

Outline of the History of Anatolia, the Ottoman Empire and Republican Turkey

8.000 – 6.000 B.C. **Palaeolithikum and Mesolithikum in Anatolia**

(non-sedentary hunter and gather groups)

major archaeological sites: Antalya, Isparta, Antakya and along the Euphrat and Tigris in SE-Anatolia

8.000 – 5.500 B.C. **Neolithikum**

(early agricultural production and sedentarization, domestication of dogs, sheep and goats)

major archaeological sites: around Diyarbakir (e.g. Cayönü) and Urfa (SE-Anatolia), Tuz-Gölü area in Central Anatolia and in the Burdur-Isparta region (e.g. Hacilar) (SW Anatolia); the most prominent site is Cataylhöyük (near Konya)

5.500 – 3.200 B.C. **Chalcolithikum**

(establishment of permanent settlements with increased agricultural production, production of cooper tools)

major archaeological sites: Hacilar (SW-Anatolia), Alacahöyük

3.200 – 1.800 B.C. **Early Bronze Age**

increased division of labour, centers of trade and cities emerge

major archaeological sites: Malatya, Elazig and Keban (E-Anatolia); Alacahöyük and Hasanoglan (NW-Anatolia)

1.700 – 1.200 B.C. **Hethite Period**

For the first time a large politically entity emerges that embraces nearly the whole of Anatolia with Hattusa as its center. The Hethites establish a highly developed civilization, e.g. introduction of the Babylonian cuneiform inscription (Keilschrift) as means of communication. Around 1.200 B.C. the Hethites are defeated and their empire dissolves in a number of smaller territorial entities.

major archaeological sites: primarily in Central Anatolia.

1180 – 547 B.C. **Greek colonies** on the **Anatolian** coasts, c. 1180-547 bc

Since 9th cent. B.C. **Empire of Urartu** around Van in Eastern Anatolia

8th century B.C. **The Phrygian Empire** covers vast areas of Western Anatolia

approx.end of 7 th cen. B.C.	Barbarian invasions in Anatolia that nearly destroy Urartu and Phrygia; increased regional autonomy takes place
6 th cen. B.C.	The Persian Achaemenidia dynasty establishes its rule over Anatolia
334-333 B.C.	Alexander the Great conquers Anatolia
Beginning of the 1 st century B.C.	Anatolia is absorbed into the Roman Republic and Empire
395 A.D.	When the Roman Empire is split Anatolia becomes part of the Byzantine or Eastern Roman Empire with Constantinopel as ist capital. During its thousand-year existence the Empire remained one of the most powerful economic, cultural, and military forces in Europe, despite setbacks and territorial losses, especially during the Roman–Persian and Byzantine–Arab Wars.
12 th cen.A.D.	After the Komnenian restoration briefly re-established dominance in the 12th century, the Empire slipped into a long decline, with the Byzantine–Ottoman Wars culminating in the Fall of Constantinople and its remaining territories to the Muslim Ottoman Turks in the 15th century.

