



ISTANBUL  
**GELISIM**  
**UNIVERSITY**

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

**FOREIGN POLICY OF ATATURK ERA:  
POPULATION EXCHANGE, QUESTION OF FOREIGN SCHOOLS  
AND ANNEXATION OF HATAY**

**WEEK 11**

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## Foreign Policy of Ataturk Era



## Turkish-Greek Relations and Population Exchange

- The exchange of Turkish and Greek populations between Turkey and Greece was concluded at the Treaty of Lausanne.
- Only the Greeks in Istanbul, Bozcada (Tenedos) and Gökçeada (Imbros) in Turkey,
- And the Turks in the Western Thrace were exempt from the Population Exchange.
- Major part of th exchange were carried out in 1923-1924 but the procedure continued until the agreement between Venizelos and Inonu in 1930.
- Mustafa Kemal Ataturk constituted the basis for peace by inviting the Greek Prime Minister, Venizelos, to Turkey to start the Turkish-Greek rapproachment in 1930.
- Ataturk was nominated by Venizelos in 1934 for the Nobel Peace Prize.



Ataturk ve the Greek Prime Minister Venizelos (on the left)  
Ankara, October, 1932



- During the Population Exchange, the term «établies» which means «established, settled» caused disputes between the Turkish and Greek delegations.
- Greece demanded the exemption of every Greek who stayed temporarily for a short time in Istanbul before the Armistice of Mudros to increase the number of Greeks to remain in Istanbul.



The region of Thrace.



- However, Turkish Government opposed the Greek view by asserting that the establishment in Istanbul would be determined in accordance with the Turkish law. Furthermore, Turkish delegation expressed that the term «establi» would be valid only for the permanent residents.
- Even though this dispute was appealed to the International Court of Justice, but the Court could not solve the issue which resulting in a conflict between Turkey and Greece.
- When the Greek Government confiscated the properties of Turks in the Western Thrace, Turkish Government confiscated the Greek properties in Istanbul in return.



A group of exchanged people





- Creating a tension between governments, this dispute could only be resolved through a new agreement on June 10, 1930, whereby the population exchange was completed.
- This agreement removed the conflicts between two Governments, which also improved the bilateral relations and constituted a basis for the Balkan Entente.
- The Turkish-Greek amity continued until 1954 when the Cyprus Question incited new tensions.



A cartoon depicting the Population Exchange Era



## Patriarchate Question

- Another question which was negotiated at Lausanne was the place of the Patriarchate.
- While Ismet Pasha demanded the banishment of the Patriarchate from Turkey, Greece and other European states opposed this.
- Greece intervened in the Patriarchate elections on December 17, 1924. In this election, Terkos Metropolitan VI. Konstantinos Araoğlu who was born in Bursa was elected as the new Patriarch.
- Turkey objected this situation and decided to banish the Patriarchate.
- As Greece appealed to the International Court of Justice for this issue, Vasilios Yeorgiadis who was exempt from the Population Exchange was elected as Patriarch.
- This policy of Turkey was significant to indicate that the Patriarchate is a Turkish institution and other states should not interfere in the internal affairs of Turkey.



## Foreign Schools Problem

- Another problem that Turkish Government had to solve after the Lausanne Treaty was the Foreign School Problem.
- The foreign schools were concluded to be subject to the Turkish law and regulations as per the Lausanne Treaty and the education was resolved to be under the responsibility of Turkish Government.



- Turkish government made a regulation and adopted the resolution for the conducting of Turkish and history classes by the Turkish teachers.
- After the contradictory applications of the French schools, some of these had to be closed which aroused the reaction by the French Government. Upon the attempt of French and Papacy representatives to intervene in the situation, Turkish Government rejected this because it was perceived as an interference in the domestic affairs and only addressed the school administration.
- These problems caused in delays for the establishment of friendly relations between Turkish and French Governments.



## Relations with the Soviet Union

- Turkish-Soviet relations started with a letter from Mustafa Kemal to Lenin on April 26, 1922.
  - The letter emphasized the cooperative struggle against imperialism through the Soviet support for the movement in Anatolia. Ali Fuat Bey (Cebesoy) was assigned to Moscow on February 19, 1921. As a result of the bilateral negotiations, Treaty of Amity was signed on March 16, 1921.
- Soviet Russia closely interested in Turkey. Even though the Turkish leadership of the Nationalist Movement under Mustafa Kemal did not have the same views, they tolerated the Communist propaganda to provide support from the Soviets. Even a Turkish Communist Party was founded in Turkey.
- However, it was closed after posing threat for the movement.
- During the negotiations on the Turkish Straits at the Lausanne Conference, Soviet Russia was also invited. The Soviet Delegation declared a memorandum stating that the independence and sovereignty of Turkey particularly political and economic had to be recognized.



- During the Interwar Period, Turkish-Soviet relations developed under the influence of three main factors. These were commercial relations, communism issue and the improving Turkish-Western world relations.
- While the Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, Poland and Czechoslovakia signed the Treaty of Locarno on December 1, 1925, Turkey and Soviets signed a Treaty of Amity and Nonaggression on December 17, 1925.
- These cooperation continued until the World War II with the Treaties of Amity in 1927-1929 and Treaty of Commerce in 1934-1937.



## Relations with the Soviet Russia

- A Turkish Delegation headed by Ismet Inonu visited Russia in 1932 and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tevfik Rüstü Aras was also in the delegation as well as the Ministers of Agriculture, Health and Education. Inonu expresses his goal in this visit as:
- « I am returning from Turkey not as a communist but as more conscious. Making the economic and development plan of Turkey, establishing the revolution party of Turkey by modelling the communist and fascist, that is, the ones moving from the old order to new order, adopting revolutionary methods rather than bureaucratic, moving to the rehabilitation of the large mass.»
- These visits, comprising meetings for the discussions on economic and cultural relations, aimed to develop the bilateral relations in the changing world conditions.
- A Soviet Delegation under the leadership of Kliment Voroshilov visited Turkey in 1923 and joined the Tenth Year celebrations of the Republic.





