**Turkey** ([Turkish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_language" \o "Turkish language): *Türkiye* [[ˈtyɾcije]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Turkish)), officially the **Republic of Turkey** (Turkish: *Türkiye Cumhuriyeti* [[ˈtyɾcije dʒumˈhuɾijeti]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Turkish) ([About this sound](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Tur-T%C3%BCrkiye_Cumhuriyeti.ogg)[listen](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/37/Tur-T%C3%BCrkiye_Cumhuriyeti.ogg))), is a [transcontinental](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_transcontinental_countries) country located mainly in [Western Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Asia), with a smaller portion on the [Balkan Peninsula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkan_Peninsula" \o "Balkan Peninsula) in [Southeast Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southeast_Europe" \o "Southeast Europe). [East Thrace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Thrace), located in Europe, is separated from [Anatolia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anatolia" \o "Anatolia) by the [Sea of Marmara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_of_Marmara" \o "Sea of Marmara), the [Bosphorous strait](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosphorous_strait" \o "Bosphorous strait) and the [Dardanelles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dardanelles) (collectively called the [Turkish Straits](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_Straits" \o "Turkish Straits)). Turkey is bordered by [Greece](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greece" \o "Greece) and [Bulgaria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulgaria" \o "Bulgaria) to its northwest; [Georgia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgia_(country)) to its northeast; [Armenia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenia), the [Azerbaijani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azerbaijan" \o "Azerbaijan) [exclave](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exclave" \o "Exclave) of [Nakhchivan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nakhchivan_Autonomous_Republic" \o "Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic) and [Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran) to the east; and [Iraq](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq) and [Syria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria" \o "Syria) to the south. [Ankara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ankara) is its capital but [Istanbul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Istanbul) is the country's largest city.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey#cite_note-8) Approximately 70 to 80 per cent of the country's citizens identify as [Turkish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_people" \o "Turkish people). [Kurds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurds_in_Turkey) are the largest minority; the size of the Kurdish population is a subject of dispute with estimates placing the figure at anywhere from 12 to 25 per cent of the population.

At various points in its history, the region has been inhabited by diverse civilizations including the [Assyrians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assyrian_people" \o "Assyrian people), [Greeks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greece" \o "Ancient Greece), [Thracians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thracians" \o "Thracians), [Phrygians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phrygians), [Urartians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urartians" \o "Urartians), and [Armenians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenians" \o "Armenians). [Hellenization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenization) started during the era of [Alexander the Great](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great" \o "Alexander the Great) and continued into the [Byzantine era](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_era" \o "Byzantine era). The [Seljuk Turks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seljuk_Turks" \o "Seljuk Turks) began migrating into the area in the 11th century, and their victory over the Byzantines at the [Battle of Manzikert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Manzikert" \o "Battle of Manzikert) in 1071 symbolizes the start and foundation of Turkey. The [Seljuk Sultanate of Rûm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sultanate_of_R%C3%BBm" \o "Sultanate of Rûm) ruled Anatolia until the [Mongol invasion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongol_invasions_of_Anatolia) in 1243, when it disintegrated into small [Turkish principalities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anatolian_beyliks" \o "Anatolian beyliks). Beginning in the late 13th-century, the [Ottomans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_dynasty) started uniting these Turkish principalities. After [Mehmed II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mehmed_II) conquered [Constantinople](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fall_of_Constantinople) in 1453, Ottoman expansion continued under [Selim I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selim_I). During the reign of [Suleiman the Magnificent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suleiman_the_Magnificent" \o "Suleiman the Magnificent) the [Ottoman Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) encompassed much of Southeast Europe, West Asia and [North Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Africa" \o "North Africa) and became a world power. In the following centuries the state entered a period of decline with a gradual loss of territories and wars. In an effort to consolidate the weakening social and political foundations of the empire, [Mahmut II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahmud_II) started a period of modernisation in the early 19th century, bringing reforms in all areas of the state including the military and bureaucracy along with the emancipation of all citizens.