Muslim and Turkish dominance in Anatolia

- 622 A.D. **Higra** (Emigration) of **Mohammad** from Mekka to Medina
- 630 A.D. Mohammad conquers Mekka
- 632 A.D. death of Mohammad
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- 674-678 **Muslim troops besiege** the Byzantine capital **Constantinopel**
- 8th + 9th c. Muslim troops conquer Transoxania and Chorasana
- 833-842 Turkic slave soldiers establish themselves in Bagdad
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- 1036/1037 the Selcuk leaders Togril-Beg and Cagri-Beg conquer Chorasana
- 1055 Togrul-Beg conquers Bagdad
- 1071 Battle of Mantzikert/East-Anatolia, the Byzantine Empire is defeated by the Selcuks
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- 1077-1307 **Rum-Selcuks rule in Anatolia**
- 1220 Led by Cengiz Khan the Mongols conquer Transoxania and Khwarezm
- 1243 Battle at Köse-Dag, Mongols subjugate the Rum-Selcuks
Konya, the political center of the Rum-Selcuks becomes tributary of the Mongolian Ilkhans in Tabriz
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- 1290-1324 **Osman I** (founding father of the Ottomans) establishes an independent chiefdom in Bithynien (Western Anatolia)
- 1324 **Orhan** (Osman's son) **conquers Bursa**/Western Anatolia. Bursa becomes the first capital of the Ottoman Empire and remains necropolis of Ottoman sultans after the transfer of the capital to Edirne and Istanbul
- 1345 First appearance of Ottoman troops in Europe. Ottomans support the Byzantine Emperor Johannes VI, Kantakuzenos. Orhan marries his daughter Theodora
- 1362 **Ottomans conquer Adiranopel**, renamed Edirne the city becomes the new capital of the Ottoman Empire
- 1389 Battle of Kossovo
- 1370-1405 Tamerlane conquers vast parts of Central Asia and North India
- 1402 Tamerlane defeats the Ottoman Emperor Bayazid I. in the Battle of Ankara
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- 1451-1481 rule of **Sultan Mehmet Fatih** (Sultan Mehmed, the Conqueror)
- 1453** Sultan Mehmet Fatih **conquers Constantinopel** and herewith terminates the Byzantine Empire. Constantinopel becomes the new capital city of the Ottomans
- 1514 Battle of Caldiran/East-Anatolia, the Ottomans defeat the troops of Safavid Iran
- 1526 Battle of Mohacs, the Ottomans defeat the Hungarian troops

- 1529** **First Besiege of Vienna** by the Ottomans
- 1683** **Second Besiege of Vienna** by the Ottomans
- 1728 Ibrahim Müteferriqa starts the first Ottoman-Turkish printing press in the Ottoman Empire
- since 18th c. Increasing military defeats of Ottoman troops
- 1789-1807 **First army reform** as a reaction to the military defeats during the rule of Selim III
- 1798-1801 French expedition to Egypt
- 1826 Sultan Mahmud II abolishes the **Janissaries**, beginning of reforms shaped after European models
- 1831 Publication of first Ottoman newspaper
- 1839-1876** „**Tanzimat-Period**“ (1. Westernization effort)
- 1839 Hatt-i serif of Gülhane
- 1856 Hatt-i Humayun
- 1867 The Sultan ‘Abdul ‘aziz is the first Ottoman ruler to travel outside the Ottoman Empire
- 1876- 1909** **restauration of authoritarian rule.** Pan-Islamisms, Pan-Turkisms and Pan-Ottomanism dominate political discourses; increased conflicts between members of the various religious communities
- 1881** birth of **Mustafa Kemal Pasha** (Atatürk) in Saloniki
- 1908** **Rebellion of the „Young-Turks“**
- 1908-1914 Ottoman Empire loses numerous territories on the Balkans
- 1914 Ottomans participate in World War I as allies of the European Central Powers
- 1915 Genocid on the Armenian citizens of the Ottoman Empire
- 1918** Collapse of the Ottoman troops
The Allied troops occupy Istanbul and part of Anatolia
- 1919 In Mai 1919 the Greeks occupy Izmir and invade Anatolia (Musta Kemal Pasa/Atatürk lands in Samsun and organizes the reistance against the occupying army)
- 1921 Battle of Sakarya (24.08. to 16.09. 1921): the Turkish troops under Atatürk and İnönü defeat the invaders
- 1922 Conference of Mudanya leads to the retreat of foreign troops from Anatolia
- 1.Nov.1922: Abolition of the Sultanat**

Republican Turkey:

- 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, Turkey waives its claim to non-Turkish territories and secures the current territory of the Turkish Republic
29.Oct.1923: Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey
Mustafa Kemal Pasha is elected as first president of the new republic
- 1924 **3. March 1924: abolition of the Kalifat**
- 1924-1938 numerous reforms, e.g. 1926 introduction of a civil code of law, 1928 replacement of the Arabic script by the Latin script
1925 - Adoption of Gregorian calendar. Prohibition of the fez.
1928 - Turkey becomes secular: clause retaining Islam as state religion removed from constitution.
- 1938** **Death of Atatürk**
- 1938-1950 Ismet İnönü becomes new Turkish President
- 1939 the former French Protectorate Hatay is handed over to Turkey
- 1945 Neutral for most of World War II, Turkey declares war on Germany and Japan, but does not take part in combat. Joins United Nations
- 1950** Republic's first open elections, won by opposition Democratic Party.
- 1952 Turkey abandons Atatürk's neutralist policy and joins Nato.
- 1960** **Army coup** against ruling Democratic Party.
- 1961** New constitution establishes two-chamber parliament.
First Agreement between Turkey and Germany about dispatching Turkish workers to Germany
- 1963** **Association agreement signed between Turkey and the European Economic Community (EEC).**
- 1965 Suleyman Demirel becomes prime minister - a position he is to hold seven times.
- 1971** Army forces Demirel's resignation after spiral of political violence. („2nd coup d'état“)
- 1974 Turkish troops invade northern Cyprus.
- 1975-1980 **economic crises and civil-war like confrontations between nationalistic and leftist groups**
- 1980** Military coup follows political deadlock and civil unrest. Imposition of martial law.
- 1982** New constitution creates seven-year presidency, and reduces parliament to single house.

- 1983 General election won by Turgut Ozal's Motherland Party (ANAP).
- 1984 Turkey recognises "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus."
Kurdistan Workers' Party launches separatist guerrilla war in southeast.
- 1987** Turkey applies for full EEC membership.
- 1990 Turkey allows US-led coalition against Iraq to launch air strikes from Turkish bases.
- since 1991 increased approximation to newly independent states in Central Asia
- 1992 20,000 Turkish troops enter Kurdish safe havens in Iraq in anti-PKK operation.
Turkey joins Black Sea alliance.
- 1993** Tansu Ciller becomes Turkey's first woman prime minister, and Demirel elected president.
- 1995 Major military offensive launched against the Kurds in northern Iraq, involving some 35,000 Turkish troops.
Ciller coalition collapses. Pro-Islamist Welfare Party wins elections but lacks support to form government - two major centre-right parties form anti-Islamist coalition.
Turkey enters EU customs union.
- 1996** Centre-right coalition falls. Welfare Party leader Necmettin Erbakan heads **first pro-Islamic government** since 1923.
- 1997** Coalition resigns after campaign led by the military, replaced by a new coalition led by the centre-right Motherland Party of Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz.
- 1998 Welfare Party - the largest in parliament - banned. Yilmaz resigns amid corruption allegations, replaced by Bulent Ecevit.
- 1999 PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan captured in Kenya.
- 2000 Ahmet Necdet Sezer takes over from Suleyman Demirel as president.
- 2001 Diplomatic row with France after French National Assembly recognises the killings of Armenians under the Ottoman Empire as genocide.
Constitutional Court bans opposition pro-Islamic Virtue Party, saying it had become focus of anti-secular activities. New pro-Islamist party Saadet is set up by former Virtue Party members in July.

- 2002** **Turkish men are no longer regarded in law as head of the family.** The move gives women full legal equality with men, 66 years after women's rights were put on the statute books. Pressure for early elections as eight ministers including Foreign Minister Cem resign over ailing PM Ecevit's refusal to step down amid growing economic, political turmoil. Cem launches new party committed to social democracy, EU membership. Parliament approves reforms aimed at securing EU membership. Death sentence to be abolished except in times of war and bans on Kurdish education, broadcasting to be lifted.
- Islamist-based Justice and Development Party (AK)** wins landslide election victory. Party promises to stick to secular principles of constitution. Deputy leader Abdullah Gul appointed premier. Constitutional changes allow head of ruling AK, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to run for parliament, and so to become prime minister. He had been barred from public office because of previous criminal conviction.
- 2003** AK leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan wins seat in parliament. Within days Abdullah Gul resigns as prime minister and Erdogan takes over. Parliament decides not to allow deployment of US forces ahead of war in Iraq but allows US use of Turkish air space. It authorises dispatch of Turkish forces into Kurdish areas of northern Iraq.
- Eyeing future EU membership**, parliament passes laws easing restrictions on freedom of speech, Kurdish language rights, and on reducing political role of military.
- 2004** Turkey signs protocol banning death penalty in all circumstances, a move welcomed in EU circles.
- Turkish State TV broadcasts first Kurdish-language programme.** Four Kurdish activists, including former MP Leyla Zana, freed from jail. Parliament approves penal reforms introducing tougher measures to prevent torture and violence against women. Controversial proposal on criminalising adultery dropped.
- EU leaders agree to open talks in 2005 on Turkey's EU accession.** The decision, made at a summit in Brussels, follows a deal over an EU demand that Turkey recognise Cyprus as an EU member.

