

LIVING DEMOCRACY

MARCH ACTIVITY-

Students prepare a presentation about the symbols of democracy in their country by working in national groups



15 JULY MARTYRS ANATOLIAN HIGH SCHOOL-TURKEY

DEMOCRACY IN TURKEY



DEMOCRACY AND ATATÜRK

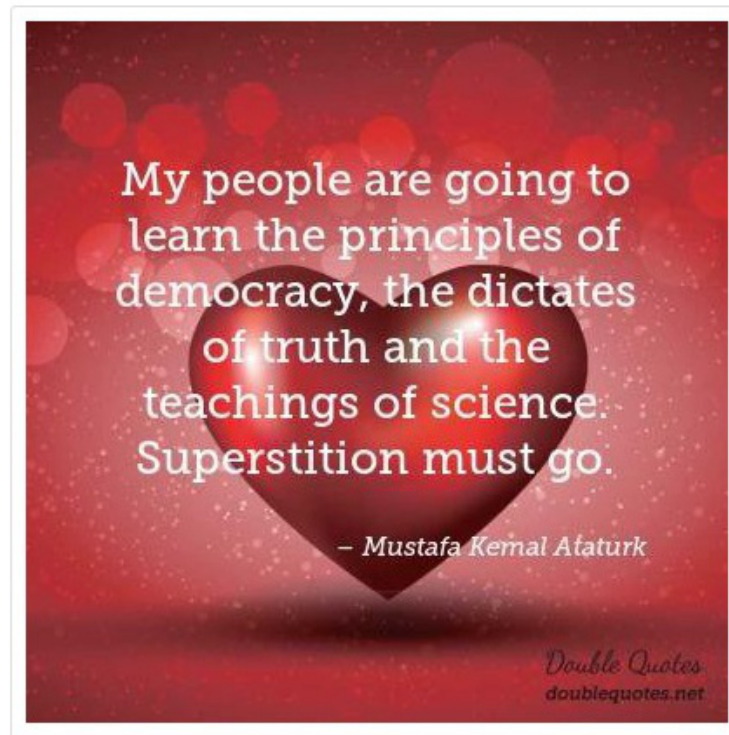
The two major legacies that Atatürk bequeathed to modern Turkey are a secure sense of national identity and a commitment to populism — a commitment that allowed the Turkish people to make a gradual and peaceful transition from traditional autocracy to modern democracy in only two generations. This achievement is the more remarkable if it is viewed in the appropriate perspectives of history and geography.

DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY

When Mustafa Kemal Pasha assumed his political leadership in 1919, the Ottoman Empire had suffered its final military collapse— along with the German Empire of the Hohenzollerns, the Austrian Empire of the Habsburgs, and the Russian Empire of the Czars. In the complex process of reorganization that followed, national independence was proclaimed in most parts of Southeastern Europe, the Middle East, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. But the actual sequel typically was either outright colonial rule (Caucasus; Central Asia; the Middle East until the 1950s), or a precarious independence in the shadow of one or more imperial powers (the Balkans between the World Wars and the Middle East since; and Germany and Austria under

the post-World-War-Two regimes of occupation).

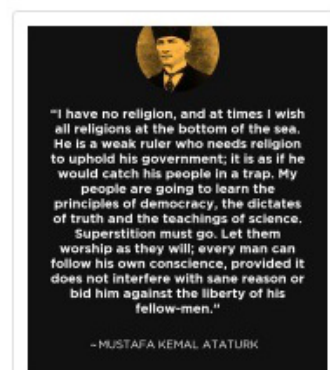
Kemal Atatürk's achievement is just as remarkable if it is viewed from the perspective of what in recent decades has been called the Third (or post-colonial) world. Turkey is one of the few countries of Asia-Africa that never became a European colony. Yet, whereas most Asian and African countries after the Second World War became independent by default, because of the exhaustion of their erstwhile colonial rulers, Turkey did have to fight for its political independence.



The founder of the Turkish Republic and its first President, stands as a towering figure of the 20th Century. Among the great leaders of history, few have achieved so much in so short period, transformed the life of a nation as decisively, and given such profound inspiration to the world at large.

As President for 15 years, until his death in 1938, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk introduced a broad range of swift and sweeping reforms - in the political, social, legal, economic, and cultural spheres - virtually unparalleled in any other country.

His achievements in Turkey are an enduring monument to Atatürk. Emerging nations admire him as a pioneer of national liberation. The world honors his memory as a foremost peacemaker who upheld the principles of humanism and the vision of a united humanity.





[Atatürk's principles: ataturk, en, ...](#)

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