

# **Turkey: A Curriculum Guide for Secondary School Teachers**



**Center for Russian and East European Studies**  
University Center for International Studies  
University of Pittsburgh

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**Cover Photo:**

Eileen O'Malley, Istanbul, 2008

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# Introduction

*Turkey: A Curriculum Guide for Secondary School Teachers* was created to provide information on the historical and contemporary development of the Turkish nation, and in so doing, to assist teachers in meeting some of the criteria indicated in the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Academic Standard Guidelines ([http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/state\\_board\\_of\\_education/8830/state\\_academic\\_standards/529102](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/state_board_of_education/8830/state_academic_standards/529102)). To fulfill the fundamental themes for many of the disciplines prescribed by the state guidelines, this curriculum guide provides the following information:

- A description of the unique traits of Turkish culture.
- A description of the effects of political, economic, and cultural changes and how these changes shape present-day Turkey.
- Identification and explanation of the contributions of key historical individuals and groups in politics, science, the arts, and religion in Turkey.
- Examination of the evolving economic and political systems of Turkey, and how these changes have affected Turkish society.

These and other areas of Turkish society and culture are explored in an attempt to assist secondary school teachers in fulfilling the Academic Standard Guidelines. As the unique conditions in Turkey provide a laboratory for studying political, economic, and cultural change, this guide may be additionally useful as a means for comparison with our own country's development. Whether as a tool for meeting the Academic Standard Guidelines, or as a means to explore issues affecting a changing society, we expect that this guide will be useful in your classroom preparation.

Each section of this guide is designed to be suitable for classroom use either independently, or as part of a comprehensive study of Turkey covering the entire guide. Therefore, you may tailor your use of the guide to fit the amount of time that you have available and the specific topics that are most relevant to your subject area. The guide also contains references to sources of additional information.

This guide was prepared by the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, with funding from the U.S. Department of Education. It is part of a series of curriculum guides on countries in Eastern Europe that entered the European Union in 2004 and 2007, as well as those such as Turkey that are candidates for EU membership in upcoming years.

# About the Center for Russian and East European Studies

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REES offers undergraduate and graduate certificates to students who complete a multi-disciplinary study of the area and attain proficiency in a language of the region. The Center coordinates the collection of materials on its world region in the University of Pittsburgh's library system, publishes the *Carl Beck Papers in Russian and East European Studies*, maintains academic exchanges with 27 overseas partner institutions, and sponsors lectures and special events on a weekly basis. REES also sponsors study abroad programs and, since 1986, a Summer Language Institute for students throughout the U.S., offering intensive courses in nine Slavic and East European languages.

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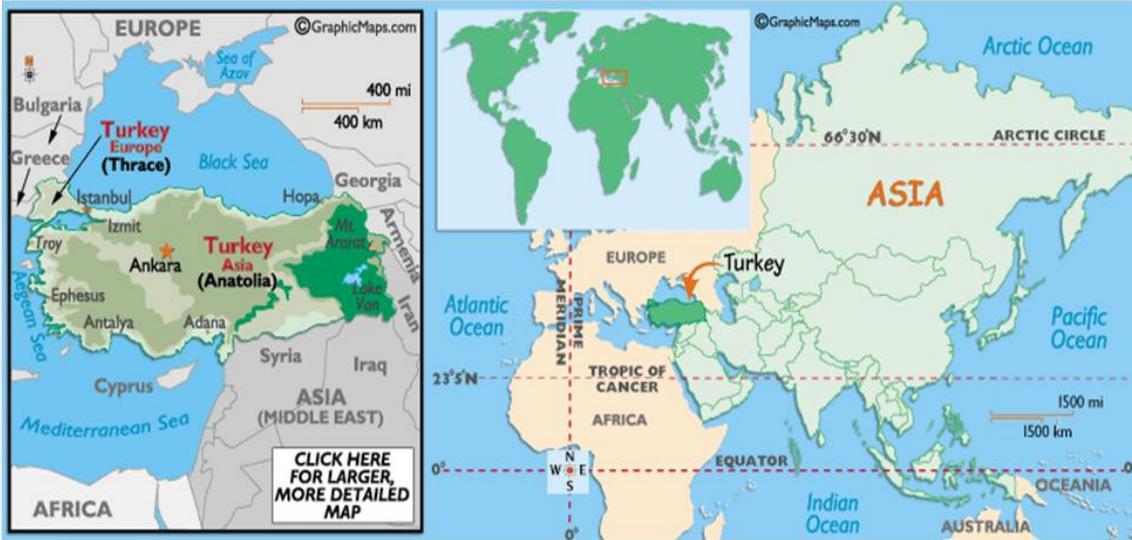
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# **Part 1: Background & People**

# Maps



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# Quick Facts

## GEOGRAPHY

- Location:** Turkey is a Eurasian country that covers most of Anatolia (Asia Minor), a region west of most of Asia. Turkey lies between the southeastern region of Europe and the western region of Asia. The Black Sea spans most of its northern border, and the Mediterranean Sea stretches across most of its western border and roughly half of its southern border.
- Area:** 780,580 square kilometers (slightly larger than Texas)
- Capital:** Ankara
- Largest City:** Istanbul
- Climate:** Temperate; hot, dry summers with mild, wet winters; harsher in interior

## PEOPLE

- Population:** 71,892,807
- Life Expectancy:** 73.14 years
- Nationality:** Noun: Turk(s)  
Adjective: Turkish
- Religions:** Muslim (mostly Sunni): 99.8%  
Other (mostly Christians and Jews): 0.2%
- Languages:** Turkish (official), Kurdish, Dimli (or Zaza), Azeri, Kabardian
- Ethnic Groups:** Turkish: 80%  
Kurdish: 20% (estimated)
- Literacy:** 87.4% of population (age 15 and higher)

## GOVERNMENT

- Government Type:** Republican parliamentary democracy
- Current President:** Abdullah Gül (since August 28, 2007)
- Independence:** October 29, 1923