- 2005** New lira currency introduced as six zeroes are stripped from old lira, ending an era in which banknotes were denominated in millions.
Parliament approves amendments to new penal code after complaints that the previous version restricted media freedom. The EU welcomes the move but says the code still fails to meet all its concerns on human rights.
Parliament overturns veto by secularist President Sezer on government-backed amendment easing restrictions on teaching of Koran.
EU membership negotiations officially launched after intense bargaining.
- 2006** Turkish Parliament passes new anti-terror law which worries the EU and which rights groups criticise as an invitation to torture.
Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline opened at ceremony in Turkey.
Kurdish separatist group, the PKK, declares a unilateral ceasefire in operations against the military.
EU partially freezes Turkey's membership talks because of Ankara's failure to open its ports and airports to Cypriot traffic.
- 2007** Journalist and Armenian community leader **Hrant Dink is assassinated**. The murder provokes outrage in Turkey and Armenia. Prime Minister Erdogan says a bullet has been fired at democracy and freedom of expression.
Tens of thousands of supporters of secularism rally in Ankara, aiming to pressure Prime Minister Erdogan not to run in presidential elections because of his Islamist background.
Ruling AK party puts forward Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul as its candidate after Mr Erdogan decides not to stand. He narrowly fails to win in the first round.
Parliament brings forward national elections to 22 July to try end the standoff between secularists and Islamists over the choice of the next president.
Parliament gives initial approval to a constitutional change allowing the president to be elected by a popular vote, but the amendment is vetoed by President Sezer.
Tension mounts on Turkey-Iraq border amid speculation that Turkey may launch an incursion to tackle Kurdish rebels.
AK Party wins parliamentary elections. Abdullah Gul is elected president.
Diplomatic row with United States after a US congressional committee recognises the killings of Armenians under the Ottoman Empire as genocide.

Parliament gives go-ahead for military operations in Iraq in pursuit of Kurdish rebels.

Voters in a referendum back plans to have future presidents elected by the people instead of by parliament.

Turkey launches a series of air strikes on fighters from the Kurdish PKK movement inside Iraq.

2008

Thousands protest plans to allow women to wear the Islamic headscarf to university.

Parliament approves constitutional amendments which will pave the way for women to be allowed to wear the Islamic headscarf in universities.

Petition to the constitutional court to have the governing AK Party banned for allegedly undermining the secular constitution fails by a narrow margin.

Trial starts of 86 suspected members of a shadowy ultra-nationalist **Ergenekon** group, which is accused of plotting a series of attacks and provoking a military coup against the government.

2009

Protesters marking the 10th anniversary of the arrest of Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the banned Kurdish PKK movement, clash with police in south-east Turkey.

Prominent Kurdish politician Ahmet Turk defies Turkish law by giving speech to parliament in his native Kurdish. State TV cuts live broadcast, as the language is banned in parliament.

Trial starts of a further 56 people in connection with the alleged ultra-nationalist Ergenekon plot to bring down the government.

resident Abdullah Gul approves legislation proposed by the ruling AK Party giving civilian courts the power to try military personnel for threatening national security or involvement in organised crime.

M. Tayyip Erdogan holds a rare meeting with the leader of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Party, Ahmet Türk, as part of efforts to solve the Kurdish problem politically.