[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Redir](/wiki/Template:Redir) [Template:Good article](/wiki/Template:Good_article) [Template:Use British (Oxford) English](/wiki/Template:Use_British_(Oxford)_English) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

**Turkey** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Template:Lang-tr](/wiki/Template:Lang-tr) [Template:IPA-tr](/wiki/Template:IPA-tr)), officially the **Republic of Turkey** (Turkish: [Template:Audio](/wiki/Template:Audio); [Template:IPA-tr](/wiki/Template:IPA-tr)), is a [parliamentary republic](/wiki/Parliamentary_republic) in [Eurasia](/wiki/Eurasia), mainly on the [Anatolian peninsula](/wiki/Anatolia) in [Western Asia](/wiki/Western_Asia), with a [smaller portion](/wiki/East_Thrace) on the [Balkan peninsula](/wiki/Balkans) in [Southeast Europe](/wiki/Southeast_Europe). Turkey is bordered by eight countries: [Syria](/wiki/Syria) and [Iraq](/wiki/Iraq) to the south; [Iran](/wiki/Iran), [Armenia](/wiki/Armenia), and the [Azerbaijani](/wiki/Azerbaijan) [exclave](/wiki/Exclave) of [Nakhchivan](/wiki/Nakhchivan_Autonomous_Republic) to the east; [Georgia](/wiki/Georgia_(country)) to the northeast; [Bulgaria](/wiki/Bulgaria) to the northwest; and [Greece](/wiki/Greece) to the west. The [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea) is to the north, the [Mediterranean Sea](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea) to the south, and the [Aegean Sea](/wiki/Aegean_Sea) to the west. The [Bosphorus](/wiki/Bosphorus), the [Sea of Marmara](/wiki/Sea_of_Marmara), and the [Dardanelles](/wiki/Dardanelles) (which together form the [Turkish Straits](/wiki/Turkish_Straits)) demarcate the boundary between [Thrace](/wiki/Thrace) and [Anatolia](/wiki/Anatolia); they also separate Europe and Asia.[[1]](#cite_note-1) Turkey's location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia makes it a country of significant geostrategic importance.[[2]](#cite_note-2) Turkey has been inhabited since the [paleolithic age](/wiki/Paleolithic),[[3]](#cite_note-3) including various [ancient Anatolian](/wiki/Ancient_Anatolians) civilizations, [Aeolian](/wiki/Aeolians), [Dorian](/wiki/Dorians) and [Ionian](/wiki/Ionians) [Greeks](/wiki/Greeks), [Thracians](/wiki/Thracians), [Armenians](/wiki/Armenians), and [Assyrians](/wiki/Assyrians).[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) After [Alexander the Great's](/wiki/Alexander_the_Great) conquest, the area was [Hellenized](/wiki/Hellenization), a process which continued under the [Roman Empire](/wiki/Roman_Empire) and its transition into the [Byzantine Empire](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire).[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[7]](#cite_note-7) The [Seljuk Turks](/wiki/Seljuk_Turks) began migrating into the area in the 11th century, starting the process of [Turkification](/wiki/Turkification), which was greatly accelerated by the Seljuk victory over the Byzantines at the [Battle of Manzikert](/wiki/Battle_of_Manzikert) in 1071.[[8]](#cite_note-8) The [Seljuk Sultanate of Rûm](/wiki/Sultanate_of_Rûm) ruled Anatolia until the [Mongol invasion](/wiki/Mongol_conquest_of_Anatolia) in 1243, upon which it disintegrated into several small [Turkish beyliks](/wiki/Anatolian_beyliks).<ref name=mfk&gl>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

Starting from the late 13th century, the [Ottomans](/wiki/Ottomans) united Anatolia and created an empire encompassing much of Southeastern Europe, Western Asia and North Africa, becoming a major power in Eurasia and Africa during the [early modern period](/wiki/Early_modern_period). The empire reached the peak of its power between the 15th and 17th centuries, especially during the 1520–66 reign of [Suleiman the Magnificent](/wiki/Suleiman_the_Magnificent). After the [second Ottoman siege of Vienna](/wiki/Battle_of_Vienna) in 1683 and the end of the [Great Turkish War](/wiki/Great_Turkish_War) in 1699, the Ottoman Empire entered a long [period of decline](/wiki/Decline_of_the_Ottoman_Empire). The [Tanzimat](/wiki/Tanzimat) reforms of the 19th century, which aimed to modernize the Ottoman state, proved to be inadequate in most fields, and failed to stop the [dissolution of the empire](/wiki/Dissolution_of_the_Ottoman_Empire).<ref name=OttoTurkVis>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Effectively controlled by the [Three Pashas](/wiki/Three_Pashas) after the [1913 coup d'état](/wiki/1913_Ottoman_coup_d'état), the Ottoman Empire entered [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I) (1914–18) on the side of the [Central Powers](/wiki/Central_Powers) and was ultimately defeated. During the war, the Ottoman government committed [ethnic cleansing](/wiki/Ethnic_cleansing) or [genocide](/wiki/Genocide) against its [Armenian](/wiki/Armenian_Genocide), [Assyrian](/wiki/Assyrian_genocide) and [Pontic Greek](/wiki/Greek_genocide) citizens.<ref name=SchallerZimmerer>Schaller, Dominik J; Zimmerer, Jürgen (2008). "Late Ottoman genocides: the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire and Young Turkish population and extermination policies – introduction". Journal of Genocide Research 10 (1): 7–14. doi:10.1080/14623520801950820</ref> Following the war, the conglomeration of territories and peoples that formerly comprised the Ottoman Empire was divided into [several new states](/wiki/Partitioning_of_the_Ottoman_Empire).[[9]](#cite_note-9) The [Turkish War of Independence](/wiki/Turkish_War_of_Independence) (1919–22), initiated by [Mustafa Kemal Atatürk](/wiki/Mustafa_Kemal_Atatürk) and his colleagues in [Anatolia](/wiki/Anatolia), resulted in the establishment of the modern Republic of Turkey in 1923, with Atatürk as its first president.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Turkey is a [democratic](/wiki/Democracy), [secular](/wiki/Secular_state), [unitary](/wiki/Unitary_state), [constitutional republic](/wiki/Republic) with a [diverse cultural heritage](/wiki/Multiculturalism).[[11]](#cite_note-11)<ref name=multicultural>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The country's official language is [Turkish](/wiki/Turkish_language), a [Turkic language](/wiki/Turkic_languages) spoken natively by approximately 85 percent of the population.<ref name=milliyet-languages>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> 70–75 percent of the population are ethnic [Turks](/wiki/Turkish_people); and about 25-30% of the population consists of recognized ([Armenians](/wiki/Armenians_in_Turkey), [Greeks](/wiki/Greeks_in_Turkey), [Jews](/wiki/Jews_in_Turkey)) and unrecognized ([Kurdish](/wiki/Kurds_in_Turkey), [Circassians](/wiki/Circassians_in_Turkey), [Arabs](/wiki/Arabs_in_Turkey), [Albanians](/wiki/Albanians_in_Turkey), [Bosniaks](/wiki/Bosniaks_in_Turkey), [Georgians](/wiki/Georgians_in_Turkey), etc.) minorities. Kurds make up the largest minority group.[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[14]](#cite_note-14) The vast majority of the population is [Sunni Muslim](/wiki/Sunni_Muslim), with [Alevis](/wiki/Alevis) making up the largest religious minority.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Turkey is a member of the [UN](/wiki/United_Nations), [NATO](/wiki/NATO), [OECD](/wiki/Organization_for_Economic_Co-operation_and_Development), [OSCE](/wiki/Organization_for_Security_and_Co-operation_in_Europe), [OIC](/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation) and the [G-20](/wiki/G-20_major_economies). After becoming [one of the first members](/wiki/Member_states_of_the_Council_of_Europe) of the [Council of Europe](/wiki/Council_of_Europe) in 1949, Turkey became an [associate member](/wiki/Ankara_Agreement) of the [EEC](/wiki/European_Economic_Community) in 1963, joined the [EU Customs Union](/wiki/European_Union_Customs_Union) in 1995 and started [full membership negotiations](/wiki/Accession_of_Turkey_to_the_European_Union) with the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) in 2005.[[15]](#cite_note-15) Turkey's growing economy and diplomatic initiatives have led to its recognition as a [regional power](/wiki/Regional_power).<ref name=giga-hamburg.de1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=dw.de1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=ministryofforeign9>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=isanet.org1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The name of Turkey ([Turkish](/wiki/Turkish_language): *Türkiye*) is based on the [ethnonym](/wiki/Ethnonym) [*Türk*](/wiki/Turkish_people). The first recorded use of the term "Türk" or "Türük" as an [autonym](/wiki/Exonym_and_endonym) is contained in the [Old Turkic](/wiki/Old_Turkic_alphabet) [inscriptions](/wiki/Orkhon_inscriptions) of the [Göktürks](/wiki/Göktürks) (*Celestial Turks*) of Central Asia (c. 8th century).[[16]](#cite_note-16) The [English](/wiki/English_language) name [*Turkey*](/wiki/Name_of_Turkey) first appeared in the late 14th century and is derived from [Medieval Latin](/wiki/Medieval_Latin) *Turchia*.[[17]](#cite_note-17) The Greek [cognate](/wiki/Cognate) of this name, [*Tourkia*](/wiki/Name_of_Turkey) ([Template:Lang-el](/wiki/Template:Lang-el)) was used by the [Byzantine](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire) [emperor and scholar](/wiki/List_of_Byzantine_emperors) [Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus](/wiki/Constantine_VII_Porphyrogenitus) in his book [*De Administrando Imperio*](/wiki/De_Administrando_Imperio),[[18]](#cite_note-18)[[19]](#cite_note-19) though in his use, "Turks" always referred to [Magyars](/wiki/Magyars).[[20]](#cite_note-20) Similarly, the medieval [Khazar Empire](/wiki/Khazars), a Turkic state on the northern shores of the [Black](/wiki/Black_Sea) and [Caspian](/wiki/Caspian_Sea) seas, was referred to as *Tourkia* (*Land of the Turks*) in Byzantine sources.[[21]](#cite_note-21) The [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) was sometimes referred to as [*Turkey* or the *Turkish Empire*](/wiki/Names_of_the_Ottoman_Empire#Historic_maps_using_the_alternative_names_of_the_Ottoman_Empire) among its contemporaries.<ref name=fatih.edu.tr>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Prehistory of Anatolia and Eastern Thrace[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|Some](/wiki/File:Göbekli2012-21.jpg) [henges](/wiki/Henge) at [Göbekli Tepe](/wiki/Göbekli_Tepe) were erected as far back as 12,000 BC, predating those of [Stonehenge](/wiki/Stonehenge), [England](/wiki/England) by almost ten millennia.[[22]](#cite_note-22) [thumb|The Lion Gate in](/wiki/File:Loewentor-Hattusa.jpg) [Hattusa](/wiki/Hattusa), capital of the [Hittite Empire](/wiki/Hittites). The city's history dates back to the 6th millennium BC.<ref name=whcunesco>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The [Anatolian peninsula](/wiki/Anatolian_peninsula), comprising most of modern Turkey, is one of the oldest permanently settled regions in the world. Various [ancient Anatolian](/wiki/Ancient_Anatolians) populations have lived in [Anatolia](/wiki/Anatolia), from at least the [Neolithic](/wiki/Neolithic) period until the [Hellenistic period](/wiki/Hellenistic_civilization).[[5]](#cite_note-5) Many of these peoples spoke the [Anatolian languages](/wiki/Anatolian_languages), a branch of the larger [Indo-European language family](/wiki/Indo-European_language_family).[[23]](#cite_note-23) In fact, given the antiquity of the Indo-European [Hittite](/wiki/Hittite_language) and [Luwian](/wiki/Luwian_language) languages, some scholars have proposed Anatolia as the hypothetical center from which the Indo-European languages radiated.[[24]](#cite_note-24) The European part of Turkey, called [Eastern Thrace](/wiki/Eastern_Thrace), has also been inhabited since at least forty thousand years ago, and is known to have been in the [Neolithic](/wiki/Neolithic) era by about 6000 B.C.[[6]](#cite_note-6) [Göbekli Tepe](/wiki/Göbekli_Tepe) is the site of the oldest known man-made religious structure, a temple dating to 10,000 BC,[[25]](#cite_note-25) while [Çatalhöyük](/wiki/Çatalhöyük) is a very large [Neolithic](/wiki/Neolithic) and [Chalcolithic](/wiki/Chalcolithic) settlement in southern Anatolia, which existed from approximately 7500 BC to 5700 BC. It is the largest and best-preserved Neolithic site found to date and in July 2012 was inscribed as a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](/wiki/UNESCO_World_Heritage_Site).[[26]](#cite_note-26) The settlement of [Troy](/wiki/Troy) started in the Neolithic Age and continued into the [Iron Age](/wiki/Iron_Age).<ref name=ancient.eu>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The earliest recorded inhabitants of Anatolia were the [Hattians](/wiki/Hattians) and [Hurrians](/wiki/Hurrians), non-Indo-European peoples who inhabited central and eastern Anatolia, respectively, as early as ca. 2300 BC. Indo-European [Hittites](/wiki/Hittites) came to Anatolia and gradually absorbed the Hattians and Hurrians ca. 2000–1700 BC. The first major empire in the area was founded by the [Hittites](/wiki/Hittites), from the 18th through the 13th century BC. The [Assyrians](/wiki/Assyria) conquered and settled parts of southeastern Turkey as early as 1950 BC until the year 612 BC.[[27]](#cite_note-27)[[28]](#cite_note-28) [Urartu](/wiki/Urartu) re-emerged in Assyrian inscriptions in the 9th century BC as a powerful northern rival of Assyria.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Following the collapse of the Hittite empire c. 1180 BC, the [Phrygians](/wiki/Phrygia), an Indo-European people, achieved ascendancy in Anatolia until their kingdom was destroyed by the [Cimmerians](/wiki/Cimmerians) in the 7th century BC.[[30]](#cite_note-30) Starting from 714 BC, [Urartu](/wiki/Urartu) shared the same fate and dissolved in 590 BC,[[31]](#cite_note-31) when it was conquered by the [Medes](/wiki/Medes). The most powerful of Phrygia's successor states were [Lydia](/wiki/Lydia), [Caria](/wiki/Caria) and [Lycia](/wiki/Lycia).

### Antiquity and Byzantine Period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Ephesus_Celsus_Library_Façade.jpg) [Library of Celsus](/wiki/Library_of_Celsus) in [Ephesus](/wiki/Ephesus) was built by the [Romans](/wiki/Roman_Empire) in 135 AD. The [Temple of Artemis](/wiki/Temple_of_Artemis) in Ephesus, built by king [Croesus](/wiki/Croesus) of [Lydia](/wiki/Lydia) in the 6th century BC, was one of the [Seven Wonders of the Ancient World](/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_the_Ancient_World). [thumb|Originally a church, later a mosque, and now a museum, the](/wiki/File:Turkey-3019_-_Hagia_Sophia_(2216460729).jpg) [Hagia Sophia](/wiki/Hagia_Sophia) in [Istanbul](/wiki/Istanbul) was built by the [Byzantine](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire) emperor [Justinian I](/wiki/Justinian_I) in the 6th century.

