

# **Turkey**

Turkey, [a] officially the Republic of Türkiye (Turkish: Türkiye Cumhuriyeti [b]), is a country mainly in Anatolia in West Asia, with a smaller part called East Thrace in Southeast Europe. It borders the Black Sea to the north; Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Iran to the east; Iraq, Syria, and the Mediterranean Sea (and Cyprus) to the south; and the Aegean Sea, Greece, and Bulgaria to the west. Turkey is home to over 85 million people; most are ethnic Turks, while ethnic Kurds are the largest ethnic minority. [4] Officially a secular state, Turkey has a Muslim-majority population. Ankara is Turkey's capital and second-largest city; Istanbul is its largest city, and its economic and financial center, as well as the largest city in Europe. Other major cities include İzmir, Bursa, Antalya, Konya and Adana.

Human habitation began in Late Paleolithic. [11] Home to important Neolithic sites like Göbekli Tepe and some of the earliest farming areas, present-day Turkey was inhabited by various ancient peoples. [12][13][14] Hattians were assimilated by the incoming Anatolian peoples. [15][16] Increasing diversity during Classical Anatolia transitioned into cultural Hellenization following the conquests of Alexander the Great; [17][18] Hellenization continued during the Roman and Byzantine eras. [19][20] The Seljuk Turks began migrating into Anatolia in the 11th century, starting the Turkification process. [20][21] The Seljuk Sultanate of Rum ruled Anatolia until the Mongol invasion in 1243, when it disintegrated into Turkish principalities. [22] Beginning in 1299, the Ottomans united the principalities and expanded; Mehmed II conquered Istanbul in 1453. During the reigns of Selim I and Suleiman the Magnificent, the Ottoman Empire became a global power. [23][24]

From the late 18th century onwards, the empire's power and territory declined; [25] reforms were also made. [26] In the 19th and early 20th centuries, persecution of Muslims during the Ottoman contraction and in the Russian Empire resulted in large-scale loss of life and mass migration into modern-day Turkey from the Balkans, Caucasus, and Crimea. [27] The Second Constitutional Era ended with the 1913 coup d'état. Under the control of Three Pashas, the Ottoman Empire entered World War I in 1914. During the war, the Ottoman government committed genocides against its Armenian, Greek and Assyrian subjects. [28][29][30] After its defeat, the Ottoman Empire was partitioned. [31] The Turkish War of Independence resulted in the abolition of the sultanate in 1922 and the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923. The Republic was proclaimed on 29 October 1923, modelled on the reforms initiated by the country's first president, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Turkey is an upper-middle-income and emerging country; its economy is the 17th- or 11th-largest in the world. It is a unitary presidential republic with a multi-party system. Turkey is a founding member of the OECD, G20, and Organization of Turkic States. With a geopolitically significant location, Turkey is a regional power<sup>[32]</sup> and an early member of NATO. An EU-candidate, Turkey is part of the EU Customs Union, CoE, OIC, and TURKSOY. Turkey has coastal plains, a high central plateau, and various mountain ranges; its climate is temperate with harsher conditions in the interior. Home to three biodiversity hotspots, <sup>[34]</sup> Turkey is prone to



frequent earthquakes and is highly vulnerable to climate change. [35][36] Turkey has universal healthcare, growing access to education, and increasing innovativeness. [38] It has 21 UNESCO World Heritage sites, 30 UNESCO cultural heritage inscriptions, and a rich and diverse cuisine. [40] Turkey is a leading TV content exporter and is the fourth most visited country in the world.

# Name

The name *Turkey* appears in Western sources after the late 11th century, referring to the <u>Seljuk</u>-controlled lands in Anatolia and the <u>Near East</u>. [42] European writers started using *Turchia* for the Anatolian plateau by the end of the 12th century. [43] The English name *Turkey* (from <u>Medieval Latin *Turchia*, *Turquia*) means "land of the Turks". <u>Middle English</u> usage of *Turkye* is evidenced in <u>Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Book of the Duchess* (C. 1369). The modern spelling *Turkey* dates back to at least 1719. [44] The name *Turkey* has been used in the texts of numerous international treaties to define the Ottoman Empire. [45][46][47][48]</u></u>

In <u>Byzantine</u> sources, the name <u>Tourkia</u> (Greek: Τουρκία) was used for defining two medieval states: <u>Hungary</u> (Western Tourkia); and <u>Khazaria</u> (Eastern Tourkia). [49][50]

With the <u>Treaty of Alexandropol</u>, the name *Türkiye* entered international documents for the first time. In the treaty signed with <u>Afghanistan</u> in 1921, the expression *Devlet-i Âliyye-i Türkiyye* ('Sublime Turkish State') was used, likened to the Ottoman Empire's name. [51]

In December 2021, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan issued a circular, calling for exports to be labeled "Made in Türkiye". The circular also stated that in relation to other governmental communications, the "necessary sensitivity will be shown on the use of the phrase 'Türkiye' instead of phrases such as 'Turkey' (in English)". The reason given was that *Türkiye* "represents and expresses the culture, civilization, and values of the Turkish nation in the best way". In May 2022, the Turkish government requested the United Nations and other international organizations to use *Türkiye* officially in English, which the UN immediately agreed to do. [54][55][56]

# History

### **Prehistory of Anatolia and Eastern Thrace**

The <u>Anatolian peninsula</u>, comprising most of modern Turkey, has been inhabited by <u>modern humans</u> since the <u>late Paleolithic</u> period. The European part of Turkey, called <u>Eastern Thrace</u>, has been inhabited since at least 40,000 years ago and is known to have been in the Neolithic era by about 6000 BC. The <u>spread of agriculture</u> from the <u>Middle East</u> to

Government	Unitary presidential constitutional republic			
President	Recep Tayyip Erdoğan			
<ul> <li>Vice President</li> </ul>	Cevdet Yılmaz			
<ul> <li>Assembly Speaker</li> </ul>	Numan Kurtulmuş			
Chief Justice	Kadir Özkaya			
Legislature	Grand National Assembly			
Establishment				
• Ottoman Empire	<u>c.</u> 1299			
• War of Independence	19 May 1919			
• Government of the Grand National	23 April 1920			
<ul><li>Assembly</li><li>Sultanate</li><li>abolished</li></ul>	1 November 1922			
Treaty of Lausanne	24 July 1923			
Republic declared	29 October 1923			
• Current constitution	9 November 1982 <sup>[5]</sup>			
-				
• Total	702 F62 km²			
· IUlai	783,562 km <sup>2</sup> (302,535 sq mi) (36th)			
• Water (%)	2.03 <sup>[6]</sup>			
Population				
December 2023 estimate	▲ 85,372,377 <sup>[7]</sup> ( <u>17th</u> )			
Density	111 <sup>[7]</sup> /km <sup>2</sup> (287.5/sq mi) ( <u>83rd</u> )			
GDP (PPP)	2023 estimate			
• Total	▲ \$3.613 trillion <sup>[8]</sup> (11th)			
• Per capita	▲ \$41,887 <sup>[8]</sup> (46th)			
GDP (nominal)	2023 estimate			
• Total	▲ \$1.154 trillion <sup>[8]</sup> ( <u>17th</u> )			
• Per capita	▲ \$13,383 <sup>[8]</sup> (65th)			
<u>Gini</u> (2019)	<u>41.9<sup>[9]</sup></u> medium			
<u>HDI</u> (2022)	▲ 0.855 <sup>[10]</sup> very high (45th)			
Currency	Turkish lira (₺) (TRY)			
Time zone	UTC+3 (TRT)			
Calling code	+90			
ISO 3166 code	TR			
Internet TLD	.tr			

Europe was strongly correlated with the <u>migration</u> of <u>early farmers from Anatolia</u> about 9,000 years ago and was not just a cultural exchange. Anatolian Neolithic farmers derived a significant portion of their ancestry from the Anatolian hunter-gatherers.

Present-day Turkey contains some of the world's oldest Neolithic sites. [58] Göbekli Tepe is the site of the oldest known man-made structure in the world, a temple dating to c. 9600 BC, [57] while Catalhöyük is a very large Neolithic and Chalcolithic settlement in Anatolia, which existed c. 7500 – c. 5700 BC. It is the largest and best-preserved Neolithic site found to date. [62] The Urfa Man statue is dated c. 9000 BC, to the period of the Pre-Pottery Neolithic, and is defined as "the oldest known naturalistic life-sized sculpture of a human". [63] Troy was first settled in the Neolithic Age, with habitation continuing into the Byzantine period. Troy's Late Bronze Age layers are considered potential historical settings for the later legends of the Trojan War. [64][65][66]

The earliest recorded inhabitants of Anatolia were the <u>Hattians</u> and <u>Hurrians</u>, non-Indo-European peoples who lived in Anatolia as early as <u>c.</u> 2300 BC. Indo-European <u>Hittites</u> came to Anatolia and gradually absorbed the Hattians and Hurrians <u>c.</u> 2000 – c. 1700 BC. Various other ancient <u>Anatolian populations</u> have also lived in Anatolia, from at least the <u>Neolithic</u> until the <u>Hellenistic period. [14]</u> Many of these peoples spoke the <u>Anatolian languages</u>, a branch of the larger <u>Indo-European language family. [67]</u> Given the antiquity of the Indo-European <u>Hittite</u> and <u>Luwian</u> languages, some scholars have proposed <u>Anatolia</u> as the hypothetical centre from which the Indo-European languages radiated. [68] The first empire in the area was founded by the Hittites, from the 18th through the 13th centuries BC. The <u>Assyrians</u> conquered and settled parts of southeastern Turkey as early as 1950 BC [69] although they have remained a minority in the region. [70]

Following the collapse of the Hittite empire c. 1180 BC, the Phrygians, an Indo-European people, achieved ascendancy in Anatolia until their kingdom was destroyed by the Cimmerians in c. 695 BC. [71] The most powerful of Phrygia's successor states were Lydia, Caria and Lycia.

<u>Assyrian</u> king <u>Shalmaneser I</u> (1263–1234 BC) recorded a campaign in which he subdued the entire territory of "Uruatri". [72][73] <u>Urartu</u> re-emerged in Assyrian inscriptions in the 9th century BC. [74] Starting from 714 BC, the Urartu state began to decline and finally dissolved in 590 BC when it was conquered by the Medes. [75]

# **Antiquity**

Before 1200 BC, there were four Greek-speaking settlements in Anatolia, including Miletus. [78] Around 1000 BC, Greek migrations to the west coast of Anatolia began; influence of Greek communities were largely limited to these areas until the time of Alexander the Great. [79][80] These settlements were grouped as Aeolis, Ionia, and Doris, after the specific Greek groups that settled them. [81] Numerous important cities were founded by these colonists, such as Ephesus, Halicarnassus, Pergamon, Aphrodisias, Smyrna (now İzmir) and Byzantium (now Istanbul), the latter founded by Greek colonists from Megara in c. 667 BC. [82] Some of these cities, in particular Miletus, went on to found numerous colonies of their own on the coasts of the Black Sea. Miletus was also home to the Ionian school of philosophy, and many of the most prominent pre-Socratic philosophers lived in Miletus. Thales of Miletus is regarded as the first philosopher in the Greek tradition [83][84] and is also historically recognized as the first individual known to have engaged in scientific philosophy. [85][86] Two of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus, and the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, were located in Anatolia. [87]

The <u>Armenian Orontid dynasty</u>, which included parts of what is now eastern Turkey, began in the 6th century BC. In northwestern Turkey, the most significant tribal group in ancient Thrace was the Odyrisians, founded by Teres I. [88]

All of modern-day Turkey was conquered by the Persian <u>Achaemenid Empire</u> during the 6th century BC. [89] The <u>Greco-Persian Wars</u> started when the Greek city-states on the coast of Anatolia rebelled against Persian rule in 499 BC. Queen <u>Artemisia I</u> of the large state of the coast of the

Halicarnassus, which was then within the Achaemenid <u>satrapy</u> of <u>Caria</u>, fought as an ally of <u>Xerxes I</u>, King of Persia, against the independent Greek city-states during the <u>second Persian invasion of Greece</u> in 480 BC. [90][91]

Anatolia fell to Alexander the Great in 334 BC, [92] which led to increasing cultural homogeneity and <u>Hellenization</u> in the area, which met resistance in some places. Following Alexander's death in 323 BC, Anatolia was subsequently divided into smaller <u>Hellenistic kingdoms</u>, all of which became part of the <u>Roman Republic</u> by the mid-1st century BC. Hellenization accelerated under Roman rule, and by the early centuries of the <u>Christian Era</u> the local Anatolian languages and cultures had become extinct, being largely replaced by ancient Greek language and culture.

From the 1st century BC up to the 3rd century AD, large parts of modern-day Turkey were contested between the Romans and neighboring Parthians through the Roman-Parthian Wars.



Some henges at Göbekli Tepe were erected as far back as 9600 BC, predating those of Stonehenge by over seven millennia. [57]



The Sphinx Gate of <u>Hattusa</u>, the capital of the Hittites



The <u>Temple of Zeus</u> in the ancient city of Aizanoi in Phrygia



The <u>Sebasteion</u> of <u>Aphrodisias</u>, a city named after <u>Aphrodite</u>, the Greek goddess of beauty. In 2017, it was inscribed on the <u>UNESCO</u> <u>World</u> Heritage Site list. [76]

Galatia was an ancient area in the highlands of central Anatolia inhabited by the Celts. The term "Galatians" came to be used by the Greeks for the three Celtic peoples of Anatolia: the Tectosages, the Trocmii, and the Tolistobogii. [95][96] By the 1st century BC the Celts had become so Hellenized that some Greek writers called them Hellenogalatai. [97] The Kingdom of Pontus was a Hellenistic kingdom, centered in the historical region of Pontus and ruled by the Mithridatic dynasty of Persian origin, [98][99][100][101] which may have been directly related to Darius the Great. [102][101] The kingdom was proclaimed by Mithridates I in 281 BC and lasted until its conquest by the Romans in 63 BC. Pontus reached its largest extent under Mithridates VI the Great, who conquered Colchis, Cappadocia, Bithynia, and the Greek colonies of the Tauric Chersonesos. After a long struggle with Rome in the Mithridatic Wars, Pontus was defeated. All ancient regions and territories corresponding to modern Turkey eventually became part of the Roman Empire, and many of them retained their historic names in classical antiquity as Roman provinces.



