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| **Turkish War of Independence (1919-1923)** |
| **Kurtuluş Savaşı** |
| After the defeat of the Ottoman Empire by the Allied forces at the end of World War I, the Mudros armistice was signed in 1918, culminating in the partitioning of Ottoman territories by the Allies, who occupied the straits, eastern Thrace, and several regions in Anatolia. Encouraged by the Allies, the Greek army sought to annex territories in Western Anatolia, and occupied Smyrna (Izmir) on May 15, 1919. Following this landing, demobilized Turkish military units and irregulars launched a national resistance campaign, with former army officer Mustafa Kemal at its head. After the Allies occupied Istanbul (the Ottoman capital) on April 23, 1920, Mustafa Kemal inaugurated a provisional government in Ankara. |
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| Further reading:  (Zürcher) |