Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, born in 1881 in Salonika, then part of the Ottoman Empire, was the founder and first President of the Republic of Turkey. He embarked on a comprehensive program of political, economic, and cultural reforms with the aim of transforming the former Ottoman Empire into a modern, secular, and national state. His military leadership during the Gallipoli Campaign, where he successfully repelled the Allied forces, made him a national hero and positioned him as a pivotal figure in the post-World War I era. Atatürk's vision for Turkey was profoundly shaped by his belief in secularism and nationalism. His secular reforms included the abolition of the Caliphate, the closure of religious courts, and the replacement of Islamic law (Sharia) with a civil law code modeled after the Swiss Civil Code. He also introduced the Latin alphabet, replacing the Arabic script, to increase literacy and further the cultural shift towards a more Western-oriented Turkey. Atatürk's economic policies were aimed at fostering a sense of national self-sufficiency. He established state-owned factories and launched projects in key sectors such as agriculture, textile, and transportation. His efforts led to the creation of a mixed economy in Turkey, where both state and private enterprises played significant roles. The economic reforms also involved the implementation of land reform and the promotion of industrialization. In education, Atatürk revolutionized the Turkish system by making primary education free and compulsory, encouraging coeducation, and establishing a secular school system. He also founded the Turkish Historical Society and the Turkish Language Association to help build a modern Turkish identity based on cultural and historical aspects of the nation, as opposed to religious or ethnic ties. Atatürk's foreign policy was based on the principle of 'peace at home, peace in the world.' He pursued a policy of neutrality and sought to establish friendly relations with neighboring countries. The Treaty of Lausanne (1923), which recognized the sovereignty of the new Turkish Republic, was a significant diplomatic victory for Atatürk's government. Atatürk's cultural reforms also extended to personal attire and social customs. He encouraged Western fashion and banned certain traditional garments like the fez, which he saw as symbols of the Ottoman past. He also promoted the adoption of surnames, leading to the Turkish parliament bestowing upon him the name 'Atatürk,' meaning 'Father of the Turks', in 1934. Despite his progressive reforms, Atatürk's governance style was authoritarian. He established a one-party regime that lasted until multi-party democracy was introduced in 1946. Atatürk's Republican People's Party (CHP) dominated Turkish politics during his lifetime, and opposition was often suppressed, reflecting the challenges of implementing radical reforms in a society with deep-rooted traditions. Atatürk's legacy is a subject of significant debate. While he is revered by many as the architect of modern Turkey, others criticize his authoritarian approach and the suppression of religious expression and minority rights. His policies towards the Kurds and other ethnic minorities, as well as the Armenian and Greek populations, have been particularly contentious issues. Atatürk was an avid proponent of science and rational thinking. He established numerous institutions to promote scientific research and education, and he personally participated in the translation and publication of scientific literature. His famous phrase 'Science is the truest guide in life' reflects his commitment to enlightenment values and his belief in the importance of scientific progress for the advancement of society. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk passed away on November 10, 1938, at the age of 57. His mausoleum, Anıtkabir, located in Ankara, is a symbol of the deep respect and reverence held for him in Turkey. Each year on November 10, the country observes a moment of silence at 9:05 AM, the time of his death, to honor his memory and his monumental impact on the Turkish Republic.