

“Secularism: The Turkish Experience” Historical Timeline
By Omer Baristiran December 2004 – Philadelphia

<i>Year</i>	<i>Event</i>
1776	Naval engineering school opens
1792	Selim III established a new military unit Nizam-i Cedid
1826	Abolishment of Janissaries by Sultan Mahmut II Clothing- Military uniform with fez and pants is adopted
1834	Opening of Military Academy- Sultan Mahmut II- Secular Military Berkes claims that this event is the seed for the strong military culture in Turkey.(Berkes and Ahmad)
1846	Foundation of <i>Harbiye</i> Military Academy
1876	New Constitution- Article 16 – state schools become secular while religious instruction is still under the control of the Islamic scholars called <i>ulema</i> .
1900	Opening of the Ottoman University
1908	Revolt backed by Young Turk army officers in the Balkans ends rule of Abdulhamit II and brings second constitutional period
1916	Elementary schools previously administered by the Ministry of Pious Foundations were placed under the direction of the secular Ministry of Education
1918-1922	Allied occupation of Istanbul
1919	Greek forces, encouraged by the British and others, land in Smyrna in May and start to occupy Anatolia 21 June Kemal Ataturk issues Amasya declaration against the sultan’s policy of submission to the Allies.
1920	23 April The Turkish Grand National Assembly meets for the first time in Ankara as representatives of the new Turkish nation 20 August Allies force the sultan’s government to sign the Treaty of Serves, aiming to split Anatolia between British, French, Italian, Greek, Armenian and possibly Kurdish regions with international control of the Straits. The treaty is never ratified (Pope and Pope).
1922	1 November Abolishment of the Ottoman Dynasty
1923	30 January Turkish-Greek treaty exchanges nearly one million ethnic Greek Christians from Anatolia with about 400,000 Turkish Muslims in Greece. 24 July The signing of the Lausanne Treaty provides international legitimacy for the Republic of Turkey 29 September Declaration of Independence and the Republic
1924	3 March Parliament abolishes the Islamic caliphate. The Law for the Unification of Instruction New Education Curriculum- elimination of Ottoman history and the Islamic religion as subjects (Szyliowicz)
1925	February Kurds rise up in the eastern provinces under the leadership of Sheikh Said but the rebellion is suppressed by the government. 25 November Law about the usage of hats (<i>Sapka giyilmesi hakkındaki kanun</i>) Civil servants are obliged to wear hats, no fez or kalpaks are allowed.

“Secularism: The Turkish Experience” Historical Timeline 2/3

<i>Year</i>	<i>Event</i>
1925	<i>30 November</i> Closing of religious schools, <i>Madrasas</i> , with 18,000 (of whom perhaps 6000 were genuine students) were closed (Basgoz and Wilson). <i>26 December</i> Acceptance of Western style calendar
1926	<i>4 October</i> Abolishment of Islamic Civil law <i>Mecelle</i> - Acceptance of Swiss Civil Code
1928	<i>3 November</i> Secularization of the Constitution (Berkes and Ahmad p.461) <i>1 November</i> Adaptation of the Latin alphabet
1930	<i>3 April</i> Women’s acquire voting rights in mayor elections only <i>December</i> Religious riots in Menemen, near seaport Izmir, are followed by trials and executions
1931	Foundation of Turkish History Association (<i>Türk Tarihi Tetkik Cemiyeti</i>) <i>26 March</i> Western Measurement Law of weights and distances
1932	Foundation of Turkish Language Association (<i>Türk Dil Kurumu</i>)
1934	<i>21 June</i> Family name Law is passed. Every Turkish citizen gets a last name. <i>3 December</i> Law about the definition of Public Sphere - Religious personnel can only wear the religious clothing in their work area <i>5 December</i> Women’s full voting rights are given
1945	<i>23 February</i> After staying neutral for almost the whole WW II, Turkey joins the Allied forces and declares war on Japan and Germany
1946	US government pledges support for Greece and Turkey under the “Truman Doctrine” in the hope to counterbalance the Soviet expansionism <i>21 July</i> End of one party rule and multi-party elections
1949-1950	A course on Islam was included in the fourth and fifth grades on a voluntary basis. (Szyliowicz p.331)
1950	<i>14 May</i> DP- Democrat Party comes into power Liberal economic measures, relaxed the secular rules- Arabic call to prayer, religious instruction becomes a regular school subject (Szyliowicz p.326)
1952	<i>18 February</i> Turkey and Greece join NATO
1954	Reelection of Democrat Party with 56.6 percent popular support (Szyliowicz p.327)
1956	A course on Islam is introduced into the first two grades of the middle school on an opt-out basis (Maynard).
1957	<i>3rd</i> election of DP
1960	<i>27 May 1st</i> Military coup overthrows the prime minister Adnan Menderes
1961	<i>17 September</i> Ex-premier Adnan Menderes is hanged
1971	<i>March</i> The military sends warning letter to the government and forces the prime minister Suleyman Demirel to resign
1974	<i>20 July</i> The Turkish armed forces invade the island of Cyprus.
1978	<i>September</i> Riots among rightist and Sunnis against the leftists and Alevis kill 12 people in the eastern province of Sivas
1980	<i>12 September 3rd</i> Military coup
1982	<i>6 November</i> The 1982 Constitution is approved by the public via a referendum
1987	<i>14 April</i> Turgut Ozal government applies for full membership of European Community – Turkey gets rejected

<i>Year</i>	<i>Event</i>
1993	<i>13 June</i> Right wing True Path Party chooses Tansu Ciller to become Turkey’s first woman prime minister
1994	<i>March</i> Pro-Islamic Welfare Party wins municipal elections, taking the capital city of Ankara as well as Istanbul
1995	<i>25 December</i> The Welfare Party tops general elections with 21.3% of the vote
1997	<i>4 February</i> Turkish military sends tanks through Ankara suburb of Sincan as warning to Welfare-led coalition after Sincan’s Welfare Party mayor hosts pro-fundamentalist Ramadan event <i>28 February</i> Post-modern Coup the secular measures are recommended at the National Security Council Meeting <i>18 June</i> Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan of Welfare Party resigns under pressure
1998	<i>January</i> The Constitutional Court bans the Welfare Party and prohibits Ex-premier Erbakan from doing politics for five years.
2001	<i>July</i> The successor Pro-Islamist Virtue Party banned due to unconstitutional activity
2002	<i>November</i> AKP – Justice and Development Party sweep the elections with 34% of the popular vote
2004	<i>17 December</i> Turkey is scheduled to hear whether it will be allowed to start negotiations for a full membership to the European Union

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