**Turkey** ([Turkish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_language%22%20%5Co%20%22Turkish%20language): *Türkiye* [[ˈtyɾcije]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA/Turkish)), officially the **Republic of Turkey** (Turkish: *Türkiye Cumhuriyeti* [[ˈtyɾcije dʒumˈhuɾijeti]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA/Turkish) ([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%22%20%5Co%20%22Balkan%20Peninsula) in [Southeast Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southeast_Europe%22%20%5Co%20%22Southeast%20Europe). [East Thrace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Thrace), located in Europe, is separated from [Anatolia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anatolia%22%20%5Co%20%22Anatolia) by the [Sea of Marmara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_of_Marmara%22%20%5Co%20%22Sea%20of%20Marmara), the [Bosphorous strait](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosphorous_strait%22%20%5Co%20%22Bosphorous%20strait) and the [Dardanelles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dardanelles) (collectively called the [Turkish Straits](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_Straits%22%20%5Co%20%22Turkish%20Straits)). Turkey is bordered by [Greece](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greece%22%20%5Co%20%22Greece) and [Bulgaria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulgaria%22%20%5Co%20%22Bulgaria) to its northwest; [Georgia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgia_%28country%29) to its northeast; [Armenia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenia), the [Azerbaijani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azerbaijan%22%20%5Co%20%22Azerbaijan) [exclave](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exclave%22%20%5Co%20%22Exclave) of [Nakhchivan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nakhchivan_Autonomous_Republic%22%20%5Co%20%22Nakhchivan%20Autonomous%20Republic) 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%22%20%5Co%20%22Syria) 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%22%20%5Co%20%22Turkish%20people). [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%22%20%5Co%20%22Assyrian%20people), [Greeks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greece%22%20%5Co%20%22Ancient%20Greece), [Thracians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thracians%22%20%5Co%20%22Thracians), [Phrygians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phrygians), [Urartians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urartians%22%20%5Co%20%22Urartians), and [Armenians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenians%22%20%5Co%20%22Armenians). [Hellenization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenization) started during the era of [Alexander the Great](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great%22%20%5Co%20%22Alexander%20the%20Great) and continued into the [Byzantine era](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_era%22%20%5Co%20%22Byzantine%20era). The [Seljuk Turks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seljuk_Turks%22%20%5Co%20%22Seljuk%20Turks) 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%22%20%5Co%20%22Battle%20of%20Manzikert) in 1071 symbolizes the start and foundation of Turkey. The [Seljuk Sultanate of Rûm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sultanate_of_R%C3%BBm%22%20%5Co%20%22Sultanate%20of%20R%C3%BBm) 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%22%20%5Co%20%22Anatolian%20beyliks). 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%22%20%5Co%20%22Suleiman%20the%20Magnificent) 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%22%20%5Co%20%22North%20Africa) 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%22%20%5Co%20%22Three%20Pashas). 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%22%20%5Cl%20%22Ottoman_Empire%22%20%5Co%20%22Genocides%20in%20history) against its [Armenian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_Genocide%22%20%5Co%20%22Armenian%20Genocide), [Assyrian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assyrian_genocide%22%20%5Co%20%22Assyrian%20genocide) and [Pontic Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_genocide%22%20%5Co%20%22Greek%20genocide) subjects. Following the war, the conglomeration of territories and peoples that formerly comprised the Ottoman Empire was [partitioned](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partition_%28politics%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Partition%20%28politics%29) into [several new states](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partition_of_the_Ottoman_Empire%22%20%5Co%20%22Partition%20of%20the%20Ottoman%20Empire). The [Turkish War of Independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_War_of_Independence%22%20%5Co%20%22Turkish%20War%20of%20Independence), 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%22%20%5Co%20%22Allies%20of%20World%20War%20I), 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%22%20%5Co%20%22Atat%C3%BCrk%27s%20reforms), 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_%281978%E2%80%93present%29), an armed conflict between the Republic of Turkey and [Kurdish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurdish_people%22%20%5Co%20%22Kurdish%20people) 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%22%20%5Co%20%22Ethnic%20separatism) from Turkey to create an independent [Kurdistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurdistan) or to have [autonomy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autonomy%22%20%5Co%20%22Autonomy) and greater [political and cultural rights for Kurds in Turkey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_of_Kurdish_people_in_Turkey%22%20%5Co%20%22Human%20rights%20of%20Kurdish%20people%20in%20Turkey).