The <u>Library of Celsus</u> in <u>Ephesus</u> was built by the <u>Romans</u> in 114–117.<sup>[77]</sup>

# Early Christian and Roman period

According to the <u>Acts of Apostles</u>, 103 <u>Antioch</u> (now <u>Antakya</u>), a city in southern Turkey, is where the followers of <u>Jesus</u> were first called "<u>Christians</u>". The city quickly became an important center of Christianity. 104 <u>The Apostle Paul of Tarsus</u> traveled to <u>Ephesus</u> and stayed there, probably working as a tentmaker. He is claimed to have performed <u>miracles</u> and organized missionary activity in other regions. 107 Paul left Ephesus after an attack from a local silversmith resulted in a pro-Artemis riot.

According to extrabiblical traditions, the Assumption of Mary took place in Ephesus, where Apostle John was also present. Irenaeus writes of "the church of Ephesus, founded by Paul, with John continuing with them until the times of Trajan." While in Ephesus, Apostle John wrote the three epistles attributed to him. The Basilica of St. John near Ephesus, built by Justinian the Great in the 6th century, marks the burial site of Apostle John, while the nearby House of the Virgin Mary is accepted by the Catholic church as the



The Roman Empire at the time of Constantine the Great's death in 337. In 330, Constantinople (now Istanbul) became the new Roman capital.

place where <u>Mary</u>, mother of Jesus, lived the final days of her life before her Assumption. <u>Saint Nicholas</u>, born in <u>Patara</u>, lived in nearby Myra (modern Demre) in Lycia.

In 123, Roman emperor <u>Hadrian</u> traveled to Anatolia. Numerous monuments were erected for his arrival, and he met his lover <u>Antinous</u> from <u>Bithynia</u>. Hadrian focused on the Greek revival and built several temples and improved the cities. <u>Cyzicus</u>, Pergamon, Smyrna, Ephesus and Sardes were promoted as regional centres for the Imperial cult during this period. [110]

#### Byzantine period

After defeating Licinius (the senior co-emperor (*augustus*) of the East in Nicomedia) at the Battle of Chrysopolis (Üsküdar) in 324 (thus bringing an end to the Tetrarchy system and becoming the sole emperor), Constantine the Great chose the nearby city of Byzantium as the new capital of the Roman Empire and started rebuilding and expanding the city. In 330 he officially proclaimed it as the new Roman capital with the name New Rome (*Nova Roma*) but soon afterwards renamed it Constantinople (*Constantinopolis*, modern Istanbul). Under Constantine, Christianity did not become the official religion of the state, but Christianity enjoyed imperial preference since he supported it with generous privileges.



The <u>Hagia Sophia in Constantinople</u> (now <u>Istanbul</u>) was built by the <u>Eastern Roman</u> emperor <u>Justinian</u> the Great in 532–537. [111]

<u>Theodosius the Great made Christianity the official state religion</u> of the Roman Empire with the <u>Edict of Thessalonica</u> in 380. Following the death of Theodosius in 395 and the

permanent division of the Roman Empire between his two sons, Constantinople became the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire. This empire, which would later be branded by historians as the <u>Byzantine Empire</u>, ruled most of the territory of present-day Turkey until the <u>Late Middle Ages</u>, a lathough the eastern regions remained firmly in <u>Sasanian</u> hands until the 7th century. The frequent <u>Byzantine-Sassanid Wars</u>, a continuation of the centuries-long <u>Roman-Persian Wars</u>, took place between the 4th and 7th centuries.

Several <u>ecumenical councils</u> of the early Church were held in cities located in present-day Turkey, including the <u>First Council of Nicaea</u> (<u>Iznik</u>) in 325 (which resulted in the first uniform Christian <u>doctrine</u>, called the <u>Nicene Creed</u>), the <u>First Council of Constantinople</u> in 381, the <u>Council of Ephesus</u> in 431, and the <u>Council of Chalcedon</u> in 451. [113] During most of its existence, the Byzantine Empire was one of the most powerful economic, cultural, and military forces in Europe. [114] Established in the Roman period, the <u>Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople</u> is the oldest continuously active institution in Istanbul. [115]



The Eastern Roman (Byzantine)

Empire in 555 under Justinian the

Great, at its greatest extent since
the fall of the Western Roman

Empire in 476.

# Seljuk and Anatolian beyliks period

According to historians and linguists, the Proto-Turkic language originated in Central-East



<u>İnce Minareli Medrese</u> in <u>Konya</u> (left), <u>Çifte Minareli Medrese in Erzurum</u> (center) and <u>Divriği Great Mosque and Hospital</u> (right) are among the finest examples of Seljuk architecture.

Asia. [116] Initially, Proto-Turkic speakers were potentially both hunter-gatherers and farmers; they later became nomadic pastoralists. [117] Early and medieval Turkic groups exhibited a wide range of both East Asian and West-Eurasian physical appearances and genetic origins, in part through long-term contact with neighboring peoples such as Iranic, Mongolic, Tocharian, Uralic, and Yeniseian peoples. [118][119][120] During the 9th and 10th centuries CE, the Oghuz were a Turkic group that lived in the Caspian and Aral steppes. [121] Partly due to pressure from the Kipchaks, the Oghuz migrated into Iran and Transoxiana. [121] They mixed with Iranic-speaking groups in the area and converted to Islam. [121] Oghuz Turks were also known as Turkoman. [121]

The Seljuks originated from the *Kınık* branch of the Oghuz Turks who resided in the <u>Yabgu Khaganate</u>. In 1040, the Seljuks defeated the <u>Ghaznavids</u> at the <u>Battle of Dandanaqan</u> and established the <u>Seljuk Empire</u> in <u>Greater Khorasan</u>. Baghdad, the <u>Abbasid Caliphate</u>'s capital and center of the <u>Islamic world</u>, was taken by Seljuks in 1055. Given the role <u>Khurasani</u> traditions played in art, culture, and political traditions in the empire, the Seljuk period is described as a mixture of "<u>Turkish</u>, <u>Persian and Islamic influences</u>". In the latter half of the 11th century, the Seljuk Turks began penetrating into <u>medieval Armenia</u> and Anatolia. At the time, Anatolia was a diverse and largely Greek-speaking region after previously being <u>Hellenized</u>.

The Seljuk Turks defeated the Byzantines at the Battle of Manzikert in 1071, and later established the Seljuk Sultanate of Rum. [127] During this period, there were also Turkish principalities such as Danishmendids. [128] Seljuk arrival started the Turkification process in Anatolia; [20][129] there were Turkic/Turkish migrations, intermarriages, and conversions into Islam. [130][131] The shift took several centuries and happened gradually. [132][133] Members of Islamic mysticism orders, such as Mevlevi Order, played a role in the Islamization of the diverse people of Anatolia. [134][135] In 13th century, there was a second significant wave of Turkic migration, as people fled Mongol expansion. [136][137] Seljuk sultanate was defeated by the Mongols at the Battle of Köse Dağ in 1243 and disappeared by the beginning of the 14th century. It was replaced by various Turkish principalities. [22][138]

#### **Ottoman Empire**

Based around Söğüt, Ottoman Beylik was founded by Osman I in the early 14th century. [139] According to Ottoman chroniclers, Osman descended from the  $\underline{Kay}$ 1 tribe of the Oghuz Turks. [140] Ottomans started annexing the nearby Turkish beyliks (principalities) in Anatolia and expanded into the  $\underline{Balkans}$ . [141]  $\underline{Mehmed\ II}$  completed Ottoman conquest of the Byzantine Empire by  $\underline{capturing}$  its capital, Constantinople, on 29 May 1453. [142]  $\underline{Selim\ I}$  united Anatolia under Ottoman rule. [23] Turkification continued as Ottomans mixed with various indigenous people in Anatolia and the Balkans. [140]

The Ottoman Empire was a global power during the reigns of Selim I and Suleiman the Magnificent. [23][24] In the 16th and 17th centuries, Sephardic Jews moved into Ottoman Empire following their expulsion from Spain. [143] From the second half of the 18th century onwards, the Ottoman Empire began to decline. The Tanzimat reforms, initiated by Mahmud II in 1839, aimed to modernize the Ottoman state in line with the progress that had been made in Western Europe. The efforts of Midhat Pasha during the late Tanzimat era led the Ottoman constitutional movement of 1876, which introduced the First Constitutional Era, but these efforts proved to be inadequate in most fields, and failed to stop the dissolution of the empire. [144]

As the empire gradually shrank in size, military power and wealth; especially after the Ottoman economic crisis and default in  $1875^{[145]}$  which led to uprisings in the Balkan provinces that culminated in the Russo-Turkish War (1877–1878); many Balkan Muslims migrated to the empire's heartland in Anatolia, [146][147] along with

the <u>Circassians</u> fleeing the <u>Russian conquest</u> of the <u>Caucasus</u>. According to some estimates, 800,000 Muslim <u>Circassians</u> died during the <u>Circassian genocide</u> in the territory of present-day Russia, the survivors of which sought refuge in the <u>Ottoman Empire</u>, mostly settling in the provinces of present-day Turkey. The decline of the Ottoman Empire led to a <u>rise</u> in nationalist sentiment among its various subject peoples, leading to increased ethnic tensions which occasionally burst into violence, such as the <u>Hamidian massacres</u> of <u>Armenians</u>, which claimed up to 300,000 lives.

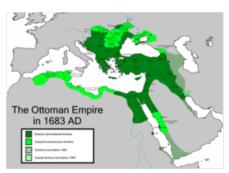
Ottoman territories in Europe (Rumelia) were lost in the First Balkan War (1912–1913). [149] Ottomans managed to recover some territory in Europe, such as Edirne, in the Second Balkan War (1913). In the 19th and early 20th centuries, persecution of Muslims during the Ottoman contraction and in the Russian Empire resulted in estimated 5 million deaths, [150][151] with more than 3 million in Balkans; [152] the casualties included Turks. [151] Five to seven or seven to nine million refugees migrated into modern-day Turkey from the Balkans, Caucasus, Crimea, and Mediterranean islands, [153] shifting the center of the Ottoman Empire to Anatolia. [154] In addition to a small number of Jews, the refugees were overwhelmingly Muslim; they were both Turkish and non-Turkish people,

such as <u>Circassians</u> and <u>Crimean Tatars</u>. [155][156] <u>Paul Mojzes</u> has called the Balkan Wars an "unrecognized genocide", where multiple sides were both victims and perpetrators. [157]

Following the  $\underline{1913}$  coup d'état, the  $\underline{\text{Three Pashas}}$  took control of the Ottoman government. The Ottoman Empire entered  $\underline{\text{World War I}}$  on the side of the  $\underline{\text{Central Powers}}$  and was ultimately defeated. During the war, the empire's Armenian subjects were deported to Syria as part of the  $\underline{\text{Armenian genocide}}$ . As a result, an estimated  $600,000^{[160]}$  to more than 1 million,  $\underline{\text{[160]}}$  or up to 1.5 million  $\underline{\text{[161][162][163]}}$   $\underline{\text{Armenians}}$  were killed. The Turkish government has  $\underline{\text{refused}}$  to acknowledge  $\underline{\text{[28][164]}}$  the events as genocide and states that Armenians were only  $\underline{\text{"relocated"}}$  from the eastern war zone.  $\underline{\text{[165]}}$   $\underline{\text{Genocidal campaigns}}$  were also committed against the empire's other minority groups such as the  $\underline{\text{Assyrians}}$  and  $\underline{\text{Greeks}}$ .  $\underline{\text{[166][167][168]}}$  Following the  $\underline{\text{Armistice of Mudros}}$  in 1918, the victorious  $\underline{\text{Allied}}$  Powers sought the partition of the Ottoman Empire through the 1920 Treaty of Sèvres.  $\underline{\text{[169]}}$ 

# **Republic of Turkey**

The <u>occupation of Istanbul</u> (1918) and <u>izmir</u> (1919) by the <u>Allies</u> in the aftermath of World War I initiated the <u>Turkish National Movement</u>. Under the leadership of <u>Mustafa Kemal Pasha</u>, a military commander who had distinguished himself during the <u>Battle of Gallipoli</u>, the <u>Turkish War of Independence</u> (1919–1923) was waged with the aim of revoking the terms of the Treaty of Sèvres (1920). [170]



The Ottoman Empire at its greatest European extent, in 1683, during the Battle of Vienna



The Süleymaniye Mosque is the largest Ottoman imperial mosque in Istanbul, located on the Third Hill in the city's historical peninsula. The mosque was commissioned by Suleiman the Magnificent and designed by the imperial architect Mimar Sinan.



Topkapi Palace and Dolmabahçe
Palace were the primary
residences of the Ottoman
sultans in Istanbul between 1465
and 1856<sup>[158]</sup> and 1856 to
1922,<sup>[159]</sup> respectively.