**A Reception at the Soviet Embassy, Ankara, November 7, 1927**

## Annexation of Sancak (Hatay) (June 30, 1939)

- As per the Treaty of Ankara in 1921 between France and Government of Turkish National Assembly, Sancak Province which included Iskenderun and Hatay remained out of the Turkish borders even if they were included in the borders determined in the National Pact.
- However, Treaty of Ankara established and autonomous administration in this region in the Syrian Mandate of France. Therefore, the people in Sancak was freed to protect their Turkish.



Treaty of Ankara, 1921



- Furthermore, the Turkish currency was also used in Sancak. In accordance with the Treaty, an autonomous administration was established in Sancak on August 8, 1922.
- France accepted to remove the mandate regime on Syria and Lebanon and recognized the independence of these two countries in 1936.
- Thus, Sancak (Iskenderun and Hatay) entered under the rule of Syria which aroused concerns in Turkey. Saying «A Turkish land can not be left to the foreigner's hand.», Ataturk was determined to annex Hatay and Iskenderun.



Sancak under in Syria under the French Mandate



- Turkish Government sent note to League of Nations on October 6, 1936, and France on October 9, 1939 and demanded the recognition of the independence of Hatay just as Syria and Lebanon.
- However, France did not accept this and offered to appeal this issue to the League of Nations.
- \* Turkey and France conducted meetings through the League of Nations.



- Turkey and France came to an agreement in Geneva on May 29, 1937 and signed agreement to gurantee the territorial integrity of Hatay.
- The League of Nations ratified the constitution of Hatay on the same day. However, France raised difficulties in the application of the constitution due to the disagreements.
- After the agreement on the election system, the elections were decided to be held on July 15, 1938.

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سندجك اسكندرونه SANDJAK D'ALEXANDRETTE

البريد والبرق Postes & Télégraphes بوسه وتلغراف

الحكومة لاتحمل مسئولية ما من جراء المخاطر البرقية

حکومت تلغراف عماراتندن دولايي هيج بر مسئوليت قبول ايتيز

نومرو 84

تاريخ مهربى  
Timbre  
à date

L'Etat n'est soumis à aucune responsabilité à raison  
de la correspondance échangée par la voie télégraphiques

الاصدر مخبري ORIGINE	البرق نومرو Numéro	عدد الكلمات كه صايبي Nomb. et mots	التاريخ تاريخ Date	ساعة الاجداع نوديع ساعتي Heure de dépôt	الإشارات المحتمة محتمل اشارتير MENTIONS DE SERVICE
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@ Sizim icin Artan Raadet ve refuh  
dikerim

K. Ataturk

Ataturk'un telgrafi



- Contemporeuously, the war threats in Europe were rising. After the invasion of Austria by Germany in March, 1938, France needed a powerful Turkey in the Middle East against Germany and Italy.
- The importance of Turkish Straits grew as well because of the conflicts and crisis in Europe. Having to approach towards Turkey, France changed her attitude in the Hatay issue and the process continued for the benefit of Turkey. Subsequent to the agreement signed on July 4, 1938, the resolution in the Hatay issue was facilitated.





- After the election which was held following the Turkish-France rapprochement, The Parliament of the Hatay Turkish State held its first session on September 2, 1938, and adopted the name «Hatay Cumhuriyeti» [Republic of Hatay].
- Tayfur Sökmen was elected as the President and Abdurrahman was elected as the Speaker of the Parliament.
- However, the foundation of the independent Hatay was not sufficient as the Hatay authorities and people wanted to join in Turkey. Turkey welcomed this decision.



**President Tayfur Sökmen**



**Prime Minister Abdurrahman  
Melek**



**Speaker Abdülgani Türkmen**



- \* Nevertheless, the territorial integrity was under the guarantee of France and Turkey in accordance with the 1937 Agreement. Thus, the Hatay demand for the joining in Turkey created a problem between Turkey and France.
- \* However, the events taking place in Europe as of March, 1939 resulted in a new rapprochement between two states.
- \* Therefore, France had to accept the wish of the people in Hatay.

## Flag and Stamp of the Independent Hatay





- France and recognized the annexation of Sancak by Turkey in an agreement on June 23, 1939.
- Hatay State joined in Turkey with the unanimous resolution of the Hatay Parliament on June 29, 1939.
- The annexation of Hatay by Turkey was the last great success of Ataturk in the foreign policy.

T. C.  
P. T. T. U. M.

Devlet telegraf muhalefelerinin  
doları mesuliyet kabul etmez

276 Yol 1 No 251/3 1

Adres : *ap. turkhan* Servis işaretleri

*melak hatay elmenlik Cemiyeti  
genel merkezi Cağkani Bayraktar  
Zatallahi*

İLK MERKEZ	N	KELİME	VERİLDİĞİ		RESMİ	ORTA MERKEZ	ALINDIĞI		İMZA
			Tarih	Saat			Tarih	Saat	
<i>Ankara</i>	<i>H32</i>		<i>30/10</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>RESMİ</i>		<i>30/10</i>	<i>32/16</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>

*C- sığada kutlu olsun*

*R. ata türk*

Ataturk's telegram upon the adoption of flag which was suggested by Ataturk.



- Exerting much for the Hatay's joining in Turkey, Ataturk allocated most of his time to the resolution issue even without caring about his health in the last months of his life.
- As a consequence of his intellegent policy, this problem was resolved for the benefit of Turkey, thereby forming the Syrian-Turkish border.