

ATATURK, FOUNDER AND FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was born in 1881 in a three-story pink house on Islâhhâne Street, Kocakasım Mahallesi, in Thessaloniki. His father was Ali Rıza Efendi and his mother was Zübeyde Hanım. His paternal grandfather Hafız Ahmet Efendi was one of the Kocacık Yörüks who settled in Macedonia from Konya and Aydın in the XIV-XVth centuries. His mother Zübeyde Hanım was the daughter of an old Turkish family settled in Langaza, a town near Thessaloniki. Ali Rıza Efendi, who worked as a militia officer, a clerk of the Evkaf and a timber merchant, married Zübeyde Hanım in 1871. Four of Atatürk's five siblings died at a young age; only Makbule (Atadan) lived until 1956.

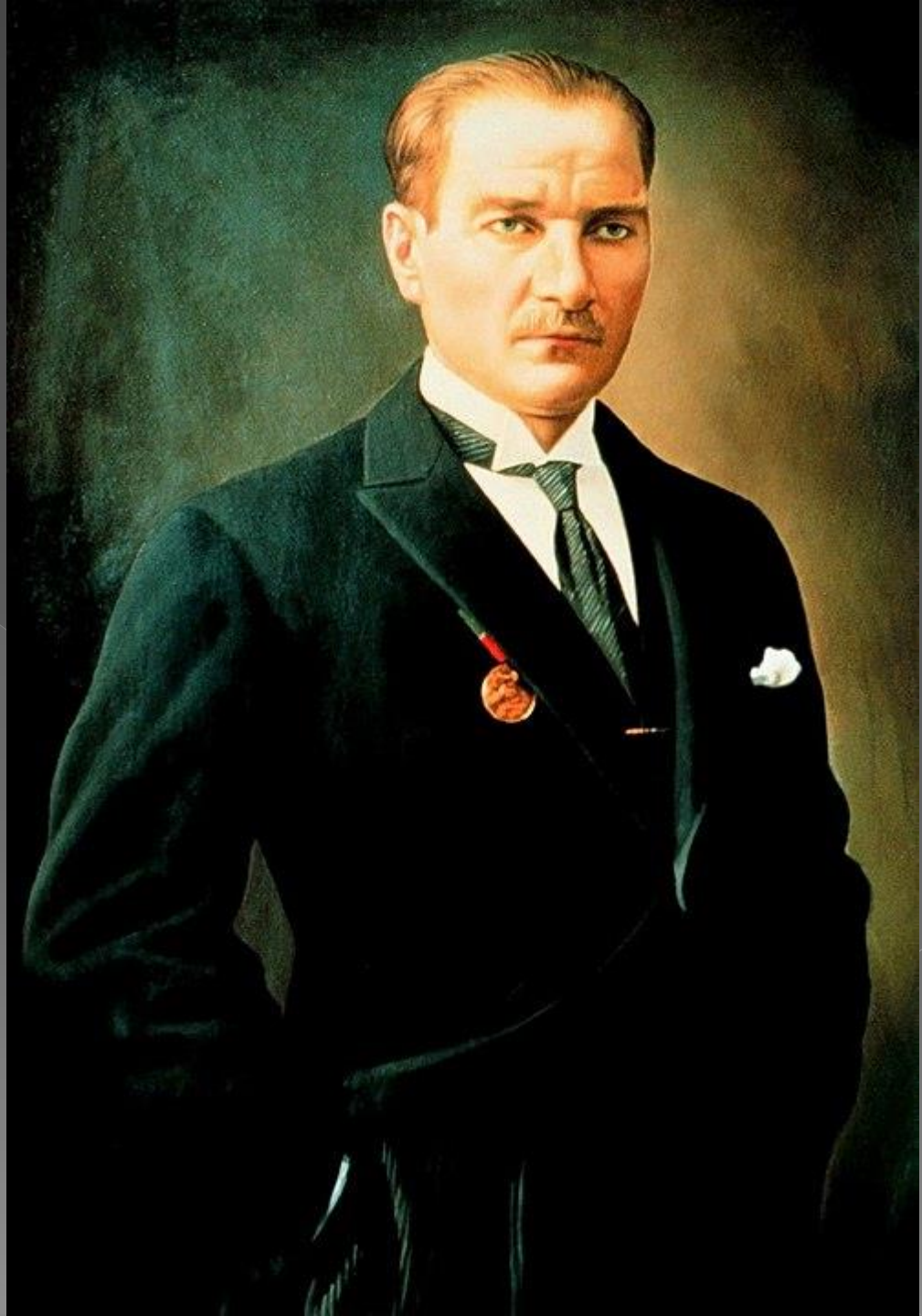
When young Mustafa reached the age of education, he started his education at Hafız Mehmet Efendi's neighborhood school, and then transferred to Şemsi Efendi School upon his father's request. In the meantime, his father died (1888). After staying with his uncle in Rapla Farm for a while, he returned to Thessaloniki and finished his schooling. He enrolled in the Selânik Mülkiye Rüştiyesi. After a short time, in 1893, he entered the Military Rüştiye. At this school, his math teacher Mustafa Bey added "Kemal" to his name. In 1896-1899, he graduated from Manastır Military School and started his education at the Military Academy in Istanbul. In 1902, he graduated with the rank of lieutenant and continued his education at the War Academy. On January 11, 1905, he graduated from the Academy with the rank of captain. Between 1905 and 1907, he served in the 5th Army in Damascus. In 1907, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel (Senior Captain). He was assigned to the III Army in Monastir. On April 19, 1909, he served as Chief of Staff in the Movement Army that entered Istanbul. In 1910, he was sent to France. He participated in the Picardie Maneuvers. In 1911, he started to work under the General Staff in Istanbul.