The <u>Turkish Provisional Government</u> in <u>Ankara</u>, which had declared itself the legitimate government of the country on <u>23 April</u> <u>1920</u>, started to formalize the legal transition from the old Ottoman into the new Republican political system. The Ankara Government engaged in armed and diplomatic struggle. In 1921–1923, the Armenian, Greek, French, and British armies had been expelled: [171][172][173][174] The military advance and diplomatic success of the Ankara Government resulted in the signing of the

<u>Armistice of Mudanya</u> on 11 October 1922. The handling of the <u>Chanak Crisis</u> (September–October 1922) between the <u>United Kingdom</u> and the Ankara Government caused the collapse of <u>David Lloyd George's Ministry</u> on 19 October 1922<sup>[175]</sup> and political autonomy of <u>Canada</u> from the UK. On 1 November 1922, the Turkish Parliament in Ankara formally abolished the Sultanate, thus ending 623 years of monarchical Ottoman rule.

The <u>Treaty of Lausanne</u> of 24 July 1923, which superseded the Treaty of Sèvres, [169][170] led to the international recognition of the sovereignty of the new Turkish state as the successor state of the Ottoman Empire. On 4 October 1923, the Allied occupation of Turkey ended with the withdrawal of the last Allied troops from <u>Istanbul</u>. The Turkish Republic was officially proclaimed on 29 October 1923 in Ankara, the country's new capital. [177] The <u>Lausanne Convention</u> stipulated a population exchange between Greece and Turkey.

Mustafa Kemal became the republic's first <u>president</u> and introduced <u>many reforms</u>. The reforms aimed to transform the old <u>religion-based and multi-communal</u> Ottoman monarchy into a Turkish <u>nation state</u> that would be governed as a <u>parliamentary republic</u> under a <u>secular constitution</u>. With the <u>Surname Law</u> of 1934, the <u>Turkish Parliament</u> bestowed upon Kemal the honorific surname "Atatürk" (*Father Turk*). Atatürk's reforms caused discontent in

some Kurdish and Zaza tribes leading to the Sheikh Said rebellion in  $1925^{[180]}$  and the Dersim rebellion in  $1937.^{[181]}$ 

<u>Ismet İnönü</u> became the country's second president following Atatürk's death in 1938. In 1939, the <u>Republic of Hatay</u> voted in favor of joining Turkey with a referendum. Turkey remained neutral during most of <u>World War II</u> but entered the war on the side of the <u>Allies on 23 February 1945</u>. Later that year, Turkey became a <u>charter member</u> of the <u>United Nations. [182]</u> In 1950 Turkey became a member of the <u>Council of Europe</u>. After fighting as part of the <u>UN</u> forces in the <u>Korean War</u>, Turkey joined <u>NATO</u> in 1952, becoming a bulwark against Soviet expansion into the Mediterranean.



Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder and the first President of the Turkish Republic



<u>Anıtkabir</u> in <u>Ankara</u> was completed in 1953 to become the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

The country's transition to <u>multi-party</u> democracy was interrupted by military coups in <u>1960</u> and <u>1980</u>, as well as by military memorandums in <u>1971</u> and <u>1997. [183][184]</u> Between 1960 and the end of the 20th century, the prominent leaders in Turkish politics who achieved multiple election victories were <u>Süleyman Demirel</u>, <u>Bülent Ecevit</u> and <u>Turgut Özal</u>. <u>Tansu Çiller</u> became the first female prime minister of Turkey in 1993.

Turkey applied for full membership of the EEC in 1987, joined the European Union Customs Union in 1995 and started accession negotiations with the European Union in 2005. [185][186] In a non-binding vote on 13 March 2019, the European Parliament called on the EU governments to suspend EU accession talks with Turkey, citing violations of human rights and the rule of law; but the negotiations, effectively on hold since 2018, remain active as of 2023. [187]

In 2014, prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan won Turkey's first direct <u>presidential election</u>. [188] On 15 July 2016, an <u>unsuccessful coup attempt</u> tried to oust the government. [189] With a <u>referendum in 2017</u>, the parliamentary republic was replaced by an <u>executive presidential system</u>. The office of the prime minister was abolished, and its powers and duties were transferred to the president. On the referendum day, while the voting was still underway, the <u>Supreme Electoral Council</u> lifted a rule that required each



<u>Tansu Çiller</u>, Turkey's first female prime minister, attends a <u>European</u> <u>Commission</u> meeting in January 1994

ballot to have an official stamp. [190] The opposition parties claimed that as many as 2.5 million ballots without a stamp were accepted as valid. [190]

# Administrative divisions

Turkey has a <u>unitary</u> structure in terms of public administration, and the provinces are subordinate to the <u>central government</u> in <u>Ankara</u>. In province centers the government is represented by the province governors (*vali*) and in towns by the governors (*kaymakam*). Other senior public officials are also appointed by the central government, except for the mayors (*belediye başkanı*) who are elected by the constituents. [191] Turkish municipalities have local legislative bodies (*belediye meclisi*) for decision-making on municipal issues.

Turkey is subdivided into 81 provinces (il or vilayet) for administrative purposes. Each province is divided into districts (ilçe), for a total of 973 districts. [192] Turkey is also subdivided into 7 regions (bölge) and 21 subregions for geographic, demographic and economic measurements, surveys and classifications; this does not refer to an administrative division.



# Government and politics

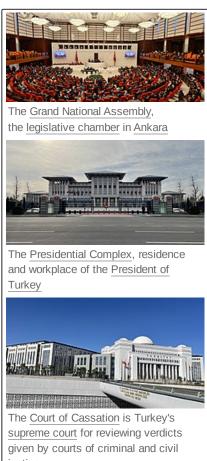
Turkey is a <u>presidential republic</u> within a <u>multi-party</u> system. [193] The current constitution was approved by referendum in 1982, which determines the government's structure, lays forth the ideals and standards of the state's conduct, and sets out the state's responsibility to its citizens. Furthermore, the constitution specifies the people's rights and obligations, as well as principles for the delegation and exercise of sovereignty that belongs to the people of Turkey. [194] Turkish politics have become increasingly associated with democratic backsliding, being described as a competitive authoritarian system. [195][196]

In the Turkish unitary system, citizens are subject to three levels of government: national, provincial, and local. The local government's duties are commonly split between municipal governments and districts, in which the executive and legislative officials are elected by a plurality vote of citizens by district. The government comprises three branches:

- Legislative: The unicameral Parliament makes laws, debates and adopts the budget bills, declares war, approves treaties, proclaims amnesty and pardon, and has the power of impeachment, by which it can remove incumbent members of the government.[197]
- Executive: The president is the commander-in-chief of the military, can veto legislative bills before they become law (subject to parliamentary override), can issue presidential decrees on matters regarding executive power with the exception of fundamental rights, individual rights and certain political rights (parliamentary laws prevail presidential decrees). and appoints the members of the Cabinet and other officers, who administer and enforce national laws and policies.[198]
- Judicial: The Constitutional Court (for constitutional adjudication and review of individual applications concerning human rights), the Court of Cassation (final decision maker in ordinary judiciary), the Council of State (final decision maker in administrative judiciary) and the Court of

given by courts of criminal and civil iustice. Jurisdictional Disputes (for resolving the disputes between courts for constitutional jurisdiction) are the four organizations that are described by the constitution as supreme courts. The judges of the Constitutional Court are appointed by the president and the parliament. [5]

The Parliament has 600 voting members, each representing a constituency for a five-year term. Parliamentary seats are distributed among the provinces by population, conforming with the census apportionment. The president is elected by direct vote and serves a five-year term. The president cannot run for re-election after two terms of five-years, unless the parliament prematurely renews



the presidential elections during the second term. Elections for the Parliament and presidential elections are held on the same day. The Constitutional Court is composed of 15 members. A member is elected for a term of 12 years and cannot be re-elected. The members of the Constitutional Court are obliged to retire when they are over the age of 65. [199]

#### Parties and elections

Elections in Turkey are held for six functions of government: <u>presidential elections</u> (national), parliamentary elections (national), <u>municipality mayors</u> (local), district mayors (local), provincial or <u>municipal council members</u> (local) and <u>muhtars</u> (local). Apart from elections, <u>referendums</u> are also held occasionally.

Every Turkish citizen who has turned 18 has the <u>right to vote</u> and stand as a candidate at elections. <u>Universal suffrage</u> for both sexes has been applied throughout Turkey since 1934 and before most countries. In Turkey, <u>turnout rates</u> of both local and general elections are high compared to many other countries, which usually stands higher than 80%. <u>[200]</u> There are 600 members of parliament who are elected for a five-year term by a <u>party-list proportional representation</u> system from 88 electoral districts.

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
President

The Constitutional Court can strip the public financing of political parties that it deems anti-secular or having ties to terrorism, or ban their existence altogether. The Interior Ministry can block new parties from elections even if a court rules in favour of the party. The electoral threshold for political parties at national level is seven percent of the votes. Smaller parties can avoid the electoral threshold by forming an alliance with other parties. Independent candidates are not subject to an electoral threshold.

After World War II, starting from 1946, Turkey operated under a <u>multi-party system</u>. On the right side of the Turkish <u>political</u> spectrum, parties like the <u>Democrat Party</u>, <u>Justice Party</u>, <u>Motherland Party</u>, and <u>Justice and Development Party</u> became the most popular political parties in Turkey, winning numerous elections. Turkish <u>right-wing</u> parties are more likely to embrace the principles of political ideologies such as <u>conservatism</u>, <u>nationalism</u> or <u>Islamism</u>. [205] On the left side of the spectrum, parties like the <u>Republican People's Party</u>, <u>Social Democratic Populist Party</u> and <u>Democratic Left Party</u> once enjoyed the largest electoral success. Left-wing parties are more likely to embrace the principles of socialism, Kemalism or secularism.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, winner of the 2023 presidential election, [207][208] is currently serving as the head of state and head of government. Özgür Özel is the Main Opposition Leader. Numan Kurtulmuş is the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly. The 2023 parliamentary election resulted in the 28th Parliament of Turkey, which had an initial composition of 268 seats for the Justice and Development Party, 169 seats for the Republican People's Party, 61 seats for the Party of Greens and the Left Future, 50 seats for the Nationalist Movement Party, 43 seats for the Good Party, 5 seats for the New Welfare Party and 4 seats for the Workers' Party of Turkey. [209] The next parliamentary election is scheduled to take place in 2028.

#### Law

With the founding of the Republic, Turkey adopted a <u>civil law</u> legal system, replacing <u>Sharia</u>-derived <u>Ottoman law</u>. The <u>Civil Code</u>, adopted in 1926, was based on the <u>Swiss Civil Code</u> of 1907 and the <u>Swiss Code of Obligations</u> of 1911. Although it underwent a number of changes in 2002, it retains much of the basis of the original Code. The <u>Criminal Code</u>, originally based on the <u>Italian Criminal Code</u>, was replaced in 2005 by a Code with principles similar to the <u>German Penal Code</u> and German law generally. <u>Administrative law</u> is based on the French equivalent and <u>procedural law</u> generally shows the influence of the Swiss, German and French legal systems. [210] Islamic principles do not play a part in the legal system.



Istanbul Justice Palace in the <u>Şişli</u> district on the European side

<u>Law enforcement in Turkey</u> is carried out by several agencies under the jurisdiction of the <u>Ministry of Internal Affairs</u>. These agencies are the <u>General Directorate of Security</u>, the <u>Gendarmerie General Command</u> and the Coast Guard Command.

In the years of government by the Justice and Development Party and Erdoğan, particularly since 2013, the independence and integrity of the Turkish judiciary has increasingly been said to be in doubt by institutions, parliamentarians and journalists both within and outside of Turkey, because of political interference in the promotion of judges and prosecutors and in their pursuit of public duty. [212][213][214][215]

# Foreign relations

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 early members of the Council of Europe in 1950, applied for associate membership of the EEC (predecessor of the European Union) in 1959 and became an associate member 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 in 1992, joined the EU Customs Union in 1995 and has been in formal accession negotiations with the European Union since 2005. [185][186]

Turkey's support for Northern Cyprus in the Cyprus dispute and refusal to include the Republic of Cyprus to the EU-Turkey Customs Union agreement complicates its relations with the European Union and remains a major stumbling block to the country's EU accession bid. $^{[216]}$ 

The other defining aspect of Turkey's foreign policy has been the country's long-standing strategic alliance with the <u>United States</u>. [217][218] The <u>Truman Doctrine</u> in 1947 enunciated American intentions to guarantee the security of Turkey and Greece during the <u>Cold War</u>, and resulted in large-scale U.S. military and economic support. In 1948 both countries were included in the <u>Marshall Plan</u> and the <u>OEEC</u> for rebuilding European economies. [219]

The common threat posed by the <u>Soviet Union</u> during the <u>Cold War</u> led to Turkey's membership of <u>NATO</u> in 1952, ensuring close bilateral relations with the US. 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. [220] In the post–Cold War environment, Turkey's geostrategic importance shifted towards its proximity to the <u>Middle East</u>, the <u>Caucasus</u> and the Balkans.

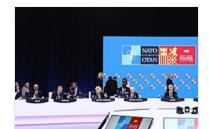
The independence of the Turkic states of the Soviet Union in 1991, with which Turkey shares a common cultural, <u>historic</u> and <u>linguistic</u> heritage, allowed Turkey to extend its economic and political relations deep into <u>Central Asia</u>. The <u>International Organization of Turkic Culture</u> (TURKSOY) was established in 1993, and the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was established in 2009.



Istanbul Anadolu Justice Palace in the Kartal district on the Asian side



Turkey has been in <u>formal accession</u> negotiations with the <u>European Union</u> since 2005. [185][186]



Turkey has been a member of <u>NATO</u> since 1952, has its second largest army and is the host of the <u>Allied</u> Land Command headquarters.

Under the  $\underline{AKP}$  government, Turkey's economy has grown rapidly and the country's influence has grown in the Middle East based on a strategic depth doctrine, also called  $\underline{Neo-Ottomanism}$ .