Starting around 1200 BC, the coast of [Anatolia](/wiki/Anatolia) was heavily settled by [Aeolian](/wiki/Aeolians) and [Ionian](/wiki/Ionians) [Greeks](/wiki/Ancient_Greece). Numerous important cities were founded by these colonists, such as [Miletus](/wiki/Miletus), [Ephesus](/wiki/Ephesus), [Smyrna](/wiki/Smyrna) (now [İzmir](/wiki/İzmir)) and [Byzantium](/wiki/Byzantium) (now [Istanbul](/wiki/Istanbul)), the latter founded by [Greek](/wiki/Greeks) colonists from [Megara](/wiki/Megara) in 657 BC. The first state that was called [Armenia](/wiki/Armenia) by neighbouring peoples was the state of the [Armenian](/wiki/Armenians) [Orontid dynasty](/wiki/Orontid_dynasty), which included parts of eastern Turkey beginning in the 6th century BC. In Northwest Turkey, the most significant tribal group in Thrace was the [Odyrisians](/wiki/Odrysian_kingdom), founded by [Teres I](/wiki/Teres_I).[[32]](#cite_note-32) All of modern-day Turkey was conquered by the Persian [Achaemenid Empire](/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire) during the 6th century BC.[[33]](#cite_note-33) The [Greco-Persian Wars](/wiki/Greco-Persian_Wars) started when the Greek city states on the coast of Anatolia rebelled against Persian rule in 499 BC. The territory of Turkey later fell to [Alexander the Great](/wiki/Alexander_the_Great) in 334 BC,[[34]](#cite_note-34) which led to increasing cultural homogeneity and [Hellenization](/wiki/Hellenization) in the area.[[5]](#cite_note-5) Following Alexander's death in 323 BC, Anatolia was subsequently divided into a number of small [Hellenistic kingdoms](/wiki/Hellenistic_civilization), all of which became part of the [Roman Republic](/wiki/Roman_Republic) by the mid-1st century BC.[[35]](#cite_note-35) The process of [Hellenization](/wiki/Hellenization) that began with Alexander's conquest accelerated under Roman rule, and by the early centuries AD the local [Anatolian languages](/wiki/Anatolian_languages) and cultures had become extinct, being largely replaced by [ancient Greek language](/wiki/Ancient_Greek_language) and culture.[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[36]](#cite_note-36) From the 1st century BC up to the 3rd century AD, large parts of modern-day Turkey were contested between the [Romans](/wiki/Roman_Empire) and neighboring [Parthians](/wiki/Parthian_Empire) through the frequent [Roman-Parthian Wars](/wiki/Roman-Parthian_Wars).

In 324, [Constantine I](/wiki/Constantine_I) chose [Byzantium](/wiki/Byzantium) to be the new capital of the [Roman Empire](/wiki/Roman_Empire), renaming it [New Rome](/wiki/New_Rome). Following the death of [Theodosius I](/wiki/Theodosius_I) in 395 and the permanent division of the Roman Empire between his two sons, the city, which would popularly come to be known as [Constantinople](/wiki/Constantinople), became the capital of the [Eastern Roman Empire](/wiki/Eastern_Roman_Empire). This, which would later be branded by historians as the [Byzantine Empire](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire), ruled most of the territory of present-day Turkey until the [Late Middle Ages](/wiki/Late_Middle_Ages);[[37]](#cite_note-37) although the eastern regions remained in firm [Sasanian](/wiki/Sasanian) hands up to the first half of the 7th century AD. The frequent [Byzantine-Sassanid Wars](/wiki/Byzantine-Sassanid_Wars), as part of the centuries long-lasting [Roman-Persian Wars](/wiki/Roman-Persian_Wars), fought between the neighboring rivaling Byzantines and Sasanians, took place in various parts of present-day Turkey and decided much of the latters history from the 4th century AD up to the first half of the 7th century AD.

### Seljuks and the Ottoman Empire[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Mausoleo_Mevlana.jpg)[Mevlana Museum](/wiki/Mevlana_Museum) in [Konya](/wiki/Konya) was built by the [Seljuk Turks](/wiki/Seljuks) in 1274. Konya was the capital of the Seljuk [Sultanate of Rum](/wiki/Sultanate_of_Rum) (Anatolia).<ref name=turktarihim.com>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The [House of Seljuk](/wiki/Seljuq_dynasty) was a branch of the *Kınık* [Oğuz Turks](/wiki/Oghuz_Turks) who resided on the periphery of the [Muslim world](/wiki/Muslim_history#Abbasids_-_"Islamic_Golden_Age"), in the Yabghu [Khaganate](/wiki/Khagan) of the Oğuz confederacy, to the north of the [Caspian](/wiki/Caspian_Sea) and [Aral Seas](/wiki/Aral_Sea), in the 9th century.[[38]](#cite_note-38) In the 10th century, the Seljuks started migrating from their ancestral homeland into [Persia](/wiki/Persia), which became the administrative core of the [Great Seljuk Empire](/wiki/Great_Seljuq_Empire).<ref name=peter.mackenzie.org>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

In the latter half of the 11th century, the Seljuk Turks began penetrating into [medieval Armenia](/wiki/Medieval_Armenia) and the eastern regions of [Anatolia](/wiki/Anatolia). In 1071, the Seljuks defeated the Byzantines at the [Battle of Manzikert](/wiki/Battle_of_Manzikert), starting the [Turkification](/wiki/Turkification) process in the area; the [Turkish language](/wiki/Turkish_language) and [Islam](/wiki/Islam) were introduced to Armenia and Anatolia, gradually spreading throughout the region. The slow transition from a predominantly [Christian](/wiki/Christian) and [Greek](/wiki/Greek_language)-speaking Anatolia to a predominantly [Muslim](/wiki/Muslim) and [Turkish](/wiki/Turkish_language)-speaking one was underway.[[39]](#cite_note-39) Alongside the Turkification of the territory, the [culturally Persianized](/wiki/Persianate_society) Seljuks set the basis for a [Turko-Persian principal culture](/wiki/Turko-Persian_tradition) in Anatolia,[[40]](#cite_note-40) which their eventual successors, the Ottomans [would take over](/wiki/Culture_of_the_Ottoman_Empire).[[41]](#cite_note-41)[[42]](#cite_note-42) In 1243, the Seljuk armies were defeated by the [Mongols](/wiki/Mongol_Empire), causing the Seljuk Empire's power to slowly disintegrate. In its wake, one of the [Turkish principalities](/wiki/Anatolian_beyliks) governed by [Osman I](/wiki/Osman_I) would, over the next 200 years, evolve into the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire). In 1453, the Ottomans completed their conquest of the [Byzantine Empire](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire) by [capturing its capital](/wiki/Fall_of_Constantinople), [Constantinople](/wiki/Constantinople).[[43]](#cite_note-43) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

In 1514, Sultan [Selim I](/wiki/Selim_I) (1512–1520) successfully expanded the empire's southern and eastern borders by defeating Shah [Ismail I](/wiki/Ismail_I) of the [Safavid dynasty](/wiki/Safavid_dynasty) in the [Battle of Chaldiran](/wiki/Battle_of_Chaldiran). In 1517, Selim I expanded Ottoman rule into [Algeria](/wiki/Ottoman_Algeria) and [Egypt](/wiki/Ottoman–Mamluk_War_(1516–1517)), and created a naval presence in the [Red Sea](/wiki/Red_Sea). Subsequently, a competition started between the Ottoman and [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_Empire) empires to become the dominant sea power in the [Indian Ocean](/wiki/Indian_Ocean), with [a number of naval battles](/wiki/Ottoman_naval_expeditions_in_the_Indian_Ocean) in the Red Sea, the [Arabian Sea](/wiki/Arabian_Sea) and the [Persian Gulf](/wiki/Persian_Gulf). The Portuguese presence in the Indian Ocean was perceived as a threat for the Ottoman monopoly over the ancient trading routes between [East Asia](/wiki/East_Asia) and [Western Europe](/wiki/Western_Europe) (later collectively named the [Silk Road](/wiki/Silk_Road)). This important monopoly was increasingly compromised following the discovery of a sea route around Africa by Portuguese explorer [Bartolomeu Dias](/wiki/Bartolomeu_Dias) in 1488, which had a considerable impact on the [Ottoman economy](/wiki/Economic_history_of_the_Ottoman_Empire).[[44]](#cite_note-44) The Ottoman Empire's power and prestige peaked in the 16th and 17th centuries, particularly during the reign of [Suleiman the Magnificent](/wiki/Suleiman_the_Magnificent). The empire was often at odds with the [Holy Roman Empire](/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire) in its steady advance towards [Central Europe](/wiki/Central_Europe) through the [Balkans](/wiki/Balkans) and the southern part of the [Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth](/wiki/Polish-Lithuanian_Commonwealth).<ref name=autogenerated1>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> At sea, the [Ottoman Navy](/wiki/Ottoman_Navy) contended with several [Holy Leagues](/wiki/Holy_League), such as those in [1538](/wiki/Holy_League_(1538)), [1571](/wiki/Holy_League_(1571)), [1684](/wiki/Holy_League_(1684)) and [1717](/wiki/Holy_League_(1717)) (composed primarily of [Habsburg Spain](/wiki/Habsburg_Spain), the [Republic of Genoa](/wiki/Republic_of_Genoa), the [Republic of Venice](/wiki/Republic_of_Venice), the [Knights of St. John](/wiki/Knights_Hospitaller), the [Papal States](/wiki/Papal_States), the [Grand Duchy of Tuscany](/wiki/Grand_Duchy_of_Tuscany) and the [Duchy of Savoy](/wiki/Duchy_of_Savoy)), for the control of the [Mediterranean Sea](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea). In the east, the Ottomans were often at war with [Safavid Persia](/wiki/Safavid_dynasty) over conflicts stemming from territorial disputes or religious differences between the 16th and 18th centuries.[[45]](#cite_note-45) The [Ottoman wars with Persia](/wiki/Ottoman-Persian_Wars) continued as the [Zand](/wiki/Zand_dynasty), [Afsharid](/wiki/Afsharid_dynasty), and [Qajar](/wiki/Qajar_dynasty) dynasties succeeded the Safavids in Iran, until the [first half of the 19th century](/wiki/Ottoman-Persian_War_(1821-1823)). From the 16th to the early 20th centuries, the Ottoman Empire also [fought many wars](/wiki/Russo-Turkish_Wars) with the [Russian Tsardom](/wiki/Tsardom_of_Russia) and [Empire](/wiki/Russian_Empire). These were initially about the Ottoman territorial expansion and consolidation in southeastern and eastern Europe; but starting from the [latter half of the 18th century](/wiki/Russo-Turkish_War_(1768–74)), they became more about the survival of the Ottoman state, which began to lose its strategic territories on the northern [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea) coast to the advancing Russians. Between the 18th and the early 20th centuries, the Ottoman, Persian and Russian empires were neighbouring rivals of each other.

From the beginning of the 19th century onwards, the Ottoman Empire [began to decline](/wiki/Decline_of_the_Ottoman_Empire). As it gradually shrank in size, military power and wealth, many Balkan Muslims migrated to the Empire's heartland in Anatolia,[[46]](#cite_note-46)[[47]](#cite_note-47) along with the [Circassians](/wiki/Circassians) fleeing the [Russian conquest](/wiki/Russian–Circassian_War). The decline of the Ottoman Empire led to a [rise in nationalist sentiment among the various subject peoples](/wiki/Rise_of_nationalism_under_the_Ottoman_Empire), leading to increased ethnic tensions which occasionally burst into violence, such as the [Hamidian massacres](/wiki/Hamidian_massacres) of Armenians.<ref name=nzhistory.net.nz>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The Ottoman Empire entered [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I) on the side of the [Central Powers](/wiki/Central_Powers) and was ultimately defeated. During the war, the empire's [Armenians](/wiki/Armenians) were [deported](/wiki/Tehcir_Law) to [Syria](/wiki/Syria) as part of the [Armenian Genocide](/wiki/Armenian_Genocide). As a result, an estimated 800,000 to 1,500,000 Armenians were killed.[[48]](#cite_note-48)[[49]](#cite_note-49)[[50]](#cite_note-50)[[51]](#cite_note-51) The Turkish government has [refused to acknowledge](/wiki/Armenian_Genocide_denial) the events as [genocide](/wiki/Genocide) and claims that Armenians were only [relocated](/wiki/Population_transfer) from the eastern war zone.[[52]](#cite_note-52) Large-scale massacres were also committed against the empire's other minority groups such as the [Assyrians](/wiki/Assyrian_genocide) and [Greeks](/wiki/Greek_genocide).[[53]](#cite_note-53)<ref name=Levene>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref>[[54]](#cite_note-54) Following the [Armistice of Mudros](/wiki/Armistice_of_Mudros) on 30 October 1918, the victorious [Allied Powers](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_I) sought to [partition the Ottoman state](/wiki/Partitioning_of_the_Ottoman_Empire) through the 1920 [Treaty of Sèvres](/wiki/Treaty_of_Sèvres).[[43]](#cite_note-43)

### Republic of Turkey[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Ataturk_attends_a_university_class.jpg)[Mustafa Kemal Atatürk](/wiki/Mustafa_Kemal_Atatürk), founder and first President of the Turkish Republic.

The [occupation of Constantinople](/wiki/Occupation_of_Constantinople) and [Smyrna](/wiki/Occupation_of_Smyrna) by the Allies in the aftermath of World War I prompted the establishment of the [Turkish National Movement](/wiki/Turkish_National_Movement).<ref name=19may>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Under the leadership of [Mustafa Kemal](/wiki/Mustafa_Kemal_Atatürk) [Pasha](/wiki/Pasha), a military commander who had distinguished himself during the [Battle of Gallipoli](/wiki/Battle_of_Gallipoli), the [Turkish War of Independence](/wiki/Turkish_War_of_Independence) was waged with the aim of revoking the terms of the Treaty of Sèvres.[[55]](#cite_note-55) By 18 September 1922 the occupying armies were expelled,[[56]](#cite_note-56) and the [Ankara-based Turkish regime](/wiki/Turkish_Provisional_Government), which had declared itself the legitimate government of the country on [23 April 1920](/wiki/Grand_National_Assembly_of_Turkey), started to formalize the legal transition from the old Ottoman into the new Republican political system. On 1 November 1922, the [Turkish Parliament](/wiki/Grand_National_Assembly_of_Turkey) in [Ankara](/wiki/Ankara) formally [abolished the Sultanate](/wiki/Abolition_of_the_Ottoman_Sultanate), thus ending 623 years of monarchical Ottoman rule. The [Treaty of Lausanne](/wiki/Treaty_of_Lausanne) of 24 July 1923 led to the international recognition of the sovereignty of the newly formed "Republic of Turkey" as the successor state of the Ottoman Empire, and the republic was officially proclaimed on 29 October 1923 in Ankara, the country's new capital.[[57]](#cite_note-57) The Lausanne treaty stipulated a [population exchange between Greece and Turkey](/wiki/Population_exchange_between_Greece_and_Turkey), whereby 1.1 million Greeks left Turkey for Greece in exchange for 380,000 Muslims transferred from Greece to Turkey.[[58]](#cite_note-58) Mustafa Kemal became the republic's first [President](/wiki/President_of_Turkey) and subsequently introduced [many radical reforms](/wiki/Atatürk's_Reforms) with the aim of transforming the old [religion-based and multi-communal](/wiki/Millet_(Ottoman_Empire)) Ottoman state system ([constitutional](/wiki/Ottoman_constitution_of_1876) [monarchy](/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy)) into an essentially Turkish [nation state](/wiki/Nation_state) ([parliamentary republic](/wiki/Parliamentary_republic)) with a [secular](/wiki/Laïcité) [constitution](/wiki/Turkish_Constitution_of_1924).[[59]](#cite_note-59) With the [Surname Law](/wiki/Surname_Law) of 1934, the [Turkish Parliament](/wiki/Turkish_Parliament) bestowed upon Mustafa Kemal the honorific surname "Atatürk" (*Father of the Turks*).[[55]](#cite_note-55) Turkey [remained neutral](/wiki/Second_Cairo_Conference) during most of [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), but entered the closing stages of the war on the side of the [Allies](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_II) on 23 February 1945. On 26 June 1945, Turkey became a [charter member](/wiki/United_Nations_Charter) of the United Nations.[[60]](#cite_note-60) Difficulties faced by Greece after the war in quelling a [communist rebellion](/wiki/Greek_Civil_War), along with demands by the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union) for military bases in the [Turkish Straits](/wiki/Turkish_Straits), prompted the [United States](/wiki/United_States) to declare the [Truman Doctrine](/wiki/Truman_Doctrine) in 1947. The doctrine enunciated American intentions to guarantee the security of Turkey and Greece, and resulted in large-scale [U.S. military and economic support](/wiki/Turkey-United_States_relations). Both countries were included in the [Marshall Plan](/wiki/Marshall_Plan) and [OEEC](/wiki/Organisation_for_European_Economic_Co-operation) for rebuilding European economies in 1948,[[61]](#cite_note-61) and subsequently became founding members of the [OECD](/wiki/Organisation_for_Economic_Co-operation_and_Development) in 1961.<ref name=oecd.org>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