**Constitution:** Adopted November 7, 1982



**Flag:**

## **ECONOMICS**

**GDP per capita:** \$12,900 (2007) (figure expressed in purchasing power parity)

**Industries:** Textiles, food processing, autos, electronics, mining (coal, chromite, copper, boron), steel, petroleum, construction, lumber, paper

**Agriculture:** Tobacco, cotton, grain, olives, sugar beets, citrus, livestock

**Labor Force:** Agriculture: 35.9%  
Industry: 22.8%  
Services: 41.2%

**Exports:** \$115.3 billion (2007)

**Imports:** \$162.1 billion (2007)

**Export Partners:** Germany: 11.2%  
United Kingdom: 8.1%  
Italy: 7%  
France: 5.6%  
Russia: 4.4%  
Spain: 4.3%  
(2006)

**Import Partners:** Russia: 13.8%  
Germany: 10.3%  
China: 7.8%  
Italy: 5.9%  
United States: 4.8%  
France: 4.6%  
(2006)

**Currency:** New Turkish Lira (TRY)

**Exchange Rate:** 1 U.S. dollar equals 1.19 New Turkish Lira (August 2008)

### *Reference*

Central Intelligence Agency. "The World Factbook." 2008. <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tu.html>>. Accessed on January 7, 2010.

# History

## Ancient Anatolia

Anatolia (or Asia Minor) is the peninsula of land that constitutes most of modern-day Turkey. Since it connects Europe with Asia, Anatolia has been a strategic region for many conquerors and civilizations. The Hittites became the first people to establish an empire in Anatolia, though indigenous peoples had inhabited the land for centuries by the time they rose to power. The Hittites ruled from the 20th century BC until the 13th century BC, at which time the Sea Peoples (Mediterranean raiders) invaded and conquered them. The Phrygians, the strongest of the Sea Peoples, usurped control in Anatolia and dominated the region during the 9th and 8th centuries BC. Over time, the Cimmerians dominated the Phrygians, sharing control with the Lydians, who ruled near the Aegean coast. In the 6th century BC, the Persian Kingdom overpowered both the Cimmerians and Lydians. They ruled for two centuries until power shifted again. The Macedonians under Alexander the Great seized control of Anatolia in 333 BC and ruled until the Romans invaded in the 2nd century BC.



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When the Roman Empire split in the 4th century AD, Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul) became the capital of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire. The Byzantines reigned for ten centuries and became one of the strongest economic and military forces in Europe. In the 11th century AD, the Seljuk Turks arrived in eastern Anatolia and began to challenge Byzantine rule. The Seljuks founded the sultanate of Rûm, which ruled Anatolia during the 12th and 13th centuries AD. In the 13th century AD, the Mongols expanded into Anatolia and dominated the Seljuks. At the same time, many Ghazi emirates began to establish themselves in eastern

Anatolia. In 1288, Osman I founded one of these Ghazi emirates, which established the precursor to the Ottoman Empire.

## Ottoman Empire

As the power of the Seljuk Turks dwindled, Osman I led the Ottoman state in an invasion of Byzantine territory. Throughout the 14th century, Osman and his descendants annexed nearby territories and challenged both Byzantine and other Ghazi authorities. In 1453, Sultan Mehmet II conquered Constantinople, overpowered the Byzantines, and established the Ottoman Empire. After taking Constantinople, Mehmet expanded the Empire into Europe and captured most of the Balkan Peninsula, including Greece, Albania, Serbia, and Bosnia.

The Ottoman Empire grew immensely under Süleyman I. Süleyman advanced the empire both westward and eastward, seizing Belgrade, Rhodes, Baghdad, Tunis, Nice and the Iranian city of Tabriz. At the time of his death in 1566, the Ottoman Empire constituted most of Eastern Europe and North Africa, and almost all of the Middle East. The Empire also established naval supremacy in the Mediterranean Sea and forged military alliances with France, England, and the Dutch Republic against Spain, Italy, and Austria.

After Süleyman's reign, the Ottoman Empire began to decline. European nations became great naval powers and began to rival Ottoman superiority on the sea. Instead of passing through the Ottoman territory to access Asia, European nations found alternate routes. They also established new trading partners in the New World. As a result, Ottoman power weakened under economic pressure, internal disputes, and military mismanagement. In the Battle of Lepanto in 1571, the Holy League (an organization arranged by Pope Pius V, consisting of several Catholic maritime states in the Mediterranean) defeated the Ottomans. This was a blow to Ottoman supremacy, though it was more symbolic than decisive. The Great Turkish War, which also pitted the Ottomans against the Holy League, lasted from 1662 through 1699. It included the Battle of Vienna in 1683 and the Battle of Senta in 1697, both ending in Ottoman defeat. The resulting Treaty of Karlowitz marked the beginning of Ottoman retreat from Europe.



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The Russians and Turks engaged in several wars from the 16th through the 20th centuries, including the Crimean War, Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878, and World War I. These

conflicts and others during this period resulted in significant losses of many Ottoman territories, including Greece (1829); Algeria (1830); Serbia, Montenegro, Wallachia, and Moldavia (1875); Romania, Bulgaria, Bosnia, and Cyprus (1878); Tunisia (1881); Libya (1912); and Egypt and Sudan (1914). Moreover, the Ottoman Empire continued to experience internal and external economic pressures.

In 1876, the Young Ottomans, an association of well-educated nationalists, led a military coup to depose the sultan. Upon their success, the Young Ottomans replaced the government with a constitutional monarchy in November of that year. The new parliament, however, only lasted two years. In 1908, the Young Turks, a derivative of the Young Ottomans, restored the 1876 constitution. During World War I, the Ottoman Empire sided with the Central Powers. Upon winning the war, the Allied Powers planned to partition Ottoman territories, but the Turkish War of Independence (1919-1923) culminated in the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923, which left the Anatolia province and Eastern Thrace to form the Republic of Turkey.