Following the <u>Arab Spring</u> in December 2010, the choices made by the government for supporting certain political opposition groups in the affected countries have led to tensions with some Arab states, such as Turkey's neighbor Syria since the start of the <u>Syrian civil</u> war, and <u>Egypt</u> after the <u>ousting of President Mohamed Morsi, [225][226]</u> As of 2022, Turkey does not have an ambassador in either Syria or Egypt, but relations with both countries have started to improve. [228][229][230][231][232]

Diplomatic relations with <u>Israel</u> were also severed after the <u>Gaza flotilla raid</u> in 2010 but were normalized following a deal in June 2016. These political rifts have left Turkey with few allies in the <u>East Mediterranean</u>, where large natural gas fields have recently been discovered. There is a dispute over Turkey's <u>maritime boundaries with Greece and Cyprus</u> and drilling rights in the eastern Mediterranean. [236][237]



Members and observers of the Organization of Turkic States

After the rapprochement with Russia in 2016, Turkey revised its stance regarding the solution of the conflict in Syria. [238][239][240] In January 2018, the Turkish military and the Turkish-backed forces, including the Syrian National Army, began an operation in Syria aimed at ousting U.S.-backed  $\underline{YPG}$  (which Turkey considers to be an offshoot of the outlawed  $\underline{PKK}$ )[242][243] from the enclave of  $\underline{Afrin}$ . Turkey has also conducted airstrikes in Iraqi Kurdistan which have strained Turkey-Iraq relations as the latter has criticised the strikes for violating its sovereignty and killing civilians, [246][247]

# Military

The <u>Turkish Armed Forces</u> consist of the <u>General Staff</u>, the <u>Land Forces</u>, the <u>Naval Forces</u> and the <u>Air Force</u>. The <u>Chief of the General Staff</u> is appointed by the president. The president 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. [251]

The Gendarmerie General Command and the Coast Guard Command are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior. In wartime, the president can order certain units of the Gendarmerie General Command and the Coast Guard Command to operate under the Land Forces Command and Naval Forces Commands respectively. The remaining parts of the Gendarmerie and the Coast Guard continue to carry out their law enforcement missions under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior.



The <u>TAI TF Kaan</u> is currently being produced by <u>Turkish Aerospace</u>

Industries for the <u>Turkish Air</u>
Force. [248][249][250]

Every fit male Turkish citizen otherwise not barred is required to <u>serve in the military</u> for a period ranging from three weeks to a year, dependent on education and job location. [252] Turkey does not recognize <u>conscientious objection</u> and does not offer a civilian alternative to military service. [253]

Turkey has the second-largest standing military force in NATO, after the United States, with an estimated strength of 890,700 military personnel as of February 2022. Turkey is one of five NATO member states which are part of the nuclear sharing policy of the alliance, together with Belgium, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands. A total of 90 B61 nuclear bombs are hosted at the Incirlik Air Base, 40 of which are allocated for use by the Turkish Air Force in case of a nuclear conflict, but their use requires the approval of NATO. The Turkish Armed Forces have a relatively substantial military presence abroad, with military bases in Albania, Iraq, Iraq, Qatar, Qatar, and Somalia. Somalia. The country also maintains a force of 36,000 troops in Northern Cyprus since 1974.

Turkey has participated in international missions under the United Nations and NATO since the Korean War, including peacekeeping missions in Somalia, Yugoslavia and the Horn of Africa. It supported coalition forces in the First Gulf War, contributed military personnel to the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, and remains active in Kosovo Force, Eurocorps and EU Battlegroups. [271][272] In recent years, Turkey has assisted Peshmerga forces in northern Iraq and the Somali Armed Forces with security and training. [273][274]



TCG Anadolu (L-400) amphibious assault ship at the Golden

Horn. [254][255][256][257] Baykar MIUS

Kızılelma is a jet-engined UCAV designed to operate on TCG

Anadolu. [254][258][259][260][261]

# **Human rights**

The human rights record of Turkey has been the subject of much controversy and international condemnation. Between 1959 and 2011 the <u>European Court of Human Rights</u> made more than 2,400 judgements against Turkey for human rights violations on issues such as <u>Kurdish rights</u>, <u>women's rights</u>, <u>LGBT rights</u>, and <u>media freedom</u>. [275][276] Turkey's human rights record continues to be a significant obstacle to the country's membership of the EU.

In the latter half of the 1970s, Turkey suffered from political violence between far-left and far-right militant groups, which culminated in the military coup of 1980. The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK, designated a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States, and the European Union was founded in 1978 by a group of Kurdish



Feminist demonstration in <u>Kadıköy</u>, Istanbul, on 29 July 2017

militants led by <u>Abdullah Öcalan</u>, seeking the foundation of an independent Kurdish state based on <u>Marxist–Leninist</u> ideology. The initial reason given by the PKK for this was the oppression of Kurds in Turkey. <u>A full-scale insurgency</u> began in 1984, when the PKK announced a Kurdish uprising. With time the PKK modified its demands into equal rights for ethnic Kurds and provincial autonomy within Turkey. <u>[284][285][286][287]</u> Since 1980, the Turkish parliament stripped its members of immunity from prosecution, including 44 deputies most of which from the pro-Kurdish parties. <u>[288]</u>

In 2013, widespread protests erupted, sparked by a plan to demolish Gezi Park but soon growing into general anti-government dissent. On 20 May 2016, the Turkish parliament stripped almost a quarter of its members of immunity from prosecution, including 101 deputies from the pro-Kurdish HDP and the main opposition CHP party. By 2020, under the pretext of responding to a failed coup attempt in 2016, 292 293 authorities had arrested or imprisoned more than 90,000 Turkish citizens. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the AKP government has waged crackdowns on media freedom. Many journalists have been arrested using charges of "terrorism" and "anti-state activities". 297 298 In 2020, the CPJ identified 18 jailed journalists in Turkey (including the editorial staff of Cumhuriyet, Turkey's oldest newspaper still in circulation).

# **LGBT** rights

Homosexual activity has been decriminalized in Turkey since 1858. [301] LGBT people have had the right to seek asylum in Turkey under the Geneva Convention since 1951. [302] However, LGBT people in Turkey face discrimination, harassment and even violence. [303] The Turkish authorities have carried out many discriminatory practices. [304][305][306] Despite these, LGBT acceptance in Turkey is growing. In a survey conducted in 2016, 33% of respondents said that LGBT people should have equal rights, which increased to 45% in 2020. Another survey in 2018 found that the proportion of people who would not want a homosexual neighbor decreased from 55% in 2018 to 47% in 2019. [307][308] A 2015 poll found that 27% of the Turkish public was in favor of legalizing same-sex marriage and 19% supported civil unions instead. [309]



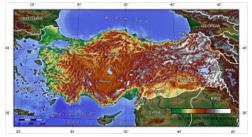
Istanbul Pride was organized in 2003 for the first time. Since 2015, parades in Istanbul have been denied permission by the government. [300]

When the annual <u>Istanbul Pride</u> was inaugurated in 2003, Turkey became the first Muslim-majority country to hold a gay pride march. [310] Since 2015, parades at <u>Taksim Square</u>

and <u>İstiklal Avenue</u> (where the Gezi Park protests took place) have been denied government permission, citing security concerns, but hundreds of people have defied the ban each year. Critics have claimed that the bans were in fact <u>ideological</u>.

# Geography

Turkey bridges Southeastern Europe and Western Asia. Asian Turkey, which includes 97% of the country's territory, is separated from European Turkey by the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles. European Turkey comprises 3% of the country's territory. [311] Turkey covers an area of 783,562 square kilometres (302,535 square miles), [312] of which 755,688 square kilometres (291,773 square miles) is in Asia and 23,764 square kilometres (9,175 square miles) is in Europe. [313] The country is encircled by seas on three sides: the Aegean Sea to the west, the Black Sea to the north and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Turkey also contains the Sea of Marmara in the northwest. [314] The geographical centre of all land surfaces on Earth is at 39°00'N 34°00'E, in Kırşehir Province. [315]



Topographic map of Turkey

Turkey is divided into seven geographical regions: Marmara, Aegean, Black Sea, Central Anatolia, Eastern Anatolia, Southeastern Anatolia and the Mediterranean. 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. Pamukkale terraces are made of travertine, a sedimentary rock deposited by mineral water from hot springs. The area is famous for a carbonate mineral left by the flowing of thermal spring water. It was added as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988 along with Hierapolis.

<u>East Thrace</u>, the European portion of Turkey, is located at the easternmost edge of the <u>Balkans</u>. It forms the border between Turkey and its neighbors Greece and Bulgaria. The Asian part of the country mostly consists of the peninsula of <u>Anatolia</u>, which consists of a high central plateau with narrow coastal plains, between the Köroğlu and Pontic mountain ranges to the north and the

The Eastern Anatolia Region mostly corresponds to the western part of the Armenian highlands (the plateau situated between the Anatolian Plateau in the west and the Lesser Caucasus in the north)<sup>[319]</sup> and contains Mount Ararat, Turkey's highest point at 5,137 metres (16,854 feet),<sup>[320]</sup> and Lake Van, the largest lake in the country.<sup>[321]</sup> Eastern Turkey has a mountainous landscape and is home to the sources of rivers such as the Euphrates, Tigris and Aras. The Southeastern Anatolia Region includes the northern plains of Upper Mesopotamia.

The Lakes Region contains some of the largest lakes in Turkey, such as Lake Beyşehir, Lake Eğirdir, Lake Burdur, Lake Akşehir, Lake Eber and Lake Işıklı. Lake Tuz, Lake Akdoğan, Lake Nemrut, Lake Çıldır, Lake İznik, Lake Uluabat, Lake Manyas, Lake Sapanca, Lake Salda, Lake Meke and Lake Uzungöl are among other renowned lakes in Turkey. The rocks along the shoreline of Lake Salda were formed over time by microbes; [322][323] these so-called microbialites provide some of the oldest known fossilized records of life. [322][323] Studying these microbial fossils from Lake Salda has helped scientists prepare for NASA's Mars 2020 mission. [322][323] In 2021, NASA reported that its Mars surface-exploring rover Perseverance showed that "the minerals and rock deposits at Lake Salda are the nearest match on Earth to those around the Jezero Crater where the spacecraft landed."

# **Biodiversity**

Turkey's position at the crossroads of the land, sea and air routes between the three <u>Old World</u> continents and the variety of the habitats across its geographical regions have produced considerable species diversity and a vibrant ecosystem. Anatolia is the homeland of many plants that have been cultivated for food, and the wild ancestors of many plants that now provide staples for humankind still grow in Turkey. The diversity of fauna is even greater than that of its flora. The number of animal species in the whole of Europe is around 60,000, while in Turkey there are over 80,000 animal species.

The Northern Anatolian conifer and deciduous forests is an ecoregion which covers most of the Pontic Mountains in northern Turkey, while the Caucasus mixed forests extend across the eastern end of the range. The region is home to Eurasian wildlife such as the Eurasian sparrowhawk, golden eagle, eastern imperial eagle, lesser spotted eagle, Caucasian black grouse, red-fronted serin, and wallcreeper. The narrow coastal strip between the Pontic Mountains and the Black Sea is home to the Euxine-Colchic deciduous forests, which contain some of the world's few temperate rainforests. The Turkish pine (Pinus brutia) is mostly found in Turkey and other east Mediterranean countries. The forests of Turkey are home to the Turkey oak. The most commonly found species of the genus Platanus (plane) is the orientalis. Several wild species of tulip are native to Anatolia, and the flower was first introduced to Western Europe with species taken from the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century. [329][330]



<u>Pamukkale</u> in <u>Denizli Province</u> is famous for a carbonate mineral left by the flowing of thermal springs.



The nature sculpted formations of Cappadocia



<u>Lake Salda</u>, a mid-size crater lake in southwestern Turkey



Sumela Monastery on the Pontic Mountains, which form an ecoregion with diverse temperate rainforest types, flora and fauna in northern Anatolia

There are <u>40</u> national parks, 189 nature parks, 31 nature preserve areas, 80 wildlife protection areas and 109 nature monuments in Turkey such as <u>Gallipoli Peninsula Historical National Park</u>, <u>Mount Nemrut National Park</u>, <u>Ancient Troy National Park</u>, <u>Ölüdeniz Nature Park</u> and <u>Polonezköy Nature Park</u>. <u>[331]</u> In the 21st century, threats to biodiversity include <u>desertification</u> from <u>climate change</u> in Turkey. <u>[332]</u>

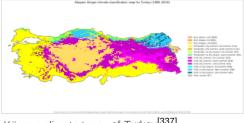
The <u>Anatolian leopard</u> is still found in very small numbers in the northeastern and southeastern regions of Turkey. [333][334] The <u>Eurasian lynx</u>, the <u>European wildcat</u> and the <u>caracal</u> are other <u>felid</u> species which are found in the forests of Turkey. The <u>Caspian tiger</u>, now extinct, lived in the easternmost regions of Turkey until the latter half of the 20th century. [333][335] Renowned domestic animals from Ankara include the <u>Angora cat</u>, <u>Angora rabbit</u> and <u>Angora goat</u>; and from <u>Van Province</u> the <u>Van cat</u>. The national dog breeds are the <u>Kangal</u> (<u>Anatolian Shepherd</u>), <u>Malakli and Akbaş</u>. [336]

A white <u>Turkish Angora</u> cat with <u>odd eyes</u> (<u>heterochromia</u>), which is common among the Angoras

#### Climate

The coastal areas of Turkey bordering the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas have a <u>temperate</u> Mediterranean climate, with hot, dry summers and mild to cool, wet winters. The coastal areas bordering the Black Sea have a temperate oceanic climate with warm, wet summers and cool to

cold, wet winters. [338] The Turkish Black Sea coast receives the most precipitation and is the only region of Turkey that receives high precipitation throughout the year. [338] The eastern part of the Black Sea coast averages 2,200 millimetres (87 in) annually which is the highest precipitation in the country. [338] The coastal areas bordering the 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 and cool to cold, wet winters. [338]



Köppen climate types of Turkey[337]

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. [338] However, snow

is rare in the coastal areas of the Aegean Sea and very rare in the coastal areas of the Mediterranean Sea. Winters on the Anatolian plateau are especially severe. Temperatures of -30 to -40 °C (-22 to -40 °F) do occur in northeastern Anatolia, and snow may lie on the ground for at least 120 days of the year, and during the entire year on the summits of the highest mountains. In central Anatolia the temperatures can drop below -20 °C (-4 °F) with the mountains being even colder. Mountains close to the coast prevent Mediterranean influences from extending inland, giving the central Anatolian Plateau a continental climate with sharply contrasting seasons. [338]

Because of a combination of socioeconomic, population exposure, and climate factors, Turkey is highly  $\underline{\text{vulnerable}}$  to  $\underline{\text{climate}}$  change.  $\underline{^{[36]}}$ 

# **Economy**

Turkey is a founding member of the OECD and <u>G20</u>, and is classified among the E7 countries and EAGLEs. It is a <u>newly industrialized country</u> with an upper-middle income economy, which is the <u>17th-largest</u> in the <u>world</u> by nominal GDP, and the <u>11th-largest</u> by <u>PPP</u>. According to <u>IMF</u> estimates, Turkey's GDP per capita by PPP is \$41,412 in 2023, while its nominal GDP per capita is \$11,932. [8] Approximately 11.7% of Turks were at risk of poverty or social exclusion as of 2019. [339] Unemployment in Turkey was 12% in 2021. [340] According to the World Bank, the middle class population in Turkey rose from 18% to 41% of the total population between 1993 and 2010. [341]



Turkey is expected to have fast economic growth due to demographics and rapid urbanization. The following table is from the OECD Long Term Projections.