After participating with the United Nations forces in the [Korean War](/wiki/Korean_War), Turkey joined [NATO](/wiki/NATO) in 1952, becoming a bulwark against Soviet expansion into the [Mediterranean](/wiki/Mediterranean_Basin). Following a decade of [Cypriot intercommunal violence](/wiki/Cypriot_intercommunal_violence) and the [coup in Cyprus on 15 July 1974](/wiki/1974_Cypriot_coup_d'état) staged by the [EOKA B](/wiki/EOKA_B) paramilitary organization, which overthrew President [Makarios](/wiki/Makarios_III) and installed the pro-[Enosis](/wiki/Enosis) (union with Greece) [Nikos Sampson](/wiki/Nikos_Sampson) as dictator, [Turkey invaded Cyprus](/wiki/Turkish_invasion_of_Cyprus) on 20 July 1974.[[62]](#cite_note-62) Nine years later the [Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus](/wiki/Turkish_Republic_of_Northern_Cyprus), which is recognized only by Turkey, was established.[[63]](#cite_note-63) The [single-party period](/wiki/Single-Party_Period_of_Republic_of_Turkey) ended in 1945. It was followed by a tumultuous transition to [multiparty democracy](/wiki/Multi-party_period_of_the_Republic_of_Turkey) over the next few decades, which was interrupted by military [coups d'état](/wiki/Coup_d'état) in [1960](/wiki/1960_Turkish_coup_d'état), [1971](/wiki/1971_Turkish_coup_d'état), and [1980](/wiki/1980_Turkish_coup_d'état), as well as a military memorandum in [1997](/wiki/1997_military_memorandum_(Turkey)).[[64]](#cite_note-64)[[65]](#cite_note-65) In 1984, the [PKK](/wiki/Kurdistan_Workers'_Party), a Kurdish separatist group, began an [insurgency campaign](/wiki/Kurdish–Turkish_conflict) against the Turkish government. The Kurdish-Turkish conflict to date has claimed over 40,000 lives.[[66]](#cite_note-66) Over 3,000 Kurdish villages were burned by Turkish security forces and hundreds of thousands of Kurds displaced,[[67]](#cite_note-67) and Kurdish political parties were banned.<ref name=bahar>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> [Peace talks](/wiki/Solution_process) were launched in 2012,[[68]](#cite_note-68)[[69]](#cite_note-69) but hostilities restarted in 2015 following the [Suruc bombing](/wiki/Suruc_bombing).[[70]](#cite_note-70) Since the liberalization of the Turkish economy during the 1980s, the country has enjoyed stronger economic growth and greater political stability.[[71]](#cite_note-71) In 2013, [widespread protests](/wiki/2013_protests_in_Turkey) erupted in many Turkish provinces, sparked by a plan to demolish [Gezi Park](/wiki/Gezi_Park) but growing into general anti-government dissent.[[72]](#cite_note-72)

## Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) Turkey has a unitary structure in terms of administration and this aspect is one of the most important factors shaping the Turkish public administration. When three powers (executive, legislative and judiciary) are taken into account as the main functions of the state, local administrations have little power. Turkey is a unitary not a federal system, and the provinces are subordinated to the centre. Local administrations were established to provide services in place and the government is represented by the governors and city governors. Besides the governors and the city governors, other senior public officials are also appointed by the central government rather than appointed by mayors or elected by constituents.<ref name=justice.gov.tr>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Turkey is subdivided into 81 [provinces](/wiki/Provinces_of_Turkey) for administrative purposes. Each province is divided into [districts](/wiki/Districts_of_Turkey), for a total of 923 districts.[[73]](#cite_note-73) Turkey is also subdivided into 7 [regions](/wiki/Geographical_regions_of_Turkey) and 21 subregions for geographic, demographic and economic purposes; this does not refer to an administrative division.<ref name=7regions>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

[Template:Turkey Labelled Map](/wiki/Template:Turkey_Labelled_Map)

## Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Turkey is a [parliamentary](/wiki/Parliamentary_system) [representative democracy](/wiki/Representative_democracy). Since its foundation as a republic in 1923, Turkey [has developed a strong tradition](/wiki/Secularism_in_Turkey) of [secularism](/wiki/Secular_state).[[74]](#cite_note-74) [Turkey's constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Turkey) governs the legal framework of the country. It sets out the main principles of government and establishes Turkey as a unitary centralized state. The [President of the Republic](/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_Turkey) is the [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state) and has a largely ceremonial role. The president is elected for a five-year term by direct elections and [Recep Tayyip Erdoğan](/wiki/Recep_Tayyip_Erdoğan) is the first president elected by direct voting.

[Executive power](/wiki/Executive_(government)) is exercised by the [Prime Minister](/wiki/List_of_Prime_Ministers_of_Turkey) and the [Council of Ministers](/wiki/Council_of_Ministers_of_Turkey) which make up the government, while the [legislative](/wiki/Legislature) power is vested in the unicameral parliament, the [Grand National Assembly of Turkey](/wiki/Grand_National_Assembly_of_Turkey). The [judiciary](/wiki/Judiciary) is independent of the executive and the legislature, and the Constitutional Court is charged with ruling on the conformity of [laws and decrees](/wiki/Legal_System_in_the_Republic_of_Turkey) with the constitution. The [Council of State](/wiki/Turkish_Council_of_State) is the tribunal of last resort for administrative cases, and the [High Court of Appeals](/wiki/High_Court_of_Appeals_of_Turkey) for all others.[[75]](#cite_note-75) The prime minister is elected by the parliament through a vote of confidence in the government and is most often the head of the [party](/wiki/List_of_political_parties_in_Turkey) having the most seats in parliament. The prime minister is [Binali Yıldırım](/wiki/Binali_Yıldırım), who replaced [Ahmet Davutoğlu](/wiki/Ahmet_Davutoğlu) on 24 May 2016.

[Universal suffrage](/wiki/Universal_suffrage) for both sexes has been applied throughout Turkey since 1933, and every Turkish citizen who has turned 18 years of age has the right to vote. There are 550 [members of parliament](/wiki/Member_of_Parliament) who are elected for a four-year term by a [party-list proportional representation](/wiki/Party-list_proportional_representation) system from 85 electoral districts. The Constitutional Court can strip the public financing of [political parties](/wiki/List_of_political_parties_in_Turkey) that it deems [anti-secular](/wiki/Secularism_in_Turkey) or [separatist](/wiki/Separatism), or ban their existence altogether.[[76]](#cite_note-76)[[77]](#cite_note-77) The [electoral threshold](/wiki/Electoral_threshold) is 10 percent of the votes.[[78]](#cite_note-78) Supporters of [Atatürk's reforms](/wiki/Atatürk's_Reforms) are called [Kemalists](/wiki/Kemalist), as distinguished from [Islamists](/wiki/Islamist), representing two extremes on a continuum of beliefs about the proper role of religion in public life.[[79]](#cite_note-79) The Kemalist position generally combines a kind of [democracy](/wiki/Democracy) with a [laicist](/wiki/Laïcité) [constitution](/wiki/Constitution) and [westernised](/wiki/Western_culture) [secular](/wiki/Secularism) [lifestyle](/wiki/Lifestyle_(sociology)), while supporting [state intervention](/wiki/State_intervention) in the [economy](/wiki/Economy), [education](/wiki/Education), and other [public services](/wiki/Public_service).[[79]](#cite_note-79) Since the 1980s, a rise in income inequality and class distinction has given rise to [Islamic populism](/wiki/Islamism), a movement that in theory supports obligation to authority, communal solidarity and social justice, though what that entails in practice is often contested.[[79]](#cite_note-79)

### Human rights[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Human rights in Turkey](/wiki/Human_rights_in_Turkey) have been the subject of some controversy and international condemnation. Between 1998 and 2008 the [European Court of Human Rights](/wiki/European_Court_of_Human_Rights) made more than 1,600 judgements against Turkey for human rights violations, particularly regarding the right to life, and freedom from torture. Other issues, such as Kurdish rights, women's rights, LGBT rights, and press freedom, have also attracted controversy. Turkey's human rights record continues to be a significant obstacle to future membership of the EU.[[80]](#cite_note-80) According to the [Committee to Protect Journalists](/wiki/Committee_to_Protect_Journalists), the [AKP](/wiki/Justice_and_Development_Party_(Turkey)) government has waged one of the world's biggest crackdowns on press freedoms.<ref name=CPJ>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> A large number of journalists have been arrested using charges of "terrorism" and "anti-state activities" such as the [Ergenekon](/wiki/Ergenekon_(organization)) and [Balyoz](/wiki/Sledgehammer_(coup_plan)) cases, while thousands have been investigated on charges such as "denigrating Turkishness" or "insulting Islam" in an effort to sow self-censorship.<ref name=CPJ/> In 2012, the CPJ identified 76 jailed journalists in Turkey, including 61 directly held for their published work, ranking 1st in the world, more than in Iran, Eritrea or China<ref name=CPJ/> while [Freemuse](/wiki/Freemuse) identified 9 musicians imprisoned for their work, ranking 3rd after [Russia](/wiki/Russia) and [China](/wiki/China).<ref name=freemuse>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> A former [U.S. State Department](/wiki/United_States_Department_of_State) spokesman, [Philip J. Crowley](/wiki/Philip_J._Crowley), said that the United States had "broad concerns about trends involving intimidation of journalists in Turkey."[[81]](#cite_note-81) Turkey has a 'Not Free' [rating by](/wiki/Freedom_of_the_Press_(report)) [Freedom House](/wiki/Freedom_House).<ref name=freedomhouse>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

In its resolution "The functioning of democratic institutions in Turkey" on 22 June 2016, the [Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe](/wiki/Parliamentary_Assembly_of_the_Council_of_Europe) warned that "recent developments in Turkey pertaining to freedom of the media and of expression, erosion of the rule of law and the human rights violations in relation to anti-terrorism security operations in south-east Turkey have (...) raised serious questions about the functioning of its democratic institutions."[[82]](#cite_note-82)

### Law[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Turkey has a legal system which has been wholly integrated with the system of continental Europe. For instance, the Turkish Civil Law has been modified by incorporating elements mainly of the Swiss Civil Code, the Code of Obligations and the German Commercial Code. The Administrative Law bears similarities with its French counterpart, and the Penal Code with its Italian counterpart.<ref name=mymerhaba.com>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Turkey has adopted the principle of the [separation of powers](/wiki/Separation_of_powers). In line with this principle, judicial power is exercised by independent courts on behalf of the Turkish nation. The independence and organization of the courts, the security of the tenure of judges and public prosecutors, the profession of judges and prosecutors, the supervision of judges and public prosecutors, the military courts and their organization, and the powers and duties of the high courts are regulated by the [Turkish Constitution](/wiki/Turkish_Constitution).<ref name=uhdigm.adalet.gov.tr>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

According to Article 142 of the Turkish Constitution, the organization, duties and jurisdiction of the courts, their functions and the trial procedures are regulated by law. In line with the aforementioned article of the Turkish Constitution and related laws, the court system in Turkey can be classified under three main categories; which are the Judicial Courts, Administrative Courts and Military Courts. Each category includes first instance courts and high courts. In addition, the Court of Jurisdictional Disputes rules on cases that cannot be classified readily as falling within the purview of one court system.<ref name=uhdigm.adalet.gov.tr/>

Law enforcement in Turkey is carried out by several departments (such as the [General Directorate of Security](/wiki/General_Directorate_of_Security) and [Gendarmerie General Command](/wiki/Gendarmerie_General_Command)) and agencies, all acting under the command of the [Prime Minister of Turkey](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Turkey) or mostly the [Minister of Internal Affairs](/wiki/Ministry_of_the_Interior_(Turkey)). According to figures released by the [Justice Ministry](/wiki/Ministry_of_Justice_(Turkey)), there are 100,000 people in [Turkish prisons](/wiki/Turkish_prisons) as of November 2008, a doubling since 2000.[[83]](#cite_note-83)

### Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|After becoming](/wiki/File:EU_and_Turkey_Locator_Map.png) [one of the first members](/wiki/Member_states_of_the_Council_of_Europe) of the [Council of Europe](/wiki/Council_of_Europe) in 1949, Turkey became an [associate member](/wiki/Ankara_Agreement) of the [EEC](/wiki/European_Economic_Community) in 1963, joined the [EU Customs Union](/wiki/European_Union_Customs_Union) in 1995 and started [full membership negotiations](/wiki/Accession_of_Turkey_to_the_European_Union) with the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) in 2005.[[15]](#cite_note-15) [thumb|Leaders of the](/wiki/File:Participants_at_the_2015_G20_Summit_in_Turkey.jpg) [G-20](/wiki/G-20_major_economies) at the [2015 Antalya summit](/wiki/2015_G-20_Antalya_summit) in Turkey.

Turkey is a founding member of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations) (1945),<ref name=ministryofforeign3>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> the [OECD](/wiki/Organisation_for_Economic_Co-operation_and_Development) (1961),<ref name=ministryofforeign1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> the [OIC](/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation) (1969),<ref name=ministryofforeign4>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> the [OSCE](/wiki/Organization_for_Security_and_Co-operation_in_Europe) (1973),<ref name=ministryofforeign5>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> the [ECO](/wiki/Economic_Cooperation_Organization) (1985),<ref name=ministryofforeign6>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> the [BSEC](/wiki/Organization_of_the_Black_Sea_Economic_Cooperation) (1992),<ref name=ministryofforeign7>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> the [D-8](/wiki/Developing_8_Countries) (1997)<ref name=ministryofforeign8>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and the [G-20 major economies](/wiki/G-20_major_economies) (1999).<ref name=ministryofforeign2>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Turkey was a member of the [United Nations Security Council](/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council) in 1951–1952, 1954–1955, 1961 and 2009-2010.[[84]](#cite_note-84) In September 2013, Turkey became a member of the [Asia Cooperation Dialogue](/wiki/Asia_Cooperation_Dialogue) (ACD).

