

Name: _____

Period: _____

Date: _____

How did Kemal Atatürk reform Turkey?



Turkish Flag



What was the Ottoman Empire?

The Ottoman Empire was founded in 1299 by a family of nomadic Turks from the region in western Asia known as Asia Minor. Eventually, the Ottoman Empire ruled over vast lands that included a diverse group of inhabitants. As the Ottoman Empire's control over its territories declined, nationalism among the ethnic groups ruled by the empire inspired rebellion against the Ottomans.

At its height in the 1600s, the Ottoman Empire controlled most of the Middle East, north Africa, and eastern Europe, but its power declined over the next three centuries. Due to a series of weak and ineffective rulers, a corrupt government, nationalist movements within its borders, and European imperialism, Ottoman power diminished.

The leaders of some ethnic groups that were critical of the empire's weakness and its willingness to adopt European ideals in the 1800s started to pull away from the empire. For example, in southeastern Europe the Greeks revolted in 1821, the Bulgarians in 1876, and Moldavia gained autonomy in 1861.

While nationalism grew throughout the empire in resistance to Ottoman rule, it was also a strong force in Istanbul, the Empire's capital. A nationalist group called the "Young Turks" came to power in the early 1900s. They wanted to modernize the empire and turn it into a democratic state. They also turned the empire, which historically welcomed other ethnic groups into the fold, against non-Turks.

On the eve of World War I, the Young Turks hoped to redefine the Ottoman Empire while ethnic groups throughout the empire were hoping to carve out a place of their own if the "Sick Man of Europe" (as the Ottoman Empire was known at the start of the 1900s) were to die.

Source: Adapted from http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Ottoman_Empire

1. Why did different ethnic groups resist the Ottoman Empire in the 1800s?

2. What did the "Young Turks" want when they came into power? What changes did they hope to make?



How did Atatürk change Turkey?

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.

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

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....

Source: Peter Mansfield, *A History of the Middle East*, Viking

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?

Go to <http://www.history.com/topics/kemal-ataturk> and read the two paragraphs under the header “Atatürk as President.” Respond to the questions to your right.

What are examples of Atatürk’s reforms that secularized Turkey?

What are examples of Atatürk’s reforms that westernized Turkey?



Regents Multiple Choice Check for Understanding

"A civilized, international dress is worthy and appropriate for our nation, and we will wear it. Boots or shoes on our feet, trousers on our legs, shirt and tie, jacket and waistcoat—and of course, to complete these, a cover with a brim on our heads. I want to make this clear. This head-covering is called hat.'" — Kemal Atatürk

1. The clothing rules established by Kemal Atatürk indicated that he wanted Turkey to

- (1) retain its traditional culture
- (2) westernize its society
- (3) give women equal rights
- (4) establish Islamic fundamentalism

2. In the 1920s and 1930s, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk changed the Turkish government by

- (1) introducing democratic reforms
- (2) increasing the power of the sultan
- (3) supporting absolutism
- (4) incorporating religious teachings into civil law

3 Which reform is most closely associated with Turkish leader Kemal Atatürk?

- (1) implementation of Sharia law
- (2) introduction of Arabic script
- (3) establishment of a communist government
- (4) adoption of Western culture

4. The clothes worn by Mohandas Gandhi of India and by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk of Turkey indicate the desire of these leaders to

- (1) conform to traditional religious beliefs
- (2) adapt to the cultural norms of urban life
- (3) protest the oppression of communist rule
- (4) make a political statement to their respective nations