## Modern Turkey

Turkey became an independent state in 1923, and Mustafa Kemal Atatürk served for fifteen years as its first president. Influenced by Enlightenment ideals, Atatürk sought to create a secular, democratic nation. Mustafa İsmet İnönü succeeded Atatürk in 1938. İnönü helped to democratize Turkey's government by permitting opposition parties. He kept Turkey out of World War II until 1945, when he sided with the Allied Powers. Turkey's alliance with the United States became more apparent in the Truman Doctrine (1947), in which the United States guaranteed economic and military support to Turkey and Greece to prevent them from falling into the Soviet sphere of influence.



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Mahmut Celal Bayar followed İnönü as president in 1950. Bayar promoted economic liberalism and welcomed U.S. aid to strengthen Turkey's economy. During the latter part of the 1950s, however, the Turkish government began to mismanage resources and impose economic and social constraints on the people. Tensions reached an ultimate high when the Republican People's Party led a coup in 1960. A new, but flawed constitution was created in 1961, which weakened the government and provoked terrorist attacks.

Unrest plagued Turkey for the next decade, culminating in 1971. In 1974, Prime Minister Mustafa Bülent Ecevit and the National Salvation Party led a military invasion of Cyprus in response to a coup organized there by Greece. This led to the establishment of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (which only Turkey recognizes). Further political and social unrest throughout the 1970s set the stage for another coup in 1980. Ahmet Kenan Evren, the leader of the coup, became Turkey's seventh president.

Throughout the 1980s, terrorist activities by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which advocates for a united Kurdistan, intensified. From 1987 through 2002, the southeastern area of Turkey, the site of most PKK activity, was ruled by a state of emergency law in an attempt to appease the situation.

Turkey applied to accede to the European Union in 1987. Currently an associate member, it became a candidate for full membership in 1999. A decision to allow Turkey to become a full member is not expected to be reached, however, for some years to come. Modern-day Turkey enjoys a close alliance with the West through partnership organizations, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and Organization for Security and Cooperation on Europe (OSCE).



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Since 2007, Abdullah Gül (above) has served as Turkey's eleventh president.

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<<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/22897/Anatolia>>. Accessed on September 8, 2008.

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Press, 2008. <<http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1E1-OttomanE.html>>. Accessed on September 22, 2008.

“Ottoman Empire.” Microsoft Encarta Online Encyclopedia. Microsoft Corporation. 2008. <[http://encarta.com/text\\_761553949\\_\\_0/Ottoman\\_Empire.html](http://encarta.com/text_761553949__0/Ottoman_Empire.html)>. Accessed on September 22, 2008.

“Turkey.” Microsoft Encarta Online Encyclopedia. Microsoft Corporation. 2008. <[http://encarta.com/text\\_761575380\\_\\_37/Turkey.html](http://encarta.com/text_761575380__37/Turkey.html)>. Accessed on September 8, 2008.

# Famous Turks

## Mehmed II (1432-1481)



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Department of History

Mehmed was a prominent sultan of the Ottoman Empire who reigned from 1444-1446 and again from 1451-1481. His greatest achievement was capturing Constantinople in 1453 from the Byzantines. He also conquered territories in the Balkans, Hungary, Walachia, Moldavia, Anatolia, Rhodes, Crimea, and Otranto. He expanded the empire ideologically as well, promoting mathematics, astronomy, and theology among the Ottomans. Furthermore, he revised legislation into two codes, the criminal and constitutional.

### *Reference*

“Mehmed II.” Encyclopedia Britannica. Encyclopedia Britannica Online. 2008.  
<<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/373174/Mehmed-II>>. Accessed on October 20, 2008.

## Suleiman the Magnificent (1494-1566)



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Suleiman the Magnificent was a sultan of the Ottoman Empire, ruling from 1520-1566. Though sultans before him had expanded the empire, Suleiman substantially increased its economic and political authority and broadened the Empire into a leading world power. He executed a series of military invasions, conquering Belgrade, Rhodes, Hungary, and Transylvania and annexing large parts of North Africa and the Middle East. He became known as “the Lawmaker” because of his drastic reconstruction of the Ottoman law system. He is also famous for his Islamic poetry.

### *Reference*

“Suleyman the Magnificent.” Nation Master Encyclopedia. NationMaster.com. 2008.  
<<http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Suleyman-the-Magnificent>>. Accessed on October 20, 2008.

## Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881-1938)



Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was a Turkish nationalist leader and founder of the Turkish Republic. As such, he is arguably the most famous and important Turkish statesman in Turkish history. In May 1919, Atatürk organized a resistance movement against the peace treaty imposed on the Ottoman Empire by the Allied Powers after World War I. In 1921, he established a provisional government, and in 1923, he became president of the newly established Republic of Turkey. He established a single-party regime that lasted until 1945. Domestically, he sought to emancipate women, abolish Islamic organizations, align Turkey with the West, and establish amicable relations with other states. Atatürk means “father of the Turks.”

### *Reference*

“Kemal Atatürk (1881-1938).” BBC. <[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/ataturk\\_kemal.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/ataturk_kemal.shtml)>. Accessed on October 22, 2008.

## Turgut Özal (1927-1993)

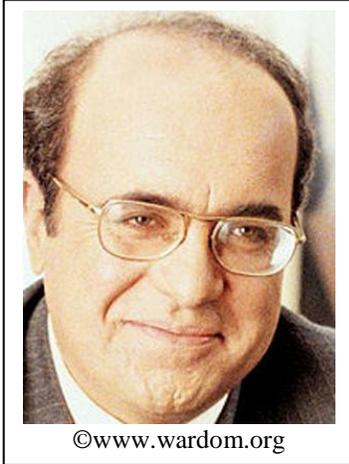


Turgut Özal was Turkey’s prime minister from 1983 to 1989 and then its president from 1989 to 1993. His policies aimed to improve relations with Greece, as well as with the United States. In regard to the latter, he committed Turkey’s military to the coalition force that opposed Saddam Hussein in the Persian Gulf War (1990-1991). Domestically, he advocated the rights of the Bosniaks, Azerbaijanis, and Kurds.