In line with its traditional Western orientation, relations with Europe have always been a central part of Turkish foreign policy. Turkey became [one of the first members](/wiki/Member_states_of_the_Council_of_Europe) of the [Council of Europe](/wiki/Council_of_Europe) in 1949, applied for associate membership of the [EEC](/wiki/European_Economic_Community) (predecessor of the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union)) in 1959 and became an [associate member](/wiki/Ankara_Agreement) in 1963. After decades of political negotiations, Turkey applied for full membership of the EEC in 1987, became an associate member of the [Western European Union](/wiki/Western_European_Union) in 1992, joined the [EU Customs Union](/wiki/European_Union_Customs_Union) in 1995 and has been in [formal accession negotiations](/wiki/Accession_of_Turkey_to_the_European_Union) with the EU since 2005.[[15]](#cite_note-15) Today, EU membership is considered as a state policy and a strategic target by Turkey.[[85]](#cite_note-85) Turkey's support for [Northern Cyprus](/wiki/Northern_Cyprus) in the [Cyprus dispute](/wiki/Cyprus_dispute) complicates Turkey's relations with the EU and remains a major stumbling block to the country's [EU accession bid.](/wiki/Accession_of_Turkey_to_the_European_Union)[[86]](#cite_note-86) The other defining aspect of Turkey's foreign policy was the country's long-standing strategic alliance with the [United States](/wiki/United_States).<ref name=foreignaffairs.com>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=fas.org>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The common threat posed by the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union) during the [Cold War](/wiki/Cold_War) led to Turkey's membership of [NATO](/wiki/NATO) in 1952, ensuring close bilateral relations with [Washington](/wiki/Washington,_D.C.). Subsequently Turkey benefited from the United States' political, economic and diplomatic support, including in key issues such as the country's bid to join the European Union.[[87]](#cite_note-87) In the post–Cold War environment, Turkey's geostrategic importance shifted towards its proximity to the [Middle East](/wiki/Middle_East), the [Caucasus](/wiki/Caucasus) and the [Balkans](/wiki/Balkans).<ref name=edoc.hu-berlin.de>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The independence of the [Turkic states](/wiki/Turkic_states) of the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union) in 1991, with which Turkey shares a common cultural and linguistic heritage, allowed Turkey to extend its economic and political relations deep into [Central Asia](/wiki/Central_Asia),[[88]](#cite_note-88) thus enabling the completion of a multi-billion-dollar oil and natural gas [pipeline](/wiki/Pipeline_transport) from [Baku](/wiki/Baku) in [Azerbaijan](/wiki/Azerbaijan) to the port of [Ceyhan](/wiki/Ceyhan) in Turkey. The [Baku–Tbilisi–Ceyhan pipeline](/wiki/Baku–Tbilisi–Ceyhan_pipeline) forms part of Turkey's foreign policy strategy to become an energy conduit to the West. However Turkey's border with [Armenia](/wiki/Armenia), a state in the [Caucasus](/wiki/Caucasus), was closed by Turkey in support of [Azerbaijan](/wiki/Azerbaijan) during the [Nagorno-Karabakh War](/wiki/Nagorno-Karabakh_War) and remains closed.[[89]](#cite_note-89) Under the [AKP](/wiki/Justice_and_Development_Party_(Turkey)) government, Turkey's influence has grown in the formerly [Ottoman](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) territories of the [Middle East](/wiki/Middle_East) and the [Balkans](/wiki/Balkans), based on the "strategic depth" doctrine (a terminology that was coined by [Ahmet Davutoğlu](/wiki/Ahmet_Davutoğlu) for defining Turkey's increased engagement in regional foreign policy issues), also called [Neo-Ottomanism](/wiki/Neo-Ottomanism).[[90]](#cite_note-90)[[91]](#cite_note-91) Following the [Arab Spring](/wiki/Arab_Spring) in December 2010, the choices made by the AKP government for supporting certain political opposition groups in the affected countries have led to tensions with some Arab states, such as Turkey's neighbour [Syria](/wiki/Syria) since the start of the [Syrian civil war](/wiki/Syrian_civil_war), and [Egypt](/wiki/Egypt) after the [ousting of President Mohamed Morsi](/wiki/2013_Egyptian_coup_d'état).[[92]](#cite_note-92)[[93]](#cite_note-93) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Turkey doesn't have an [ambassador](/wiki/Ambassador) in [Syria](/wiki/Syria) and [Egypt](/wiki/Egypt).[[94]](#cite_note-94)[[95]](#cite_note-95) Diplomatic relations with [Israel](/wiki/Israel) were also severed after the [Gaza flotilla raid](/wiki/Gaza_flotilla_raid) in 2010, but were normalized following a deal in June 2016.[[96]](#cite_note-96) These political rifts have left Turkey with few allies in the [East Mediterranean](/wiki/Levant), where rich [natural gas](/wiki/Natural_gas) fields have recently been discovered;[[97]](#cite_note-97)[[98]](#cite_note-98) in sharp contrast with the original goals that were set by the former Foreign Minister (later Prime Minister) [Ahmet Davutoğlu](/wiki/Ahmet_Davutoğlu) in his "zero problems with neighbours"[[99]](#cite_note-99)[[100]](#cite_note-100) foreign policy doctrine.[[101]](#cite_note-101) In 2015, Turkey, [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia) and [Qatar](/wiki/Qatar) formed a "strategic alliance" against Syrian President [Bashar al-Assad](/wiki/Bashar_al-Assad).[[102]](#cite_note-102)[[103]](#cite_note-103) Turkey has maintained forces in international missions under the United Nations and NATO since 1950, including [peacekeeping](/wiki/Peacekeeping) missions in [Somalia](/wiki/Somalia) and former [Yugoslavia](/wiki/Yugoslavia), and support to coalition forces in the [First Gulf War](/wiki/First_Gulf_War). Turkey maintains 36,000 troops in [Northern Cyprus](/wiki/Northern_Cyprus), though their presence is controversial,[[104]](#cite_note-104) and assists [Iraqi Kurdistan](/wiki/Iraqi_Kurdistan) with security.[[105]](#cite_note-105) Turkey has had troops deployed in [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan) as part of the [United States stabilization force](/wiki/War_in_Afghanistan_(2001–present)) and the UN-authorized, NATO-commanded [International Security Assistance Force](/wiki/International_Security_Assistance_Force) (ISAF) since 2001.<ref name=tskpeace>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Since 2003, Turkey contributes military personnel to [Eurocorps](/wiki/Eurocorps) and takes part in the [EU Battlegroups](/wiki/European_Union_battlegroups#Contributions).[[106]](#cite_note-106)

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:NATO_Ministers_of_Defense_and_of_Foreign_Affairs_meet_at_NATO_headquarters_in_Brussels_2010.jpg) [Turkish Armed Forces](/wiki/Turkish_Armed_Forces) collectively rank as the second largest standing military force in [NATO](/wiki/NATO), after the [U.S. Armed Forces](/wiki/United_States_Armed_Forces). Turkey joined the alliance in 1952.<ref name=ministryofforeign>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The [Turkish Armed Forces](/wiki/Turkish_Armed_Forces) consists of the [Land Forces](/wiki/Turkish_Land_Forces), the [Naval Forces](/wiki/Turkish_Naval_Forces) and the [Air Force](/wiki/Turkish_Air_Force). The [Gendarmerie](/wiki/Turkish_Gendarmerie) and the [Coast Guard](/wiki/Turkish_Coast_Guard) operate as parts of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in peacetime, although they are subordinated to the Army and Navy Commands respectively in wartime, during which they have both internal law enforcement and military functions.[[107]](#cite_note-107) The [Chief of the General Staff](/wiki/Chief_of_the_Turkish_General_Staff) is appointed by the President and is responsible to the Prime Minister. The Council of Ministers is responsible to the Parliament for matters of national security and the adequate preparation of the armed forces to defend the country. However, the authority to declare war and to deploy the Turkish Armed Forces to foreign countries or to allow foreign armed forces to be stationed in Turkey rests solely with the Parliament.[[107]](#cite_note-107) Turkey has the second largest standing armed force in [NATO](/wiki/NATO), after the [US Armed Forces](/wiki/United_States_Armed_Forces), with an estimated strength of 495,000 deployable forces, according to a 2011 NATO estimate.[[108]](#cite_note-108) Turkey is one of five NATO member states which are part of the [nuclear sharing](/wiki/Nuclear_sharing) policy of the alliance, together with Belgium, [Germany](/wiki/Germany_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction), Italy, and the [Netherlands](/wiki/Netherlands_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction).[[109]](#cite_note-109) A total of 90 [B61 nuclear bombs](/wiki/B61_nuclear_bomb) are hosted at the [Incirlik Air Base](/wiki/Incirlik_Air_Base), 40 of which are allocated for use by the [Turkish Air Force](/wiki/Turkish_Air_Force) in case of a nuclear conflict, but their use requires the approval of NATO.[[110]](#cite_note-110) Every fit male Turkish citizen otherwise not barred is required to [serve in the military](/wiki/Conscription_in_Turkey) for a period ranging from three weeks to a year, dependent on education and job location.[[111]](#cite_note-111) Turkey does not recognise conscientious objection and does not offer a civilian alternative to military service.[[112]](#cite_note-112)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|250px|left|Topographic map of Turkey](/wiki/File:Turkey_topo.jpg)

Turkey is a [transcontinental](/wiki/Transcontinental_country)[[113]](#cite_note-113) Eurasian country. Asian Turkey, which includes 97 percent of the country, is separated from European Turkey by the [Bosphorus](/wiki/Bosphorus), the [Sea of Marmara](/wiki/Sea_of_Marmara), and the [Dardanelles](/wiki/Dardanelles). [European Turkey](/wiki/East_Thrace) comprises 3 percent of the country.<ref name=turkeygeoth>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> The territory of Turkey is more than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) wide, with a roughly rectangular shape.[[114]](#cite_note-114) It lies between latitudes [35°](/wiki/35th_parallel_north) and [43° N](/wiki/43rd_parallel_north), and longitudes [25°](/wiki/25th_meridian_east) and [45° E](/wiki/45th_meridian_east). Turkey's land area, including lakes, occupies [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),[[115]](#cite_note-115) of which [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) are in Southwest Asia and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in Europe.[[114]](#cite_note-114) Turkey is the world's [37th-largest](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_outlying_territories_by_total_area) country in terms of area. The country is encircled by seas on three sides: the [Aegean Sea](/wiki/Aegean_Sea) to the west, the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea) to the north and the Mediterranean to the south. Turkey also contains the [Sea of Marmara](/wiki/Sea_of_Marmara) in the northwest.[[116]](#cite_note-116)[thumb|right|A photograph of](/wiki/File:Akhtamar_Island_on_Lake_Van_with_the_Armenian_Cathedral_of_the_Holy_Cross.jpg) [Lake Van](/wiki/Lake_Van) and the [Armenian Church](/wiki/Cathedral_of_the_Holy_Cross,_Aghtamar) of [Akhtamar](/wiki/Akhtamar). Van is the largest lake in the country and is located in eastern Anatolia.<ref name=lvan>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The European section of Turkey, [East Thrace](/wiki/East_Thrace) (the easternmost region of the [Balkan](/wiki/Balkans) peninsula), forms the borders of Turkey with Greece and Bulgaria. The Asian part of the country is comprised mostly by the peninsula of [Anatolia](/wiki/Anatolia), which consists of a high central plateau with narrow coastal plains, between the [Köroğlu](/wiki/Köroğlu_Mountains) and [Pontic](/wiki/Pontic_Mountains) mountain ranges to the north and the [Taurus Mountains](/wiki/Taurus_Mountains) to the south. [Eastern Turkey](/wiki/Eastern_Anatolia_Region), located within the western plateau of the [Armenian Highlands](/wiki/Armenian_Highlands), has a more mountainous landscape and is home to the sources of rivers such as the [Euphrates](/wiki/Euphrates), [Tigris](/wiki/Tigris) and [Aras](/wiki/Aras_River), and contains [Mount Ararat](/wiki/Mount_Ararat), Turkey's highest point at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),<ref name=mararat>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and [Lake Van](/wiki/Lake_Van), the largest lake in the country.<ref name=lvan/> [Southeastern Turkey](/wiki/Southeastern_Anatolia_Region) is located within the northern plains of [Upper Mesopotamia](/wiki/Upper_Mesopotamia).

Turkey is divided into [seven geographical regions](/wiki/Geographical_regions_of_Turkey): [Marmara](/wiki/Marmara_Region,_Turkey), [Aegean](/wiki/Aegean_Region,_Turkey), [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea_Region,_Turkey), [Central Anatolia](/wiki/Central_Anatolia_Region,_Turkey), [Eastern Anatolia](/wiki/East_Anatolia_Region,_Turkey), [Southeastern Anatolia](/wiki/South_Eastern_Anatolia_Region,_Turkey) and the [Mediterranean](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea_Region,_Turkey). The uneven north Anatolian terrain running along the Black Sea resembles a long, narrow belt. This region comprises approximately one-sixth of Turkey's total land area. As a general trend, the inland Anatolian plateau becomes increasingly rugged as it progresses eastward.[[116]](#cite_note-116) Turkey's varied landscapes are the product of complex earth movements that have shaped the region over thousands of years and still manifest themselves in fairly frequent earthquakes and occasional [volcanic](/wiki/Volcano) eruptions. The [Bosphorus](/wiki/Bosphorus) and the [Dardanelles](/wiki/Dardanelles) owe their existence to the [fault lines](/wiki/Geologic_fault) running through Turkey that led to the creation of the Black Sea. The [North Anatolian Fault Line](/wiki/North_Anatolian_Fault) runs across the north of the country from west to east, along which major earthquakes took place in history. The latest of those big earthquakes was the [1999 İzmit earthquake](/wiki/1999_İzmit_earthquake).

### Biodiversity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Sumela_Showing_Location.JPG)[Sümela Monastery](/wiki/Sümela_Monastery) on the [Pontic Mountains](/wiki/Pontic_Mountains). These mountains form an [ecoregion](/wiki/Ecoregion) with [diverse temperate rainforest types](/wiki/Northern_Anatolian_conifer_and_deciduous_forests), [flora](/wiki/Flora) and [fauna](/wiki/Fauna).

Turkey's extraordinary [ecosystem](/wiki/Ecosystem) and habitat diversity has produced considerable species diversity.[[117]](#cite_note-117) [Anatolia](/wiki/Anatolia) is the homeland of many plants that have been cultivated for food since the advent of [agriculture](/wiki/Agriculture), and the wild ancestors of many plants that now provide staples for humankind still grow in Turkey. The diversity of Turkey's [fauna](/wiki/Fauna) is even greater than that of its [flora](/wiki/Flora). The number of animal species in the whole of [Europe](/wiki/Europe) is around 60,000, while in Turkey there are over 80,000 (over 100,000 counting the subspecies).<ref name=allaboutturkey>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The [Northern Anatolian conifer and deciduous forests](/wiki/Northern_Anatolian_conifer_and_deciduous_forests) is an [ecoregion](/wiki/Ecoregion) which covers most of the [Pontic Mountains](/wiki/Pontic_Mountains) in northern Turkey, while the [Caucasus mixed forests](/wiki/Caucasus_mixed_forests) extend across the eastern end of the range. The region is home to [Eurasian](/wiki/Eurasia) wildlife such as the [Eurasian sparrowhawk](/wiki/Eurasian_sparrowhawk), [golden eagle](/wiki/Golden_eagle), [eastern imperial eagle](/wiki/Eastern_imperial_eagle), [lesser spotted eagle](/wiki/Lesser_spotted_eagle), [Caucasian black grouse](/wiki/Caucasian_black_grouse), [red-fronted serin](/wiki/Red-fronted_serin), and [wallcreeper](/wiki/Wallcreeper).[[118]](#cite_note-118) The narrow coastal strip between the Pontic Mountains and the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea) is home to the [Euxine-Colchic deciduous forests](/wiki/Euxine-Colchic_deciduous_forests), which contain some of the world's few [temperate rainforests](/wiki/Temperate_rainforest).[[119]](#cite_note-119) The [Turkish pine](/wiki/Turkish_pine) is mostly found in Turkey and other east Mediterranean countries. Several wild species of [tulip](/wiki/Tulip) are native to Anatolia, and the flower was first [introduced to Western Europe](/wiki/Tulip#Introduction_to_Western_Europe) with species taken from the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century.[[120]](#cite_note-120)[[121]](#cite_note-121) There are [40 national parks](/wiki/List_of_national_parks_of_Turkey), 189 nature parks, 31 nature preserve areas, 80 wildlife protection areas and 109 nature monuments in Turkey such as [Gallipoli Peninsula Historical National Park](/wiki/Gallipoli_Peninsula_Historical_National_Park), [Mount Nemrut National Park](/wiki/Mount_Nemrut_National_Park), [Ancient Troya National Park](/wiki/Ancient_Troya_National_Park), [Ölüdeniz Nature Park](/wiki/Ölüdeniz_Nature_Park) and [Polonezköy Nature Park](/wiki/Polonezköy_Nature_Park).<ref name=ministryofforest>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

[Ankara](/wiki/Ankara), the capital of Turkey, is renowned for the [Angora cat](/wiki/Turkish_Angora), [Angora rabbit](/wiki/Angora_rabbit) and [Angora goat](/wiki/Angora_goat). Another national cat breed of Turkey is the [Van cat](/wiki/Turkish_Van). The national dog breeds are the [Anatolian Shepherd](/wiki/Anatolian_Shepherd), [Kangal](/wiki/Kangal_dog), [Malaklı](/wiki/Aksaray_Malaklisi_dog) and [Akbaş](/wiki/Akbash_Dog).<ref name=gateofturkey>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The last confirmed death of an [Anatolian leopard](/wiki/Anatolian_leopard), closely related to the [Persian (Caucasian) leopard](/wiki/Persian_leopard) and native to the western regions of Anatolia, took place in the Bağözü village of the [Beypazarı](/wiki/Beypazarı,_Ankara) district in [Ankara Province](/wiki/Ankara_Province) on 17 January 1974.[[122]](#cite_note-122)<ref name=iucn>[Template:IUCN](/wiki/Template:IUCN)</ref> The Persian (Caucasian) leopard is still found in very small numbers in the northeastern and southeastern regions of Turkey.<ref name=O.E.Can>Can, O. E. (2004). *Status, conservation and management of large carnivores in Turkey*. Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. Standing Committee, 24th meeting, 29 November-3 December 2004, Strasbourg.</ref>[[123]](#cite_note-123) The [Caspian tiger](/wiki/Caspian_tiger) is an extinct tiger subspecies (closely related to the [Siberian tiger](/wiki/Siberian_tiger)) which lived in the easternmost regions of Turkey until the latter half of the 20th century, with the last confirmed death in [Uludere](/wiki/Uludere), February 1970.[[124]](#cite_note-124) The [Eurasian lynx](/wiki/Eurasian_lynx) and the [European wildcat](/wiki/European_wildcat) are other [felid](/wiki/Felidae) species which are currently found in the forests of Turkey.

