



ISTANBUL
GELISIM
UNIVERSITY

ATATURK'S PRINCIPLES AND HISTORY OF TURKISH REVOLUTION II

STATISM AND REVOLUTIONISM (REFORMISM)

WEEK 8

Assoc. Prof. Ercan KARAKOÇ



Statism

The revolution to constitute a sound basis for the national economy has been stated as «Statism» in Ataturkist Ideology.

- «No matter how great the politic and military victories are, they are to fade away soon unless they are crowned with economic successes.
- «The statism that we follow deems the state responsible for the economy which is crucial for the general and supreme benefits of the nation to create welfare for the nation and to construct a civilization for the country as well as depending primarily on the individual work and efficiency.»

MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATÜRK



- Statism should be assessed in connection with the Populism. How would a nation who was poor and uncared for centuries develop and reach the life standards they deserve.
- How the developed Western peoples reached this level was known. They formed capital through exploiting not only the colonies but also their people. Turkey was an underdeveloped country. The Populism was against the formation of capital at the expense of the people and keep the nation impoverished for more generations for the development.



- Atatürk says:
- *What I want is to have home affairs discussed in the Grand National Assembly. There is no affair that could not be discussed at the Grand National Assembly before the eyes of the Turkish nation. 1930 (Asım Us, G.D.D., p. 132)
- *Benim istediğim sadece memleket işlerinin Büyük Millet Meclisinde açıkça münakaşa edilmesidir. Büyük Millet Meclisinde Türk milletinin gözü önünde açıkça konuşulamayacak hiçbir iş yoktur. 1930 (Asım Us, G.D.D., S. 132)



- The private sector was expected and encouraged to invest between 1923-1929 but the businesspeople did not have neither the necessary funds and the required experience and know-how.
- The Great Depression of 1929 which swept the world marked the failure of the liberal economy policies. Thus, the Ataturk's administration adopted «the Statism» to develop the country and reach the level of the civilized nations.
- By this way, while the manufacturing capacity rose and industries emerged, the distribution of income would be conducted fairly, and the people would be protected from pressure of the rising business powers.



- Statism meant the leadership of the State for a rapid economic growth. The State would lead the economy and plan the rationalist use of the limited resources.
- The state would invest and operate in the sectors that the private sector did not have interest, succeed as well as the sectors that were evaluated as public welfare.
- Turkey experienced two great advantages of the Statism: On the one hand, the economic growth was fast thanks to the infrastructure and industrial investments, on the other hand, the Turkish working class did not sacrifice some generations that incur the inhumane working conditions in the West.



- The Statism of Turkey was not a system which was translated and transferred from the socialist theoreticians since the 19th Century. This system emerged from the local needs of Turkey, and it is unique to Turkey.
- Statism involved the intervention state into the economy and industry by basing on the individuals' private enterprises and personal acts; but by taking the needs and deficiencies of the fatherland. Turkish State wanted to realize, immediately, the things which could not be formed for centuries; and it did succeed in this.



- The Planned Economy in Turkey started on April 17, 1933 with the acceptance of the 1st Five Year Industrial Plan. Having an investment amount of more than 100 Million Liras, the 1st Five Year Industrial Plan attained to open 20 factories before due date.
- Turkey, thanks to the planned industrialization period, become self-sufficient in sugar, cement, lumber, rubber and leather in 1939. In addition, Turkey started to supply %43 of cotton fabrics, %83 of wool products, %32 of paper and cardboard, %70 of sulphur, %63 of glassware for the domestic consumption. Furthermore, the copper import was over, and Turkey ranked 2nd in the chrome production.

- Atatürk says,
The nation has no master. What is essential, is to give service. He, who serves the nation, becomes its master. 1921 (Atatürk's S.D. I. P. 195)

Millete efendilik yoktur. Hizmet etme vardır. Bu millete hizmet eden, onun efendisi olur. 1921

(Atatürk'ün S.D. I, S. 195)





- The Public Economic Enterprises which were established in accordance with the Statism were: Etibank, Sumerbank, Mining Research and Exploration Institute, Geology Institute, Electricity Work Research Administration, Emlak Eytam Bank etc.



The Definition of Revolution

- Revolution means the fundamental and sudden changes in the political power and system of a country.



The Definition of the Turkish Revolution

- Turkish Revolution comprised the removal of the institutions and structures which were responsible for the underdevelopment of the country and establishment of the new structures which would contribute to the development of the nation.

Atatürk says:

A destructed country on the edge of the cliff ... Bloody battles against many enemies ... Year long war ... And then, a new motherland, a new society, a new government that are esteemed at home and abroad, and continuous revolutions to reach these goals ... Here is a summary of the Turkish revolution. 1935 (Atatürk's S. D. I, p. 365)

Uçurum kenarında yıkık bir ülke... Türlü düşmanlarla kanlı boğuşmalar.. Yıllarca süren savaş... Ondan sonra, içerde ve dışarda saygı ile tanınan yeni vatan, yeni sosyete, yeni devlet ve bunları başarmak için arasız inkılâplar.. İşte Türk genel inkılâbının bir kısa ifadesi... 1935 (Atatürk'ün S.D. I, S. 365)





Revolutionism or Reformism

«Effendys, the goal of the revolutions which we have achieved and are having is to transfrom the Turkish nation into a modern civilized nation.»

MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATÜRK
(ATATÜRKÇÜLÜK 1. KİTAP S.115)

Reformisim : Atatürk

replaced traditional institutions
with modern institutions.

Traditional concepts were
eliminated and modern concepts
were adopted. Through

Reformism, Turkey can reach the
level of contemporary civilization.





If I have a great power and authority, I devise the application of the social revolution with a sudden impact. (1918)

MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATÜRK
(ATATÜRKÇÜLÜK 1. KİTAP S.117)

Reformisim : Here are some reforms Atatürk carried out:

- * abolition of the caliphate
- * abolition of the sultanate
- * secularization of the state
- * centralization of the educational system
- * works on Turkish history



Reformisim :

- * civil rights for women
- * the language revolution,
Turkish alphabet (modified Latin
form)
- * the clothing reform
- * adoption of International time,
weights, measures, holidays and
calendar system.

