



ISTANBUL  
**GELISIM**  
**UNIVERSITY**

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

## **ATATURKIST IDEOLOGY SYSTEM**

WEEK 6

Assoc. Prof. Ercan KARAKOÇ



## The Definition and Importance of Ataturkist Ideology System

- **Ataturkist Ideology System, otherwise known Kemalist ideology system,** is a worldview which is comprised of Ataturk's thoughts.
- Realistic ideas about the the administration, intellectuality, economic life, basic social rules, state regime and function, whose foundations were laid by Ataturk are called as **Ataturkism**.
- In other words, Ataturkism is the ideal and struggle to create a community/society in which the science an the reasoning prevails as based on political and ideological indepedence thereby bringing the nation into the level above the civilization, which they deserve without the loss of social and historical personality.



- Ataturkism advises the Turkish nation to have an absolute independence now and in the future as well as peace and prosperity while stressing the national sovereignty over the state administration.
- Ataturkist ideology system has a great contribution in the modernization of the nation and the participation of the individuals in the state administration. The revolutions which were arisen from this ideology system enabled the Turkish Nation to improve and develop in every field.
  - All our citizens obtained the right to elect and to elected thanks to these revolutions.
- In Ataturkist Ideology System, Sovereignty, without any condition and reservation, belongs to the nation (Egemenlik kayıtsız şartsız millete aittir).
  - There is no force over the National Will.



"Sovereignty belongs, without any restrictions or conditions, to the nation" is embossed behind the speaker's seat at the Turkish Grand National Assembly



- National Will is prevalent in the state administration. Thus, the involvement and participation of the nation in the governance has an important place in the Ataturks Ideology System.
- Total independence, peace and prosperity of the nation, governance based on the national will, reaching over the civilization under the guidance of reasoning and science constitute the Ataturkish Ideology System.
- Ataturk always prioritized the reasoning and scientific values in solving of the social problems and he conducted all his revolutions on this basis.
  - Because, this system of ideology is the part of the whole which determines the features, duties and function of the Republic of Turkey.



Mustafa Kemal Ataturk  
while adressing the people in Bursa in 1924.

- The Turkish Grand National Assembly added Ataturk's Principles and Revolutions to the Constitution through a legislation on February 5, 1937.
- So Republicanism, Nationalism, Populism, Statism, Secularism and Revolutionizm which are the basic features of the Republic of Turkey were secured under the Constitution as a guarantee of the modern Turkey.



The Six Arrows represent the fundamental pillars of Kemalism  
Turkey's founding ideology.

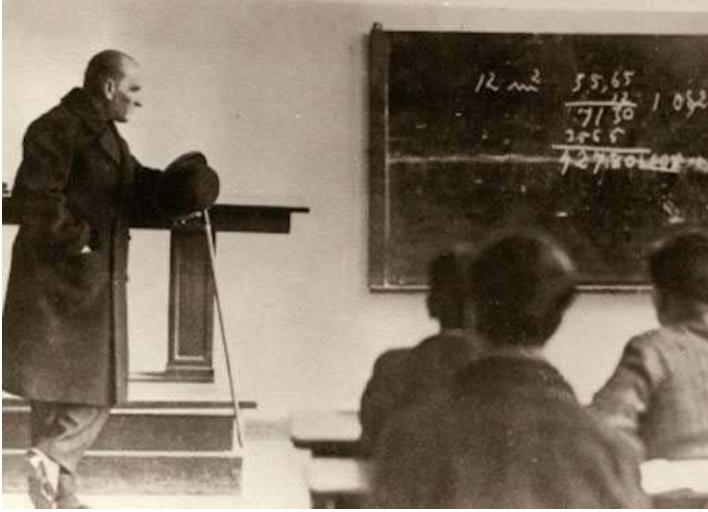
## Reasons for the Formation of Ataturkist Ideology System

- The world of thinking of Ataturk was shaped by the conditions in the atmosphere he grew up.
- Ataturk began to form his thinking system during his life's earlier times and the preparatory period continued until maturation.
- The completion of this first phase continued until the start of the World War I.
  - The finalization of this thinking system which had its roots in his youth coincided with the end of the World War I.
- Ataturkist Ideology System can be studied in two levels.
  - The first level when the Ataturkist Ideology System started to arise/appear
  - The second level when the Ataturkist Ideology System matured.



Mustafa Kemal Atatürk  
with the Six Arrows on his collar





Mustafa Kemal is in a Maths class  
in Izmir Males High School  
on February 1, 1931.



Ataturk is in the library of Çankaya Palace  
on July 16, 1929.



- The influence of his/her environment is crucial in the formation of the personality and thoughts of a leader.
- The effects of Ataturk's social background, his family and his innate sense of independence had a vital role in the formation of Ataturkist Ideology System.
  - Salonica was an important seaport where different views and many political concepts emerged due to its social structure as well as having an intensive trade flow.
  - Salonica in which Mustafa Kemal spent most of his childhood and youth was one of the most influenced regions in the Empire by the developments in Europe. Hence, Non-Muslim societies often revolted against the State.
- Ataturk was influenced by some intellectuals in his youth.
  - Among the most important of these, Namık Kemal, Ziya Gökalp, Mehmet Emin Yurdakul and Tefvik Fikret can be cited.
  - Influenced by the Namık Kemal's ideas about the homeland and the nation, Mustafa Kemal developed an idea of salvation through Turkism and foundation of a Turkish State based on the national will as a result of the influences of Ziya Gökalp and Mehmet Emin Yurdakul.



Ziya Gökalp



Namık Kemal



Tevfik Fikret



Mehmet Emin Yurdakul



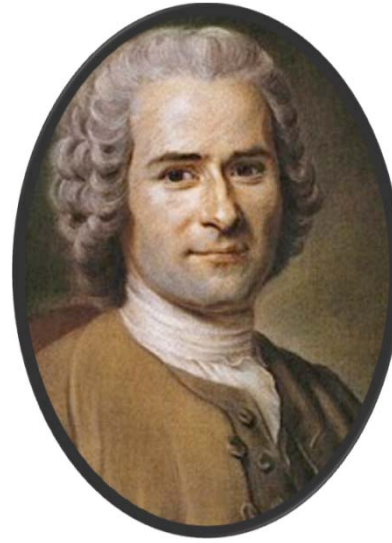
- There were also foreign intellectuals having influence on Ataturk's ideas.
  - Jean Jacques Rousseau, Voltaire, Montesquieu, Descartes (Dekart) and Kant contributed to the formation of Ataturk's thinking.
- Ataturk closely followed the social, cultural, economic and military problems of the Ottoman Empire from his youth onwards.
- He sought ways to solve the problems of the Ottoman Empire. Therefore, he produced solutions by inspecting the political, economic, social, cultural and scientific developments in the world.
- He was influenced by the ideological movements of Equality, Freedom and Nationalism which rose after the French Revolution.
  - He realized that the French Revolution resulted in fundamental changes in the politics and the movement of thoughts arising from the Revolution deeply influenced the whole world.
- He recognized the reformation of the political and economic relations by the Industrial Revolution, collapse of the multinational empires because of the nationalist movements and the remarkable evolution of science and technology.