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|Turkey map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Turkey_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) [thumb|Climate diagram of Turkey<ref name=Meteo/>](/wiki/File:Climate_diagram_of_Turkey_(Sensoy,_S._et_al,_2008).png) The coastal areas of Turkey bordering the [Aegean](/wiki/Aegean_Sea) and [Mediterranean Seas](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea) have a [temperate](/wiki/Temperate) [Mediterranean climate](/wiki/Mediterranean_climate), with hot, dry summers and mild to cool, wet winters.<ref name=Meteo>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The coastal areas bordering the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea) have a temperate [oceanic climate](/wiki/Oceanic_climate) with warm, wet summers and cool to cold, wet [winters](/wiki/Winter).<ref name=Meteo/> The Turkish Black Sea coast receives the greatest amount of [precipitation](/wiki/Precipitation_(meteorology)) and is the only region of Turkey that receives high precipitation throughout the year.<ref name=Meteo/> The eastern part of that coast averages [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) annually which is the highest precipitation in the country.<ref name=Meteo/>

The coastal areas bordering the [Sea of Marmara](/wiki/Sea_of_Marmara), which connects the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea, have a transitional climate between a temperate Mediterranean climate and a temperate oceanic climate with warm to hot, moderately dry [summers](/wiki/Summer) and cool to cold, wet winters.<ref name=Meteo/> Snow falls on the coastal areas of the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea almost every winter, but usually melts in no more than a few days.<ref name=Meteo/> However snow is rare in the coastal areas of the Aegean Sea and very rare in the coastal areas of the Mediterranean Sea.<ref name=Meteo/>

Mountains close to the coast prevent Mediterranean influences from extending inland, giving the central Anatolian [plateau](/wiki/Plateau) of the interior of Turkey a [continental climate](/wiki/Continental_climate) with sharply contrasting [seasons](/wiki/Seasons).<ref name=Meteo/>

Winters on the eastern part of the plateau are especially severe.<ref name=Meteo/> Temperatures of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) can occur in eastern Anatolia.<ref name=Meteo/> Snow may remain at least 120 days of the year.<ref name=Meteo/> In the west, winter temperatures average below 1 °C (34 °F).<ref name=Meteo/> Summers are hot and dry, with temperatures often above 30 °C (86 °F) in the day.<ref name=Meteo/> Annual [precipitation](/wiki/Precipitation_(meteorology)) averages about 400 millimetres (15 in), with actual amounts determined by elevation. The driest regions are the Konya plain and the Malatya plain, where annual rainfall is often less than 300 millimetres (12 in). May is generally the wettest month, whereas July and August are the driest.<ref name=Meteo/>

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[thumb|300px|left|Skyscrapers of](/wiki/File:İstanbul_view_from_İstanbul_Sapphire_observation_deck_Aug_2014,_p9.JPG) [Levent](/wiki/Levent) business district in [Istanbul](/wiki/Istanbul), Turkey's largest city and leading economic center.<ref name=hurriyetdailynews2>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Turkey has the world's [17th largest GDP by PPP](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(PPP))<ref name=WB-GDP-PPP>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and [18th largest nominal GDP](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)).<ref name=WB-GDP>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The country is among the founding members of the [OECD](/wiki/OECD) and the [G-20 major economies](/wiki/G-20_major_economies).<ref name=ministryofforeign1/><ref name=ministryofforeign2/>

The [EU – Turkey Customs Union](/wiki/European_Union_–_Turkey_Customs_Union) in 1995 led to an extensive liberalization of tariff rates, and forms one of the most important pillars of Turkey's foreign trade policy.[[125]](#cite_note-125) Turkey's exports were $143.5 billion in 2011 and reached $163 billion in 2012 (main export partners in 2012: [Germany](/wiki/Germany) 8.6%, [Iraq](/wiki/Iraq) 7.1%, [Iran](/wiki/Iran) 6.5%, [UK](/wiki/United_Kingdom) 5.7%, [UAE](/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates) 5.4%). However, larger imports which amounted to $229 billion in 2012 threatened the balance of trade (main import partners in 2012: [Russia](/wiki/Russia) 11.3%, [Germany](/wiki/Germany) 9%, [China](/wiki/China) 9%, [US](/wiki/United_States) 6%, [Italy](/wiki/Italy) 5.6%).[[11]](#cite_note-11) Turkey has a sizeable [automotive industry](/wiki/Automotive_industry_in_Turkey), which produced over a million motor vehicles in 2012, ranking as the [17th largest producer in the world](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_motor_vehicle_production).<ref name=oica>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Turkish [shipbuilding](/wiki/Shipbuilding) exports were worth US$1.2 billion in 2011.[[126]](#cite_note-126) The major export markets are Malta, Marshall Islands, Panama and the United Kingdom. Turkish shipyards have 15 [floating docks](/wiki/Floating_dry_dock) of different sizes and one [dry dock](/wiki/Dry_dock).[[126]](#cite_note-126) Tuzla, Yalova, and İzmit have developed into dynamic shipbuilding centres.[[127]](#cite_note-127) In 2011, there were 70 active shipyards in Turkey, with another 56 being built.[[127]](#cite_note-127) Turkish shipyards are highly regarded both for the production of chemical and [oil tankers](/wiki/Oil_tanker) up to 10,000 [dwt](/wiki/Deadweight_tonnage) and also for their [mega yachts](/wiki/Mega_yacht).[[127]](#cite_note-127) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

Turkish brands like [Beko](/wiki/Beko) and [Vestel](/wiki/Vestel) are among the largest producers of [consumer electronics](/wiki/Consumer_electronics) and [home appliances](/wiki/Home_appliances) in Europe, and invest a substantial amount of funds for research and development in new technologies related to these fields.[[128]](#cite_note-128)[[129]](#cite_note-129)[[130]](#cite_note-130) Other key sectors of the Turkish economy are banking, construction, home appliances, electronics, textiles, oil refining, petrochemical products, food, mining, iron and steel, and [machine industry](/wiki/Machine_industry). In 2010, the agricultural sector accounted for 9 percent of GDP, while the industrial sector accounted for 26 percent and the services sector for 65 percent.[[11]](#cite_note-11) However, agriculture still accounted for a quarter of employment.[[131]](#cite_note-131) In 2004, it was estimated that 46 percent of total disposable income was received by the top 20 percent of income earners, while the lowest 20 percent received only 6 percent.[[132]](#cite_note-132) The rate of female employment in Turkey was 30 percent in 2012,[[133]](#cite_note-133) the lowest among all OECD countries.[[134]](#cite_note-134) [Foreign direct investment](/wiki/Foreign_direct_investment) (FDI) was $8.3 billion in 2012, a figure expected to rise to $15 billion in 2013.[[135]](#cite_note-135) In 2012, [Fitch Group](/wiki/Fitch_Group) upgraded Turkey's [credit rating](/wiki/Credit_rating) to [investment grade](/wiki/Investment_grade) after an 18-year gap;[[136]](#cite_note-136) this was followed by a ratings upgrade by [Moody's](/wiki/Moody's) in May 2013, as the service lifted Turkey's government bond ratings to the lowest investment grade Baa3.[[137]](#cite_note-137)[[138]](#cite_note-138)

### History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Ataturk-Nazilli-Cottonfactory.jpg)[Atatürk](/wiki/Mustafa_Kemal_Atatürk) (center) accompanied by [Bayar](/wiki/Celâl_Bayar) (to his left) and [İnönü](/wiki/İsmet_İnönü) (to his right) at the [Sümerbank](/wiki/Sümerbank) Textile Factory in [Nazilli](/wiki/Nazilli), 9 October 1937.

In the early decades of the Turkish Republic, the government (or banks established and owned by the government, such as [Türkiye İş Bankası](/wiki/Türkiye_İş_Bankası) (1924), Sanayi ve Maadin Bankası (1925), Emlak ve Eytam Bankası (1926), [Central Bank of Turkey](/wiki/Central_Bank_of_the_Republic_of_Turkey) (1930), [Sümerbank](/wiki/Sümerbank) (1933), [İller Bankası](/wiki/İlbank) (1933), [Etibank](/wiki/Etibank) (1935), [Denizbank](/wiki/Denizbank) (1937), [Halk Bankası](/wiki/Halk_Bankası) (1938), etc.) had to subsidize most of the industrial projects, due to the lack of a strong [private sector](/wiki/Private_sector). However, in the period between the 1920s and 1950s, a new generation of Turkish [entrepreneurs](/wiki/Entrepreneur) such as [Nuri Demirağ](/wiki/Nuri_Demirağ), [Vehbi Koç](/wiki/Vehbi_Koç), [Hacı Ömer Sabancı](/wiki/Hacı_Ömer_Sabancı) and [Nejat Eczacıbaşı](/wiki/Nejat_Eczacıbaşı) began to establish privately owned factories, some of which evolved into the largest industrial [conglomerates](/wiki/Conglomerate_(company)) that dominate the Turkish economy today, such as [Koç Holding](/wiki/Koç_Holding), [Sabancı Holding](/wiki/Sabancı_Holding) and [Eczacıbaşı Holding](/wiki/Eczacıbaşı).

During the first six decades of the republic, between 1923 and 1983, Turkey generally adhered to a quasi-[statist](/wiki/Statism) approach with strict government planning of the [budget](/wiki/Government_budget) and government-imposed limitations over [foreign trade](/wiki/Foreign_trade), flow of [foreign currency](/wiki/Foreign_exchange_market), [foreign direct investment](/wiki/Foreign_direct_investment) and private sector participation in certain fields (such as [broadcasting](/wiki/Broadcasting), [telecommunications](/wiki/Telecommunications), [energy](/wiki/Energy_industry), [mining](/wiki/Mining), etc.). However, in 1983, Prime Minister [Turgut Özal](/wiki/Turgut_Özal) initiated a series of reforms designed to shift the economy from a statist, insulated system to a more private-sector, [market](/wiki/Market_economy)-based model.[[71]](#cite_note-71) The reforms, combined with unprecedented amounts of funding from foreign loans, spurred rapid economic growth; but this growth was punctuated by sharp [recessions](/wiki/Recession) and financial crises in 1994, 1999 (following the [earthquake](/wiki/1999_İzmit_earthquake) of that year),[[139]](#cite_note-139) and 2001;[[140]](#cite_note-140) resulting in an average of 4 percent GDP growth per annum between 1981 and 2003.[[141]](#cite_note-141) Lack of additional fiscal reforms, combined with large and growing [public sector](/wiki/Public_sector) [deficits](/wiki/Government_budget_deficit) and widespread corruption, resulted in high inflation, a weak [banking](/wiki/List_of_banks_in_Turkey) sector and increased [macroeconomic](/wiki/Macroeconomics) volatility.[[142]](#cite_note-142) Since the [economic crisis of 2001](/wiki/Turkish_Stock_Market_Crash_of_2001) and the reforms initiated by the finance minister of the time, [Kemal Derviş](/wiki/Kemal_Derviş), inflation has dropped to single-digit figures for the first time in decades (8% in 2005), investor confidence and foreign investment have soared, and unemployment has fallen (10% in 2005).[[143]](#cite_note-143) Turkey has gradually opened up its markets through economic reforms by reducing government controls on foreign trade and investment and the [privatization](/wiki/Privatization) of publicly owned industries, and the liberalization of many sectors to private and foreign participation has continued amid political debate.[[144]](#cite_note-144) The public [debt-to-GDP ratio](/wiki/Debt-to-GDP_ratio) peaked at 75.9 percent during the recession of 2001, falling to an estimated 26.9 percent by 2013.<ref name=pdebt>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The real GDP growth rate from 2002 to 2007 averaged 6.8 percent annually,[[145]](#cite_note-145) which made Turkey one of the fastest growing economies in the world during that period. However, growth slowed to 1 percent in 2008, and in 2009 the Turkish economy was affected by the [global financial crisis](/wiki/Late-2000s_financial_crisis), with a recession of 5 percent. The economy was estimated to have returned to 8 percent growth in 2010.[[11]](#cite_note-11) According to [Eurostat](/wiki/Eurostat) data, Turkish GDP per capita adjusted by [purchasing power](/wiki/Purchasing_power) standard stood at 52 percent of the EU average in 2011.[[146]](#cite_note-146) In the early years of the 21st century, the chronically high inflation was brought under control; this led to the launch of a new currency, the [Turkish new lira](/wiki/Turkish_lira#8th_Emission_group) (*Yeni Türk Lirası*) in 2005, to cement the acquisition of the economic reforms and erase the vestiges of an unstable economy.[[147]](#cite_note-147) In 2009, after only four years in circulation, the *Turkish new lira* was renamed back to the [Turkish lira](/wiki/Turkish_lira) with the introduction of [new banknotes](/wiki/Turkish_lira#9th_Emission_group) and [coins](/wiki/Turkish_Lira#Coins) (and the withdrawal of the *Turkish new lira* banknotes and coins that were introduced in 2005), but the [ISO 4217](/wiki/ISO_4217) code of the *Turkish new lira* (TRY) remains in use for the current *Turkish lira* in the [foreign exchange market](/wiki/Foreign_exchange_market).

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Most of the beach resorts in Turkey are located in the](/wiki/File:Alanyafromcastle.JPG) [Turkish Riviera](/wiki/Turkish_Riviera).

[Tourism in Turkey](/wiki/Tourism_in_Turkey) has experienced rapid growth in the last twenty years, and constitutes an important part of the economy. In 2013, 37.8 million foreign visitors arrived in Turkey, which ranked as the [6th most popular tourism destination in the world](/wiki/World_Tourism_rankings#International_tourist_arrivals_by_country_of_destination_2011); they contributed $27.9 billion to Turkey's revenues.[[148]](#cite_note-148) In 2012, 15 percent of the tourists were from [Germany](/wiki/Germany), 11 percent from [Russia](/wiki/Russia), 8 percent from the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom), 5 percent from [Bulgaria](/wiki/Bulgaria), 4 percent each from [Georgia](/wiki/Georgia_(country)), the [Netherlands](/wiki/Netherlands) and [Iran](/wiki/Iran), 3 percent from [France](/wiki/France), 2 percent each from the [USA](/wiki/USA) and [Syria](/wiki/Syria), and 40 percent from other countries.<ref name=TurkStat1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Turkey has [13 UNESCO World Heritage Sites](/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_in_Turkey), such as the "[Historic Areas of Istanbul](/wiki/Historic_Areas_of_Istanbul)", the "Rock Sites of [Cappadocia](/wiki/Cappadocia)", the "Neolithic Site of [Çatalhöyük](/wiki/Çatalhöyük)", "[Hattusa](/wiki/Hattusa): the [Hittite](/wiki/Hittites) Capital", the "Archaeological Site of [Troy](/wiki/Troy)", "[Pergamon](/wiki/Pergamon) and its Multi-Layered Cultural Landscape", "[Hierapolis](/wiki/Hierapolis) – [Pamukkale](/wiki/Pamukkale)", and "[Mount Nemrut](/wiki/Mount_Nemrut)";[[149]](#cite_note-149) and [51 World Heritage Sites in tentative list](/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_in_Turkey_(Tentative_list)), such as the archaeological sites or historic urban centers of [Göbekli Tepe](/wiki/Göbekli_Tepe), [Gordion](/wiki/Gordion), [Ephesus](/wiki/Ephesus), [Aphrodisias](/wiki/Aphrodisias), [Perga](/wiki/Perga), [Lycia](/wiki/Lycia), [Sagalassos](/wiki/Sagalassos), [Aizanoi](/wiki/Aizanoi), [Zeugma](/wiki/Zeugma), [Ani](/wiki/Ani), [Harran](/wiki/Harran), [Mardin](/wiki/Mardin), [Konya](/wiki/Konya) and [Alanya](/wiki/Alanya).<ref name=whc.unesco.org1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Turkey hosts two of the [Seven Wonders of the Ancient World](/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_the_Ancient_World): the [Mausoleum](/wiki/Mausoleum_at_Halicarnassus) in [Halicarnassus](/wiki/Halicarnassus) and the [Temple of Artemis](/wiki/Temple_of_Artemis) in [Ephesus](/wiki/Ephesus).<ref name=historyworld>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

[Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

### Infrastructure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Turkish_Airlines_1350321.jpg)[Turkish Airlines](/wiki/Turkish_Airlines), [flag carrier](/wiki/Flag_carrier) of Turkey, has been selected by [Skytrax](/wiki/Skytrax) as [Europe's](/wiki/Europe) best airline for five years in a row (2011–2015).[[150]](#cite_note-150) With destinations in 126 countries worldwide, Turkish Airlines is the [largest carrier in the world by number of countries served](/wiki/World's_largest_airlines#By_number_of_countries_served) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of).[[151]](#cite_note-151) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Boğaziçi_Köprüsü_-_Aerial_view.jpg) [Bosphorus Bridge](/wiki/Bosphorus_Bridge) is the oldest of three [suspension bridges](/wiki/Suspension_bridge) connecting the [European](/wiki/Europe) and [Asian](/wiki/Asia) sides of the [Bosphorus](/wiki/Bosphorus) [strait](/wiki/Strait) in [Istanbul](/wiki/Istanbul). It was inaugurated on the 50th anniversary of the Turkish Republic in 1973, when it had the 4th-[longest suspension bridge span](/wiki/List_of_longest_suspension_bridge_spans) in the world, and the longest outside the United States (the longest in Europe and Asia).[[152]](#cite_note-152)[[153]](#cite_note-153) The [Marmaray](/wiki/Marmaray) railway tunnel under the Bosphorus entered service on the 90th anniversary of the Republic in 2013.