As of October 2021, the foreign currency deposits of the citizens and residents in  $\underline{\underline{Turkish}}$   $\underline{\underline{banks}}$  stood at \$234 billion, equivalent to around half of all deposits.  $\underline{\underline{[342][343]}}$  As of March 2023, the foreign currency reserves of the  $\underline{\underline{Turkish}}$  Central Bank were \$62.6 billion

(a 2.3% increase compared to the previous month), its gold reserves were \$52.2 billion (a 7.2% increase compared to the previous month), while its official reserve assets stood at \$122.4 billion (a 4.3% increase compared to the previous month). [344]

The <u>EU-Turkey Customs Union</u> in 1995 led to an extensive liberalization of tariff rates, and forms one of the most important pillars of Turkey's foreign trade policy. [349] <u>Foreign direct investment</u> in Turkey peaked at \$22.05 billion in 2007 and dropped to \$13.22 billion in 2021. [350]

The <u>automotive</u> industry in <u>Turkey</u> is sizeable, and produced 1,352,648 motor vehicles in 2022, ranking as the <u>13th largest producer in the world. [351]</u> Turkish automotive companies like <u>TEMSA</u>, <u>Otokar</u> and <u>BMC</u> are among the world's largest van, bus and truck manufacturers. <u>Togg</u>, or <u>Turkey</u>'s Automobile Joint Venture Group Inc., is the first all-electric vehicle company of <u>Turkey</u>. <u>Turkish shipyards</u> are highly regarded both for the production of chemical and <u>oil tankers</u> up to 10,000 <u>dwt</u> and also for their <u>mega yachts. [352]</u> <u>Turkish brands like <u>Beko</u> and <u>Vestel</u> are among the largest producers of consumer electronics and home appliances in <u>Europe</u>, and invest a substantial amount of funds for research and development in new technologies related to these fields. [353][354][355]</u>



Togg T10S sedan produced by Togg, [345] a Turkish automotive company which manufactures electric vehicles [346][347][348]

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. According to a Turkish Statistical Institute survey in 2021, which used the available data for 2020, it was estimated that 47% of total disposable income was received by the top 20% of income earners, while the lowest 20% received only 6%. Subsidies which are harmful to health in Turkey include those on sugar and coal. and coal.

### **Tourism**

Tourism has increased almost every year in the 21st century and is an important part of the economy. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism currently promotes tourism under the project Turkey Home. Turkey is one of the world's top five destination countries, with the highest percentage of foreign visitors arriving from Europe; specially Germany and Russia in recent years. 1859 In 2022, Turkey ranked fourth in the world in terms of the number of international tourist arrivals with 50.5 million foreign tourists. 1960 Turkey has 21 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and 84 World Heritage Sites in tentative list. Turkey is home to 519 Blue Flag beaches, third most in the world. 1961 According to Euromonitor



Marmaris harbour

International report, Istanbul is the most visited city in the world, with more than 20.2 million foreign visitors in 2023. Also Antalya has surpassed Paris and New York to become the fourth most visited city in the world, with more than 16.5 million foreign visitors.

#### Infrastructure

In 2013 there were 98 airports, [363] including 22 international airports. [364] Istanbul Airport is planned to be the largest airport in the world, with a capacity to serve 150 million passengers per year. [365][366] Turkish Airlines uses Istanbul Airport, which has a current annual capacity of serving 90 million passengers, as its main hub and several other airlines operate in the country. Turkish Airlines has scheduled services to 315 destinations in 129 countries, making it the largest mainline carrier in the world by number of countries served. [367][368][369]

The motorway network spans 3,633 kilometres (2,257 mi) as of 2023, [370] with an expected expansion to 9,312 kilometres (5,786 miles) by 2035. [371] Istanbul Metro is the largest metro network in the country with 495 million annual ridership. [372] Opened in 2013, the Marmaray tunnel under the Bosphorus connects the railway and metro lines of Istanbul's European and Asian sides; while the nearby Eurasia Tunnel provides an undersea road connection for motor vehicles. [373]



The main terminal of <u>Istanbul Airport</u> has an annual passenger capacity of 90 million and is the <u>world's largest terminal building under a single roof.</u>

The Bosphorus Bridge, Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge, and Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge (2016) are the three suspension bridges connecting the European and Asian shores of the Bosphorus strait in Istanbul. The Çanakkale 1915 Bridge on the Dardanelles strait, connecting Europe and Asia, is the longest suspension bridge in the world. The Osman Gazi Bridge connects the northern and southern shores of the Gulf of İzmit.

<u>Turkish State Railways</u> operates both conventional and high speed trains on 12,532 kilometres rail length. The government-owned national railway company started building <u>high-speed rail</u> lines in 2003. The <u>Ankara-Konya line</u> became operational in 2011, while the <u>Ankara-Istanbul line</u> entered service in 2014. Konya-Karaman line started its operations in 2022 and 406 km (252 mi) long Ankara-Sivas line opened in 2023.

Much energy in Turkey comes from Russia. As of 2018 Turkey consumes 1,700 terawatt hours of primary energy per year, a little over 20 megawatt hours per person, mostly from imported fossil fuels. Although the energy policy includes reducing fossil-fuel imports, coal in Turkey is the largest single reason why greenhouse gas emissions by Turkey amount to 1% of the global total. Renewable energy in Turkey is being increased and the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant is being built on the Mediterranean



Istanbul Finance Center in <u>Ataşehir</u> district

coast. However, despite the overcapacity in <u>national electricity generation</u>, <u>fossil fuels are still subsidized</u>. In 2019 Turkey had the <u>fourth-highest direct utilization and capacity</u> of <u>geothermal power</u> in the world and produced 43.8% of its electricity from renewable sources. [382]

Many <u>natural gas</u> pipelines span the country. Blue Stream, a major trans-Black Sea gas pipeline, delivers natural gas from Russia as does the undersea pipeline <u>TurkStream</u>. The <u>Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline</u> is the second longest <u>oil pipeline</u> in the world. As of 2022, almost all gas is imported, but production from the <u>Sakarya gas field</u>, a <u>sweet gas</u> field in the Black Sea discovered by <u>TPAO</u> in 2020, began in 2023, with an estimated peak production of 40 bcm in 2026. As of 2022, the total volume of natural gas discovered in the Black Sea amounted to 710 billion cubic metres (bcm).

## Science and technology

Turkey is among the top 50 most innovative countries in the world, ranking 39th in the Global Innovation Index in 2023; this represents a considerable increase since 2011, where it was ranked 65th. TÜBİTAK is the leading agency for developing science, technology and innovation policies. TÜBA is an autonomous scholarly society acting to promote scientific activities in Turkey. TAEK is the country's official nuclear energy institution, focused on academic research and the development and implementation of peaceful nuclear technology. It is supervising the construction of Turkey's first nuclear facility, Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant in Mersin, at the cost of \$20 billion; the plant became operational in 2023 and is projected to meet around 10% of the country's electricity demand



The <u>Presidential Library</u> in <u>Ankara</u> is the largest library in Turkey, with over 4 million printed books and over 120 million electronic editions. [389]

The government invests heavily in research and development of military technologies, including Turkish Aerospace Industries, Aselsan, HAVELSAN, Roketsan, and MKE. Turkey is a global leader in unmanned aerial vehicles; the Bayraktar TB2, manufactured by private defence company Baykar, has been exported to over a dozen countries and played a decisive role in several conflicts, including the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war and the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. [395][396]

In 2013, Turkey initiated the <u>Turkish Space Launch System</u> to develop an independent satellite launch capability [397][398][399] up to an <u>altitude of 550 km (342 mi) [399]</u> with the <u>Roketsan Simşek-1 rocket</u> by 2027, and the longer range Simşek-2 by 2028, including the construction of a <u>spaceport</u>, the development of <u>satellite launch vehicles</u>, and the establishment of remote Earth stations. [400][401][402]

<u>Türksat</u>, the country's sole <u>communications satellite</u> operator, has launched a series of <u>satellites</u> into orbit; likewise, the <u>Turkish Space Systems</u>, <u>Integration and Test Center—a spacecraft production and testing facility owned by the Ministry of National Defence and operated by the TAI—has launched the <u>Göktürk series</u> of <u>Earth observation satellites</u> for reconnaissance; <u>BILSAT-1</u> and <u>RASAT</u> are the scientific Earth observation satellites operated by the <u>TÜBİTAK Space Technologies Research Institute</u>.</u>

<u>Turkish Antarctic Research Station</u> is a planned research station in Antarctica. The plan is to build a permanent base for around 50 people, initially operating only during the summer, and later throughout all the year. [403]

In 2015, <u>Aziz Sancar</u>, a Turkish professor at the <u>University of North Carolina</u>, won the <u>Nobel Prize in Chemistry</u> for his work on how cells repair damaged DNA; <u>1404</u> he is one of <u>two Turkish Nobel laureates</u> and the first in the sciences. Other prominent Turkish scientists include physician Hulusi Behçet, who discovered Behçet's disease; mathematician Cahit Arf, who defined the

<u>Arf invariant;</u> and immunologists <u>Uğur Şahin</u> and <u>Özlem Türeci</u>, whose German <u>biotechnology</u> company, <u>BioNTech</u>, developed <u>one of the first efficacious vaccines</u> against COVID-19.

# **Demographics**

According to the *Address-Based Population Recording System*, the country's population was 85,372,377 in 2023, excluding Syrians under temporary protection. [7] 93% lived in province and district centers. [7] In 2023, Turkey had an average population density of 111 people per km². [7] People within the 15–64 age group constituted 68.3% of the total population; the 0–14 age group corresponded to 21.4%; while senior citizens aged 65 years or older made up 10.2%. [7] Between 1950 and 2020, Turkey's population more than quadrupled from 20.9 million to 83.6 million; [406] however, the population growth rate was 0.1% in 2023. [7]



Göktürk-1, Göktürk-2 and Göktürk-3 are the Earth observation satellites of the Turkish Ministry of National Defense, while state-owned Türksat operates the Türksat series of communications satellites.

# **Ethnicity**

Article 66 of the <u>Turkish Constitution</u> defines a "Turk" as anyone who is a citizen. [408] It is estimated that there are at least 47 ethnic groups represented in Turkey. [409] Reliable data on the ethnic mix of the population is not available because census figures do not include statistics on ethnicity after the 1965 Turkish census. [410] According to the World Factbook, 70-75% of the country's citizens are ethnic Turks. [4] Based on a survey, KONDA's estimation was 76% in 2006, with 78% of adult citizens self-identifying their ethnic background as "Turk". [411] In 2021, 77% of adult citizens identified as such in a survey. [412]



Istanbul is the most populous city in Turkey and the country's economic and financial center, and also the largest city in Europe. [405]

<u>Kurds</u> are the largest ethnic minority. [413] Their exact numbers remain disputed, [413] with estimates ranging from 12 to 20% of the population. [414] According to a 1990 study, Kurds made up around 12% of the population. [415] The Kurds make up a majority in the provinces of <u>Ağrı</u>, <u>Batman</u>, <u>Bingöl</u>, <u>Bitlis</u>, <u>Diyarbakır</u>, <u>Hakkari</u>, <u>Iğdır</u>, <u>Mardin</u>, <u>Muş</u>, <u>Siirt</u>, <u>Şırnak</u>, <u>Tunceli</u> and <u>Van</u>; a near majority in <u>Şanlıurfa</u> (47%); and a large minority in <u>Kars</u> (20%). [416] In addition, internal migration has resulted in <u>Kurdish diaspora</u> communities in all of the major cities in central and western Turkey. In Istanbul, there are an estimated three million Kurds, making it the city with the largest Kurdish population in the



Percentage of <u>Kurdish population</u> in Turkey by region<sup>[407]</sup>

world. [417] 19% of adult citizens identified as ethnic Kurds in a survey in 2021. [412] Some people have multiple ethnic identities, such as both Turk and Kurd. [418][419] In 2006, an estimated 2.7 million ethnic Turks and Kurds were related from interethnic marriages. [420]

According to the World Factbook, non-Kurdish ethnic minorities are 7–12% of the population. [4] In 2006, KONDA estimated that non-Kurdish and non-Zaza ethnic minorities constituted 8.2% of the population; these were people that gave general descriptions such as Turkish citizen, people with other Turkic backgrounds, Arabs, and others. [411] In 2021, 4% of adult citizens identified as non-ethnic Turk or non-ethnic Kurd in a survey. [412] According to the Constitutional Court, there are only four officially recognized minorities in Turkey: the three non-Muslim minorities recognized in the Treaty of Lausanne (Armenians, Greeks, and Jews [c]) and the Bulgarians. [d][424][425][426] In 2013, the Ankara 13th Circuit Administrative Court ruled that the minority provisions of the Lausanne Treaty should also apply to Assyrians in Turkey and the Syriac language. [427][428][429] Other unrecognized ethnic groups include Albanians, Bosniaks, Circassians, Georgians, Laz, Pomaks, and Roma. [430][431][432] Turkey is also home to a Muslim community of Megleno-Romanians.

