but also included the fatwa (opinion) which were obtained from the religious authority of the Empire upon the request of the Sultan and the Customary Laws of the Turkish traditions. This law system continued to be effective until the Tanzimat Era.



- However, while the Europeans gained pace in the scientific developments, Ottoman Empire confined in the vicious religious discussions on the changes.
- Printing Press could only enter into the Ottoman Empire after about three hundred years of delay. The reforms and secularization in the West could only reach the Ottoman Empire in the 18th Century.
- The Tanzimat changes were mainly based on the dual survival of the religious system and the Western laws.



- The first laws adopted by the Ottomans from the West were the Commerce Law of 1850 and Navigation Law of 1864.
- In 1862, the Law of Commerce Court Trial Procedure transferred from Western laws.
- While secular-based laws were adopted in the commercial law and trials, religious laws were still preserved in the family, inheritance issues.



- The existence of a dual system of law which was comprised of Western and religious laws and courts continued until the Republic.
- Therefore, Ataturk based the new state on a secular basis and his reforms aimed to integrate the secularity.



The Steps for the Secularism

- The Abolishment of the Sultanate (November 1, 1922) : The separation of the Caliphate and the Sultanate and the abolishment of the Sultanate on November 1, 1922, which eroded the power of the Caliphate.
- Abolishment of the Caliphate (March 3, 1924) : The abolishment of the Caliphate marked a significant step to the formation of Secular State.
- Law on Unity of Education (March 3, 1924) : All schools and educational institutions were centralized under the Ministry of National Education.



- The Abolishment of the Ministry of Religion and Foundations (March 3, 1924) : the Ministry of Religion and Foundations which was responsible for the religious review of the Laws was abrogated.
- Reforms in the Clothing (November 25, 1925): There was not a unity in the Ottoman Society which seemed as a jumble. The Hat Act was legislated to modernize the appearance of the Turkish people. Ataturk wore the hat for the first time in Kastamonu on August 23, 1925. This enabled the modernization of clothing, and the clothing jumble was overcome.
- The Closure of the Dervish Lodges, Zawiyahs and Shrines (November 30, 1925: These places were closed with this Act and all religious titles like Sheikh, Dervish and Disciple, their clothes were prohibited.



- Adoption of the Turkish Civil Code (February 17, 1926) : Turkish Civil Code regulates the personal rights and debts, formation, function and dissolution of the marriage, inheritance, property relations, interpersonal relations.
- Abolishment of the Article stating, “The religion of the State is Islam” (April 10, 1928).
- Alphabet Reform (November 1, 1928) : The adoption of the new Turkish Alphabet was enacted by the National Assembly in November 1928 thereby opening a new era in the culture and education of the Turkish nation. After the enactment of the law, «Nation Schools» were launched to teach the new alphabet to the masses. Mustafa Kemal was entitled as «Head Teacher of the Nation Schools» on November 24, 1928.



- Reforms in the Calendar, Measures and Time: Gregorien 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 adopte 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.
- The Surname Act (June 21, 1934) : People were identified and recognized by their fathers' name during the Ottoman times, and this used to create confusions in the public affairs. Thus, the Surname Act was adopted, which made it possible to;
- Recognize the people easily,
- All titles, nicknames and cognomens which implied class distinction were banned.
- Mustafa Kemal Pasha was surnamed as “Ataturk” by the Grand National Assembly.
- Amendment of the Secularism (February 5, 1937) : The amenment of the Secularism to the Constitution marks the completion of the reforms.



Principle of Populism (Halkçılık)

- *People: the entire body of persons who constitute a nation by virtue of a common culture, history and country
- * Populism means the follow of a policy in advantage of the people and familiarizing the people to the self governance. Thus, Populism is the natural consequence of the Republicanism and the Nationalism.
- *Populism has three complementary elements.





- 1. Equality of all citizens before the law: The State applies laws to all citizens equally and fairly while rejecting the all kinds of privileges to any group or person.
- 2. Political Democracy: Ataturk used the principle of democracy as synonymous to the Populism. Being a natural consequence of the national sovereignty principle, the Populism wants the contuance of the democracy in the state administration.
- 3. Rejection of the Class Conflicts and Social Cooperation: Populism which attaches importance to the fair distribution of income aims to ensure the social justice and social security. Furthermore, Populism rejects the class conflicts and regards all people equal.



The features of the Populism

- 1. It is closely related to the Republicanism and Nationalism.
- 2. It accepts the equality before the law.
- 3. It is directly related with the national sovereignty which is a complementary principle.
- 4. No groups and class has privileges in Populism.
- 5. Populism rejects the class conflicts and encourages the social cooperation.
- 6. Populism imposes obligations both for the state and the people in the economic area.





The Advantages of the Populism for the Turkish Nation

- a. Populism contributed the actualization of the national sovereignty and the improvement of democracy.
- b. Populism supported the peace in the society.
- c. Turkish people reached the opportunity to be involved in the state administration, equality before the law and benefitting from the state facilities equally.
- d. Halkçılık, kalkınmayı hızlandırmış, zayıf bir ekonomik mirastan bugünkü
- e. Populism accelerated the development and created the modern Turkey out of a weak economy.