In 2013 there were 98 [airports in Turkey](/wiki/List_of_airports_in_Turkey),[[154]](#cite_note-154) including 22 [international airports](/wiki/International_airport).[[155]](#cite_note-155) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), [Istanbul Atatürk Airport](/wiki/Istanbul_Atatürk_Airport) is the [11th busiest airport in the world](/wiki/World's_busiest_airports_by_passenger_traffic), serving 31,833,324 passengers between January and July 2014, according to [Airports Council International](/wiki/Airports_Council_International).[[156]](#cite_note-156) The [new (third) international airport of Istanbul](/wiki/İstanbul_New_Airport) is planned to be the largest airport in the world, with a capacity to serve 150 million passengers per annum.[[157]](#cite_note-157)[[158]](#cite_note-158)[[159]](#cite_note-159) [Turkish Airlines](/wiki/Turkish_Airlines), [flag carrier](/wiki/Flag_carrier) of Turkey since 1933, was selected by [Skytrax](/wiki/Skytrax) as [Europe's](/wiki/Europe) best airline for five consecutive years in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.<ref name=TurkishAirlinesSkytrax>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[150]](#cite_note-150)[[160]](#cite_note-160)<ref name=hizlitren.tcdd.gov.tr>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The [Turkish State Railways](/wiki/Turkish_State_Railways) started building [high-speed rail](/wiki/High-speed_rail_in_Turkey) lines in 2003. The [Ankara-Konya line](/wiki/Ankara-Konya_high-speed_railway) became operational in 2011 while the [Ankara-Istanbul line](/wiki/Ankara-Istanbul_high-speed_railway) entered service in 2014.<ref name=hizlitren.tcdd.gov.tr/>

In 2008, [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of [natural gas](/wiki/Natural_gas) pipelines and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of [petroleum](/wiki/Petroleum) pipelines spanned the country's territory.<ref name=CIAFactbookTurkey/> The [Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline](/wiki/Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan_pipeline), the second longest [oil pipeline](/wiki/Oil_pipeline) in the world, was inaugurated on 10 May 2005.<ref name=emreozgur.com>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The [Blue Stream](/wiki/Blue_Stream), a major trans-[Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea) gas pipeline, delivers natural gas from [Russia](/wiki/Russia) to Turkey. New undersea pipeline, with an annual capacity around 63 billion cubic metres (bcm), will allow Turkey to resell Russian gas to Europe.[[162]](#cite_note-162) In 2013, the energy consumption was 240 billion [kilowatt hours](/wiki/Kilowatt_hours).<ref name=dwnuke>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> As Turkey imported 72 percent of its energy in 2013, the government decided to invest in [nuclear power](/wiki/Nuclear_power_in_Turkey) to reduce imports.<ref name=dwnuke/> Three nuclear power stations are to be built by 2023.<ref name=dwnuke/> Turkey has the fifth highest direct utilization and capacity of [geothermal power](/wiki/Geothermal_power_in_Turkey) in the world.<ref name=look>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> Turkey is a partner country of the [EU](/wiki/EU) [INOGATE](/wiki/INOGATE) energy programme.[[163]](#cite_note-163) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:TCDD_HT80000_Siemens_Velaro.jpg)[High-speed rail](/wiki/High-speed_rail_in_Turkey) services of the [Turkish State Railways](/wiki/Turkish_State_Railways) are currently offered with [TCDD HT80000](/wiki/TCDD_HT80000) and [TCDD HT65000](/wiki/TCDD_HT65000) [EMU train sets](/wiki/Electric_multiple_unit).

Turkey's first [nuclear power plants](/wiki/Nuclear_energy_in_Turkey) are planned to be built in [Mersin's](/wiki/Mersin_Province) [Akkuyu](/wiki/Akkuyu_Nuclear_Power_Plant) district on the [Mediterranean](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea) coast; in [Sinop's](/wiki/Sinop_Province) [İnceburun](/wiki/Sinop_Nuclear_Power_Plant) district on the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea) coast; and in [Kırklareli's](/wiki/Kırklareli_Province) İğneada district on the Black Sea coast.<ref name=turknuc>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Turkey has the fifth highest direct utilization and capacity of [geothermal power](/wiki/Geothermal_power_in_Turkey) in the world.<ref name=look/> Turkey is a partner country of the [EU](/wiki/EU) [INOGATE](/wiki/INOGATE) energy programme, which has four key topics: enhancing [energy security](/wiki/Energy_security), [convergence](/wiki/Convergence_(economics)) of member state [energy markets](/wiki/Energy_market) on the basis of [EU internal energy market](/wiki/Internal_energy_market) principles, supporting [sustainable energy](/wiki/Sustainable_energy) development, and attracting [investment](/wiki/Investment) for energy projects of common and regional interest.[[163]](#cite_note-163) [Turkey's internet](/wiki/Internet_in_Turkey), which has 35 million[[164]](#cite_note-164) active users, holds a 'Partly Free' ranking in [Freedom House's](/wiki/Freedom_House) index.<ref name=freedomhouse/>

Water supply and sanitation in Turkey is characterized by achievements and challenges. Over the past decades access to drinking water has become almost universal and access to adequate sanitation has also increased substantially. Autonomous utilities have been created in the 16 [metropolitan cities](/wiki/Metropolitan_municipalities_in_Turkey) of Turkey and cost recovery has been increased, thus providing the basis for the sustainability of service provision. Intermittent supply, which was common in many cities, has become less frequent. In 2004, 61% of the wastewater collected through sewers was being treated.

Remaining challenges include the need to further increase wastewater treatment, to reduce the high level of [non-revenue water](/wiki/Non-revenue_water) hovering around 50% and to expand access to adequate sanitation in rural areas. The investment required to comply with EU standards in the sector, especially in wastewater treatment, is estimated to be in the order of Euro 2 billion per year, more than double the current level of investment.[[165]](#cite_note-165)

### Science and technology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|120px|left|](/wiki/File:Tai_logo.png)[TAI](/wiki/Turkish_Aerospace_Industries) ranks among the top 100 global players in the aerospace and defence sectors.<ref name=tai.com.tr>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

[TÜBİTAK](/wiki/Scientific_and_Technological_Research_Council_of_Turkey) is the leading agency for developing [science, technology and innovation policies in Turkey](/wiki/Science_and_technology_in_Turkey).[[166]](#cite_note-166) [TÜBA](/wiki/Turkish_Academy_of_Sciences) is an autonomous scholarly society acting to promote scientific activities in Turkey.[[167]](#cite_note-167) [TAEK](/wiki/TAEK) is the official [nuclear energy](/wiki/Nuclear_technology) institution of Turkey. Its objectives include academic research in nuclear energy, and the development and implementation of peaceful nuclear tools.[[168]](#cite_note-168) Turkish government companies for [research and development](/wiki/Research_and_development) in [military technologies](/wiki/Military_technology) include [Turkish Aerospace Industries](/wiki/Turkish_Aerospace_Industries), [Aselsan](/wiki/Aselsan), [Havelsan](/wiki/Havelsan), [Roketsan](/wiki/Roketsan), [MKE](/wiki/Mechanical_and_Chemical_Industry_Corporation), among others. [Turkish Satellite Assembly, Integration and Test Center](/wiki/Turkish_Satellite_Assembly,_Integration_and_Test_Center) (UMET) is a spacecraft production and testing facility owned by the Ministry of National Defence and operated by the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI). The [Turkish Space Launch System](/wiki/Space_Launch_System_(Turkey)) (UFS) is a project to develop the satellite launch capability of Turkey. It consists of the construction of a [spaceport](/wiki/Spaceport), the development of [satellite launch vehicles](/wiki/Satellite_launch_vehicle) as well as the establishment of remote earth stations.[[169]](#cite_note-169)[[170]](#cite_note-170)[[171]](#cite_note-171) In 2015, [Aziz Sancar](/wiki/Aziz_Sancar), a Turkish professor at the [University of North Carolina](/wiki/University_of_North_Carolina), won the [Nobel Chemistry Prize](/wiki/Nobel_Chemistry_Prize) along with [Tomas Lindahl](/wiki/Tomas_Lindahl) and [Paul Modrich](/wiki/Paul_Modrich), for their work on how cells repair damaged DNA.[[172]](#cite_note-172)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Historical populations](/wiki/Template:Historical_populations)

[thumb|190px|Areas in Turkey with a Kurdish-majority population.](/wiki/File:Kurdistan_of_Turkey_(CIA).png)[[173]](#cite_note-173)

According to the *Address-Based Population Recording System* of Turkey, the country's population was 74.7 million people in 2011,<ref name=2011stat>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> nearly three-quarters of whom lived in [towns and cities](/wiki/Urban_area). According to the 2011 estimate, the population is increasing by 1.35 percent each year. Turkey has an average population density of 97 people per km². People within the 15–64 [age group](/wiki/Age_group) constitute 67.4 percent of the total population; the 0–14 age group corresponds to 25.3 percent; while senior citizens aged 65 years or older make up 7.3 percent.[[174]](#cite_note-174) In 1927, when the first official census was recorded in the Republic of Turkey, the population was 13.6 million.[[175]](#cite_note-175) The largest city in Turkey, Istanbul, is also the largest city in Europe in population, and the third-largest city in Europe in terms of size.[[176]](#cite_note-176)[[177]](#cite_note-177) Article 66 of the [Turkish Constitution](/wiki/Turkish_Constitution) defines a "Turk" as "anyone who is bound to the Turkish state through the bond of citizenship"; therefore, the legal use of the term "Turkish" as a [citizen](/wiki/Citizenship) of Turkey is different from the [ethnic](/wiki/Ethnic_group) definition.<ref name=yenisafak1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> However, the majority of the Turkish population are of [Turkish ethnicity](/wiki/Turkish_people). They are estimated at 70–75 percent.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Reliable data on the ethnic mix of the population is not available, because Turkish census figures do not include statistics on ethnicity.[[178]](#cite_note-178) The three "[Non-Muslim](/wiki/Millet_(Ottoman_Empire))" minority groups claimed to be officially recognized in the [Treaty of Lausanne](/wiki/Treaty_of_Lausanne) are [Armenians](/wiki/Armenians_in_Turkey), [Greeks](/wiki/Greeks_in_Turkey) and [Jews](/wiki/Jews_in_Turkey). Officially unrecognized (mostly Muslim) ethnic groups include [Albanians](/wiki/Albanians), [Arabs](/wiki/Arabs_in_Turkey), [Assyrians](/wiki/Assyrians_in_Turkey), [Azeris](/wiki/Azeris_in_Turkey), [Bosniaks](/wiki/Bosniaks), [Circassians](/wiki/Circassians), [Georgians](/wiki/Georgians), [Lazs](/wiki/Laz_people), [Persians](/wiki/Persian_people), [Pomaks (Bulgarians)](/wiki/Pomaks), [Yazidis](/wiki/Yazidis) and [Roma](/wiki/Romani_people).<ref name=minorityrights.org>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[179]](#cite_note-179) The [Kurds](/wiki/Kurds_in_Turkey), a distinct ethnic group, are the largest non-Turkic ethnicity, around 18-25 percent of the population.[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[180]](#cite_note-180) Kurds are concentrated in the east and southeast of the country, in what is also known as [Turkish Kurdistan](/wiki/Turkish_Kurdistan). Kurds make up a majority in the provinces of [Tunceli](/wiki/Tunceli_Province), [Bingöl](/wiki/Bingöl_Province), [Muş](/wiki/Muş_Province), [Ağrı](/wiki/Ağrı_Province), [Iğdır](/wiki/Iğdır_Province), [Elâzığ](/wiki/Elâzığ_Province), [Diyarbakır](/wiki/Diyarbakır_Province), [Batman](/wiki/Batman_Province), [Şırnak](/wiki/Şırnak_Province), [Bitlis](/wiki/Bitlis_Province), [Van](/wiki/Van_Province), [Mardin](/wiki/Mardin_Province), [Siirt](/wiki/Siirt_Province) and [Hakkari](/wiki/Hakkari_Province), a near majority in [Şanlıurfa province](/wiki/Şanlıurfa_Province) (47%), and a large minority in [Kars province](/wiki/Kars_Province) (20%).[[181]](#cite_note-181) In addition, due to internal migration, Kurdish communities exist in all major cities in central and western Turkey, particularly in Istanbul, where there are an estimated 3 million Kurds, making Istanbul the city with the largest Kurdish population in the world.[[182]](#cite_note-182) Minorities besides the Kurds are thought to make up an estimated 7–12 percent of the population.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Minorities other than the three officially recognized ones do not have any minority rights. The term "minority" itself remains a sensitive issue in Turkey, while the Turkish government is frequently criticized for its treatment of minorities.[[12]](#cite_note-12) Although minorities are not recognised, state-run [Turkish Radio and Television Corporation](/wiki/Turkish_Radio_and_Television_Corporation) (TRT) broadcasts television and radio programs in minority languages.[[183]](#cite_note-183)[[184]](#cite_note-184) Also, some minority language classes can be chosen in elementary schools.<ref name=azinlikdil>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

An estimated 2.5 percent of the population are [international migrants](/wiki/Human_migration).<ref name=esa.un.org>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Turkey hosts the largest number of [refugees](/wiki/Refugee) in the world, including 2.2 million [Syrian refugees](/wiki/Refugees_of_the_Syrian_Civil_War), as of September 2015.[[185]](#cite_note-185)[[186]](#cite_note-186)[[187]](#cite_note-187) The country's official language is [Turkish](/wiki/Turkish_language), which is spoken by 85.54 percent of the population as [mother tongue](/wiki/Mother_tongue).<ref name=milliyet-languages/> 11.97 percent of the population speaks the [Kurmanji](/wiki/Kurmanji) dialect of [Kurdish](/wiki/Kurdish_languages) as mother tongue.[[188]](#cite_note-188) [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic_language) and [Zaza](/wiki/Zaza_language) are the mother tongues of 2.39 percent of the population, and several other languages are the mother tongues of smaller parts of the population.[[188]](#cite_note-188) [Endangered](/wiki/Endangered_language) [languages in Turkey](/wiki/Languages_of_Turkey) include [Abaza](/wiki/Abaza_language), [Abkhaz](/wiki/Abkhaz_language), [Adyge](/wiki/Adyghe_language), [Cappadocian Greek](/wiki/Cappadocian_Greek), [Gagauz](/wiki/Gagauz_language), [Hértevin](/wiki/Hértevin), [Homshetsma](/wiki/Homshetsma), [Kabard-Cherkes](/wiki/Kabard-Cherkes), [Ladino (Judesmo)](/wiki/Judaeo-Spanish), [Laz](/wiki/Laz_language), [Mlahso](/wiki/Mlahso), [Pontic Greek](/wiki/Pontic_Greek), [Romani](/wiki/Romani_language), [Suret](/wiki/Suret), [Turoyo](/wiki/Turoyo), [Ubykh](/wiki/Ubykh_language), and [Western Armenian](/wiki/Western_Armenian).[[189]](#cite_note-189) [Template:Largest cities in Turkey](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_in_Turkey)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