### *Reference*

“Turgut Özal.” Microsoft Encarta Online Encyclopedia. 2008. <[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_762506643/turgut\\_ozal.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_762506643/turgut_ozal.html)>. Accessed on October 27, 2008.

## Uğur Mumcu (1942-1993)



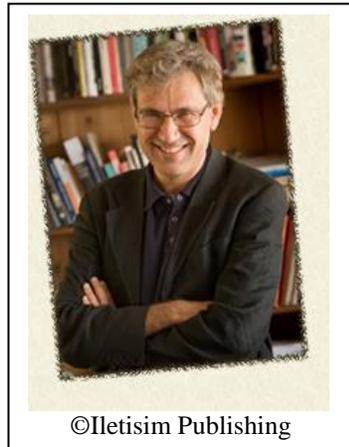
Uğur Mumcu was an investigative journalist, writer, and international expert on terrorism. After graduating from Ankara University's Law School, he practiced as a lawyer. In 1974, however, he switched careers to journalism. He investigated and vehemently criticized incidents of human rights abuses, imperialism, corruption, Islamic fundamentalism, and terrorism. His outspoken and critical opinions made him a target of many, and on January 24, 1993, he was killed outside his house by a car bomb. Although there are speculations as to who assassinated him, the circumstances of his death remain a mystery.

### Reference

"Uğur Mumcu commemorated." Turkish Daily News. 2007.

<<http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=64693>>. Accessed on October 27, 2008.

## Orhan Pamuk (1952 - )



Orhan Pamuk is a writer and the winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize for Literature. He has authored ten books, including *Cevdet Bey and His Sons* (1982), *The Silent House* (1983), *The White Castle* (1985), *The Black Book* (1990), *The New Life* (1994), *My Name Is Red* (1998), *Other Colors* (1999), *Snow* (2002), *Istanbul* (2005), and *The Museum of Innocence* (2008). In 2005, *Prospect* magazine named him one of the world's top 100 intellectuals, and in 2006, *Time* ranked him among the top 100 most influential people. He teaches literature at Columbia University.

### Reference

"Orhan Pamuk Site." Iletisim Publishing. <<http://www.orhanpamuk.net/page.aspx?id=7>>. Accessed on October 27, 2008.

## Sertab Erener (1964 - )



Sertab Erener is a pop music singer. She is best known for winning the 2003 Eurovision Song Contest with her hit song, *Every Way That I Can*. A native of Istanbul, Sertab began her music career with Turkish pop singer Sezen Aksu. She released her first solo album, *Sakin Ol!*, in 1992. Sony Music included her album, *Lâ'l*, in its "Soundtrack for a Century" collection. After winning the Eurovision competition, she released her first English-language album, *No Boundaries*, in 2004. Her rendition of Bob Dylan's "One More Cup of Coffee" was used in the movie, *Masked and Anonymous*, a biopic of Dylan's life. She has released a total of nine albums to date and has sung duets with Ruslana, José Carreras, Ricky Martin, and Mando.

### Reference

"Sertab Erener." Nation Master Encyclopedia. <<http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Sertab-Erener>>. Accessed on November 5, 2008.

## Hakan Şükür (1971 - )



Hakan Şükür is a former soccer player who played as a forward. He played for the Galatasaray club for thirteen years, intermittently from 1992 to 2008. He scored more goals for Turkey in European club competitions than any other player in history, and achieved the fastest goal ever in the FIFA World Cup finals when he scored after only eleven seconds during Turkey's match against the Korean Republic in the 2002 finals. Şükür was on the Galatasaray club when it won the Union of European Football Associations' Cup (UEFA Cup) in 2000. He has scored 51 goals in 112 matches and is nicknamed "The Bull of the Bosphorus."

### Reference

Tozar, Türker. "Turkish tributes to local hero." UEFA. <http://www.uefa.com/uefa/history/associationweeks/association=135/newsid=256568.html>>. Accessed on October 27, 2008.

## Hamza Yerlikaya (1976 - )



Hamza Yerlikaya is an Olympic wrestler. He began wrestling when he was eleven, and competed in his first international competition in 1991 at the World Cadets Wrestling Championships in Quebec, Canada. His first senior international contest was at the 1993 European Wrestling Championships in Istanbul, Turkey. He won a gold medal in 1993 at the World Wrestling Championships in Stockholm, Sweden. He has won the European Seniors Championship six times, as well as gold medals at the Olympic Games in 1996 and 2000.

### Reference

“Hamza Yerlikaya.” Nation Master Encyclopedia. <<http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Hamza-Yerlikaya>>. Accessed on November 2, 2008.

## Tarkan Tevetoğlu (1972 - )



Tarkan Tevetoğlu (or simply “Tarkan”) is a pop music singer. He has released several platinum-selling albums during his career and has also produced music through his company, HITT Music. Atlantic Records co-founder Ahmet Ertegun, who is also Turkish, describes him as one of the best live performers he has ever seen. Tarkan has achieved international acclaim despite the fact that his songs are in Turkish. His most popular song, “Şımarık,” was a hit in Russia, Europe, and the Americas. He has released seven albums, including *A-Acayipsin* (1994), *Ölürüm Sana* (1997), *Tarkan* (1999), *Karma* (2001), *Dudu* (2003), *Come Closer* (2006), and *Metamorfoz* (2007).

### Reference

“Tarkan – Tarkan Tevetoğlu: Famous Turkish Pop Singer.” TurkishCorner.com. <<http://www.turkishcorner.com/Tarkan-s/142.htm>>. Accessed on November 5, 2008.

## **Part 2: Political, Economic, and Social Issues**

# Government & Politics

## Government System

Turkey instituted its current constitution in 1982. It is the fourth constitution to be adopted (the government introduced previous ones in 1921, 1924, and 1961). The 1961 version granted legislative authority to the Grand National Assembly, which consisted of the House of Representatives, with 450 members serving four-year terms, and the Senate, with 165 members (150 elected and 15 appointed). A joint session of the Grand National Assembly elected the president for a single seven-year term. The president chose the prime minister, who in turn selected other cabinet members.

In 1982, Turkey's government replaced the 1961 constitution with the current one and declared Turkey to be a democratic and secular republic. The constitution places executive power in the president and the Council of Ministers, and the National Assembly elects the president for a seven-year term. The National Assembly continues to make legislative decisions, but the Senate was abolished. The Assembly consists of 400 members, who serve five-year terms. In 1987, a referendum lifted a previous ban on political participation by certain parties and politicians, changed the voting age from 21 to 20, and expanded the National Assembly from 400 to 450 members. In 2003, the government further lowered the voting age to 18 and expanded the Assembly's membership to 550.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs appoints a provincial governor (vali) to each of Turkey's 81 provinces (vilayets or illers). During the military takeover in 1980, however, governors reported to military authorities. A regional governor exercised authority over 11 mainly Kurdish provinces in the southeast region during a state of emergency (1987-2002). Turkey's provinces are divided into districts (kazas or ilçes), which are subdivided into communes (nahiyes or bucaks). Communes are further divided into kasabas and villages. Mayors or councils administer local policies in municipalities and villages. The central government approves sources of revenue and budgets on local levels.

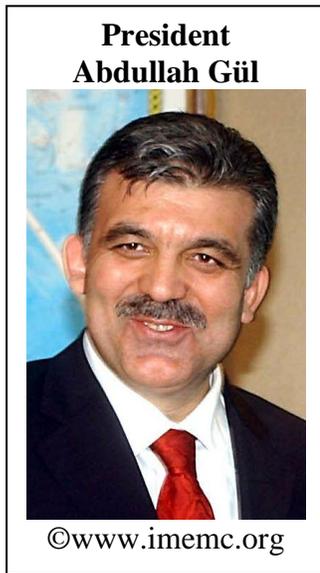
## Political Parties

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of the Republic of Turkey, organized the first nationwide party – the Republican People's Party (CHP) – in 1923. The party emphasized centralized authority, state economic planning, and state power over religion. The nation's second party, the Democrat Party (DP), emerged in 1946. A few discontented members of the CHP formed the DP, demanding more political and economic liberalism and a reduction of central authority. When the DP came to power in 1950, it fostered mechanization and free enterprise and offered liberal credit terms to farmers. After 1954, however, the DP began to restrict certain freedoms, notably those of the press. The CHP also accused the party of economic mismanagement. Aligned with the West, both parties instituted anti-communist policies. The DP disbanded in 1960.

The Justice Party (AP), favoring private enterprise and reflecting the views of professionals and villagers, formed in 1962. In the 1965 elections, the AP won the majority of both the House and Senate seats. Later, three new parties emerged. Dissident members of the CHP created the Republican Reliance Party (CGP) in 1969, and some dissatisfied AP members created the

Democratic Party in 1970. In 1973, the Salvation Party (MSP) emerged, with the goal of preserving Islamic traditions and invoking economic reform. Power shifted from the AP to the CHP and then again to the Nationalist Front (which comprised AP, CGP, MSP, and National Action Party members). The 1980 military coup installed Ahmet Kenan Evren as president and led to the 1982 constitution, which banned all previous political parties and prohibited AP and CHP leaders from participating in politics for a period of ten years. However, the government soon allowed new parties to be established. Two of these parties, the Nationalist Democracy Party and the Great Turkey Party, dissipated soon afterwards. The government did not allow the True Path Party, Welfare Party, or Social Democratic Party to participate in the 1983 elections. It did, however, allow the Populist Party and Motherland Party (ANAP) to run, and the ANAP won a majority in the National Assembly. Its leader, Turgut Özal, became prime minister.

After this election, the government allowed all parties to participate in local elections. The Populist Party merged with the Social Democratic Party in 1985, and the Free Democrat Party succeeded the Nationalist Democracy Party in 1986. In 1987, the government lifted the ten-year ban on political participation by the AP and CHP. The ANAP won the majority of the seats in 1987, and a coalition of the True Path and Social Democratic Parties defeated the Motherland Party in 1991. The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) is banned from political participation for its terrorist activities.



When Turgut Özal died in 1993, Suleyman Demirel (leader of the True Path Party) became president. Two years later, the Welfare Party won the elections and formed its own government, which lasted for only a year. In 1997, Necmettin Erbakan, the Welfare Party's leader, resigned amid mounting protests over the indifference he had shown to the Susurluk scandal, which implicated the Turkish government and armed forces in organized crime in the country. When Erbakan resigned, Mustafa Ecevit formed a new government. In 2002, the Justice and Development Party (AK - an Islamic organization) won the elections, and Abdullah Gül became prime minister. In 2007, Gül became Turkey's eleventh president. As of 2008, the AK remains the incumbent political party.

## **Judicial System**

Turkey's judicial system comprises four types of courts, including general law, military, state security, and constitutional courts. The general law courts include civil, administrative, and criminal courts. The military courts have jurisdiction over military personnel. The state security courts are composed of five members and are located in eight major cities. They deal with issues such as terrorism, gangs, drugs, illegal organizations, and sedition. The constitutional court reviews the constitutionality of legislation. The judicial system is independent of the executive branch and provides life tenure for judges. In all courts, judges rather than juries decide cases.

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# Turkey and the European Union



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## Background

Turkey has been an associate member of the European Union (EU) since 1963. In 1987, it made an official application to the EU (then the European Economic Community) to be considered a candidate for full membership. In 1999, the EU officially recognized Turkey as a candidate for accession. The negotiation process formally began in October 2005.

## Turkey's Membership in European Organizations

Turkey has been Europe's close ally since World War II. When it entered the war in 1945, it fought on the side of the Allied Powers. Since then, it has joined several European organizations, including the Council of Europe (1949), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (1952), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (1961), and the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe (1973).