In 1913, a [coup d'état](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1913_Ottoman_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat) effectively put the country under the control of the [Three Pashas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Pashas" \o "Three Pashas). During [World War I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I), the Ottoman government committed [genocides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genocides_in_history" \l "Ottoman_Empire" \o "Genocides in history) against its [Armenian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_Genocide" \o "Armenian Genocide), [Assyrian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assyrian_genocide" \o "Assyrian genocide) and [Pontic Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_genocide" \o "Greek genocide) subjects. Following the war, the conglomeration of territories and peoples that formerly comprised the Ottoman Empire was [partitioned](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partition_(politics)" \o "Partition (politics)) into [several new states](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partition_of_the_Ottoman_Empire" \o "Partition of the Ottoman Empire). The [Turkish War of Independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_War_of_Independence" \o "Turkish War of Independence), initiated by [Mustafa Kemal Atatürk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mustafa_Kemal_Atat%C3%BCrk) and his colleagues against occupying [Allied Powers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_I" \o "Allies of World War I), resulted in the [abolition of monarchy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abolition_of_the_Ottoman_sultanate) in 1922 and the establishment of the Republic of Turkey in 1923, with Atatürk as its first president. Atatürk enacted [numerous reforms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atat%C3%BCrk%27s_reforms" \o "Atatürk's reforms), many of which incorporated various aspects of [Western](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_culture) thought, philosophy, and customs into the new form of Turkish government. The [Kurdish–Turkish conflict](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurdish%E2%80%93Turkish_conflict_(1978%E2%80%93present)), an armed conflict between the Republic of Turkey and [Kurdish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurdish_people" \o "Kurdish people) insurgents, has been active since 1984 primarily in the southeast of the country. Various Kurdish groups demand [separation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnic_separatism" \o "Ethnic separatism) from Turkey to create an independent [Kurdistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurdistan) or to have [autonomy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autonomy" \o "Autonomy) and greater [political and cultural rights for Kurds in Turkey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_of_Kurdish_people_in_Turkey" \o "Human rights of Kurdish people in Turkey).

Turkey is a charter member of the [UN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations), an early member of [NATO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO), the [IMF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund) and the [World Bank](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Bank), and a founding member of the [OECD](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_for_Economic_Co-operation_and_Development), [OSCE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organization_for_Security_and_Co-operation_in_Europe), [BSEC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organization_of_the_Black_Sea_Economic_Cooperation), [OIC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation) and [G-20](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G20). After becoming [one of the first members](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Member_states_of_the_Council_of_Europe) of the [Council of Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Europe) in 1949, Turkey became an [associate member](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ankara_Agreement" \o "Ankara Agreement) of the [EEC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Economic_Community) in 1963, joined the [EU Customs Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union_Customs_Union) in 1995 and started [accession negotiations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accession_of_Turkey_to_the_European_Union) with the [European Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union" \o "European Union) in 2005 which have been effectively stopped by the EU in 2017 due to "Turkey's path toward autocratic rule".Turkey's economy and diplomatic initiatives led to its recognition as a [regional power](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional_power" \o "Regional power) while its location has given it geopolitical and strategic importance throughout history. Turkey is a [secular](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secular_state" \o "Secular state), [unitary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitary_state" \o "Unitary state), formerly [parliamentary republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_republic" \o "Parliamentary republic) which adopted a [presidential system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_system" \o "Presidential system) with a [referendum in 2017](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_constitutional_referendum,_2017); the new system came into effect with the [presidential election in 2018](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_presidential_election,_2018" \o "Turkish presidential election, 2018). Turkey's current administration headed by president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of the AKP has enacted measures to increase the influence of [Islam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam" \o "Islam), reversed and undermined [Kemalist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kemalism" \o "Kemalism) policies, and has reversed earlier reforms such as [freedom of the press](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_the_press).

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:G%C3%B6bekli_Tepe,_Urfa.jpg)

Some [henges](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henge" \o "Henge) at [Göbekli Tepe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C3%B6bekli_Tepe" \o "Göbekli Tepe) were erected as far back as [9600 BC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C3%B6bekli_Tepe#Layer_III), predating those of [Stonehenge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stonehenge" \o "Stonehenge), [England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England" \o "England), by over seven millennia

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Lion_Gate,_Hattusa_01.jpg)

The Lion Gate in [Hattusa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hattusa" \o "Hattusa), capital of the [Hittite Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hittites). The city's history dates back to the 6th millennium BC

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Walls_of_Troy_(2).jpg)

Walls of the [acropolis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acropolis" \o "Acropolis) of [Troy VIIa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Troy#Troy_VI_and_VII), the site of the [Trojan War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trojan_War" \o "Trojan War) (c. 1200 BC) that inspired [Homer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homer" \o "Homer)'s *[Iliad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iliad" \o "Iliad)*

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Halicarnassus_Theatre.jpg)

The theatre of [Halicarnassus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halicarnassus" \o "Halicarnassus)(modern [Bodrum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bodrum" \o "Bodrum)) was built in the 4th century BC by [Mausolus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mausolus" \o "Mausolus), the [Persian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire" \o "Achaemenid Empire)[satrap](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satrap) (governor) of [Caria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caria#Persian_satrapy). The [Mausoleum at Halicarnassus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mausoleum_at_Halicarnassus" \o "Mausoleum at Halicarnassus) (Tomb of Mausolus) was one of the [Seven Wonders of the Ancient World](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_the_Ancient_World" \o "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ephesus_Celsus_Library_Fa%C3%A7ade.jpg)