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Turkey is a [secular state](/wiki/Secular_state) with no official [state religion](/wiki/State_religion); the [Turkish Constitution](/wiki/Turkish_Constitution) provides for [freedom of religion](/wiki/Freedom_of_religion) and conscience.[[190]](#cite_note-190)[[191]](#cite_note-191) The role of religion has been a controversial debate over the years since the formation of Islamist parties.[[192]](#cite_note-192) For many decades, the wearing of the [hijab](/wiki/Hijab) was [banned](/wiki/Headscarf_controversy_in_Turkey) in schools and government buildings because it was viewed as a symbol of [political Islam](/wiki/Political_Islam). However, the ban was lifted from universities in 2011, from government buildings in 2013,[[193]](#cite_note-193) and from schools in 2014.<ref name=news24.com>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

#### Islam[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Islam](/wiki/Islam) is the dominant religion of Turkey with 99.8 percent of the population being registered as [Muslim](/wiki/Muslim)[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[194]](#cite_note-194) (although some sources give a slightly lower estimate of 96.4 percent)<ref name=joshua>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> with the most popular sect being the [Hanafite](/wiki/Hanafite) school of [Sunni Islam](/wiki/Sunni_Islam). The highest Islamic religious authority is the [Presidency of Religious Affairs](/wiki/Presidency_of_Religious_Affairs) ([Template:Lang-tr](/wiki/Template:Lang-tr)); it interprets the [Hanafi](/wiki/Hanafi) school of law, and is responsible for regulating the operation of the country's 80,000 registered mosques and employing local and provincial [imams](/wiki/Imam).<ref name=religiousfreedomreport>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Academics suggest the [Alevi](/wiki/Alevi) population may be from 15 to 20 million while the Alevi-Bektaşi Federation claims that there are around 25 million<ref name=usstate>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=refworld.org1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and according to [Aksiyon](/wiki/Aksiyon) magazine, the number of [Shiite](/wiki/Shia_Islam) [Twelvers](/wiki/Twelver) (excluding Alevis) is 3 million (4.2 percent).[[195]](#cite_note-195) There are also some [Sufi](/wiki/Sufism) Muslims.[[196]](#cite_note-196) Roughly 2 percent are [non-denominational Muslims](/wiki/Non-denominational_Muslims).<ref name=pewforum.org>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Sultan_Ahmed_Mosque_Istanbul_Turkey_retouched.jpg)[Sultan Ahmed Mosque](/wiki/Sultan_Ahmed_Mosque) in [Istanbul](/wiki/Istanbul) is popularly known as the Blue Mosque due to the blue [İznik tiles](/wiki/İznik_tiles) which adorn its interior.<ref name=bluemosque>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The percentage of non-Muslims in Turkey fell from 19 percent in 1914 to 2.5 percent in 1927,[[197]](#cite_note-197) due to events which had a significant impact on the country's demographic structure, such as the [Armenian Genocide](/wiki/Armenian_Genocide), the [population exchange between Greece and Turkey](/wiki/Population_exchange_between_Greece_and_Turkey),[[198]](#cite_note-198) and the [emigration](/wiki/Emigration) of non-Muslims (such as [Levantines](/wiki/Levantines), [Greeks](/wiki/Greeks), [Armenians](/wiki/Armenians), [Jews](/wiki/Jews), etc.) to foreign countries (mostly in [Europe](/wiki/Europe) and [the Americas](/wiki/The_Americas)) that actually began in the late 19th century and gained pace in the first quarter of the 20th century, especially during [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I) and after the [Turkish War of Independence](/wiki/Turkish_War_of_Independence).[[199]](#cite_note-199) The [Wealth Tax](/wiki/Varlık_Vergisi) on non-Muslims in 1942, the emigration of a portion of Turkish Jews to [Israel](/wiki/Israel) after 1948, and the ongoing [Cyprus dispute](/wiki/Cyprus_dispute) which damaged the relations between Turks and Greeks (culminating in the [Istanbul pogrom](/wiki/Istanbul_pogrom) of 6–7 September 1955) were other important events that contributed to the decline of Turkey's non-Muslim population.

#### Christianity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

Today there are more than 120,000 people of different [Christian denominations](/wiki/Christian_denominations), representing less than 0.2 percent of Turkey's population,[[200]](#cite_note-200) including an estimated 80,000 [Oriental Orthodox](/wiki/Oriental_Orthodox),[[201]](#cite_note-201) 35,000 [Roman Catholics](/wiki/Catholic_Church),<ref name=catho>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> 18,000 [Antiochian Greeks](/wiki/Antiochian_Greeks),[[202]](#cite_note-202) 5,000 [Greek Orthodox](/wiki/Greek_Orthodox_Church)[[201]](#cite_note-201) and smaller numbers of [Protestants](/wiki/Protestanism).<ref name=christiancentury.org>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Currently there are 236 churches open for worship in Turkey.[[203]](#cite_note-203) The [Eastern Orthodox Church](/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_Church) has been [headquartered in Istanbul](/wiki/Ecumenical_Patriarchate_of_Constantinople) since the 4th century.[[204]](#cite_note-204)[[205]](#cite_note-205)

#### Judaism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

There are about 26,000 people who are [Jewish](/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Turkey), the vast majority of whom are [Sephardi](/wiki/Sephardi_Jews).[[206]](#cite_note-206) There have been [Jewish communities in Asia Minor](/wiki/Romaniotes) since at least the 5th century BC and many [Spanish and Portuguese Jews](/wiki/Sephardic_Jews) [expelled from Spain](/wiki/Alhambra_Decree) were welcomed into the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) in the late 15th century, twenty centuries later. Despite [emigration during the 20th century](/wiki/Aliyah), modern-day Turkey continues to have a small Jewish population.<ref name=science.co.il>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

#### Agnosticism and Atheism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

According to a 2010 Eurobarometer poll 94% of Turks believed in God while only 1% did not. This indicates that 5% of the population are [agnostic](/wiki/Agnosticism) with another 1% being explicitly [atheist](/wiki/Atheism).[[207]](#cite_note-207) However, according to another poll by KONDA the percentage of atheism is 2.9%.[[208]](#cite_note-208)

### Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Istanbul_University_campus_March_2008c.JPG)[Istanbul University](/wiki/Istanbul_University) was founded in 1453 as a *Darülfünûn*. On 1 August 1933 it was reorganized and became Turkey's first university.<ref name=istanbuluniversity>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The [Ministry of National Education](/wiki/Ministry_of_National_Education_(Turkey)) is responsible for pre-tertiary education.<ref name=wesed>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> This is compulsory and lasts twelve years: four years each of primary school, middle school and high school.<ref name=nyt-peg>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Less than half of 25- to 34-year-old Turks have completed at least [high school](/wiki/High_school), compared with an [OECD](/wiki/OECD) average of over 80 percent.<ref name=oecdind>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Basic education in Turkey is considered to lag behind other OECD countries, with significant differences between high and low performers.<ref name=WBedu/> Turkey is ranked 32nd out of 34 in the OECD's [PISA](/wiki/PISA) study.<ref name=nyt-peg/> Access to high-quality school heavily depends on the performance in the secondary school entrance exams, to the point that some students begin taking private tutoring classes when they are 10 years old.<ref name=WBedu>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The overall adult literacy rate in 2011 was 94.1 percent; 97.9 percent for males and 90.3 percent for females.<ref name=unescolit>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

By 2011, there were 166 [universities in Turkey](/wiki/Universities_in_Turkey).[[209]](#cite_note-209) Entry to higher education depends on the [Student Selection Examination](/wiki/Student_Selection_Examination) (ÖSS). In 2008, the quota of admitted students was 600,000, compared to 1,700,000 who took the ÖSS exam in 2007.[[210]](#cite_note-210) Except for the Open Education Faculty (Turkish: *Açıköğretim Fakültesi*) at [Anadolu University](/wiki/Anadolu_University), entrance is regulated by the national ÖSS examination, after which high school graduates are assigned to universities according to their performance.[[211]](#cite_note-211) According to the 2012–2013 [Times Higher Education World University Rankings](/wiki/Times_Higher_Education_World_University_Rankings), the top university in Turkey is [Middle East Technical University](/wiki/Middle_East_Technical_University) (in the 201–225 rank range), followed by [Bilkent University](/wiki/Bilkent_University) and [Koç University](/wiki/Koç_University) (both in the 226–250 range), [Istanbul Technical University](/wiki/Istanbul_Technical_University) and [Boğaziçi University](/wiki/Boğaziçi_University) (in the 276-300 bracket).<ref name=therank>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Healthcare[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Health care in Turkey used to be dominated by a centralized state system run by the [Ministry of Health](/wiki/Ministry_of_Health_(Turkey)). In 2003, the government introduced a sweeping health reform programme aimed at increasing the ratio of private to state health provision and making healthcare available to a larger share of the population. [Turkish Statistical Institute](/wiki/Turkish_Statistical_Institute) announced that 76.3 billion [TL](/wiki/Turkish_lira) was spent for healthcare in 2012; 79.6 percent of which was covered by the [Social Security Institution](/wiki/Sosyal_Güvenlik_Kurumu) and 15.4 percent of which was paid directly by the patients.[[212]](#cite_note-212) In 2012, there were 29,960 medical institutions in Turkey,<ref name=TUIKmedical>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and on average one doctor per 583 people[[213]](#cite_note-213) and 2.65 beds per 1000 people.<ref name=TUIKmedical/>

[Life expectancy](/wiki/Life_expectancy) ([Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of)) was 71.1 years for men and 75.3 for women, with an overall average of 73.2.[[214]](#cite_note-214)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Whirling Dervishes of the](/wiki/File:Whirlingdervishes.JPG) [Mevlevi Order](/wiki/Mevlevi_Order) during a [Sema](/wiki/Sema). The ceremony is one of the 11 elements of Turkey on the [UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists](/wiki/UNESCO_Intangible_Cultural_Heritage_Lists).<ref name=unesco1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Turkey has a very diverse culture that is a blend of various elements of the [Oğuz Turkic](/wiki/Turkic_peoples), [Anatolian](/wiki/Anatolia), [Ottoman](/wiki/Culture_of_the_Ottoman_Empire) (which was itself a continuation of both [Greco-Roman](/wiki/Greco-Roman) and Islamic cultures) and [Western culture](/wiki/Western_culture) and traditions, which started with the [Westernisation of the Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Tanzimat) and still continues today. This mix originally began as a result of the encounter of Turks and their culture with those of the peoples who were in their path during [their migration](/wiki/Turkic_migration) from Central Asia to the West.[[215]](#cite_note-215)[[216]](#cite_note-216) Turkish culture is a product of efforts to be a "modern" Western state, while maintaining traditional religious and historical values.[[215]](#cite_note-215)

### Arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|left|150px|](/wiki/File:Osman_Hamdi_Bey_-_The_Tortoise_Trainer_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg)[*The Tortoise Trainer*](/wiki/The_Tortoise_Trainer) by [Osman Hamdi Bey](/wiki/Osman_Hamdi_Bey), at the [Pera Museum](/wiki/Pera_Museum) in Istanbul.

[Turkish painting](/wiki/List_of_Turkish_painters), in the Western sense, developed actively starting from the mid 19th century. The very first painting lessons were scheduled at what is now the [Istanbul Technical University](/wiki/Istanbul_Technical_University) (then the *Imperial Military Engineering School*) in 1793, mostly for technical purposes.[[217]](#cite_note-217) In the late 19th century, human figure in the western sense was being established in Turkish painting, especially with [Osman Hamdi Bey](/wiki/Osman_Hamdi_Bey). Impressionism, among the contemporary trends, appeared later on with Halil Paşa. The young Turkish artists sent to Europe in 1926 came back inspired by contemporary trends such as Fauvism, Cubism and even Expressionism, still very influential in Europe. The later "Group D" of artists led by [Abidin Dino](/wiki/Abidin_Dino), [Cemal Tollu](/wiki/Cemal_Tollu), [Fikret Mualla](/wiki/Fikret_Mualla), [Fahrünnisa Zeid](/wiki/Princess_Fahrelnissa_Zeid), [Bedri Rahmi Eyüboğlu](/wiki/Bedri_Rahmi_Eyuboglu), [Adnan Çoker](/wiki/Adnan_Coker) and [Burhan Doğançay](/wiki/Burhan_Doğançay) introduced some trends that had lasted in the West for more than three decades. Other important movements in Turkish painting were the "Yeniler Grubu" (The Newcomers Group) of the late 1930s; the "On'lar Grubu" (Group of Ten) of the 1940s; the "Yeni Dal Grubu" (New Branch Group) of the 1950s; and the "Siyah Kalem Grubu" (Black Pen Group) of the 1960s.<ref name=turkresmi.com>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

[Turkish music](/wiki/Music_of_Turkey) and [literature](/wiki/Turkish_literature) are examples of a mix of cultural influences. Interaction between the Ottoman Empire and the Islamic world along with Europe contributed to a blend of Turkic, Islamic and European traditions in modern-day Turkish music and literary arts.<ref name=ottomus>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [Turkish literature](/wiki/Turkish_literature) was heavily influenced by [Persian](/wiki/Persian_literature) and [Arabic literature](/wiki/Arabic_literature) during most of the Ottoman era. The [Tanzimat](/wiki/Tanzimat) reforms introduced previously unknown Western genres, primarily the novel and the short story. Many of the writers in the Tanzimat period wrote in several genres simultaneously: for instance, the poet [Nâmık Kemal](/wiki/Namik_Kemal) also wrote the important 1876 novel *İntibâh* (Awakening), while the journalist [Şinasi](/wiki/İbrahim_Şinasi) is noted for writing, in 1860, the first modern Turkish play, the [one-act](/wiki/One_act_play) comedy "*Şair Evlenmesi*" (The Poet's Marriage). Most of the roots of modern Turkish literature were formed between the years 1896 and 1923. Broadly, there were three primary literary movements during this period: the *Edebiyyât-ı Cedîde* (New Literature) movement; the *Fecr-i Âtî* (Dawn of the Future) movement; and the *Millî Edebiyyât* (National Literature) movement. The first radical step of innovation in 20th century Turkish poetry was taken by [Nâzım Hikmet](/wiki/Nâzım_Hikmet_Ran), who introduced the [free verse](/wiki/Free_verse) style. Another revolution in Turkish poetry came about in 1941 with the [Garip Movement](/wiki/Garip_Movement). The mix of cultural influences in Turkey is dramatized, for example, in the form of the "new symbols of the clash and interlacing of cultures" enacted in the novels of [Orhan Pamuk](/wiki/Orhan_Pamuk), recipient of the 2006 [Nobel Prize in Literature](/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Literature).[[218]](#cite_note-218) Turkey has a [diverse folkloric dance](/wiki/Turkish_dance) culture. [*Hora*](/wiki/Hora_(dance)) is performed in [East Thrace](/wiki/East_Thrace); [*Zeybek*](/wiki/Zeybek_dance) in the [Aegean Region](/wiki/Aegean_Region), [Southern Marmara](/wiki/Marmara_Region) and [East-Central Anatolia Region](/wiki/Central_Anatolia_Region); *Teke* in the [Western Mediterranean Region](/wiki/Mediterranean_Region); *Kaşık Oyunları* and [*Karşılama*](/wiki/Karşılama) in [West-Central Anatolia](/wiki/Central_Anatolia_Region), [Western Black Sea Region](/wiki/Black_Sea_Region), [Southern Marmara Region](/wiki/Marmara_Region) and [Eastern Mediterranean Region](/wiki/Mediterranean_Region); [*Horon*](/wiki/Horon) in the [Central and Eastern Black Sea Region](/wiki/Black_Sea_Region); [*Halay*](/wiki/Halay) in [Eastern Anatolia](/wiki/Eastern_Anatolia_Region) and the [Central Anatolia Region](/wiki/Central_Anatolia_Region); and [*Bar*](/wiki/Bar_(dance)) and [*Lezginka*](/wiki/Lezginka) in the [Northeastern Anatolia Region](/wiki/Eastern_Anatolia_Region).<ref name=.ncturkishfestival.>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