## **Impediments to Accession**

Despite Turkey's close affiliation with Europe, accession talks have stalled since they began in 2005 for a couple of reasons. Firstly, the EU and Turkey differ over the status of Cyprus. The EU recognizes the Republic of Cyprus, which has authority over the entire island, including the Turkish Cypriot community in the north. Turkey, on the other hand, recognizes this region as an independent republic and maintains a large military presence there. The EU states that Turkey must open its ports and airports to Cyprus, which is a current EU member. Turkey, however, demands that the EU must first take steps to end its economic isolation policy toward the Turkish Cypriot community. Secondly, the EU feels that some of Turkey's laws are not in line with European standards. It is especially concerned over reports that Turkey violates its citizens' freedom of speech, mistreats its Kurdish population, and overlooks governmental corruption and violence against women. As a result of these concerns, the EU has decided to suspend talks indefinitely in eight of 35 policy areas. Many believe that the EU and Turkey will not reach a decision about accession for many years to come.

## **Arguments for Turkey's Membership**

Many argue that Turkey's accession to the EU would have several benefits. Firstly, it would bridge the divide between the West and the Muslim world and pass democratic ideals on to Turkey's neighbors in the Middle East region. Secondly, Turkey's young population can help to alleviate the EU's problems with its aging population. Thirdly, membership would boost Turkey's economy. Fourthly, Turkey will have to recognize the rights of its Kurdish population, which would mitigate human rights abuses.

## **Arguments against Turkey's Membership**

Several states have voiced opposition to Turkey's membership, including Cyprus, Denmark, France, and Austria. France and Austria in particular have stated that they will hold national referendums on whether to ratify Turkey's accession, once negotiations have reached this stage. Skeptics argue that Turkey's accession would bring a host of problems. Firstly, it is not culturally "European," which may create problems for Europe's political, economic, and social traditions. Secondly, Turkey's accession would create a wave of Turkish immigrants to other EU states, which may disrupt local job opportunities. Thirdly, Turkey's accession may strain already fragile political and economic ties among current EU members. Fourthly, Turkey may exercise too much power in European politics due to its large population. Fifthly, some feel that Turkey is too poor and may be a financial burden on the EU. Finally, as a Muslim country, it may disrupt what some believe to be Europe's Christian ideological foundation.

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# Economy



[www.keysan.co.uk](http://www.keysan.co.uk)

## Turkey's Economy

Turkey's economy is one of the most advanced among developing countries, but remains poorer than most Western nations. At the time of independence in 1923, President Mustafa Kemal Atatürk stressed that the government should be responsible for the country's economy. As such, the government had considerable influence over the economy and controlled some key industries. It specifically invested in infrastructure, including dams, railways, and roads. After World War II, Turkey capitalized on foreign aid from the United States, United Kingdom, and Germany in order to industrialize and modernize. One major economic achievement was the construction of a national highway, which linked people and goods across the country. The economy was also marked by energy manufacturing, including electricity and coal production.

In the 1950s, many Turks became concerned about the country's economic stability and began to question the role of the government in the markets. There was a split in public opinion. On the political right, groups argued that the government should only monitor national economic policy and promote private businesses. On the political left, groups maintained that the government should play an expansive role in managing economic transactions and protect the interests of the public.

Turkey has instituted several economic reforms since the 1980s in an effort to join the European Union. These reforms have centered on privatization of businesses and exports. Large businesses especially emerged in broadcasting, publishing, food processing, mining, steel, and textiles. As a result, in the 1990s, Turkey's economy became extremely export-driven and

known for its textiles, steel, cement, and processed foods. Main imports include machinery, crude petroleum, transportation vehicles, and chemical products.

Despite the push for privatization, economic progress stalled in the late 1990s. The government had to apply for economic stabilization loans from the International Monetary Fund in 1999 and 2001. By this time, Turkey's IMF debt totaled \$31 billion. These loans did help to stabilize the country, but problems remained. In an attempt to revitalize the economy, Turkey introduced a new version of the lira (Turkey's currency) in January 2005.

The World Bank reports that Turkey's GDP was 657.1 billion dollars (current U.S. dollars) in 2007. Industry, government, and private services account for much of this activity. Agriculture also contributes significantly to Turkey's national income, especially cereals, fruits, and tea as well as livestock.

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# Education



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## Background

Muslim and Christian schools offered religious education to children prior to the 19th century. In the 1830s, the government and private organizations began to offer modern schools that taught math, science, and foreign languages. However, these schools mostly educated elites. At the time of independence in 1923, 90% of the population was illiterate. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Turkey's first president, stressed that the nation would not be able to prosper unless the government provided free education to everyone.

## Primary and Secondary Education

Turkey's original public school system designated primary education as grades one through five. Attendance was mandatory for all children between the ages of six and twelve. This was not enforced in all parts of the country, however, due to a lack of facilities or local resistance. In 1997, the government reclassified primary education as grades one through eight.

Originally, secondary education consisted of grades six through twelve. Middle school education included grades six through eight, and high school education (called *lycees*) consisted of grades nine through twelve. The government eventually folded middle school education into primary school education (grades one through eight).

Free, mandatory education has led to an increase in adult literacy. An estimated 87.6% of the population is literate (2005 figure). However, the female literacy rate is below the male rate (80.1% compared to 94.9%), because many families deter their daughters from attending school in their teenage years. Only 37% of high school enrollment consists of females (2000 figure).

## Tertiary Education

By the early 2000s, there were more than 800 tertiary institutions in Turkey. These include one- and two-year institutions that give certificates and four-year colleges and universities that grant a variety of degrees. The largest and most popular universities in Turkey include the University of Istanbul, the Aegean University, the University of Ankara, and the Middle East Technical University. Entrance to all institutions is competitive and based primarily on standardized examinations. Roughly 59% of university students are male and 41% are female.

