



ISTANBUL
GELISIM
UNIVERSITY

ATATURK'S PRINCIPLES AND HISTORY OF TURKISH REVOLUTION I

**THE TURKISH WAR OF INDEPENDENCE:
WAR FRONTS – WESTERN FRONT
(İNÖNÜ BATTLES AND KÜTAHYA-ESKİŞEHİR BATTLE)**

WEEK 12

Assc. Prof. Ercan KARAKOÇ

Stages of Turkish War of Independence





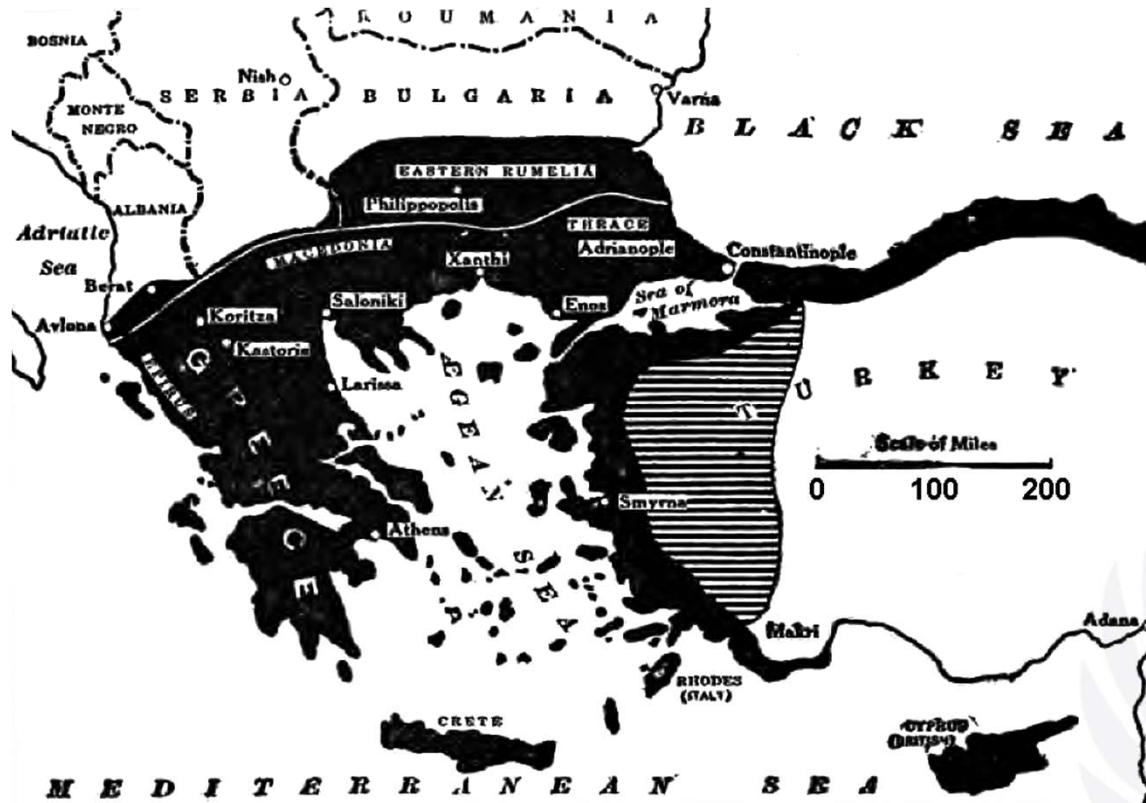
The Independence War

- The main struggle of the Independence War took place in the Western Front against the Greek Army having landed in Smyrna (Izmir) on May 15, 1919.
- In May 1920, the Allies handed over the draft of the Peace Treaty including severe and devastating articles which actually degrading the Empire to a small state in the northern part of Anatolia.
- To force the Ottoman Government to sign the peace, the Greek Army started a new campaign on June 22, 1920 and invaded Balıkesir, Bursa, Uşak and the Eastern Thrace (Doğu Trakya).



Greek soldiers in Smyrna, May 1919.

Megali Idea – Great Idea



Map of Megali Idea



Inonu Battles (January 6-10, 1921, and March 26-31, 1921)

- To counter the Greek occupation, the National Forces attacked on the Greek forces under the command of Ali Fuad Pasha.
- However, this offensive failed and Ismet Bey took over the northern part of the Western Front and Refet Pasha the southern section.
- This failure accelerated the establishment of the regular army which would be subject to the orders by the trained army officers and the National Assembly.



Ali Fuat Pasha
First Western Front Commander





Ismet Pasha
Second Western Front Commander

- The first test of the new Turkish Army occurred in the first days of 1921 and Ismet Bey countered the Greek Forces trying to take advantage of the munty of a former famous resistance chief, Ethem Bey.
- The clashes continued from January 6 to 10, 1921 and ended with the retreat of the Greek forces to their previous line.
- Although this marked the temporary halt of the Greek advancement, the gains of the Ankara Government could be evaluated as invaluable.
- The credibility of the new Army increased before the Assembly and the nation.



- The New Turkish Army got the first success while the Ankara Government won remarkable international achievements of the Moscow Treaty with the Soviets and a Treaty of Amity with Afghanistan.
- More importantly, the Allies invited the Istanbul and Ankara Government to London Conference to discuss peace.
- Even though, the Conference failed to create a peace agreement, the Ankara Government managed to declare their intentions of peace and to gain recognition by the Allies.

The Treaty of Moscow (1921)

- The Treaty of Moscow was a peace treaty between the National Assembly of Turkey, under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal, and the Soviet Russia, under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin, signed on 16 March 1921.
- Two governments undertook to establish friendly relations between the countries.
- Turkey ceded Batum to Soviets.



Turkish committee members Rıza Nur, Yusuf Kemal Bey, Ali Fuad Paşa together with Russian members Georgy Chicherin and Celalettin Korkmazov.

- After the failure of the London Conference, the Greek Army initiated another offensive from Bursa and Uşak to Afyon and Eskisehir which are close to Ankara.
- The forces of Ismet Pasha confronted the Greek Army at the north and southern forces of Refet Pasha near Afyon.
- After 8-day-long battles, the Turkish Army recaptured Afyon and compelled the Greek Army to retreat beyond Inonu one more time.



Refet Pasha



- Moreover, the French Army withdrew its forces in the northern Anatolia and Italian forces started to evacuate the southern Anatolia.
 - A worth note is that Turkish and Italian forces never fought with each other during the Turkish War of Independence.
- The French sent a representative to Ankara to discuss a separate peace which was the first attempt by a member of an Allied power.
- This victory also resulted in the merging of the command of the Western Front under Ismet Pasha.



Kutahya-Eskisehir Battles (July 10-24, 1921)

- After two unsuccessful attacks on Eskisehir and Afyon, the Greek Army started to gather more soldiers and attained to provide more guns from the British.
- This time, the Greek offensive was directed towards the southern part of the Turkish front which was relatively less fortified and soon occupied Afyon, Kutahya and Eskisehir.
- As a result, the Turkish Army had to retreat beyond the Sakarya River to form a natural shelter to gain strength.
- This defeat resulted in the change of the superiors of the Western Turkish Army.
- Mustafa Kemal Pasha and Fevzi Pasha took the command of the army in hand.
- Italy and France paused their evacuation from the occupied places and preferred to wait for the further results of the clashes between Turkey and Greece.
- The National Assembly in Ankara witnessed severe arguments and accusations to the Government.
- The Greek advance to the inner Anatolia even forced the Deputies to discuss the possible evacuation of Ankara to Kayseri.





King Constantine, decorating the victorious war flags outside
Kütahya, 1921