

THE MIDDLE EAST EXPLAINED

A project of the Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies

STUDENT VIEWING GUIDE

Video: Turkey from Empire to Republic

Key Terms

Ottoman Empire: A multiethnic, multi-religious Islamic Empire that controlled much of Southeastern Europe, Western Asia, and Northern Africa between the 14th and early 20th centuries.

Istanbul: The capital of the Ottoman Empire from 1453 until its end in 1922. Istanbul is the most populous city in Turkey and is economically, culturally and historically significant.

Colonialism: The practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers and/or exploiting it economically.

Nationalism: The advocacy of or support for the political independence of a particular nation or people.

League of Nations Mandate: An authorization granted by the League of Nations to a member nation to govern territories formerly controlled by the Ottoman Empire (as well as territories in Africa and the Pacific), following the end of World War I, for an undetermined period until the colony could establish itself.

Treaty of Sèvres: Signed in 1920, this treaty divided the Ottoman Empire into different nation states, notably reducing Turkish territory and including an independent Armenia and an autonomous Kurdistan. Rejected by the new Turkish regime, this treaty was replaced by the Treaty of Lausanne.

Treaty of Lausanne: Signed in 1923 after the Turkish War of Independence, this treaty established the Republic of Turkey, restoring land to the Turks, including the city of Istanbul, and removed states for the Kurds and Armenians.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881-1938): Served as the founding President of the Republic of Turkey from 1923 until his death in 1938. He instated a series of sweeping cultural reforms aimed at modernizing Turkey into a secular, industrial nation.

Turkish Cultural Revolution: Led by the first president of the Republic of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, a series of political, social, cultural, and religious reforms designed to modernize Turkey and separate the new Turkish state from its Ottoman past.

Secularism: The separation of affairs of the state from religion.

Timeline

1600s-1922: The Ottoman Empire suffers a period of decline over several hundred years due to political corruption, economic competition, and the strengthening of European Powers.

1918: After fighting on the side of Germany and the Central Powers, the Ottoman Empire is defeated at the end of World War I.

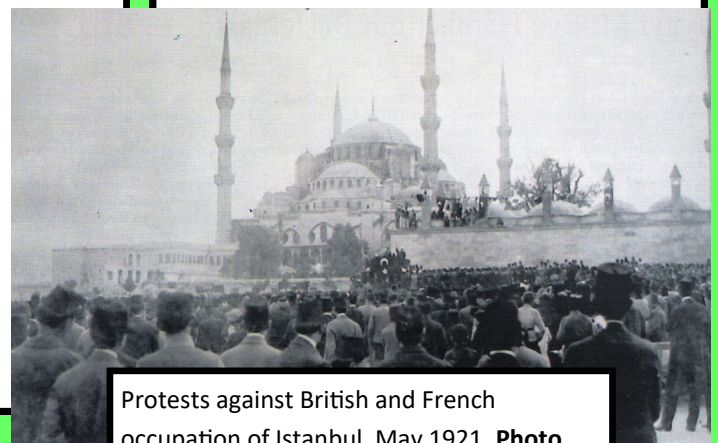
1918-1923: The capital of the Ottoman Empire, Istanbul, is occupied by Britain and France.

1920: The Treaty of Sèvres is signed between the victorious Allied Powers and representatives of Ottoman Turkey.

1919-1923: A Turkish War of Independence is fought between the Turkish National Movement and the Allied powers to regain territory lost by the Turks after defeat of the Ottoman Empire in World War I.

1923: The Treaty of Lausanne establishes the boundaries of the modern state of Turkey.

1923-1938: President of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk instates a period of sweeping cultural reforms, also known as the Turkish Cultural Revolution.



Protests against British and French occupation of Istanbul, May 1921. Photo Credit: Newspaper *Hakimiyet-i Milliye*

Comprehension Questions: Modern Turkey: From WWI to Cultural Revolution

1. After World War I, the victorious European Powers, Britain and France, occupied the city of Istanbul from 1918-1923. What was the purpose of their occupation?

2. The Ottoman Empire was a very diverse society. List three of the different ethnicities, religions, or languages spoken throughout the Empire.

3. What was the League of Nations Mandate system?

4. Describe the Treaty of Sèvres and the Treaty of Lausanne. What are the differences between these two treaties?

5. Provide two examples of cultural and societal reforms that were instated during the Turkish Cultural Revolution.