#### Largest cities or towns in Turkey TÜİK's address-based calculation from December 2017. Rank Name Province Pop. Rank Name **Province** Pop. Istanbul Istanbul 14,744,519 11 Mersin 1,005,455 1 Mersin 4,871,884 12 921,978 2 Ankara Ankara Urfa Şanlıurfa 3 2,938,546 752,630 İzmir İzmir 13 Eskişehir Eskişehir 638,989 4 Denizli Bursa 2,074,799 Denizli Bursa 14 5 Adana Adana 1,753,337 15 Kahramanmaraş Kahramanmaraş 632,487 Gaziantep Gaziantep 1,663,273 16 Samsun 625,410 Samsun

	7	Antalya	Antalya	1,311,471	17	Malatya	Malatya	618,831	- 10
	8	Konya	Konya	1,130,222	18	İzmit	Kocaeli	570,077	da a
	9	Kayseri	Kayseri	1,123,611	19	Adapazarı	Sakarya	492,027	
	10	Diyarbakıı	Diyarbakır	1,047,286	20	Erzurum	Erzurum	422,389	Bursa
Ankara									

# **Immigration**

Excluding Syrians under temporary protection, there were 1,570,543 foreign citizens in Turkey in 2023. [7] Millions of Kurds fled across the mountains to Turkey and the Kurdish areas of Iran during the <u>Gulf War</u> in 1991. <u>Turkey's migrant crisis</u> in the 2010s and early 2020s resulted in the influx of millions of refugees and immigrants. [434] Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees in the world as of April 2020. [435] The <u>Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency manages</u> the refugee crisis in Turkey. Before the start of the <u>Syrian civil war</u> in 2011, the estimated number of <u>Arabs in Turkey</u> varied from 1 million to more than 2 million. [436]

In November 2020, there were 3.6 million Syrian refugees in Turkey; [437] these included other ethnic groups of Syria, such as Syrian Kurds and Syrian Turkmens. [439] As of August 2023, the number these refugees was estimated to be 3.3 million. The number of Syrians had decreased by about 200,000 people since the beginning of the year. [440] The government has granted citizenship to 238 thousand Syrians by November 2023. [441] As of May 2023, approximately 96,000 Ukrainian refugees of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine have sought refuge in Turkey. [442] In 2022, nearly 100,000 Russian citizens migrated to Turkey, becoming the first in the list of foreigners who moved to Turkey, meaning an increase of more than 218% from 2021. [443]

### Languages

The official language is Turkish, which is the most widely spoken Turkic language in the world. 

[444][445] It is spoken by 85%[446][447] to 90%[448] of the population as a first language. Kurdish speakers are the largest linguistic minority. 

[448] A survey estimated 13% of the population speak Kurdish or Zaza as a first language. 

[446] Other minority languages include Arabic, Caucasian languages, and Gagauz. 

[448]



Turkic languages speaking areas

The <u>linguistic rights</u> of the officially recognized minorities are *de jure* recognized and protected for <u>Armenian</u>, <u>Bulgarian</u>, <u>Greek</u>, <u>Hebrew</u>, [e][421][424][425][426] and

Syriac. [449][428][429] Endangered languages include Abaza, Abkhaz, Adyghe, Cappadocian Greek, Gagauz, Hértevin, Homshetsma, Kabard-Cherkes, Ladino (Judesmo), Laz, Mlahso, Pontic Greek, Romani, Suret, Turoyo, Ubykh, and Western Armenian. [450] Megleno-Romanian is also spoken. [433]

## Religion

Turkey is a secular state with no official state religion; the constitution provides for freedom of religion and conscience.  $\frac{[453][454]}{A} = 2016$  survey by Ipsos, interviewing 17,180 adults across 22 countries, found that Islam was the dominant religion in Turkey, adhered to by 82% of the total population; religiously unaffiliated people comprised 13% of the population, while  $\frac{2\%}{W} = \frac{[455]}{W} = \frac{[455]}{W} = \frac{[455]}{W} = \frac{[455]}{W} = \frac{[455]}{W} = \frac{[456][457]}{W} = \frac{[456][457]}{W} = \frac{[456][457]}{W} = \frac{[458][459]}{W} =$ 

According to a survey by the pollster  $\underline{KONDA}$ , the percentage of atheists in Turkey has tripled in 10 years and rose from 1% in 2008 to 3% in 2018, the percentage of non-believers or agnostics rose from 1% to 2%, and that 90% of irreligious Turks were under 35 years old. [460][461][462]



imperial architect Mimar Sinan. [451]
The mosque was included on
UNESCO's World Heritage List in
2011. [452]

The  $CIA\ World\ Factbook$  reports that Islam is the religion of 99.8% of the population, with Sunni Muslims as the largest sect, while 0.2% are Christians and Jews. [463] However, there are no official governmental statistics specifying the religious beliefs of the Turkish people, nor is religious data recorded in the country's census. [464] Academics suggest the Sunni Alevi population may be

from 15 to 20 million, while the Alevi-Bektaşi Federation states that there are around 25 million. [465][466] According to Aksiyon magazine, the number of Twelver Shias (excluding Alevis) is three million (4.2%). [467]

The percentage of Christians in Turkey fell from 17.5% (three million followers) in a population of 16 million to 2.5% in the early 20th century. [469] mainly as a result of the Armenian genocide, the population exchange between Greece and Turkey and the emigration of Christians that began in the late 19th century and gained pace in the first quarter of the 20th century. [470][471][472] Today, there are more than 120,000–320,000 people of various Christian denominations, [473] representing less than 0.2% of Turkey's population, [474] including an estimated 80,000 Oriental Orthodox, 35,000 Roman Catholics, [475] 18,000 Antiochian Greeks, [476] 5,000 Greek Orthodox, smaller numbers of Protestants, [477] and 512 Mormons. [478] Currently, there are 398 churches open for worship in Turkey. [479]

Turkey has a small Jewish population; [480] with around 26,000 <u>Jews</u>, the vast majority of whom are <u>Sephardi</u>. Turkey has <u>the largest Jewish community</u> among the Muslimmajority countries. [482][483]

In a mid-2010s poll, 2.9% of Turkish respondents identified as atheists. The Association of Atheism, the first official atheist organization in the Balkans and the Middle East, was founded in 2014. Some religious and secular officials have claimed that atheism and deism are growing among Turkish people. [487][488][489][490]



There are 234 active churches and chapels in <u>Istanbul</u>, [468] including the <u>Church of St. Anthony of Padua on İstiklal Avenue in Beyoğlu (Pera).</u>

#### **Education**

The Ministry of National Education is responsible for pre-tertiary education. [493] This is compulsory and lasts twelve years: four years each for primary school, middle school and high school. [494] All 12 years of compulsory education is free of charge in public schools. [495] Basic education is said to lag behind other OECD countries, with significant differences between high and low performers. [496] Access to a 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 ten years old. [496]

There are 209 <u>universities in Turkey</u>. [497] Except for the Open Education Faculties at Anadolu, Istanbul and Atatürk universities, entrance is regulated by the national <u>Student Selection and Placement System</u> (Turkish: Öğrenci Seçme ve Yerleştirme Sistemi, ÖSYS) examination, after which high school graduates are assigned to universities according to their performance. [498] According to the 2012–2013 <u>Times Higher Education World University Rankings</u>, the top university was the <u>Middle East Technical University</u>, followed by <u>Bilkent University</u>, Koç University, Istanbul Technical University and <u>Boğaziçi University</u>. All state and private universities are under the control of the <u>Higher Education Board</u> (<u>Turkish</u>: <u>Yükseköğretim Kurulu</u>, YÖK). Since 2016, the president of Turkey directly appoints all rectors of all state and private universities. [500]

Turkey is a member of the Socrates programme, Erasmus Programme and Erasmus+ Programmes. [501] Turkey is also a member of the Erasmus Student Network, a student organization with more than 15,000 volunteers across Europe. [502] Turkey has become a hub for foreign students in recent years, with 795,962 foreign students in 2016. [503] The government has announced a plan to draw around 500,000 foreign students at its universities by offering attractive scholarships. [504] In 2021 Türkiye Scholarships, a government-funded program, received 165,000 applications from prospective students in 178 countries. [505][506][507]



Istanbul University (1453) was founded by sultan Mehmed II as a Darülfünun. On 1 August 1933, as part of Atatürk's reforms, it was reorganized and became the Republic's first modern university. [491]



<u>Istanbul Technical University</u> is the world's third-oldest <u>technical</u> university. [492]

# Health

The Ministry of Health has run a universal public healthcare system since 2003. [508] Known as Universal Health Insurance (*Genel Sağlık Sigortası*), it is funded by a tax surcharge on employers, currently at 5%. [508] Public-sector funding covers approximately 75.2% of health expenditures. [508] Despite the universal health care, total expenditure on health as a share of GDP in 2018 was the lowest among OECD countries at 6.3% of GDP, compared to the OECD average of 9.3%. [508] The lower health care expenditure is due to lower median age in Turkey which is 32.4, compared to Italy which is 47.3. [509] Aging population is the prime reason for higher healthcare expenditure in the developed world. [510]

Average life expectancy is 78.6 years (75.9 for males and 81.3 for females), compared with the EU average of 81 years. [508] Turkey has high rates of obesity, with 29.5% of its adult population having a body mass index (BMI) value of 30 or above. [511] Air pollution is a major cause of early death. [512]

There are many private hospitals in the country. Medical tourism generated revenues of more than \$1 billion in  $2019.^{[513]}$  Around 60% of the income has been obtained from plastic surgery and a total of 662,087 patients received service in the country within the scope of health tourism in  $2019.^{[513]}$ 



Acıbadem Hospital



Modern Başakşehir Çam and Sakura

<u>City Hospital</u> in <u>Istanbul</u>

# Culture

Turkey has a very diverse culture that is a blend of various elements of the  $\underline{\text{Turkic}}$ ,  $\underline{\text{Anatolian}}$ ,  $\underline{\text{Byzantine}}$  and  $\underline{\text{Ottoman}}$  cultures (the latter was in many aspects a continuation of both the  $\underline{\text{Greco-Roman}}$  and  $\underline{\text{Islamic}}$  cultures) with  $\underline{\text{Western culture}}$  and traditions, a process that started with the  $\underline{\text{Westernization}}$  of the  $\underline{\text{Ottoman Empire}}$  and still continues today.  $\underline{^{[514][515]}}$  This mix originally began as a result of the encounter of the Turks and their culture with those of the peoples they came across during  $\underline{\text{their migration}}$  from Central Asia to the West.  $\underline{^{[514][516]}}$  Contemporary Turkish culture during the republican period is a product of efforts to create a "modern" Western society, while maintaining traditional, religious and historical values.  $\underline{^{[514]}}$  The culture has influenced European art and fashion, particularly between the 16th and 18th centuries, during the peak of Ottoman power – a phenomenon that was called  $\underline{\text{Turquerie}}$ .

#### Visual arts

Ottoman miniature is linked to the <u>Persian miniature</u> tradition and is likewise influenced by <u>Chinese painting</u> styles and techniques. The words *tasvir* or *nakış* were used to define the art of miniature painting in Ottoman Turkish. The studios the artists worked in were called *nakkaşhane*. [517] The understanding of perspective was different from that of the nearby



Ortaköy Mosque is an example of the <u>Westernization</u> of Islamic— Ottoman architecture.

European Renaissance painting tradition, and the scene depicted often included different time periods and spaces in one picture. They followed closely the context of the book they were included in, more illustrations than standalone works of art. [518] Sixteenth-century artists Nakkaş Osman and Matrakçı Nasuh are among the most prominent artists of this era.