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# Health



Recep Akdağ, Turkey's Current Health Minister  
©<http://www.sivassrt.com/resimler/haberler/767.jpg>

## Healthcare

In Turkey, the government as well as private health companies provide healthcare. The government system provides social security, including health insurance, to many workers. Specifically, the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance coordinates pensions and social security programs. Turkey has an adequate number of doctors and other health workers, but they are primarily located in urban areas. In rural areas, the country provides a network of health houses (staffed by midwives), health units (directed by physicians), and group hospitals (located in district and provincial centers).

## Health Statistics

Turkey has improved in many health areas. Its Human Development Index increased from 0.728 in 1997 to 0.806 in 2007. Its life expectancy increased from 69 years to 71.7 years over the same time frame (for females, the increase was from 71.7 to 74.2 years and for males, 66.5 to 69.4 years). In 2006, the public expenditure on health was \$461 per capita (purchase power parity). This was 16.5% of the government's total expenditures. In 1996-1998, Turkey only dedicated 2.9% of its total expenditures to health. The infant mortality rate decreased from 150 per 1,000 live births in 1970 to 26 per 1,000 live births in 2005. The percentage of the population using improved sanitation and water source has also improved. The former increased from 85% to 88% from 1990 to 2004, and the latter improved from 85% to 96% over the same time period.

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## **Part 3: Culture**

# Religion



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## Religion in Turkey

Constitutional law designates Turkey as a secular state that grants freedom of religion to its citizens. 90 percent of Turks are Muslim (mostly Sunni). Some argue that Turkey's secularist government clashes with religion. For example, the government sparked controversy in February 2008 when it repealed the decision to prohibit women from wearing head scarves on university campuses. Previously, women were not allowed to wear head scarves in public places. Moreover, Turkey's armed forces have intervened several times when the government had believed the separation of state and religion had been violated. Roger Hardy, an Islamic affairs analyst with BBC News, states, "the country is polarised between, on the one hand, pious (and sometimes politically active) Muslims and, on the other, the secular urban elite, which includes the powerful military."

The fact that Turkey is predominantly Muslim is also a factor in the European Union's consideration of whether to allow the country to become an EU member state. Some argue that Europe is a "Christian club" that should deny Turkey membership based on its religion.

Religious minorities in Turkey include Christians and Jews. Christians are divided among Greek Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox, Roman Catholics, and Protestants.

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# Language

## Turkish Alphabet

Aa Bb Cc Çç Dd Ee Ff Gg Ğğ

Hh İı İi Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn

Oo Öö Pp Rr Ss Şş Tt

Uu Üü Vv Yy Zz

## Latin Alphabet for Turkish

©www.readliterature.com

## Language in Turkey

Turkey's constitution states that the word "Turk" includes all citizens of the Republic of Turkey, making no distinction between different races or religions. Most Turks speak Turkish as their primary language, but some speak Kurdish and a small minority speaks Arabic as their first language. Although Turkish-speaking Turks are located throughout the country, ethnic Kurds are concentrated in the eastern part and Arabic speakers are primarily in south-central Turkey. Other language minorities, including Greeks, Armenians, and Jews are mainly in Istanbul, and Circassians, Georgians, and Laz are primarily in the east.

The Turkish alphabet consists of 29 letters. Unlike the English alphabet, it does not include "Q," "W," or "X." It does, however, include the following additional letters: "Ç," "Ğ," "İ," "Ö," "Ş," and "Ü."

### Sample Text in Turkish:

**Bütün insanlar hür, haysiyet ve haklar bakımından eşit doğarlar. Akıl ve vicdana sahiptirler ve birbirlerine karşı kardeşlik zihniyeti ile hareket etmelidirler.**

### English Translation:

**All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.**

*(Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)*

©<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/turkish.htm>

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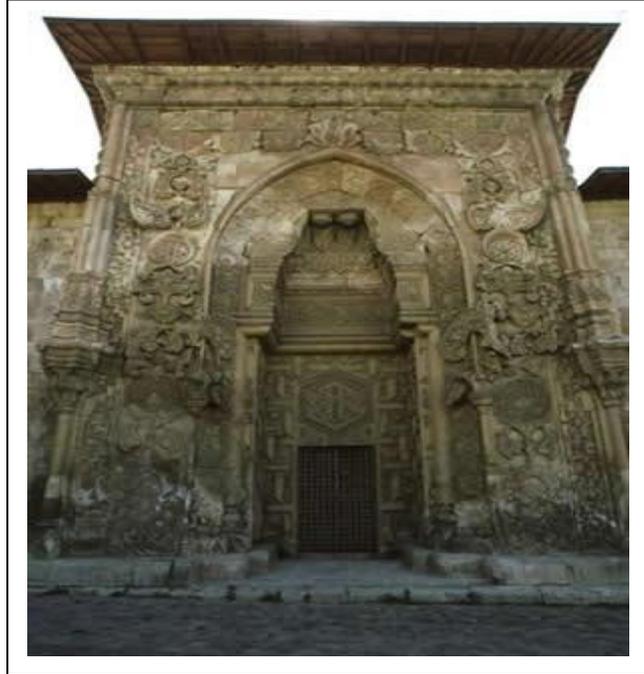
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# Visual and Performing Arts



“A Lady of Constantinople in 1881”  
By Osman Hamdi Bey  
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Reliefs from the Ulu Mosque, Divrigi  
©www.turkishconsulategeneral.us

Art in Turkey is very diverse and has a long history. It differs from Western art in several ways. For example, Turkish art, drawing on Islamic traditions, does not usually depict the human form. Instead, it represents a balance of color, line, and rhythm. Ebru, or marbled paper, is a form of art in which a piece of paper is placed on a combination of water, vegetable dyes, gum, and cattle gull fluid in order to make interesting patterns. Traditionally, it has been used for borders of Ottoman miniatures. Meerschaum, a mineral found in Turkey, is used to make pipes and ornaments, which have been carved by hand since the 18th century.

During the Byzantine era, Turks imported silk from China in order to make religious decorations. In the time of the Ottoman Empire, calligraphy was a common form of art. Also during this era, Osman Hamdi Bey, a statesman, instituted the Academy of Fine Arts, which has advanced the arts in Turkey up to the present day.

## *Types of Turkish Folk Dance*

The following are pictures of some of the many different types of Turkish folk dance:



**Halay**



**Kasik Oyuno**



**Zeybek**



**Kilic Kalkan**



**Horon**

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# Turkish Food

(Binnur's Turkish Recipes)

## Turkish Green Olive Salad

(Yesil Zeytin Salatasi)



### *Ingredients:*

1/2 cup green olives-filled with red pepper, in jar, drained, sliced  
1/2 head of Romaine lettuce, washed, drained  
1 small carrot, finely grated  
1/4 cup walnuts, small pieces

### *Dressing:*

4-5 tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
1 tbsp pomegranate paste or Grenadine syrup  
1 pinch cayenne pepper, crushed  
1 garlic clove, mashed with salt

Break the leaves of green lettuce with your hands. Place lettuce in a salad bowl. Arrange the green olive slices, carrots, and walnuts on it. Whisk all the dressing ingredients, pour all over, and lightly toss salad. Garnish with parsley.

## Potato Soup

(Patates Çorbası)



### *Ingredients:*

2 medium sized potatoes, peeled, cut in small cubes  
1 small onion, chopped  
1 small carrot, peeled, cut in small cubes  
2 tbsp butter  
1- 1/2 tbsp all purpose flour  
1 cubanelle pepper, cut in small cubes  
1 bay leaf  
2-1/2 cup chicken stock  
Salt  
1/2 tsp pepper  
2 tbsp parsley, chopped  
1-2 tbsp lemon juice  
1/2 tsp lemon zest

Sauté the onion and carrot with butter for 2-3 minutes on medium heat in a medium-sized pot. Add the potatoes and continue to sauté for about 4-5 more minutes. Add the flour and stir one more minute. Now add the chicken broth, cubanelle pepper, salt and pepper. Cook until the carrot is tender on low-medium heat. Add the parsley, lemon juice, and lemon zest. Discard the bay leaf. Immediately pour into individual bowls and serve.

## Turkish Pastrami Borek (Paçanga Böreği)



### *Filling:*

150 grams Pastrırma (Turkish Pastrami), sliced; remove the Chemen<sup>1</sup> and break into medium-sized pieces

1 tsp butter

1 medium tomato, peeled; discard the seeds and cut in small cubes

1/4 cup Kaşar or mozzarella cheese, grated

Salt

Pepper

*Glaze:* 1 egg yolk

### *Directions:*

Sauté pastrırma with tomato and butter over low-medium heat for 3 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Place two sheets on top of each other on the counter and position them vertically. Cut them in three strips from top to bottom. Put some filling on the bottom side of each sheet, and sprinkle some cheese on top. First fold the ends from the outside to the inside, then roll it up. Soak the open end in the water and close it up (see picture).

Place parchment paper on an oven tray and arrange the Borek with the folded side facing down. Brush the tops with egg yolk.

Preheat the oven to 400 F (200 C). Bake for 15-18 minutes until the tops take on a golden color.

\*\*If you like, fry each Borek equally over medium heat until they take on a light golden color. Don't leave the stove, as they fry quickly. Place ones that are done on a towel to soak up extra oil.

<sup>1</sup>Chemen: Cumin paste (a condiment prepared from ground cumin seeds, red pepper, and garlic and used to coat the outside of pastrırma).

## Chicken with Cherry Sauce

(Vişneli Tavuk)



### *Ingredients:*

1 whole chicken  
1 lemon, cut in 4 quarters  
1 small onion, peeled  
1 tsp oregano  
2 tbsp butter, room temperature  
Salt, pepper

### *Cherry Sauce:*

1 cup cherry compote juice, in jar (in light syrup)  
4 tbsp sugar  
1 tbsp honey  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1 tbsp corn starch  
1-1/2 cup cherries  
1 tbsp butter, unsalted

1 /4 cup sliced almond, roasted

Wash chicken and dry it with paper towel. Season with salt and pepper inside and outside of chicken. Also season with oregano inside of it and place lemon wedges and onion in it. Spread butter all over the chicken with your hand. Place chicken in an oven dish and cover with foil. Preheat the oven 500 F (260 C) then cook for half an hour. Remove foil, reduce the heat to 350 F (180 C) and cook another hour. Let chicken sit 10 minutes, then cut into four quarters.

In the meantime, prepare the sauce. Place the sugar, honey, cinnamon, and corn starch in a small pot. Slowly add 1 cup of cherry compote juice and stir constantly to avoid lumps over medium heat. When it gets thicker, add in the cherries and butter. Cook for 1 minute and turn off heat.

Place the baked chicken pieces on a service plate. Pour the cherry sauce over the chicken, sprinkle some roasted almonds, and serve with pilaf with orzo.

## Turkish Ricotta Dessert (Lor Tatlisi)



### *Ingredients:*

1 pkg (475 grams) Ricotta cheese, unsalted  
1/3 cup flour, all purpose

### *Syrup:*

1-3/4 cup water  
1-1/2 cup sugar  
1 tbsp lemon juice

Mix the cheese with flour in a bowl, using a tablespoon. Make chestnut-sized balls with your hands. Put parchment paper on an oven tray and arrange them on it.

Preheat the oven to 325 F (165 C) and bake for about 50-55 minutes, until the color of the top turns golden.

To prepare the syrup, place the water and sugar in a medium-sized pot. First, bring to a boil and continue boiling for 5 minutes. Then simmer for 15 minutes and turn the heat off. Add the lemon juice and stir.

Immediately pour the warm syrup all over the cheese balls. Let cool down first. Serve Ricotta Dessert with thick Turkish cream (Kaymak) on top. If you like, you may also use Fresh & Thick Double Cream 40% instead of Kaymak.

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## **Part 4: Additional References**

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