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%22%20%5Co%20%22Ankara%20Agreement) 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%22%20%5Co%20%22European%20Union) 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%22%20%5Co%20%22Regional%20power) while its location has given it geopolitical and strategic importance throughout history. Turkey is a [secular](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secular_state%22%20%5Co%20%22Secular%20state), [unitary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitary_state%22%20%5Co%20%22Unitary%20state), formerly [parliamentary republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_republic%22%20%5Co%20%22Parliamentary%20republic) which adopted a [presidential system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_system%22%20%5Co%20%22Presidential%20system) with a [referendum in 2017](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_constitutional_referendum%2C_2017); the new system came into effect with the [presidential election in 2018](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_presidential_election%2C_2018%22%20%5Co%20%22Turkish%20presidential%20election%2C%202018). 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%22%20%5Co%20%22Islam), reversed and undermined [Kemalist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kemalism%22%20%5Co%20%22Kemalism) policies, and has reversed earlier reforms such as [freedom of the press](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_the_press).



Some [henges](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henge%22%20%5Co%20%22Henge) at [Göbekli Tepe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C3%B6bekli_Tepe%22%20%5Co%20%22G%C3%B6bekli%20Tepe) 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%22%20%5Co%20%22Stonehenge), [England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England%22%20%5Co%20%22England), by over seven millennia



The Lion Gate in [Hattusa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hattusa%22%20%5Co%20%22Hattusa), capital of the [Hittite Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hittites). The city's history dates back to the 6th millennium BC



Walls of the [acropolis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acropolis%22%20%5Co%20%22Acropolis) 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%22%20%5Co%20%22Trojan%20War) (c. 1200 BC) that inspired [Homer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homer%22%20%5Co%20%22Homer)'s *[Iliad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iliad%22%20%5Co%20%22Iliad)*



The theatre of [Halicarnassus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halicarnassus%22%20%5Co%20%22Halicarnassus)(modern [Bodrum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bodrum%22%20%5Co%20%22Bodrum)) was built in the 4th century BC by [Mausolus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mausolus%22%20%5Co%20%22Mausolus), the [Persian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire%22%20%5Co%20%22Achaemenid%20Empire)[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%22%20%5Co%20%22Mausoleum%20at%20Halicarnassus) (Tomb of Mausolus) was one of the [Seven Wonders of the Ancient World](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_the_Ancient_World%22%20%5Co%20%22Seven%20Wonders%20of%20the%20Ancient%20World)



The [Library of Celsus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_of_Celsus) in [Ephesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ephesus%22%20%5Co%20%22Ephesus)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%22%20%5Co%20%22Temple%20of%20Artemis) in Ephesus, built by king [Croesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croesus%22%20%5Co%20%22Croesus) of [Lydia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lydia%22%20%5Co%20%22Lydia) 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%22%20%5Co%20%22Seven%20Wonders%20of%20the%20Ancient%20World)



Designed by Greek architect Zeno, a native of the city, the [Aspendos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aspendos%22%20%5Co%20%22Aspendos) 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%22%20%5Co%20%22Perga) and [Side](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Side%2C_Turkey%22%20%5Co%20%22Side%2C%20Turkey) were other important cities in ancient [Pamphylia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pamphylia%22%20%5Co%20%22Pamphylia).



[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%22%20%5Co%20%22Antiochus%20I%20Theos%20of%20Commagene), 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



Originally a church, later a mosque, and now a museum, the [Hagia Sophia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hagia_Sophia%22%20%5Co%20%22Hagia%20Sophia)in [Istanbul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Istanbul) was built by the [Byzantine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Empire%22%20%5Co%20%22Byzantine%20Empire)emperor [Justinian I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justinian_I%22%20%5Co%20%22Justinian%20I) in 532–537 AD



[Mevlana Museum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mevlana_Museum) in [Konya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konya%22%20%5Co%20%22Konya) was built by the [Seljuk Turks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seljuks%22%20%5Co%20%22Seljuks) in 1274. Konya was the capital of the Seljuk [Sultanate of Rum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sultanate_of_Rum%22%20%5Co%20%22Sultanate%20of%20Rum) (Anatolia)





[Topkapı](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topkap%C4%B1_Palace) and [Dolmabahçe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolmabah%C3%A7e_Palace%22%20%5Co%20%22Dolmabah%C3%A7e%20Palace) 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



[Sultan Mehmed V](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mehmed_V) and [Kaiser Wilhelm II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_II%2C_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)



[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%22%20%5Co%20%22Atat%C3%BCrk%27s%20Reforms) in 1933 as a [mixed-gender](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mixed-sex_education%22%20%5Co%20%22Mixed-sex%20education) institution of [higher education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher_education%22%20%5Co%20%22Higher%20education) with multiple [faculties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faculty_%28division%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Faculty%20%28division%29).



Eighteen female [deputies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Member_of_parliament%22%20%5Co%20%22Member%20of%20parliament) joined the [Turkish Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_National_Assembly_of_Turkey%22%20%5Co%20%22Grand%20National%20Assembly%20of%20Turkey) with the [1935 general elections](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_general_election%2C_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 |
| [Recep Tayyip Erdoğan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recep_Tayyip_Erdo%C4%9Fan)[President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Turkey) |