<u>Turkish painting</u>, in the Western sense, developed actively starting from the mid 19th century. The first painting lessons were scheduled at what is now the <u>Istanbul Technical University</u> (then the *Imperial Military Engineering School*) in 1793, mostly for technical purposes. [519] In the late 19th century, human figure in the Western sense was being established in Turkish painting, especially with <u>Osman Hamdi Bey</u>. <u>Impressionism</u>, among the contemporary trends, appeared later on with <u>Halil Pasha</u>. Other important Turkish painters in the 19th century were <u>Ferik İbrahim Paşa</u>, <u>Osman Nuri Paşa</u>, <u>Şeker Ahmet Paşa</u>, and <u>Hoca Ali</u> Riza. [520]

<u>Carpet (hali)</u> and tapestry (<u>kilim</u>) weaving is a traditional Turkish art form with roots in pre-Islamic times. During its long history, the art and craft of weaving carpets and tapestries in Turkey has integrated numerous cultural traditions. Apart from the Turkic design patterns that are prevalent, traces of <u>Persian</u> and <u>Byzantine</u> patterns can also be detected. There are also similarities with the patterns used in Armenian, Caucasian and Kurdish carpet designs. The arrival of Islam in Central Asia and the development of <u>Islamic art</u> also influenced Turkic patterns in the medieval period. The history of the designs, motifs and ornaments used in Turkish

carpets and tapestries thus reflects the political and ethnic history of the Turks and the cultural diversity of Anatolia. However, scientific attempts were unsuccessful, as yet, to attribute a particular design to a specific ethnic, regional, or even nomadic versus village tradition. [521]

The earliest examples of paper marbling, called *ebru* in Turkish, are said to be a copy of the *Hâlnâme* by the poet Arifî. The text of this manuscript was rendered in a delicate cut paper découpage calligraphy by Mehmed bin Gazanfer and completed in 1540, and features many marbled and decorative paper borders. One early master by the <u>pseudonym</u> of *Şebek* is mentioned posthumously in the earliest Ottoman text on the art known as the *Tertib-i Risâle-i Ebrî*, which is dated based on internal evidence to after 1615. The instructions for several *ebru* techniques in the text are accredited to this master. <u>Hatip Mehmed Efendi</u> is accredited with developing motifs and perhaps early floral designs, although evidence from India appears to contradict some of these reports. Despite this, marbled motifs are commonly referred to as *hatip* designs in Turkey today. [522]

### Literature and theatre

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. Turkish literature was heavily influenced by Persian and Arabic literature during most of the Ottoman era. The Tanzimat reforms of the 19th century 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 Namık Kemal also wrote the 1876 novel İntibâh (Awakening), while the journalist Şinasi has written, in 1860, the first modern Turkish play, the one-act comedy "Şair Evlenmesi" (The Poet's Marriage). Most of the roots of modern Turkish literature were formed between 1896 and 1923.

The first radical step of innovation in 20th century Turkish poetry was taken by <u>Nâzım Hikmet</u>, who introduced the <u>free verse</u> style. Another revolution in Turkish poetry came about in 1941 with the Garip movement led by Orhan Veli, Oktay Rıfat and Melih Cevdet.

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, recipient of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Literature. [526]

The origin of <u>Turkish theater</u> dates back to ancient pagan rituals and oral legends. [527] The dances, music and songs performed during the rituals of the inhabitants of Anatolia millennia ago are the elements from which the first shows originated. In time, the ancient rituals, myths, legends and stories evolved into theatrical shows. Starting from the 11th-century, the traditions of the Seljuk Turks blended with those of the indigenous peoples of Anatolia and the interaction between diverse cultures paved the way for new plays. [527][528] Meddah were storytellers who performed in front of audiences during the Ottoman period. [527] Karagöz and Hacivat are the lead characters of the traditional Turkish shadow play, popularized during the Ottoman period and then spread to most ethnic groups of the Ottoman Empire.

After the Tanzimat period, characters in Turkish theatre were modernized and plays were performed on European-style stages, with actors wearing European costumes. Following the restoration of constitutional monarchy with the Young Turk Revolution in 1908, theatrical activities increased and social problems began to be reflected at the theatre as well as in historical plays. A theatrical conservatoire, <a href="Darülbedayi-i Osmani">Darülbedayi-i Osmani</a> (which



Map of Istanbul by the miniature artist Matrakçı Nasuh



used for the interior decorations in Ottoman architecture. Turquoise (meaning "Turkish" in French) and various shades of blue were the most commonly used colors in Ottoman tiles.



Nobel-laureate Turkish novelist
Orhan Pamuk and his Turkish
Angora cat at his personal writing
space

became the nucleus of the Istanbul City Theatres) was established in 1914. Numerous Turkish playwrights emerged in this era,

and the first Turkish musicals were also written. In time, Turkish women began to appear on stage; until then, female roles had only been played by actresses who were members of Turkey's ethnic minorities. Today there are numerous private theatres in the country, together with those which are subsidized by the government, such as the <u>Turkish State</u> Theatres. [529]

#### Music and dance

The roots of traditional music in Turkey span across centuries to a time when the Seljuk Turks migrated to Anatolia and Persia in the 11th century and contains elements of both Turkic and pre-Turkic influences. Much of its modern popular music can trace its roots to the emergence in the early 1930s drive for Westernization. [530]

With the assimilation of immigrants from various regions the diversity of musical genres and musical instrumentation also expanded. Turkey has also seen documented folk music and recorded popular music produced in the ethnic styles of <u>Greek</u>, <u>Armenian</u>, <u>Albanian</u>, Polish and Jewish communities, among others. [531]

Many Turkish cities and towns have vibrant local music scenes which, in turn, support a number of regional musical styles. Despite this however, western music styles like pop music and kanto lost popularity to arabesque in the late 1970s and 1980s. It became popular again by the beginning of the 1990s, as a result of an opening economy and society. The resurging popularity of pop music gave rise to several international Turkish pop stars such as Ajda Pekkan, Sezen Aksu, Erol Evgin, MFÖ, Tarkan, Sertab Erener, Teoman, Kenan Doğulu, Levent Yüksel and Hande Yener. Internationally acclaimed Turkish jazz and blues musicians and composers include Ahmet Ertegun (founder and president of Atlantic Records), Nükhet Ruacan and Kerem Görsev.

#### **Architecture**

The Byzantine era is usually dated from 330 AD at the founding of Constantinople until the fall of the Byzantine Empire in 1453. Its architecture dramatically influenced the later medieval architecture throughout Europe and the Near East and became the primary progenitor of the Renaissance and Ottoman architectural traditions that followed its collapse. When the Roman Empire went Christian (as well as eastwards) with Constantinople as its new capital, its architecture became more sensuous and more ambitious. This new style, which would come to be known as Byzantine architecture, with increasingly exotic domes and ever-richer mosaics, spread west to Ravenna and Venice in Italy and as far north as Moscow in Russia. This influence can be seen particularly in the Venetian Gothic architecture.



Süreyya Opera House is on the
Asian side of Istanbul and Atatürk
Cultural Center is the main opera
house on the European side. Zorlu
PSM is the city's largest performing
arts theater and concert hall.



Ajda Pekkan is known as "superstar" in the Turkish media. She became a prominent figure of Turkish pop music.



<u>Barış Manço</u> was a Turkish rock musician and one of the founders of the <u>Anatolian rock</u> genre.

The architecture of the Seljuk Turks combined the elements and characteristics of the Turkic architecture of Central Asia with those of Persian, Arab, Armenian and Byzantine architecture. The transition from Seljuk architecture to Ottoman architecture is most visible in Bursa, which was the capital of the Ottoman State between 1335 and 1413. Following the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453, Ottoman architecture was significantly influenced by Byzantine architecture. Topkapi Palace in Istanbul is one of the most famous examples of classical Ottoman architecture and was the primary residence of the Ottoman Sultans for approximately 400 years. [534] 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 that were constructed in various provinces in the 16th century. [535] Sedefkar Mehmed Ağa, the architect of the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, was an apprentice of Sinan, later becoming his first assistant in charge of the office of chief architect.

Since the 18th century, Turkish architecture has been increasingly influenced by European styles, and this can be particularly seen in the Tanzimat era buildings of Istanbul like the <u>Dolmabahçe</u>, <u>Çırağan</u>, <u>Taksim Military Barracks</u> (demolished), <u>Feriye</u>, Beylerbeyi, Küçüksu, Ihlamur and Yıldız palaces, which were all designed by members of the Balyan family of Ottoman

Armenian court architects. The Ottoman era waterfront houses (yali) on the Bosphorus also reflect the fusion between classical Ottoman and European architectural styles. The <u>First National Architectural Movement</u> in the early 20th century sought to create a new architecture which was based on motifs from Seljuk and Ottoman architecture.

# Cuisine

Turkish cuisine is largely the heritage of Ottoman cuisine, [539][540] which contains elements of Turkish, Byzantine, Balkan, Armenian, Georgian, Kurdish, Arab and Persian cuisines. [539][540][541] It can be described as a fusion and refinement of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Central Asian, Balkan and Eastern European cuisines. [539][540] The country's position between Europe, Asia and the Mediterranean Sea helped the Turks in gaining complete control of the major trade routes, and an ideal landscape and climate allowed plants and animals to flourish. Turkish cuisine was well established by the mid-15th century, which marked the beginning of the classical age of the Ottoman Empire.

<u>Yogurt</u> salads; <u>mezes</u>; fish and seafood; grilled, sauteed or steamed meat varieties; vegetables or <u>stuffed</u> and <u>wrapped</u> vegetables cooked with <u>olive</u> oil; and drinks like <u>sherbet</u>, <u>ayran</u> and <u>raki</u> became Turkish staples. The empire 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 establishment of the republic in 1923, foreign food such as French <u>hollandaise</u> sauce and Western fast food have made their way into the modern Turkish diet.

# **Sports**

The most popular sport is association football. [543] Galatasaray won the UEFA Cup and UEFA Super Cup in 2000. [544] The Turkey national football team won the bronze medal at the 2002 FIFA World Cup, the 2003 FIFA Confederations Cup and UEFA Euro 2008. [545]

Other mainstream sports such as basketball and volleyball are also popular. The <u>men's national basketball team</u> and <u>women's national basketball team</u> have been successful. Anadolu Efes S.K. is the most successful Turkish basketball club in international competitions. Fenerbahçe reached the final of the <u>EuroLeague</u> in three consecutive seasons (2016, 2017 and 2018), becoming the European champions in 2017.

The final of the <u>2013–14 EuroLeague Women</u> basketball championship was played between two Turkish teams, <u>Galatasaray</u> and <u>Fenerbahçe</u>, and won by Galatasaray. 

[549] The <u>women's national volleyball team</u> has won several medals. [550] Women's volleyball clubs, namely <u>VakifBank S.K.</u>, <u>Fenerbahçe</u> and <u>Eczacibaşi</u>, have won numerous European championship titles and medals. [551]

The traditional national sport of Turkey has been yağlı güreş (oil wrestling) since Ottoman times. [552] Edirne Province has hosted the annual Kırkpınar oil wrestling tournament since 1361, making it the oldest continuously held sporting competition in the world. [553][554] In the 19th and early 20th centuries, oil wrestling champions such as Koca Yusuf, Nurullah Hasan and Kızılcıklı Mahmut acquired international fame in Europe and North America by winning world heavyweight wrestling championship titles. International wrestling styles governed by FILA such as freestyle wrestling and 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. [555]



Blue Mosque in Istanbul (1609-1617)



Istanbul Main Post Office in Sirkeci, designed by Vedat Tek (1905–1909)



<u>Şakirin Mosque</u> (2009), the first mosque designed by a woman



Turkish coffee with Turkish delight.

Turkish coffee is a UNESCO-listed intangible cultural heritage of Turks. [537][538]



Turkish meze be described as a fusion and refinement of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cousines.

### Media and cinema

Hundreds of television channels, thousands of local and national radio stations, several dozen newspapers, a productive and profitable <u>national cinema</u> and a rapid growth of <u>broadband</u> Internet use constitute a vibrant media industry in Turkey. [556][557] The majority of the TV audiences are shared among public broadcaster <u>TRT</u> and the networkstyle channels such as <u>Kanal D</u>, <u>Show TV</u>, <u>ATV</u> and <u>Star TV</u>. The broadcast media have a very high penetration as <u>satellite dishes</u> and <u>cable</u> systems are widely available. The <u>Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK)</u> is the government body overseeing the broadcast media. By circulation, the <u>most popular newspapers</u> are <u>Posta</u>, Hürriyet, Sözcü, Sabah and Habertürk.

 $\overline{\text{TRT 2}}$  is the public service channel dedicated to culture and art, and  $\overline{\text{TRT Belgesel}}$  is dedicated to documentaries. In the 21st century some reforms have taken place to improve the cultural rights of ethnic minorities in Turkey, such as the establishment of  $\overline{\text{TRT Kurd}}$ , TRT Arabi and TRT Avaz by the TRT.

Turkish television dramas 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. [561] After sweeping the Middle East's television market over the past decade, Turkish shows have aired in more than a dozen South and Central American countries in 2016. [562][563] Turkey is today the world's second largest exporter of television series.

<u>Yeşilçam</u> is the <u>sobriquet</u> that refers to the Turkish film art and industry. The first movie exhibited in the Ottoman Empire was the <u>Lumiere Brothers'</u> 1895 film, <u>L'Arrivée d'un train en gare de La Ciotat</u>, which was shown in Istanbul in 1896. The first Turkish-made film was a documentary entitled <u>Ayastefanos'taki Rus Abidesinin Yıkılışı</u> (Demolition of the Russian Monument at <u>San Stefano</u>), directed by <u>Fuat Uzkınay</u> and completed in 1914. The first narrative film, <u>Sedat Simavi's The Spy</u>, was released in 1917. Turkey's first sound film was shown in 1931. Turkish directors like <u>Metin Erksan</u>, <u>Nuri Bilge Ceylan</u>, <u>Yılmaz Güney</u>, <u>Zeki Demirkubuz</u> and <u>Ferzan Özpetek</u> won numerous international awards such as the <u>Palme d'Or and Golden Bear. [568][569]</u>

Despite legal provisions, <u>media freedom in Turkey</u> has steadily deteriorated from 2010 onwards, with a precipitous decline following the failed <u>coup attempt</u> on 15 July 2016. [570] As of December 2016, at least 81 journalists were imprisoned in Turkey and more than 100 news outlets were closed. [296] <u>Freedom House</u> lists Turkey's <u>media</u> as <u>not free</u>. [571] The media crackdowns also extend to <u>Internet censorship</u> with <u>Wikipedia getting blocked</u> between 29 April 2017 and 15 January 2020. [572][573]

# See also



Outline of Turkey



<u>Turkey</u> has won numerous international accolades, including the silver medal at the <u>2010 FIBA World</u> Championship.