The [Library of Celsus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_of_Celsus) in [Ephesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ephesus" \o "Ephesus)was built by the [Romans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Empire) in 114–117. The [Temple of Artemis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_Artemis" \o "Temple of Artemis) in Ephesus, built by king [Croesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croesus" \o "Croesus) of [Lydia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lydia" \o "Lydia) in the 6th century BC, was one of the [Seven Wonders of the Ancient World](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_the_Ancient_World" \o "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Aspendos_Amphitheatre.jpg)

Designed by Greek architect Zeno, a native of the city, the [Aspendos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aspendos" \o "Aspendos) amphitheatre was built during the Roman period in 161–169 CE. [Attaleia (Antalya)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antalya), [Perga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perga" \o "Perga) and [Side](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Side,_Turkey" \o "Side, Turkey) were other important cities in ancient [Pamphylia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pamphylia" \o "Pamphylia).

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:East_Terrace_(4961356591).jpg)

[Mount Nemrut](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Nemrut), sometimes called the masoleum of [Antiochus I Theos of Commagene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antiochus_I_Theos_of_Commagene" \o "Antiochus I Theos of Commagene), is notable for its summit where a number of large statues are erected around what is assumed to be a royal tomb from the 1st century BC

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Turkey-3019_-_Hagia_Sophia_(2216460729).jpg)

Originally a church, later a mosque, and now a museum, the [Hagia Sophia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hagia_Sophia" \o "Hagia Sophia)in [Istanbul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Istanbul) was built by the [Byzantine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Empire" \o "Byzantine Empire)emperor [Justinian I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justinian_I" \o "Justinian I) in 532–537 AD

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mausoleo_Mevlana.jpg)

[Mevlana Museum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mevlana_Museum) in [Konya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konya" \o "Konya) was built by the [Seljuk Turks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seljuks" \o "Seljuks) in 1274. Konya was the capital of the Seljuk [Sultanate of Rum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sultanate_of_Rum" \o "Sultanate of Rum) (Anatolia)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Topkap%C4%B1_-_01.jpg)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Dolmabah%C3%A7e_Palace_(cropped).JPG)

[Topkapı](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topkap%C4%B1_Palace) and [Dolmabahçe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolmabah%C3%A7e_Palace" \o "Dolmabahçe Palace) palaces were the primary residences of the [Ottoman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) [Sultans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sultans_of_the_Ottoman_Empire) and the administrative centre of the empire between 1465 to 1856 and 1856 to 1922 respectively

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sultan_Mehmed_V_of_Turkey_greeting_Kaiser_Wilhelm_II_on_his_arrival_at_Constantinople.jpg)

[Sultan Mehmed V](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mehmed_V) and [Kaiser Wilhelm II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_II,_German_Emperor) in [Constantinople](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Istanbul), 1917. The Ottomans joined [World War I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I) on the side of the [Central Powers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Powers)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ataturk_visits_a_school.jpg)

[Mustafa Kemal Atatürk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mustafa_Kemal_Atat%C3%BCrk), founder and first President of the Turkish Republic, visiting [Istanbul University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Istanbul_University) after its [reorganization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atat%C3%BCrk%27s_Reforms" \o "Atatürk's Reforms) in 1933 as a [mixed-gender](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mixed-sex_education" \o "Mixed-sex education) institution of [higher education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher_education" \o "Higher education) with multiple [faculties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faculty_(division)" \o "Faculty (division)).

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:First_female_MPs_of_the_Turkish_Parliament_(1935).jpg)

Eighteen female [deputies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Member_of_parliament" \o "Member of parliament) joined the [Turkish Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_National_Assembly_of_Turkey" \o "Grand National Assembly of Turkey) with the [1935 general elections](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_general_election,_1935). Turkish women gained the [right to vote](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_women%27s_suffrage) a decade or more before women in Western European countries like France, Italy, and Belgium, a mark of the far-reaching [social changes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atat%C3%BCrk%27s_Reforms) initiated by [Atatürk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mustafa_Kemal_Atat%C3%BCrk)

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| [Recep Tayyip Erdogan 2017.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Recep_Tayyip_Erdogan_2017.jpg) |
| [Recep Tayyip Erdoğan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recep_Tayyip_Erdo%C4%9Fan) [President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Turkey) |