Voltaire



Montesquieu



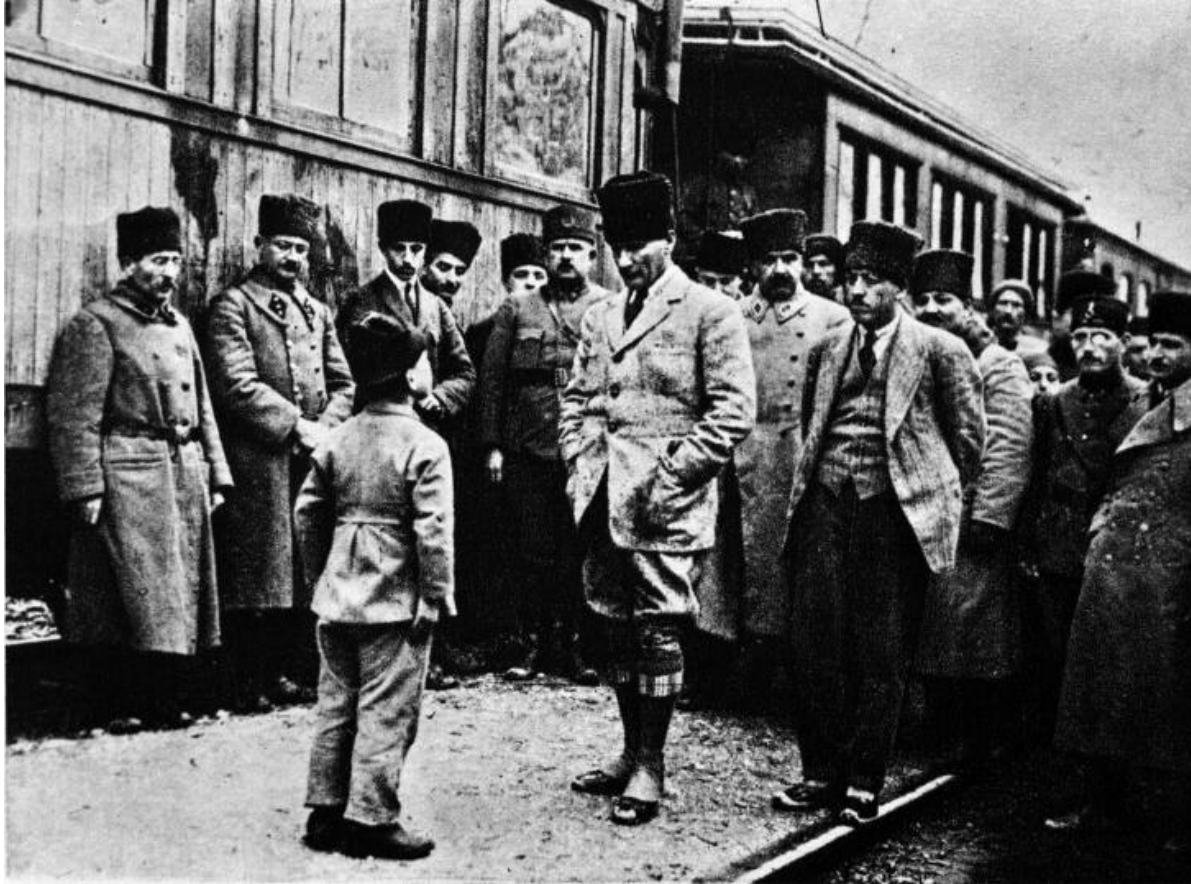
Jean  
Jacquese  
Rousseau



Descartes



- Ataturkist Ideology System is based on the independence, peace and prosperity of Turkish nation and national will in the governance of the state.
- Mustafa Kemal carried out all reforms after the Republic in consideration of the reasoning and science.
- One of the most important goals of the Ataturkish Ideology System is to carry the national culture above the level of the modern world.
- Ataturk studied the economic development models which emerged with the Industrial Revolution.
- Ataturk started reforms and revolutions to develop the country above the civilization.



A child, reading a poem for Mustafa Kemal Pasha (Vezirhan, January 16, 1923)



## What are the features of Ataturkism?

- Ataturkism leans on the national culture which was formed in thousands of years.
- Depending on reasoning and science, placing utmost importance on individual rights and freedom and aiming to protect the peace in the world, Ataturkist Ideology System has therefore universal and modern features.
- **Ataturkism arised from the needs of the Turkish Nation.**
- **Under the basis of Ataturkism lays Turkish National Culture.**
- **Under the basis of Ataturkism lays the universal values.**
- Ataturkism leans on reasoning and science.
- Ataturkism is distinctive.
- Ataturkism is a whole.





Mustafa Kemal,  
the founder of Modern Turkey,  
with the Istanbul University  
students.



Mustafa Kemal,  
addressing the Republican People's Party Congress on  
May 9, 1935