In 1911, in the war that started with the Italian attack on Tripolitania, Mustafa Kemal took part in the Tobruk and Derne region with a group of his friends. On December 22, 1911, he won the Battle of Tobruk against the Italians. On March 6, 1912, he was appointed Derne Commander.

When the Balkan War started in October 1912, Mustafa Kemal joined the war with the troops in Gallipoli and Bolayır. He rendered great services in the recapture of Dimetoka and Edirne. In 1913, he was appointed as Attaché General in Sofia. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1914. His term as Attaché ended in January 1915. Meanwhile, World War I had started and the Ottoman Empire was forced to enter the war. Mustafa Kemal was assigned to Tekirdağ to form the 19th Division.



In World War I, which started in 1914, Mustafa Kemal wrote an epic of heroism in Çanakkale and made the Allied Powers say "Çanakkale is impassable!". On March 18, 1915, when the British and French navy attempting to cross the Dardanelles suffered heavy losses, they decided to land troops on the Gallipoli Peninsula. On April 25, 1915, the 19th Division, commanded by Mustafa Kemal, stopped the enemy forces landing in Arıburnu at Conkbayırı.



Mustafa Kemal was promoted to colonel upon this success. The British attacked again in Arıburnu on August 6-7, 1915. Anafartalar Group Commander Mustafa Kemal won the Anafartalar Victory on August 9-10. This victory was followed by Kireçtepe on August 17 and II Anafartalar on August 21. The Turkish nation, which lost approximately 253,000 martyrs in the Gallipoli Wars, was able to defend its honor against the Allied Powers. Mustafa Kemal's order to his soldiers "I do not order you to attack, I order you to die!" changed the fate of the front.





Mustafa Kemal served in Edirne and Diyarbakır in 1916 after the Çanakkale Wars. On April 1, 1916, he was promoted to major general. He fought against Russian forces and helped retake Muş and Bitlis. After short-term assignments in Damascus and Aleppo, he came to Istanbul in 1917. He traveled to Germany with his guardian Vahidettin Efendi and made inspections at the front. He fell ill after this trip. He went to Vienna and Karisbad for treatment. On August 15, 1918, he returned to Aleppo as the commander of the 7th Army. He fought successful defensive battles against the British forces on this front. One day after the signing of the Armistice of Mondros, on October 31, 1918, he was appointed as the Commander of the Lightning Armies Group. Upon the abolition of this army, he came to Istanbul on November 13, 1918 and took office in the Ministry of War.

After the Armistice of Mudros, when the Allied Powers began to occupy the Ottoman lands, Mustafa Kemal sailed to Samsun on May 19, 1919 as the 9th Army Inspector. On June 22, 1919, with the circular he issued in Amasya, he declared that "the nation's determination and resolve will save the nation's independence" and called the Sivas Congress to meet. Between July 23 and August 7, 1919, he convened the Erzurum Congress and between September 4 and 11, 1919, the Sivas Congress to determine the path to be followed for the salvation of the homeland. On December 27, 1919, he was enthusiastically welcomed in Ankara. On April 23, 1920, with the opening of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, an important step was taken towards the establishment of the Republic of Turkey. Mustafa Kemal was elected as the President of the Assembly and the Government. The Grand National Assembly of Turkey began to adopt and implement the laws necessary for the successful outcome of the War of Independence.



After the victory of Sakarya, on September 19, 1921, the Grand National Assembly of Turkey awarded Mustafa Kemal the rank of Field Marshal and the title of Gazi. The War of Independence ended with the Treaty of Lausanne signed on July 24, 1923. Thus, there was no obstacle left for the establishment of a new Turkish state based on national unity on the territory of Turkey, which had been shattered by the Treaty of Sèvres, leaving the Turks a homeland the size of 5-6 provinces.

On April 23, 1920, the opening of the Turkish Grand National Assembly in Ankara heralded the establishment of the Republic of Turkey. The Parliament's successful management of the Turkish War of Independence accelerated the establishment of the new Turkish state. On November 1, 1922, the caliphate and the sultanate were separated and the sultanate was abolished. Thus, the administrative ties with the Ottoman Empire were severed. On October 13, 1923, the Republic was adopted and Atatürk was unanimously elected as the first president. On October 30, 1923, the first government of the Republic was formed by İsmet İnönü. The Republic of Turkey began to rise on the foundations of "Sovereignty belongs to the nation unconditionally" and "Peace at home, peace in the world".

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk Father of the Turks

We remember with respect and love

Happy to be a Turk

MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATÜRK