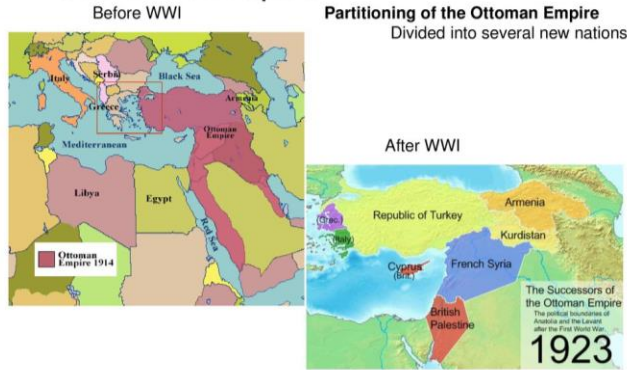


Aim #2: How did Ataturk rule and transform Turkey?



Ottoman Empire



Mini Lecture

- **Mustafa Kemal** (aka “**Ataturk**”, father of the Turks) established the republic of Turkey in 1923 after four years of armed struggle against the Ottomans. As a nationalist, he became its first president, but acted like a dictator-“for the people, despite the people” was his motto.
- He set up a one-party system & made reforms without putting them to a vote. He also refused to allow ethnic minorities (Kurds & Armenians) to set up their own states.
- He silenced and arrested critics-fired professors critical of his party. He censored (& shut down) newspapers & seized all private radio stations.
- Nonetheless, Ataturk established a solid framework for a future democratic-style government. He achieved this by separating religion and the state. This change meant that the legal system was based on European, rather than Islamic law.
- Ataturk instituted reforms of **modernization & westernization** which transformed Turkey from a traditional, weak Middle Eastern country into a modern, secular, Western-style country.
- The state took over the schools and allowed them to teach the same subject that were taught in modern European schools.
- Women no longer had to stay in seclusion as required by some interpretation of Islamic law. Women were allowed to vote. European law, rather than Islamic code, governed marriage. Men could only have one wife. Women could sue for divorce.
- Ataturk also adopted cultural changes which brought Turkey nearer to the West in every day life:
 - He ordered people to wear Western-style clothes, banning the **fez** & turbans. Discouraged hijabs & veils.
 - He replaced Arabic script with a new Turkish alphabet based on Roman letters.
 - Most important, his government sponsored industrialization (by building factories & railroads), which brought higher employment, larger cities, and a new spirit of progress & independence in Turkey.
- Some Turks opposed Ataturk’s efforts to reduce Islam’s influence in Turkey. Many Muslims wanted their country to be ruled by Islamic tradition & law. They formed an Islamic party and worked against **secularization**. Tensions between Islamists and secularists increased in the early 21st century.
- After Ataturk’s death in 1938, the army took on the role of protecting the Turkish government’s status as a secular republic.

Six Principles of Kemalism



- Republicanism
- Populism
- Secularism
- Nationalism
- Etatism
- Revolutionarism



For the People ~ Despite the People
THE ATATÜRK REVOLUTION



Before Ataturk

After Ataturk



Review Questions:

1. How did Ataturk rule the new Turkish republic?
2. What reforms did Ataturk implement to transform Turkey?
3. Why were some Turks against the reforms made by Ataturk?

Enduring Issue:

Modernization (Secularization) Vs. Traditionalism

Ataturk: Compare and Contrast Points of View

Directions: Read both documents below and compare and contrast the points of view of each document concerning Ataturk.

Document 1

From the website of the Atatürk Society of America (ASA), <http://www.ataturk-society.org/about-ataturk/>. The ASA describes itself as “an independent non-profit organization founded in 1995 in Washington DC, with the objective of promoting the ideals of Atatürk’s political legacy.”

“M. Kemal Atatürk was a national leader who founded the present Republic of Turkey, and who introduced sweeping reforms to the nation. As a reformist and modernist with unparalleled vision, he ended the theocratic regime of the Ottoman Empire, and founded a democratic republican nation state. He launched a cultural reform to put the new Turkish nation on an equal footing with, as he called it, ‘the contemporary civilization.’ He was a universally recognized military genius who put an end to the centuries old colonialism of European powers by defeating them at their plan designed by Britain to annihilate the Turkish nation. Viewed in an international perspective, he achieved a radical political and cultural transformation in less than twenty years, at a time when the bad peace settlements of World War I created dictators, national socialism, fascism, and communism in most of Europe. Therefore, his victory over theocracy and colonialism stands as a matchless example for democracy and for the free world, respectively.”

Document 2

From M. Şükrü Hanioglu, *Atatürk: An Intellectual Biography* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2011), 231-232. Hanioglu is a Turkish professor of late Ottoman history at Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey.

“The radicalism of Atatürk’s [reform] program led to the authoritarian character of his politics. Like many other transformative state builders, he harbored little tolerance for dissent or criticism. He regarded the Republican People’s Party [CHP] as his main agent of reform and insisted on its hegemony. Like the CUP leaders who had abandoned democratic politics when it jeopardized their program, Mustafa Kemal resorted to single-party rule in order to execute his agenda without compromise.... [I]n his eyes...all measures were permissible to assure its success.... In his single-minded efforts to realize his utopia, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk brought about a drastic reshaping of Turkish state and society. Neither Turkey nor the Muslim world will ever be the same again.”

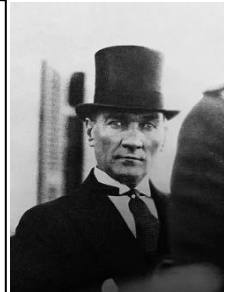
How did Atatürk change Turkey?

Directions: Read the excerpt below and answer the accompanying questions.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881-1938) was an army officer who founded an independent Republic of Turkey as the Ottoman Empire was falling. He served as Turkey’s first president from 1923 until his death in 1938. He is most well known for implementing **reforms to modernize** Turkey. These reforms rapidly **secularized and westernized** the country.

A reform is a change designed to improve society. Atatürk’s reforms were influenced by ideas of modernization, secularization, and westernization.

Mustafa Kemal [Atatürk] was a **secular nationalist** who believed that all the inheritance of the Ottoman Empire should be abandoned and Turkey should be transformed into a modern European state. This involved less of a sudden break with the past than might appear. The Tanzimat reforms [between 1839 and 1876] had laid the foundations of a secular state, and the Young Turks, even while attempting to preserve the empire, had given a powerful impetus [motivation] to the cause of Turkish nationalism. During the war years [1914–1918], the secularization of education had proceeded and the universities and public positions had been opened to women. Certain of the law courts under the control of the religious authorities had been placed under the Ministry of Justice. A law in 1916 had reformed marriage and divorce....



Modernize	Secularize	Westernize
Modernization is the transformation from a traditional and rural society to a secular, urban and industrial society.	Secularization is a process in which religion loses social and cultural significance.	Westernization is the process of adopting or being influenced by the cultural, economic, or political systems of Europe and North America

1. According to Peter Mansfield, what did Mustafa Kemal Atatürk believe Turkey should be transformed into?
2. According to Peter Mansfield, what is one reform made by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk?

Atatürk as President

Even before he became president, Greece agreed to send some 380,000 Muslims to Turkey in exchange for over 1 million Greek Orthodox practitioners. Meanwhile, under Mustafa Kemal, the forced emigration of Armenians continued. Although Turkey was now almost homogeneously Muslim, Mustafa Kemal deposed the caliph, the theoretical successor to the prophet Muhammad and spiritual leader of the worldwide Muslim community. He also closed all religious courts and schools, prohibited the wearing of headscarves among public sector employees, abolished the ministry of canon law and pious foundations, lifted a ban on alcohol, adopted the Gregorian calendar in place of the Islamic calendar, made Sunday a day of rest instead of Friday, changed the Turkish alphabet from Arabic letters to Roman ones, mandated that the call to prayer be in Turkish rather than Arabic and even forbade the wearing of fez hats.

Mustafa Kemal’s government espoused industrialization and adopted new law codes based on European models. “The civilized world is far ahead of us,” he told an audience in October 1926. “We have no choice but to catch up.” Eight years later, he required all Turks to choose a surname, selecting Atatürk (literally Father Turk) as his own. By that time, Atatürk’s government had joined the **League of Nations**, improved literacy rates and given women the right to vote, though in practice he essentially imposed single-party rule. He also closed opposition newspapers, suppressed leftist workers’ organizations and bottled up any attempts at Kurdish autonomy.

History.com

3. What are examples of Atatürk’s reforms that secularized Turkey?
4. What are examples of Atatürk’s reforms that westernized Turkey?