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The [architecture of the Seljuk Turks](/wiki/Seljuk_architecture) combined the elements and characteristics of the [Turkic architecture of Central Asia](/wiki/Architecture_of_Central_Asia) with those of [Persian](/wiki/Persian_architecture), [Arab](/wiki/Arab_architecture), [Armenian](/wiki/Armenian_architecture) and [Byzantine](/wiki/Byzantine_architecture) architecture. The transition from Seljuk architecture to [Ottoman architecture](/wiki/Ottoman_architecture) is most visible in [Bursa](/wiki/Bursa), which was the capital of the [Ottoman State](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) between 1335 and 1413. Following the [Ottoman conquest of Constantinople (Istanbul)](/wiki/Fall_of_Constantinople) in 1453, Ottoman architecture was significantly influenced by [Byzantine architecture](/wiki/Byzantine_architecture). [Topkapı Palace](/wiki/Topkapı_Palace) in Istanbul is one of the most famous examples of classical Ottoman architecture and was the primary residence of the [Ottoman Sultans](/wiki/Ottoman_Sultan) for approximately 400 years.<ref name=autogenerated2>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> [Mimar Sinan](/wiki/Mimar_Sinan) (c.1489–1588) was the most important architect of the classical period in Ottoman architecture. He was the chief architect of at least 374 buildings which were constructed in various [provinces](/wiki/Eyalet) of the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) in the 16th century.[[219]](#cite_note-219) Since the 18th century, Turkish architecture has been increasingly influenced by European styles, and this can be particularly seen in the [Tanzimat](/wiki/Tanzimat) era buildings of Istanbul like the [Dolmabahçe](/wiki/Dolmabahçe_Palace), [Çırağan](/wiki/Çırağan_Palace), [Feriye](/wiki/Feriye_Sarayları), [Beylerbeyi](/wiki/Beylerbeyi_Palace), [Küçüksu](/wiki/Küçüksu_Palace), [Ihlamur](/wiki/Ihlamur_Palace) and [Yıldız](/wiki/Yıldız_Palace) [palaces](/wiki/Palace), which were all designed by members of the [Balyan family](/wiki/Balyan_family) of Ottoman court architects.[[220]](#cite_note-220) The Ottoman era [waterfront houses (*yalı*)](/wiki/Yalı) on the [Bosphorus](/wiki/Bosphorus) also reflect the fusion between classical Ottoman and European architectural styles during the aforementioned period. The [First National Architectural Movement](/wiki/First_National_Architectural_Movement) (*Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Akımı*) in the early 20th century sought to create a new architecture, which was based on motifs from Seljuk and Ottoman architecture. The movement was also labelled *Turkish Neoclassical* or the *National Architectural Renaissance*.[[221]](#cite_note-221) The leading architects of this movement were [Vedat Tek](/wiki/Vedat_Tek) (1873–1942), [Mimar Kemaleddin Bey](/wiki/Mimar_Kemaleddin_Bey) (1870–1927), [Arif Hikmet Koyunoğlu](/wiki/Arif_Hikmet_Koyunoğlu) (1888–1982) and Giulio Mongeri (1873–1953).<ref name=turkisharch>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Notable buildings from this era are the [Grand Post Office](/wiki/Istanbul_Main_Post_Office) in Istanbul (1905–1909), [Tayyare Apartments](/wiki/Tayyare_Apartments) (1919–1922),[[222]](#cite_note-222) [Istanbul 4th Vakıf Han](/wiki/Istanbul_4th_Vakıf_Han) (1911–1926),[[223]](#cite_note-223) [State Art and Sculpture Museum](/wiki/State_Art_and_Sculpture_Museum) (1927–1930),[[224]](#cite_note-224) [Ethnography Museum of Ankara](/wiki/Ethnography_Museum_of_Ankara) (1925–1928),[[225]](#cite_note-225) the first [Ziraat Bank](/wiki/Ziraat_Bank) headquarters in Ankara (1925–1929),[[226]](#cite_note-226) the first [Türkiye İş Bankası](/wiki/Türkiye_İş_Bankası) headquarters in Ankara (1926–1929),[[227]](#cite_note-227) [Bebek](/wiki/Bebek,_Istanbul) Mosque,[[228]](#cite_note-228) and Kamer Hatun Mosque.[[229]](#cite_note-229)[[230]](#cite_note-230)

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:La_selección_turca_de_baloncesto_tras_recibir_la_medalla_de_plata.jpg)[Turkey](/wiki/Turkey_national_basketball_team) won the silver medal at the [2010 FIBA World Championship](/wiki/2010_FIBA_World_Championship).

The most popular [sport in Turkey](/wiki/Sports_in_Turkey) is [association football](/wiki/Association_football) (soccer).[[231]](#cite_note-231) [Galatasaray](/wiki/Galatasaray_S.K._(football)) won the [UEFA Cup](/wiki/2000_UEFA_Cup_Final) and [UEFA Super Cup](/wiki/2000_UEFA_Super_Cup) in 2000.<ref name=uefa.com>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The [Turkish national football team](/wiki/Turkish_national_football_team) finished 3rd and won the bronze medal at the [2002 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/2002_FIFA_World_Cup) and at the [2003 FIFA Confederations Cup](/wiki/2003_FIFA_Confederations_Cup); while also reaching the semi-finals (finishing 3rd by goals difference) at the [UEFA Euro 2008](/wiki/UEFA_Euro_2008).<ref name=tff.org1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Other mainstream sports such as [basketball](/wiki/Basketball) and [volleyball](/wiki/Volleyball) are also popular. The [Turkish men's national basketball team](/wiki/Turkey_national_basketball_team) finished 2nd and won the silver medal at the [2010 FIBA World Championship](/wiki/2010_FIBA_World_Championship) and at [EuroBasket 2001](/wiki/EuroBasket_2001), which were both hosted by Turkey. They also won two gold medals (1987 and 2013), one silver medal (1971) and three bronze medals (1967, 1983 and 2009) at the [Mediterranean Games](/wiki/Basketball_at_the_Mediterranean_Games). Turkish basketball club [Anadolu Efes S.K.](/wiki/Anadolu_Efes_S.K.) won the [1995–96](/wiki/1995–96_FIBA_Korać_Cup) [FIBA Korać Cup](/wiki/FIBA_Korać_Cup), finished 2nd at the [1992–93](/wiki/1992–93_FIBA_European_Cup) [FIBA Saporta Cup](/wiki/FIBA_Saporta_Cup), and made it to the Final Four of [Euroleague](/wiki/Euroleague_Basketball) and [Suproleague](/wiki/FIBA_SuproLeague) in 2000 and 2001, finishing 3rd on both occasions.[[232]](#cite_note-232)[[233]](#cite_note-233) Another Turkish basketball club, [Beşiktaş](/wiki/Beşiktaş_men's_basketball_team), won the [2011–12](/wiki/2011–12_FIBA_EuroChallenge) [FIBA EuroChallenge](/wiki/EuroChallenge).<ref name=fibaeurope.com1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [Galatasaray](/wiki/Galatasaray_S.K._(men's_basketball)) won the [2015–16 Eurocup](/wiki/2015–16_Eurocup_Basketball), while in the same season, [Fenerbahçe](/wiki/Fenerbahçe_Men's_Basketball) finished second in the [2015–16 Euroleague](/wiki/2015–16_Euroleague). The Final of the [2013–14 EuroLeague Women](/wiki/2013–14_EuroLeague_Women) basketball championship was played between two Turkish teams, [Galatasaray](/wiki/Galatasaray_S.K._(women's_basketball)) and [Fenerbahçe](/wiki/Fenerbahçe_Women's_Basketball), and won by Galatasaray.<ref name=fibaeurope.com2>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The [Turkish women's national volleyball team](/wiki/Turkey_women's_national_volleyball_team) won the silver medal at the [2003 European Championship](/wiki/2003_Women's_European_Volleyball_Championship), the bronze medal at the [2011 European Championship](/wiki/2011_Women's_European_Volleyball_Championship), and the bronze medal at the [2012 FIVB World Grand Prix](/wiki/2012_FIVB_World_Grand_Prix). They also won a gold medal (2005), six silver medals (1987, 1991, 1997, 2001, 2009, 2013) and a bronze medal (1993) at the [Mediterranean Games](/wiki/Mediterranean_Games).<ref name=tvf.org.tr>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Women's volleyball clubs in Turkey, namely [Fenerbahçe](/wiki/Fenerbahçe_Acıbadem), [Eczacıbaşı](/wiki/Eczacıbaşı_Istanbul) and [Vakıfbank](/wiki/Vakıfbank_Spor_Kulübü), have won numerous European championship titles and medals. [Fenerbahçe](/wiki/Fenerbahçe_Women's_Volleyball) won the [2010 FIVB Women's Club World Championship](/wiki/2010_FIVB_Women's_Club_World_Championship) and the [2012 CEV Women's Champions League](/wiki/CEV_Women's_Champions_League). Representing [Europe](/wiki/European_Volleyball_Confederation) as the winner of the [2012–13 CEV Women's Champions League](/wiki/2012–13_CEV_Women's_Champions_League), Vakıfbank also became the world champion by winning the [2013 FIVB Women's Club World Championship](/wiki/2013_FIVB_Women's_Club_World_Championship).<ref name=fenerbahce.org.tr>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=eczacibasisporkulubu.org.tr>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=hurriyet.com.tr1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The traditional Turkish national sport has been [yağlı güreş](/wiki/Yağlı_güreş) (*oiled wrestling*) since Ottoman times.[[234]](#cite_note-234) [Edirne](/wiki/Edirne) has hosted the annual [Kırkpınar](/wiki/Kırkpınar) oiled wrestling tournament since 1361.[[235]](#cite_note-235) International wrestling styles governed by [FILA](/wiki/International_Federation_of_Associated_Wrestling_Styles) such as [Freestyle wrestling](/wiki/Freestyle_wrestling) and [Greco-Roman wrestling](/wiki/Greco-Roman_wrestling) are also popular, with many European, World and Olympic championship titles won by Turkish wrestlers both individually and as a national team.[[236]](#cite_note-236)

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Turkish_coffee_in_Istanbul.jpg)[Turkish coffee](/wiki/Turkish_coffee) with [Turkish delight](/wiki/Turkish_delight). Turkish coffee is a [UNESCO-listed intangible cultural heritage](/wiki/UNESCO_Intangible_Cultural_Heritage_Lists) of [Turks](/wiki/Turkish_people).[[237]](#cite_note-237)[[238]](#cite_note-238)

Turkish cuisine is regarded as one of the most prominent in the world, its popularity is largely owed to the cultural influences of the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) and partly because of its major tourism industry. It is largely the heritage of [Ottoman cuisine](/wiki/Ottoman_cuisine), which can be described as a fusion and refinement of [Central Asian](/wiki/Central_Asian_cuisine), [Caucasian](/wiki/Caucasian_cuisine), [Middle Eastern](/wiki/Middle_Eastern_cuisine), [Mediterranean](/wiki/Mediterranean_cuisine) and [Balkan](/wiki/Balkan_cuisine) cuisines.[[239]](#cite_note-239) The country's position between the East and the [Mediterranean Sea](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea) helped the Turks gain complete control of major trade routes, and an ideal environment allowed plants and animals to flourish. Turkish cuisine was well established by the mid-1400s, the beginning of the [Ottoman Empire's](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) six hundred-year reign. Yogurt salads, fish in [olive oil](/wiki/Olive_oil), and stuffed and wrapped vegetables became Turkish staples. The empire, eventually spanning from [Austria](/wiki/Austria) to [northern Africa](/wiki/Northern_Africa), used its land and water routes to import exotic ingredients from all over the world. By the end of the 16th century, the Ottoman court housed over 1,400 live-in cooks and passed laws regulating the freshness of food. Since the fall of the empire in World War I (1914–1918) and the establishment of the Turkish Republic in 1923, foreign food such as French hollandaise sauce and western fast food have made their way into the modern Turkish diet.<ref name=foodbycountry.com>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Hundreds of television channels, thousands of local and national radio stations, several dozen newspapers, a productive and profitable [national cinema](/wiki/Cinema_of_Turkey) and a rapid growth of [broadband](/wiki/Broadband) internet use all make up a very vibrant media industry in Turkey.<ref name=tesevmedya>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In 2003 a total of 257 television stations and 1,100 radio stations were licensed to operate, and others operated without licenses. Of those licensed, 16 television and 36 radio stations reached national audiences.<ref name=cp>[Turkey country profile](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Turkey.pdf). [Library of Congress](/wiki/Library_of_Congress) [Federal Research Division](/wiki/Federal_Research_Division) (January 2006). *This article incorporates text from this source, which is in the* [*public domain*](/wiki/Public_domain)*.*</ref> The majority of the audiences are shared among public broadcaster [TRT](/wiki/Turkish_Radio_and_Television_Corporation) and the network-style channels such as [Kanal D](/wiki/Kanal_D), [Show TV](/wiki/Show_TV), [ATV](/wiki/ATV_(Turkey)) and [Star TV](/wiki/Star_TV_(Turkey)). The [broadcast media](/wiki/Broadcast_media) have a very high penetration as [satellite dishes](/wiki/Satellite_dishes) and [cable](/wiki/Cable_television) systems are widely available.<ref name=cp/> The [Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK)](/wiki/RTÜK) is the government body overseeing the broadcast media.<ref name=cp/> By circulation, the most popular daily newspapers are [*Zaman*](/wiki/Zaman_(newspaper)), [*Posta*](/wiki/Posta_(newspaper)), [*Hürriyet*](/wiki/Hürriyet), [*Sözcü*](/wiki/Sözcü), [*Sabah*](/wiki/Sabah_(newspaper)) and [*Habertürk*](/wiki/Habertürk).[[240]](#cite_note-240) [Turkish television dramas](/wiki/Turkish_television_drama) are increasingly becoming popular beyond Turkey's borders and are among the country's most vital exports, both in terms of profit and public relations.[[241]](#cite_note-241) [Freedom House](/wiki/Freedom_House) lists Turkey's media as "[partly free](/wiki/Censorship_in_Turkey)".<ref name=freedomhouse/>

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

* [Index of Turkey-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Turkey-related_articles)
* [List of Turkic dynasties and countries](/wiki/List_of_Turkic_dynasties_and_countries)
* [Outline of Turkey](/wiki/Outline_of_Turkey)
* [Provinces of Turkey](/wiki/Provinces_of_Turkey)

## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

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## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

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## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Refbegin](/wiki/Template:Refbegin)

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* Reed, Fred A. (1999). *Anatolia Junction: a Journey into Hidden Turkey*. Burnaby, B.C.: Talonbooks [sic]. 320 p., ill. with b&w photos. ISBN 0-88922-426-9
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* Roxburgh, David J. (ed.) (2005). *Turks: A Journey of a Thousand Years, 600–1600.* Royal Academy of Arts. ISBN 1-903973-56-2.
* *Turkey: A Country Study* (1996). Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. ISBN 0-8444-0864-6.
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

General

* [turkey.com](http://turkey.com/) - Topical multilingual website about Turkey.
* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Turkey profile](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17988453) from the [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News)
* [Turkey](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/609790/Turkey) at [*Encyclopædia Britannica*](/wiki/Encyclopædia_Britannica)
* [Turkey](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/turkey.htm) from *UCB Libraries GovPubs*
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Key Development Forecasts for Turkey](http://www.ifs.du.edu/ifs/frm_CountryProfile.aspx?Country=TR) from [International Futures](/wiki/International_Futures)
* [Template:Osmrelation-inline](/wiki/Template:Osmrelation-inline)

Government

* [Official website of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey](http://www.tccb.gov.tr/pages/)
* [Official website of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey](http://global.tbmm.gov.tr/index.php/EN/yd/)

Tourism

* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)
* [Template:Wikivoyage-inline](/wiki/Template:Wikivoyage-inline)
* [Turkey's Official Tourism Portal](http://goturkey.com/)
* [Official website of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism](http://www.kultur.gov.tr/)
* [Turkey profile](http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/tr) from [UNESCO](/wiki/UNESCO)
* [Turkey profile](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/turkey) from [Lonely Planet](/wiki/Lonely_Planet)

Economy

* [Official website of Ministry of the Ministry of Economy](http://www.ekonomi.gov.tr/)
* [Macroeconomic Data for Turkey Online](http://www.bluenomics.com/data#!data/country_overview/key_indicators_1/gdp_real_total/gdp_real_total_quarterly_yoy_in_sa_wda_real%7Cchart/line$countries=turkey&sorting=list//title)

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