VakıfBank S.K. is one of the best women's volleyball team in the world, having won the FIVB World Championship four times and the CEV Champions Cup six times.



Küçük Çamlıca TV Radio Tower in Istanbul



The closing ceremony of the annual International Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival takes place at the virtually intact Roman theater in Aspendos. [567]

# **Notes**

- a. Turkish: Türkiye, Turkish: ['tyrcije]
- b. Turkish: ['tyrcije dʒum'huːrijeti] •)
- c. Even though they are not explicitly mentioned in the Treaty of Lausanne. [421]
- d. The Bulgarian community in Turkey is now so small that this disposition is de facto not applied. [421][422][423]
- e. The Turkish government considers that, for the purpose of the Treaty of Lausanne, the language of <u>Turkish Jews</u> is <u>Hebrew</u>, even though the mother tongue of Turkish Jews was not Hebrew but historically <u>Judaeo-Spanish</u> (Ladino) or other <u>Jewish languages</u>.[425][426]

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- 3. KONDA 2006, p. 19
  - Comrie 2018, p. 537
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- 11. Howard 2016, p. 24
- 12. <u>Leonard 2006</u>, p. 1576: "Turkey's diversity is derived from its central location near the world's earliest civilizations as well as a history replete with population movements and invasions. The Hattite culture was prominent during the Bronze Age prior to 2000 BCE, but was replaced by the Indo-European Hittites who conquered Anatolia by the second millennium. Meanwhile, Turkish Thrace came to be dominated by another Indo-European group, the Thracians for whom the region is named."
- 13. <u>Howard 2016</u>, pp. 24–28: "Göbekli Tepe's close proximity to several very early sites of grain cultivation helped lead Schmidt to the conclusion that it was the need to maintain the ritual center that first encouraged the beginnings of settled agriculture—the Neolithic Revolution"
- 14. Steadman & McMahon 2011, pp. 3-11, 37
- 15. Steadman & McMahon 2011, p. 327
- 16. <u>Steadman & McMahon 2011</u>, pp. 233, 713: "By the time of the Old Assyrian Colony period in the early second millennium b.c.e. (see Michel, chapter 13 in this volume) the languages spoken on the plateau included Hattian, an indigenous Anatolian language, Hurrian (spoken in northern Syria), and Indo-European languages known as Luwian, Hittite, and Palaic" ... "The weight of current linguistic evidence supports the traditional view that Indo-European speakers are intrusive to Asia Minor, coming from somewhere in eastern Europe...Recent research argues against the notion of Indo-European "invaders" imposing themselves on a Hattian population in central Anatolia and points rather to a gradual assimilation."
- 17. Howard 2016, p. 29: "The sudden disappearance of the Persian Empire and the conquest of virtually the entire Middle Eastern world from the Nile to the Indus by Alexander the Great caused tremendous political and cultural upheaval. Working out vague notions of the fundamental commonality of the human spirit, summed up in the ideal of the "brotherhood of man" attributed to Alexander himself, statesmen throughout the conquered regions attempted to implement a policy of Hellenization. For indigenous elites, this amounted to the forced assimilation of native religion and culture to Greek models. It met resistance in Anatolia as elsewhere, especially from priests and others who controlled temple wealth."
- 18. <u>Leonard 2006</u>, p. 1576: "Subsequently, hellenization of the elites transformed Anatolia into a largely Greek-speaking region"
- 19. Steadman & McMahon 2011, pp. 5, 16, 617
- 20. <u>Davison 1990</u>, pp. 3–4: "So the Seljuk sultanate was a successor state ruling part of the medieval Greek empire, and within it the process of Turkification of a previously Hellenized Anatolian population continued. That population must already have been of very mixed ancestry, deriving from ancient Hittite, Phrygian, Cappadocian, and other civilizations as well as Roman and Greek."
- 21. Howard 2016, pp. 33-44
- 22. Howard 2016, pp. 38-39
- 23. Howard 2016, p. 45
- 24. Somel 2003, p. xcvii
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- 26. Davison 1990, pp. 115-116

- 27. Kaser 2011, p. 336: "The emerging Christian nation states justified the prosecution of their Muslims by arguing that they were their former "suppressors". The historical balance: between about 1820 and 1920, millions of Muslim casualties and refugees back to the remaining Ottoman Empire had to be registered; estimations speak about 5 million casualties and the same number of displaced persons"
  - Gibney & Hansen 2005, p. 437: 'Muslims had been the majority in Anatolia, the Crimea, the Balkans, and the Caucasus and a plurality in southern Russia and sections of Romania. Most of these lands were within or contiguous with the Ottoman Empire. By 1923, "only Anatolia, eastern Thrace, and a section of the southeastern Caucasus remained to the Muslim land....Millions of Muslims, most of them Turks, had died; millions more had fled to what is today Turkey. Between 1821 and 1922, more than five million Muslims were driven from their lands. Five and one-half million Muslims died, some of them killed in wars, others perishing as refugees from starvation and disease" (McCarthy 1995, 1). Since people in the Ottoman Empire were classified by religion, Turks, Albanians, Bosnians, and all other Muslim groups were recognized—and recognized themselves—simply as Muslims. Hence, their persecution and forced migration is of central importance to an analysis of "Muslim migration."
  - Karpat 2001, p. 343: "The main migrations started from Crimea in 1856 and were followed by those from the Caucasus and the Balkans in 1862 to 1878 and 1912 to 1916. These have continued to our day. The quantitative indicators cited in various sources show that during this period a total of about 7 million migrants from Crimea, the Caucasus, the Balkans, and the Mediterranean islands settled in Anatolia. These immigrants were overwhelmingly Muslim, except for a number of Jews who left their homes in the Balkans and Russia in order to live in the Ottoman lands. By the end of the century the immigrants and their descendants constituted some 30 to 40 percent of the total population of Anatolia, and in some western areas their percentage was even higher." ... "The immigrants called themselves Muslims rather than Turks, although most of those from Bulgaria, Macedonia, and eastern Serbia descended from the Turkish Anatolian stock who settled in the Balkans in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries."
  - <u>Karpat 2004</u>, pp. 5–6: "Migration was a major force in the social and cultural reconstruction of the Ottoman state in the nineteenth century. While some seven to nine million, mostly Muslim, refugees from lost territories in the Caucasus, Crimea, Balkans and Mediterranean islands migrated to Anatolia and Eastern Thrace, during the last quarter of the nineteenth and the early part of the twentieth centuries..."
  - Pekesen 2012: "The immigration had far-reaching social and political consequences for the Ottoman Empire and Turkey." ... "Between 1821 and 1922, some 5.3 million Muslims migrated to the Empire.50 It is estimated that in 1923, the year the republic of Turkey was founded, about 25 per cent of the population came from immigrant families.51"
  - <u>Biondich 2011</u>, p. 93: "The road from Berlin to Lausanne was littered with millions of casualties. In the period between 1878 and 1912, as many as two million Muslims emigrated voluntarily or involuntarily from the Balkans. When one adds those who were killed or expelled between 1912 and 1923, the number of Muslim casualties from the Balkan far exceeds three million. By 1923 fewer than one million remained in the Balkans"
  - Armour 2012, p. 213: "To top it all, the Empire was host to a steady stream of Muslim refugees. Russia between 1854 and 1876 expelled 1.4 million Crimean Tartars, and in the mid-1860s another 600,000 Circassians from the Caucasus. Their arrival produced further economic dislocation and expense."
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- 115. "Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople" (https://www.britannica.com/topic/Ecumenical-Patriarchate-of-Const antinople). britannica.com. Encyclopædia Britannica. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20201205074717/https://www.britannica.com/topic/Ecumenical-Patriarchate-of-Constantinople) from the original on 5 December 2020. Retrieved 21 February 2023.
- 116. <u>Uchiyama et al. 2020</u>: "Most linguists and historians agree that Proto-Turkic, the common ancestor of all ancient and contemporary Turkic languages, must have been spoken somewhere in Central-East Asia (e.g. Róna-Tas, Reference Róna-Tas1991, p. 35; Golden, Reference Golden1992, pp. 124–127; Menges, Reference Menges1995, pp. 16–19)."
- 117. <u>Uchiyama et al. 2020</u>:"To sum up, the palaeolinguistic reconstruction points to a mixed subsistence strategy and complex economy of the Proto-Turkic-speaking community. It is likely that the subsistence of the Early Proto-Turkic speakers was based on a combination of hunting—gathering and agriculture, with a later shift to nomadic pastoralism as an economy basis, partly owing to the interaction of the Late Proto-Turkic groups with the Iranian-speaking herders of the Eastern Steppe."
- 118. Findley 2005, p. 18: "Moreover, Turks do not all physically look alike. They never did. The Turks of Turkey are famous for their range of physical types. Given the Turks' ancient Inner Asian origins, it is easy to imagine that they once presented a uniform Mongoloid appearance. Such traits seem to be more characteristic in the eastern Turkic world; however, uniformity of type can never have prevailed there either. Archeological evidence indicates that Indo-Europeans, or certainly Europoid physical types, inhabited the oases of the Tarim basin and even parts of Mongolia in ancient times. In the Tarim basin, persistence of these former inhabitants' genes among the modern Uyghurs is both observable and scientifically demonstrable.32 Early Chinese sources describe the Kirghiz as blue-eyed and blond or red-haired. The genesis of Turkic ethnic groups from earliest times occurred in confederations of diverse peoples. As if to prove the point, the earliest surviving texts in Turkic languages are studded with terms from other languages."
- 119. Golden, Peter B. (25 July 2018). "The Ethnogonic Tales of the Türks" (http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0 971945818775373). The Medieval History Journal. 21 (2): 291–327. doi:10.1177/0971945818775373 (https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0971945818775373). ISSN 0971-9458 (https://www.worldcat.org/issn/0971-9458). S2CID 166026934 (https://api.semanticscholar.org/CorpusID:166026934). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214053008/https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0971945818775373) from the original on 14 February 2021. Retrieved 12 March 2024."Some DNA tests point to the Iranian connections of the Ashina and Ashide,133 highlighting further that the Turks as a whole 'were made up of heterogeneous and somatically dissimilar populations'.134 Geographically, the accounts cover the regions of Inner Mongolia, Gansu, Xinjiang, the Yenisei zone and the Altay, regions with Turkic, Indo-European (Iranian [Saka] and Tokharian), Yeniseic, Uralic and other populations. Wusun elements, like most steppe polities of an ethno-linguistic mix, may have also played a substratal role."
- 120. <u>Lee & Kuang 2017</u>: "Both Chinese histories and modern dna studies indicate that the early and medieval Turkic peoples were made up of heterogeneous populations"
- 121. Lee 2023, p. 84
- 122. Wink, Andre (1990). Al Hind: The Making of the Indo Islamic World, Vol. 1, Early Medieval India and the Expansion of Islam, 7th–11th Centuries. Brill Academic Publishers. p. 21. ISBN 978-90-04-09249-5.
- 123. Lee 2023, p. 91
- 124. Howard 2016, p. 34
- 125. Peacock 2015, p. 9

- 126. Jeffreys, Haldon & Cormack 2008, pp. 778–779: "Thus the majority of traditional 'Greek' lands, including the coastal areas of Asia Minor, remained essentially Greek-speaking, despite the superimposition of Latin and the later Slavic incursions into the Balkans during the sixth and seventh centuries. Even on the Anatolian plateau, where Hellenic culture had come only with Alexander's conquests, both the extremely heterogeneous indigenous populations and immigrant groups (including Celts, Goths, Jews, and Persians) had become heavily Hellenized, as the steady decline in epigraphic evidence for the native languages and the great mass of public and private inscriptions in Greek demonstrate. Though the disappearance of these languages from the written record did not entail their immediate abandonment as spoken languages,..."
- 127. Howard 2016, pp. 34-36
- 128. Howard 2016, p. 36
- 129. Leonard 2006, p. 1576
- 130. Findley 2005, pp. 71-73, 225
- 131. Howard 2016, pp. 36-38
- 132. Howard 2016, p. 33
- 133. Fierro 2010, p. 303
- 134. Davison 1990, p. 4
- 135. Howard 2016, pp. 37-39
- 136. Howard 2016, p. 38
- 137. Fierro 2010, pp. 308-310
- 138. Fierro 2010, pp. 309-310
- 139. Fierro 2010, pp. 313-314
- 140. Lee 2023, p. 94
- 141. Howard 2016, pp. 40-41
- 142. Howard 2016, p. 43
- 143. Agoston & Masters 2009, p. 302
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- Roxburgh, David J. (ed.) (2005). Turks: A Journey of a Thousand Years, 600–1600. Royal Academy of Arts. ISBN 978-1-903973-56-1.
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## **External links**

- turkey.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20150522160612/http://turkey.com/) topical multilingual website about Turkey (archived 22 May 2015)
- Turkey (https://web.archive.org/web/20120609183758/http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/turkey.htm)
   from UCB Libraries GovPubs (archived 9 June 2012)
- Data on Turkey (https://data.oecd.org/turkey.htm) from OECD
- Turkey (https://curlie.org/Regional/Middle\_East/Turkey) at Curlie
- 🎉 Geographic data related to Turkey (https://www.openstreetmap.org/relation/174737) at OpenStreetMap

#### **Tourism**

- Wikimedia Atlas of Turkey
- Go Türkiye Turkey's official tourism portal (https://goturkiye.com/)
- Official website of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (http://www.kultur.gov.tr/)

#### Government

- Official website of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey (https://tccb.gov.tr/en/)
- Official website of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (http://global.tbmm.gov.tr/)

## **Economy**

Official website of the Ministry of Economy (http://www.ekonomi.gov.tr/)

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